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in Sports**

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## Outdoor Dining Igloos approved by Charlevoix City Commission

BY: DOM SANTINA

CHARLEVOIX - The City Commission met again on Monday via Zoom to discuss a few things, including a budget review before the end of the year. The two biggest issues for discussion were dealing with snow removal and what their ideas for that will look like going forward and the option for outdoor dining during the winter

months. Any changes to the snow clearing have been pushed off till after the new year. However, the city commission approved a policy to allow temporary winter dining accommodations. At this time the igloo type of outdoor dining structures has been deemed as a good alternative by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. There has already been interested in the igloos from

some businesses in town. It was stated in the meeting that a business would have to reapply for a winter outdoor dining permit. If a business already is approved for summer outdoor dining, they can not use this for winter as well. There are a few standards that are already in place. The first is that there must be a required four feet of pedestrian space around each structure. It was also dis-

cussed in the meeting that a space heater for the igloos may not be in that four feet area. However, cords may run through there as long as they are taped and precautions are taken to make sure it is not a trip hazard. They can be placed on the sidewalk, non-street parking areas, or park areas. The igloos may not be across Bridge street from the restaurant. These standards were based on the already

approved Outdoor Dining Policy Council adopted a few years ago. The DDA has already applied for a grant to help businesses with the purchase of igloos or related structures.

**NORTHSIDE TRAIL EASEMENT**  
The commission would also approve an easement  
See **Igloos** - Page 4

## Holiday movies to enjoy from the couch

BY JIM AKANS

The sights and sounds of Christmas are part of what makes the holiday season special. This year many of the traditional holiday festivities have been put on hold. Yet there is still a way to experience those gatherings of family, friends and even strangers joining together in your own home through the magic classic holiday movies. The Internet Movie Database (IMDb) is among the many website to rate the top Christmas movies of all time. While we all have our personal favorites, here is how the top ten stacked up for IMDb a few years ago:

1 - National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989) Rated PG-13. The Griswold family host a Christmas gathering at their home that is over the top satirical yet manages to capture a glimpse of the holidays nearly anyone can relate to when the nuclear family meets extended family during the holidays. Stars Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid and a long list of memorable characters.

2 - A Christmas Story (1983) Rated PG. Hard to resist smiling all the way through this look at a family Christmas during



Much like the spirit of the holidays, a good movie can pull us into an alternative place, where life's complications seem to melt away. Theatrical release poster for the 1947 film *Miracle on 34th Street*. Wikipedia public domain image.

the 1940's. The tale is told through the eyes of young "Ralphie," whose gift wish is a Red Ryder B.B. gun though his parents warn he will "shoot his eye out" much to his dismay. Stars Peter

Billingsley, Darren McGavin and Melinda Dillon. 3 - Elf (2003) Rated PG. Yes it is silly, inane and bit sappy, but somehow this crazy tale about a human raised by elves

at the North Pole who embarks on a trip to New York to meet his natural father pokes at the funny bone and tugs at the heart. Star-studded cast includes Will Ferrell, James Caan, Bob Newhart, Ed Asner, Mary Steenburgen and Zoey Deschanel. 4 - Planes, Trains & Automobiles (1987) Rated R. Directed by John Hughes during his movie making heyday, the film follows two previously unacquainted gentlemen of very different temperaments who are forced to use various modes of transportation in their attempt to get home in time for Thanksgiving. Starring John Candy and Steve Martin, the result is frustratingly hilarious and at times deeply moving. One of my personal all-time favorites.

5 - Nothing Like the Holidays (2008) Rated PG-13. The film brings members the Rodriguez family home to their parents in Chicago and life experiences mingle in both comedic and dramatic fashion. A kind of film that can ease the regret of missing large family gatherings this year. Stars Freddie Rodriguez, Debra Messing and John

See **Movies** - Page 3

### Boyne City Teen loses life in weekend car accident.

On Sunday, December 6, 2020 at approximately 9:28 p.m., the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office responded to a one-vehicle roll-over accident on Camp Daggett Road near Reycraft Rd. in Bay Township.

The driver, 18-year-old Austin Michael Payne from Traverse City, was driving a 2004 Subaru on Camp Daggett Road at a high rate of speed when he lost control and the vehicle rolled several times. The passenger, 18-year-old Olivia Marie Toorman from Boyne City, was injured in the accident and pronounced dead on scene. Payne was taken by ambulance to McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital for treatment of his injuries.

The Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office was assisted on scene by the Boyne City Police Department, Michigan State Police, Boyne City EMS, Charlevoix Victim Services Unit, and Resort Bear Creek Township Fire Department.

While speed is a factor in this crash, it is not believed that alcohol or drugs are contributing factors. This accident is still under investigation.

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# News

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## East Jordan's Sportsman's Park Awarded DNR Trust Fund Grant

CITY OF EAST JORDAN - SPORTSMAN'S PARK IMPROVEMENTS  
CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN  
03/01/19

design program  
Public Space and Public Space  
Multi-Modal Access  
Architecture  
Public Spaces  
Environmental Sustainability  
Recreation  
Public Art and Culture  
Utilities & Infrastructure

BY: DOM SANTINA

East Jordan - The City of East Jordan's Sportsman's Park is going to be getting some upgrades. The city park was given a \$300,000 grant by the Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund.

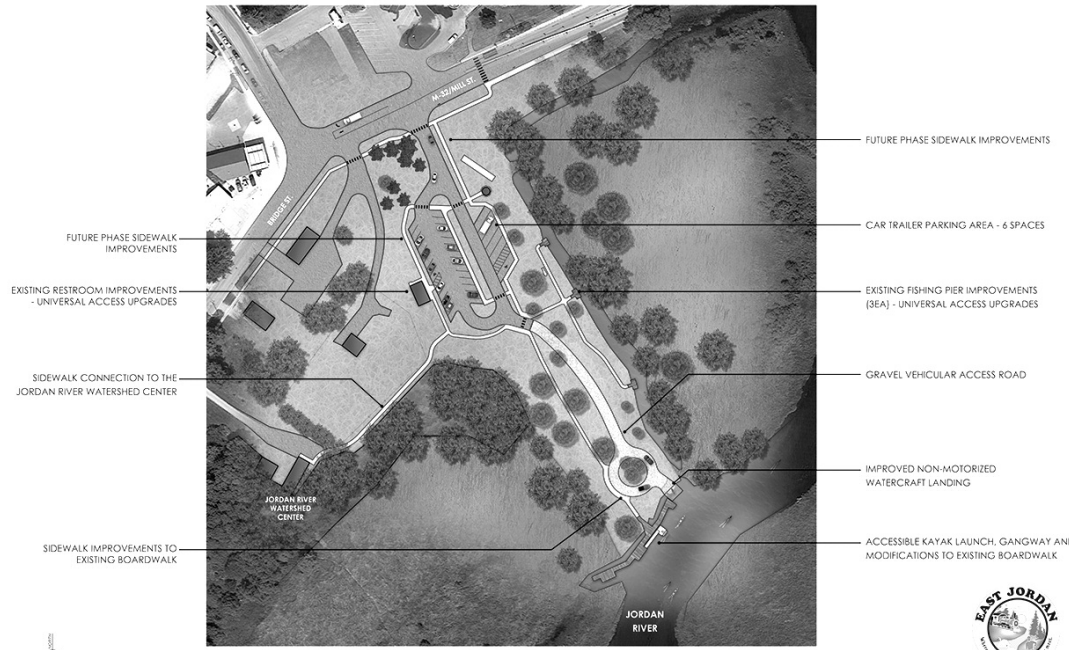
According to City Manager, Tom Cannon, the planning for improvements and access site for the park began a few years ago with the Park and Recreation Plan and the East Jordan city plan.

The money will be put towards a variety of different improvements for the park. These improvements will include improving the fishing pier, an improved nonmotorized watercraft landing area and a kayak launch. The money will also be used to help improve existing restroom facilities, sidewalk connection to the Jordan River Watershed Center and side-

walk improvements to the boardwalk and future sidewalk improvements throughout the park. Finally, the money will be used to create six-car trailer parking spots and a gravel vehicular access road to the launch from the parking lot.

"The idea of creating proper access near the mouth of the Jordan River has been a priority for years. The location is ideal as it brings river enthusiasts right into the hub of East Jordan. This provides a safer access site than sharing a launch with powerboats for kayakers that want to utilize Lake Charlevoix," said Cannon.

The city plans on beginning renovations next summer.



### Small Business Administration relief for eligible businesses impacted by cold weather

Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is making Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million available to eligible small businesses, agricultural cooperatives, and nonprofits impacted by frost and freeze that occurred in May of this year. SBA extended the loans following the Secretarial Disaster Declaration obtained by Governor Whitmer from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue in September.

These loans are available in Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, Otsego and Wexford counties.

"This is good news for our small businesses and farmers who have routinely faced extreme weather conditions in our state," said Governor Whitmer. "I'm glad the federal government has recognized the need for this support, and I am eager to continue working with them to further assist Michigan businesses."

Last

June, Governor Whitmer requested a USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation to provide relief to Michigan fruit growers and farmers who incurred damage and losses to their crops caused by a hard freeze in the spring. USDA ultimately designated more than 10 Michigan counties as primary disaster areas beginning in September 2020. When the Secretary of Agriculture issues a disaster declaration to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops, SBA issues a declaration to eligible entities, affected by the same disaster.

Applicants should apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov>. Applicants should apply under SBA declaration #16760. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for more information.

Applications are due to SBA no later than July 26, 2021.

## MOVIES

FROM PG. 1

Leguizamo.

6 - Home for the Holidays (1995). Another journey home during the holidays that celebrated family dysfunction. This one centers around a Thanksgiving dinner and once again teeters between comedy and drama (as do many real life holiday gatherings). The late Roger Ebert noted "...here is a film that understands the reality expressed by Robert Frost when he wrote, 'Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.'" Directed by Jodi Foster, this one stars Holly Hunter, Claire Danes, Anne Bancroft and Charles Durning.

7 - Jingle All the Way (1996) Rated PG. Send Arnold Schwarzenegger on a shopping excursion to find THE TOY for his son this Christmas and it isn't hard to imagine things will get interesting. It didn't rate well with Rotten Tomatoes critical review and consensus rating, but sometimes it's fun to watch a movie to laugh at it as well as with it. And as with most holiday movie journeys, there is a reward in seeing the characters discover the meaning of the Christmas season when all is said and done. Also stars Sinbad, the late Phil Hartman, Rita Wilson and Martin Mull.

8 - How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) Rated PG. - The original Dr. Seuss animated television show continues to be a holiday favorite for young and old alike. Ron Howard's big screen version, starring Jim Carrey as the Grinch, retained the spirit of that 1966 classic and took it to a new, hilarious level. The Grinch is miserly as Scrooge, mean as the Winter Warlock, yet wears his heart on his sleeve. Somehow it's easy to root for this green, misunderstood creature throughout the film.

9 - The Polar Express (2004) Rated G. A holiday favorite of many, The Polar Express celebrates the magic in the Christmas season as a young lad takes an adventure



The front of the house where the movie A Christmas Story was filmed in Cuyahoga County in Ohio. Wikipedia photo

to the North Pole on a very special train. Along the way, lessons are learned and the Christmas spirit prevails. Nominated for several Oscars as well as a Golden Globe. Directed by Robert Zemeckis (Forrest Gump and Cast Away), it is a computer animated format with voices provided by Tom Hanks, Peter Scolari, Nona Gaye and Michael Jeter.

10 - Miracle on 34th Street (1947) Not Rated. A film responsible for making true believers in Santa Clause for over seventy years. Edmund Gwenn may actually be Santa for all I know; he certainly looks and acts the part. Despite the best efforts of all the doubters...we still believe.

A couple of other films that are on IMDb's Top Lists, depending which list pops up during a search: Scrooged (1988) Rated PG-13. The crusty old miser as only Bill Murray could portray. Classic tale set in a more current setting, spiced with humor and retaining the timeless moral: love for family, friends and yourself offers more value than all the money one can attempt to hold. Also stars Karen Allen and John Forsythe.

The Santa Clause (1994)

Rated PG. Tim Allen plays the title role, though unwittingly at first, when he accidentally startles Santa into a major mishap and then becomes jolly St. Nick himself. The transformation, in both appearance and attitude is fun to watch, and this original animated format would become a series of sequels, still reigns supreme.

It's a Wonderful Life (1946) Rated PG. Surprisingly, this holiday favorite didn't get off to a very good start. It is based on a story, "The Greatest Gift," by Philip Van Doren Stern who couldn't get published after writing it in 1939. It stars James Stewart and Donna Reed in the lead roles, with Lionel Barrymore as despicable banker Henry Potter, but it flopped at the box office. Over the years it has gained a well-deserved reputation as the most beloved celluloid incarnations of the Christmas spirit, a celebration of the triumph of family, friends, goodness and love.

Die Hard (1988) Rated R. Starring Bruce Willis as NYPD officer John McClane, this might not appear to be a holiday movie. The action does, however, take place during a Christmas party in a high rise. The bad guys figure this is a great time to rob

the place, and a wallowing cat and mouse, save the evening nail-biter ensues. For those who like action films with a touch or Christmas spirit...this one's for you.

Home Alone (1990) Rated PG. Where's Kevin? While mom, dad and the rest of the family head off for a holiday in Paris, young Kevin McCallister (played by Macaulay Culkin) wakes up to discover he been left home alone. At first he enjoys his freedom around the house, but a few bumbling burglars zone in on robbing the McCallister home. Filled with zany "Three Stooges" vaudeville type comedy, this film keeps you on the edge of your seat to see how young Kevin will foil the crooks plans.

A Christmas Carol (1951) The Charles Dickens literary classic has been adapted to film many, many times, but Alastair Sim's portrayal of the indomitable Scrooge in this version is an all-out classic performance. He is just so darn mean and miserly, and seems so genuinely transformed by the end of the movie...even Santa would love him.

And there are many, many more Christmas movie classics to sit back with a bowl of popcorn and some loved ones at home and enjoy. Much like the spirit of the holidays, a good film can pull us into an alternative place, where life's complications seem to melt away.

Now that's something we can all use as 2020 draws to an end.

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### Wooden flag presented to American Legion

Pastor Tony Duty presented this wooden American Flag to the Boyne City American Legion Post 228 on behalf of their church.

As he presented this flag to our post he said, "It was my distinct honor, as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Boyne City, to present this wooden American Flag to the Boyne City Legion Post 228 on behalf of our church as a small token of our gratitude for the service and sacrifice of all Veterans."

He also referenced the Biblical importance of the presentation pointing to Romans 13:7 and 2 Samuel 23:17.

The flag was made by one of the First Baptist Church members, Wayne Floyd, of



The Floyd's Rustic Wood-working Shop. Receiving the flag for the

post was Vice Commander Dick Steufert.

Submitted by Rick Bristol, chaplain with the Boyne City American Legion Post

# News Briefs

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

## CHARLEVOIX SPAGHETTI DINNER TO GO

December 11, 5pm. St. Mary School is having a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Take out style. \$10 per person. Enjoy homemade meat or vegetarian spaghetti, garlic bread and cole slaw from Pigs Eatin' Ribs. Info at [smaryschoolcharlevoix.com](mailto:smaryschoolcharlevoix.com)

## CHARLEVOIX BUILDING RESILIENCY IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

December 14, 11am. We are all facing unprecedented change in the workplace and in our personal lives. This presentation by Kathy Grinsteiner, Provider Engagement Manager for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, will provide tips and techniques on how to develop and strengthen resilience, enabling you to weather the storm of uncertainty. Register at <https://business.charlevoix.org/events>

## CHARLEVOIX DOWNTOWN CHARLEVOIX MEN'S NIGHT

December 16, all day. Specials, Wish Lists, Gift Wrapping. Plus you could win \$500 in downtown dollars.

## BOYNE CITY INDOOR FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays, 9am - Noon, Pavilion, 207 N. Lake Street. Our indoor season home in the pavilion is ready for you all. We hope to have a great season and look forward to a lot of fun. Over 20 vendors with a variety of produce, baked goods, crafts, coffee and more. For more information on the market, visit the Boyne City Farmers Market Facebook page or email [farmersmarket@boynecity.com](mailto:farmersmarket@boynecity.com)

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BOYNE CITY COMMISSION MEETING, DECEMBER 8, 2020

# Boyne City police office awarded Medal of Valor by State

BY DOM SANTINA

BOYNE CITY - The Boyne City Commission started their meeting with an announcement about recognition for a Boyne City police officer. The state awarded eight different Medal of Valor awards this year. The Medal of Valor was presented to Officer Joel Novak for his handling of the situation earlier in the year in Walloon involving a shootout.

An act of valor is considered to be above and beyond the call of duty; and exhibiting exceptional courage, extraordinary decisiveness, and presence of mind along with unusual swiftness of action, regardless of his or her personal safety, in an attempt to save or protect human life.

## COVID RESPONSE

The City Commission was discussing the agenda item and the recommendations to extend the authorization of the City Manager to take steps he deems necessary and prudent to work with local businesses and help support their businesses. After some discussion, they open up the topic to public comment. This is when a Boyne



File Photo - Joel Novak is shown here in June of 2019 being sworn in as a police officer for Boyne City

City business owner very loudly voiced his opinion on how the city has not helped the small businesses to the best of their ability. While citing a few other things he felt were bad timing and not the best move for the city during the pandemic. The business owner was guaranteed ten minutes to

voice his point. The Commission listened peacefully and told the business owner that they would be willing to work with him and talk with him more in-depth outside of the council meeting. The Commission would discuss ideas that business could pursue or opportunities that may be available for a long

while and seemed to come to somewhat or peacemaking with the business owner. The Commission decided that they would continue to look all possibilities going forward on what opportunities would be available for small businesses.

## 2021 Meeting Schedule

The Commission approved the recommendation to set the meeting schedule for the 2021 year. The recommendation would keep the meeting schedule the same, as the first meeting would be the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. Then the second meeting would be the fourth Tuesday of every month at noon. The meeting will be held either at City Hall or electronically on Zoom depending on the Pandemic situation.

## FIRE TRUCK MAINTENANCE

The City Commission approved a recommendation to pay for necessary repairs to a 2015 Pumper Truck to bring it back to full operating service. The repairs will not exceed \$5,583.66 according to a December 3, 2020 service order.

The City Commission will not meet for the rest of the month and will return with meetings in 2021.

## COUNTY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Have you experienced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis? Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (NMCAA) has funding from the federal CARES Act to assist with various needs (utility help, car repairs, housing costs, diapers, baby formula, phone bills, etc). You may be eligible for assistance if you meet income guidelines and live in NMCAA's service area (Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Missaukee, Roscommon, and Wexford Counties) To apply for help, please contact our CARES Intake Specialist at 800-632-7334.

## EAST JORDAN WIFI LOCATIONS

In an effort to help our local students that need to access the internet for their school lessons, we are starting a list of places where wifi is available for them to use from outside. If you are a business owner and have wifi that is accessible from your parking lot and you are willing to let students use it please let us know. [info@ejchamber.org](mailto:info@ejchamber.org)

Wifi Locations: East Jordan DDA - First two blocks of Main Street, Downtown East Jordan - Harbor/Marina Parking Lot, City of East Jordan - East Jordan Tourist Park near the log building, EJ Laundry Station - 128 S. Lake Street, Jordan River Arts Council - Outside - username: jrագuest, password: jrագuest, East Jordan Public Schools - High School & Elementary School parking lots, JRAC To fulfill a request from the East Jordan Schools the Jordan River Art Center has made it's patio a free WI-FI hotspot. Anyone can sit on the patio and access the internet. The username is: jrագuest and the password is: jrագuest. Feel free to sit there and enjoy spring.

## BOYNE CITY KINDER CLOSET

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

## 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](http://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](http://www.boynelibrary.org).

## IGLOOS

FROM PG. 1

that would approve access to create an off-road trail to help connect the Wheelway to downtown. The easement includes using Martin Road, Taylor Road, and Gibbons Drive. In the meeting, it was also announced the third phase of the Boyne City-Charlevoix bike path had received funding for the third phase.

Purchased Skid Steer from Electric Department

The city has found that from time to time, they need to access different people's back yards or landscaped areas to work on electrical equipment. In the past, the city bought a small trencher to help eliminate destroying people's property to do work. However, it was found they needed a bigger machine to help lift and transport transformers and bigger electrical equipment. The Commission approved the purchase of a Skid Steer from Ditch Witch with a bucket and pallet forks, which will be used for the stock room. The cost of the Skid Steer was \$51,245.70. This is well

under the \$55,000 budget allocated for the Skid Steer.

## PURCHASE OF 3 RECLOSERS FOR INDUSTRIAL PARK

The Commission also approved a purchase of three replacement reclosers from Eaton Cooper Power Systems. The three reclosers came to a cost of \$42,832.08, which is \$14,277.36 apiece. There are four reclosers in Industrial Park, one of them has been replaced recently. Then two of them were in need of replacement, however, the final one had a squirrel get into the substation and do a heavy amount of damage. This purchase will replace the two that needed to be replaced and replace the one damaged by the squirrel. The Industrial park had been running on only three reclosers and this purchase, it will help get the Industrial Park up and running at full strength. The cost of these purchases was not specifically budgeted for but the Electrical budget can handle the cost.

The City Commission will meet again on December 21 at 6 pm on Zoom.

## Charlevoix County News VOLUME 12 ISSUE 25

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# Youth Grants Awarded in New Focus Areas

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation responded to requests from nonprofit partners in November. Thanks to donors who look to the Community Foundation to make a difference close to home, grants have been awarded primarily to nonprofits who will focus in the areas of youth mental health and academic stress. In all, over \$29,000 was awarded during the Youth Needs grant cycle.

Every three years, the YAC performs a Youth Needs Assessment, asking 8th through 12th graders in Charlevoix County about the top issues concerning them. Earlier this year, the YAC met to discuss the results of the most recent Youth Needs Assessment and made the decision to focus their grantmaking dollars on prioritizing the top two issues identified by their peers –

youth mental health and academic stress.

“Mental health and academic stress have long been areas of need for Charlevoix County youth, and both have worsened due to the effects of COVID-19,” said Nathan Newman, a senior at East Jordan High School and Treasurer of the YAC. “So, for this grant cycle, we wanted our resources to go toward programs that will support the mental health and relieve the academic stress of Charlevoix County youth.”

The YAC made this goal a reality when they awarded 80% of their available funding in this cycle to organizations who are directly addressing youth mental health and/or academic stress. By prioritizing these focus areas the YAC hopes to make a bigger impact in the areas that Charlevoix County

youth themselves have identified as most important.

Specific grants were awarded to five area nonprofits. Northern Michigan Equine Therapy will receive funding to expand their mental health professional services, which currently has a waiting list. East Jordan Public Schools will use funding to support learning loss among students due to interruptions in the school year caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan will expand their programs to middle school students in Charlevoix. Northern Family Intervention Services will use their grant to create mental health coping kits for youth, as a way to encourage progress. Finally, the Women’s Resource Center of Northern Michigan will use their grant to set up a protocol for

Charlevoix County at their Child Advocacy Center, a necessary component that will allow them to steadily provide services to area youth. All of these projects or programs directly address the areas of youth mental health and/or academic stress.

While the primary focus of this cycle was on the two priority areas, two other grants were also awarded to Good Samaritan Family Services for the Sammy’s Shoes program, and to Planned Parenthood of Michigan for their Smart & Healthy Youth programming in Charlevoix County. Additionally, earlier in the year, the YAC held a special meeting and awarded \$32,000 to the school nurse program in Charlevoix County schools, which was in danger of being discontinued. The YAC teamed up with the Health Department of

Northwest Michigan, the C3F, and other donors, to continue the program for another year, to help schools cope with implications of the pandemic.

“We’re excited about all of the grants we recommended during the Youth Needs cycle this year,” commented Aubrie Sparks, a senior at Boyne Falls High School and President of the YAC. “And we are super confident our allocations will benefit the priority areas we identified.”

A charitable organization dedicated to improving and enriching life in the area, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation accepts gifts from individuals, families, businesses and civic groups and manages them as permanent endowments. While a portion of the funds are utilized to support grantmaking, the principal of the endowment continues to

grow, providing ongoing charitable capital to benefit Charlevoix County’s residents—now and in the future.

The next grant cycle will focus on Environment, Land Use, and Recreation projects. Applications will become available in mid-December and will be due by Monday, February 1, 2021. The Community Foundation welcomes inquiries about applying for grants anytime by emailing Ashley Cousens at [acousens@c3f.org](mailto:acousens@c3f.org). More information about each grant cycle can be found at [c3f.org](http://c3f.org) on the “Apply for a Grant” page. Additionally, scholarship applications are now available at [c3f.org](http://c3f.org) on the “Apply for a Scholarship” page or interested students can contact their high school counselor or Mishelle Shooks at [mshooks@c3f.org](mailto:mshooks@c3f.org) for more information.

## DNR offers Zoom meeting outdoor backgrounds

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A snowy, lantern-lit trail, a cardinal’s crimson plumage, ice-bejeweled berries and more – these scenes, found in the DNR’s collection of virtual videoconferencing backgrounds, can brighten the backdrop for your next virtual call. They’ll add some charm and beauty next time you’re meeting by screen with friends, family or colleagues.



Winter scenes like this, found in the in the DNR’s virtual background gallery, let you enjoy the wonders of winter while remaining cozy indoors – or get inspired to go out and try a new winter activity like snowshoeing, winter hiking or fat-tire biking. (courtesy of DNR)

With these new additions, you can enjoy the wonders of winter while remaining cozy indoors – or get inspired to go out and try a new winter activity like snowshoeing, winter hiking or fat-tire biking. Browse the gallery, which is available at [Michigan.gov/DNRPressRoom](http://Michigan.gov/DNRPressRoom) in the Photos and Videos section.

In addition to their visual appeal, virtual backgrounds

serve a practical purpose. When you’re meeting online with people outside your immediate contacts, security experts recommend using virtual backgrounds to ob-

scure details of your home and surroundings. Steps to enable and upload backgrounds in a Zoom account are available on the Zoom virtual background support

page. The high-resolution images should be compatible with other virtual meeting platforms, too, and can be used as computer back-

## MDHHS extends epidemic order until December 20

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has extended by 12 days the epidemic order that restricts indoor social gatherings and other group activities. The additional 12 days will allow the department to determine the full impact of the Thanksgiving holiday on the spread of COVID-19 across Michigan.

Under the order, MDHHS continues to urge families to avoid indoor gatherings, and only two households may gather inside, with strict protocols recommended. Individuals should wear masks consistently whenever they are inside with individuals not in their household, and are recommended to pick only a small group to see regularly. Bars and restaurants must remain closed for dine-in service, but can remain open for outdoor dining, carry-out and delivery. Gyms are open for individual exercise with mandatory masking and additional strict safety measures. Casinos, movie theaters and group exercise classes remain closed. Professional and college sports meeting extraordinary standards for risk mitigation may continue without spectators. Colleges, universities and high schools will continue with remote learning, with no in-person classes.

**Open**

- Two-household gathering (high precautions)
- Small outdoor gatherings (25 people)
- Retail
- Preschool through 8th grade (local district choice)
- Childcare
- Manufacturing, construction, other work that is impossible to do remotely, including technical education
- Public transit
- Hair salons, barber shops, other personal services
- Gyms, ice rinks, and pools (for individual exercise)
- Restaurants and bars (outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery)
- Professional sports\*\* (without spectators)
- Parks and outdoor recreation
- Funerals (25 people)
- Health care

**Not open**

- High schools (in-person learning)
- Theaters, movie theaters, stadiums, arenas
- Colleges and universities (in-person learning)
- Bowling centers, trampoline parks, indoor water parks
- Workplaces, when work can be done from home
- Bingo halls, casinos, arcades
- Restaurants and bars (indoor dining)
- Group fitness classes
- Organized sports, except professional sports

\*\*Includes a limited number of NCAA sports.

For more information about the order, visit [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](http://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus). Questions or concerns can be emailed to [COVID19@michigan.gov](mailto:COVID19@michigan.gov).

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has extended by 12 days the epidemic order that restricts indoor social gatherings and other group activities. Courtesy image

difficult time yet in our struggle with COVID-19, but there is light at the end of the tunnel.”

The order will keep existing measures in place through Dec. 20 and does not include a blanket stay-home action. Employees who work in jobs that cannot be performed from home can continue to go to work, including those in manufacturing, construction and health occupations. Outdoor gatherings, outdoor dining and parks remain open. Individualized activities with distancing and face masks are still allowed: retail shopping; public transit; restaurant takeout; personal-care services such as haircuts, by appointment; and individualized exercise at a gym, with extra spacing between machines.

“We each have a personal responsibility to wear a mask consistently and minimize indoor gatherings, so we can protect our frontline heroes and loved ones,” said MDHHS Director Robert Gordon. “If we don’t, the disease will continue to spread and people will continue to get sick and die.”

“While we have seen early signs of progress in our case

rates and hospitalizations, unfortunately our rates are still alarmingly high and we need more time to understand the impact that Thanksgiving travel may have had on the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS. “I am hopeful because vaccines will be available soon, potentially later this month. However, it will take time for the vaccine to be widely available to the general public, and it is important that we continue to do what we can to contain this virus.”

MDHHS also identified three key metrics that will be utilized in determining whether to slowly reopen at the end of the 12 days. Specifically, the department will be looking closely at the percentage of hospital beds with COVID patients, the number of COVID-19 cases and the positivity rate. With improvements in those numbers in context, MDHHS will carefully reopen, with in-person learning at high schools first. Next in line will be entertainment venues where people can maintain consistent masking, such as casinos,

theaters and bowling, with concessions closed.

“The last few weeks have been critical to slowing the spread, particularly across the Upper Peninsula given the geography between hospitals and the available resources,” said Karen Cheeseman, President and CEO of Mackinac Straits Health System in St. Ignace. “We won’t see continued improvement without your help. We are asking you to heed the advice of public health experts by washing your hands, wearing your mask, and avoiding crowds.”

Just before Thanksgiving, Gov. Whitmer sent a letter to the Michigan Legislature seeking their support and asking them to pass a COVID relief package to help families and businesses across the state, which included a permanent extension of unemployment benefits. She has also called for the Legislature to pass bills to require masks in public, which has received bipartisan support, and would serve to greatly improve compliance, assist law enforcement and help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Just last week, the State Budget Office sent the Appropriations Chairs in the Legislature an additional request to provide supplemental funding in the current budget for additional COVID response needs for testing, contact tracing, PPE, hospital staffing, support for nursing homes and veterans homes and funding to quickly begin distributing vaccines to our highest risk residents as soon as the vaccine becomes available.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](http://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](http://CDC.gov/Coronavirus). The COVID-19 vaccine is coming soon, learn more at [Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine](http://Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine).

Boyne Falls Public Schools

# STUDENT OF THE WEEK

**Clayton Putnam**

Grade: Kindergarten

Parent’s Name(s): Christopher and Emily Putnam

What do you want to be when you grow up?: When Clayton grows up, he wants to be a Fireman like his dad.

Favorite Book: Clayton favorite book series is “How do Dinosaurs?”

Hobbies and Interests: Clayton’s hobbies and interests are playing on his tablet at home, playing with his brother and sister, and playing outside.

School Activities: At school, Clayton enjoys working in ABC Mouse, playing outside on the swings and slides, and gym class with Mr. W.

Staff Comments: Clayton is a very cheerful, courteous, and respectful young boy. He enjoys learning and playing with his friends at school. Clayton has had a great start this week with online learning at home. He is doing a wonderful job of completing his work and attending Zoom classes. Keep up the good work!

Submitted by: Mrs. Deanna Milks

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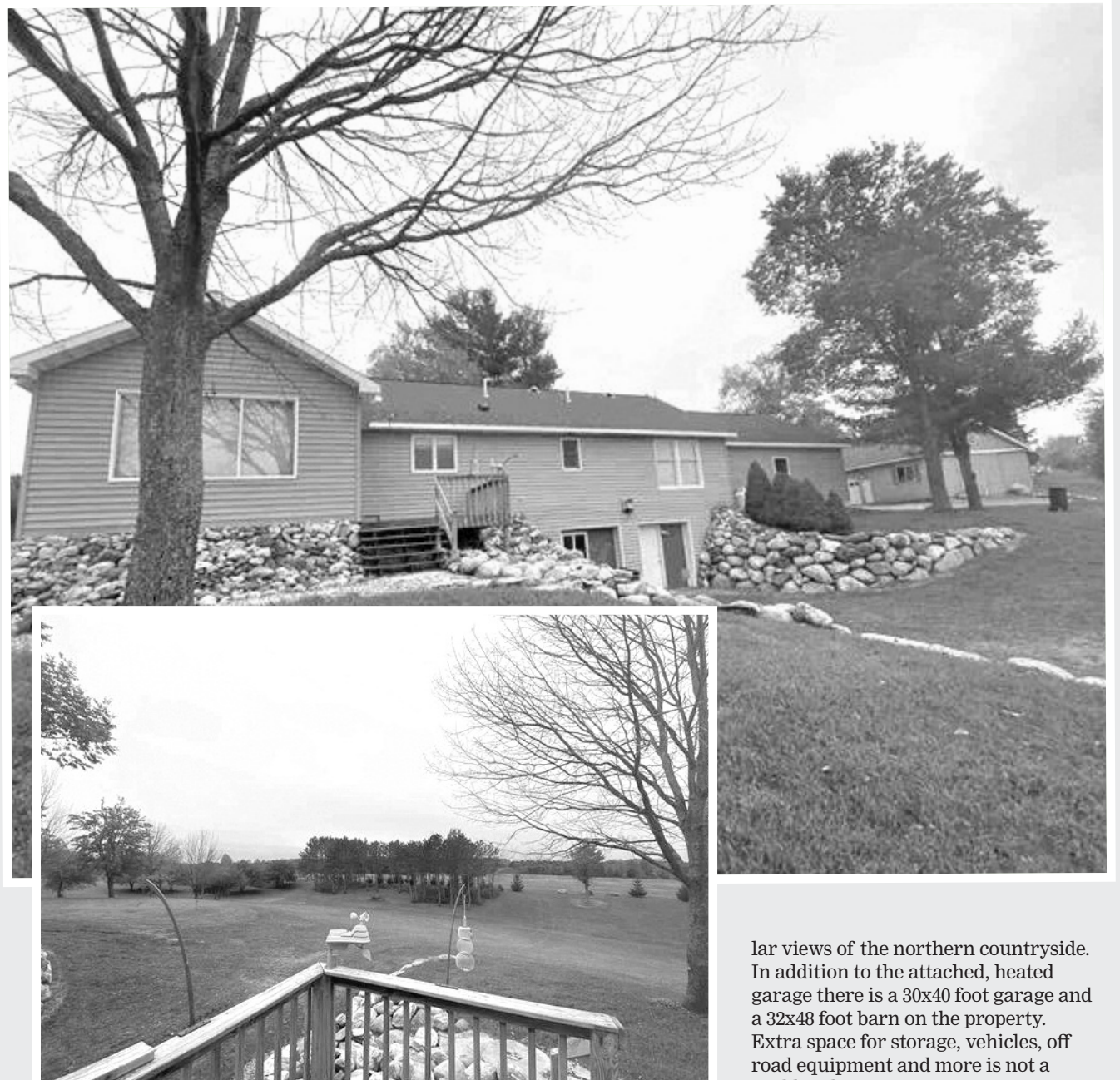
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BY JIM AKANS

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gorgeous hardwood flooring, a large kitchen with plenty of counter work space and cabinet storage space plus a handy island with snack bar. The master suite features a dual sink vanity, huge tub and separate shower. The home also has central air conditioning and an attached heated garage. The over seven acre property is set on a gentle hillside offering spectacular

views of the northern countryside. In addition to the attached, heated garage there is a 30x40 foot garage and a 32x48 foot barn on the property. Extra space for storage, vehicles, off road equipment and more is not a problem here. This beautiful, spacious home on over seven acres is located at 11355 North US 31 Highway south of Charlevoix and north of Atwood, and it has recently been reduced to \$290,000. For additional information or to arrange for a tour, please call Mike Stark or Holly Stark, Associate Brokers, at EXP Realty - 109 Mill Street, East Jordan, at 231-536-7700 or email HollisUpNorth@gmail.com



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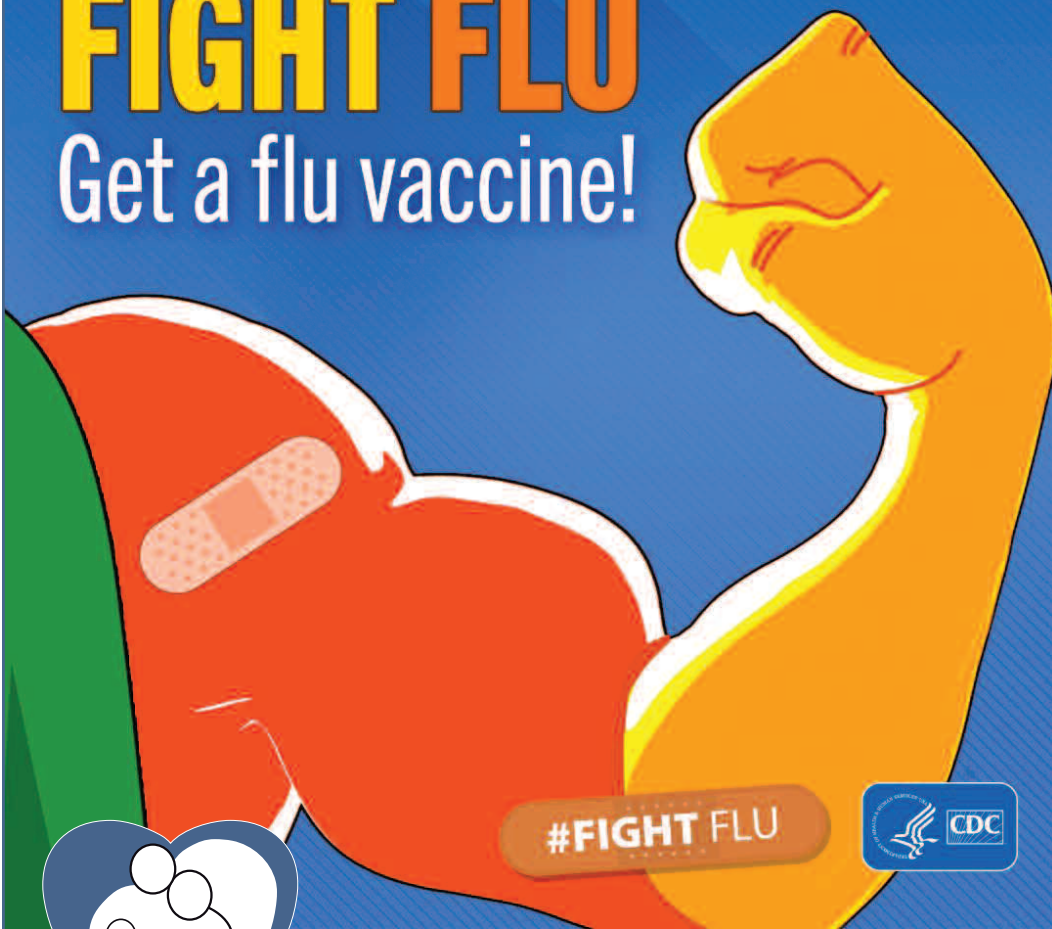
It isn't necessary, but an appraisal will give a good indication of the price the seller will actually get for their property. A real estate agent can give you similar reliable data to determine current market value. First, to determine the asking price, a seller's agent will look at the "comps," the price for which "comparable" homes in the area have recently been sold.

Based upon these prices, the seller should adjust what they are asking. For example, if similar properties in the area are selling for \$210,000, then trying to get \$250,000 usually does not make sense. Thus, before putting the home on the market, a seller should review the "comps," which can be obtained from a local real estate profes-

sional. The appraisal process used by a licensed appraiser is more theoretical than a "comp," and doesn't predict what a buyer will be willing to pay. Why would anyone ever get an appraisal then? Although rarely needed by buyers or sellers, appraisals are normally required by lenders who are considering making a loan. However, sellers of expensive, custom homes may get appraisals, because there may not be any homes in the area that compare. Buyers of these one-of-a-kind homes will also have more confidence in an asking price that is supported by an appraisal. Before determining an asking price, sellers should give their agent a list of major improvements done to the home, such as a new roof or upgraded heating system. This will help the agent consider all the factors when recommending a price. It will also put him or her in a better position to sell the house-and all of its features-for the best possible price.

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### Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

On December 8, The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 47 new cases in Antrim (15), Charlevoix (15), Emmet (9), and Otsego (8) counties, and 3 COVID-19 associated deaths in Antrim (2) and Emmet (1) counties. Case investigation and contact tracing are in progress, and relevant information will be shared when it is available.

On December 7 the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) identified three key metrics that will be utilized in determining

whether to slowly reopen at the end of the 12-day extension to the current pause. The first metric is percent of inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients which measures the impact of the virus on hospitals. COVID-19 case rate is the second metric, and this is reported as the cases per million residents and measures spread of COVID-19 within a specified area. The final metric is percent of COVID-19 tests conducted that are positive, which indicates whether we are missing cases in the community and often pre-

cedes increases in hospitalization. MDHHS and the Governor have stated they will be monitoring for improvement in these trends to determine future release of restrictions.

"We send our deepest condolences to the families and friends of those who have been lost to this virus. We must continue to remain vigilant in observing the precautions intended to protect us all. The current restrictions put into place through the Epidemic Orders of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) are based upon data about what is driving increased risk," shared Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "These key metrics are major indicators which will allow us to monitor whether risk is decreasing. We continue to ask residents to follow the MDHHS guidelines and always maintain social distance, wash your hands, and wear a mask."

As of 4 pm on December 8, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting:

-Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim - 516, Charlevoix - 740, Emmet - 1092, Otsego - 867

-Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim - 240, Charlevoix - 307, Emmet - 548, Otsego - 444

-Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim - 7, Charlevoix - 7, Emmet - 28, Otsego - 19

The State of Michigan is reporting 410,295 cases and 10,138 deaths.

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. To locate a testing facility, visit the Michigan COVID-19 Test Finder website. To track the risk levels of COVID-19 pandemic indicators, visit the MI Safe Start Map website.

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