



It’s official: Four Lakes Task Force acquires mid-Michigan dams

Transfer includes more than 6,000 acres of land

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Dam properties previously owned by Boyce Hydro have been officially transferred to Four Lakes Task Force. FLTF is the delegated authority working on behalf of Midland and Gladwin counties

to oversee the dams and lakes along the Tittabawasee River system. According to a FLTF newsletter released on Jan. 14, the Boyce properties are now under the ownership of FLTF, which the transfer including about 300 parcels/lots of land, with a total of more than 6,000 acres. “Everything that was historically operated and maintained as part of the lake system was included in the transfer,

including the lake bottoms,” the newsletter stated. On Nov. 13, FLTF and Boyce Hydro reached a settlement regarding condemnation litigation. In accordance with the settlement agreement, the counties would obtain ownership of the Boyce properties. FTLF has agreed to pay \$1,576,000 in the settlement, with \$270,000 going to Boyce and \$152,000 to local suppliers

with liens on Boyce properties, while the remaining \$1,154,000 will be up to the bankruptcy court to sort out between Byline Bank, lawyers and the bankruptcy trustee. When FLTF acquired the properties, the organization notified the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee of the transfer. “Given there are significant issues with Boyce Hydro, the hydropower licenses and

FERC, FLTF informed FERC it would be economically unfeasible to recover the investments needed to keep hydro on the dams,” a press release stated. Without the need for the hydropower licenses, the FTLF is in the process of requesting that FERC find a path to move regulatory authority to the State of Michigan, similar to what occurred on the Edenville Dam.



Catherine Peters, a water analyst for the City of Midland, tests the alkalinity of a water sample Thursday morning at the Water Treatment Plant in Midland. For more photos, visit www.ourmidland.com. (Katy Kildée/kkildée@mdn.net)

Could what happened to Flint’s water happen in Midland?

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New charges filed have brought the Flint water crisis back to the forefront of headlines and conversations in Michigan. As justice for the families in Flint move forward now almost seven years later, it might have Midlanders wondering: Could what happened in Flint happen here to the city’s 17,000 water customers? While he is hesitant to predict the future, Director of Water Services Peter Schwarz, said realistically, what happened in Flint won’t happen in Midland. “We’re doing analysis on the water every four hours – we check corrosivity of the water, daily,” he said. “So, we’re looking at a lot

of parameters to make sure it can’t corrode or dissolve lead out of the plumbing.” What happened in Flint was the result of decisions made, which led to a change in water source from Lake Huron and the Detroit River to the Flint River. In addition, Flint’s water was improperly treated, which allowed it to corrode the pipes, many of which were lead, contaminating the water. So, how safe is the City of Midland’s water supply and are we properly treating it?

THE STATE OF MIDLAND’S WATER SYSTEM Midland’s water infrastructure varies by age. The city’s original water treatment plant on Valley Drive was built in the 1920s and only parts of it remain in service. In the 1950s, the city built the treatment plant off Bay City Road, which received a major expansion in the early 80s. As for the pipes, the water mains that carry the water about the city, the age varies from as old as the 1920s to as new as last year. However, Schwarz said about half the pipes are over 50 years old. The lifespan of the pipes varies also, as he explained the soil surrounding the underground infrastructure plays a role in how long they will last. “If they’re in corrosive soil and some other

issues, the pipe corrodes through,” he said. “Other ones can last almost indefinitely if they’re in stable soil and don’t have any other issues.” **CORROSION AND LEAD** Schwarz said the pipes in the southern part of the city is where they find the most issues with water main breaks and corrosion. “We try to stay ahead of them – we know where pipes are breaking more often; we know the ages and soil conditions, so we track all of those parameters,” he said. Schwarz said 80% of the city’s budget for water improvement projects goes toward replacing distribution piping. In addition, he said there are very few lead service lines in Midland. Every summer, the city takes samples for lead and levels have ranges between 3 and 5 parts per billion, which is below the minimum action level of 15 parts per billion. “(In) Midland, it just wasn’t a common practice to install lead service lines,” Schwarz said. “We found a handful in town, but it’s very rare.” According to the state’s Lead and Copper Rule, which was revised in 2018, the city must inventory and replace any lead service lines found. That’s a big undertaking for the city with its 5,000 service lines. However, based

on findings in the past, Schwarz said they don’t expect to find much lead. **MIDLAND’S WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT** The City of Midland gets its water supply from Lake Huron, and has since 1948. The pumping system is jointly owned by the cities of Midland and Saginaw through the Saginaw-Midland Municipal Water Supply Corporation. According to the City of Midland’s website, the two intake structures offshore at Whitestone Point, which is northeast of Au Gres, intake about 230 million gallons per day. They are screened to keep out debris and fish, and the water is chlorinated to kill harmful bacteria and zebra mussels. The water is then pumped through 65 miles of pipeline to Midland. Schwarz explained that the Great Lake is a much more stable water source than a river, which is more influenced by upstream pollution and rainfall. “Our water source is valuable, and it is an asset of the city,” he said. “It does impact where people want to live.” Once at the Midland Water Treatment Plant, chemicals are added to purify and disinfect it. The water is then stored, and the Water Treatment Plant can provide 48 million gallons per day to city customers.

Former AG Schuette: ‘People in Flint deserve justice’

Midlander Nancy Peeler among those charged by Nessel

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Amid the latest developments in the Flint water crisis, Michigan’s Former Attorney General Bill Schuette is standing by his statement: “People in Flint deserve justice.” Schuette, whose own investigation was thrown out by current Attorney General Dana Nessel in 2019 to start anew, said it would be improper to comment on the recent criminal charges filed last week. Nessel’s office filed just over 40 charges against nine individuals, three of which were not charged under Schuette’s investigation, including Former Gov. Rick Snyder. In the investigation led by Schuette’s office, there were 59 charges against 15 people. He said he still stands by those charges filed during his term in office. “Their water was poisoned, thousands of children were exposed to harmful lead levels and 12 people died,” Schuette said in a statement to the Daily News. “Andy Arena, former head of the Detroit FBI; David Leyton, Genesee County Prosecutor; Special Counsel Todd Flood and I built a strong team and conducted a ‘by the book’ investigation, just as we did with the Nassar prosecutions, among others.” Of those charged again, is Nancy Peeler of Midland, who is the former director of Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting in state Health and Human Services department. Last week, Peeler received two felony counts of misconduct in office. She allegedly concealed results of an analysis of elevated blood lead levels of children in Flint and misrepresented information about elevated blood lead levels of Flint children. Each count is worth five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine. She also received a misdemeanor for willful neglect of duty because she allegedly failed to act upon indications of elevated blood lead levels of Flint children. It is also worth five years and a \$10,000 fine. She pleaded not guilty to her charges. Under Schuette, Peeler was charged for allegedly burying a 2015 internal report on blood lead level data in Flint kids, according to the Detroit News.

Midland woman killed in Wednesday night crash

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A single-vehicle crash resulted in the death of a Midland woman Wednesday night. At about 6:16 p.m. on Jan. 20, Midland Police officers responded to a single-car crash in the area of East Ashman Street near Michele Lane, according to an MPD press release. After responding, officers determined the vehicle’s passenger, a 41-year-old Midland woman, was killed in the crash. The driver, a 37-year-old man, sustained severe injuries and was transported to MidMichigan Medical Center-Midland for treatment. The Midland Police Department has not disclosed the names of the victims. Alcohol and drugs are suspected to be contributing factors in the crash, the press release stated. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Midland City Police Department at 989-839-4713.

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WHAT’S HAPPENING

As Michigan begins to open up and events are being organized, the Daily News has resumed its popular What’s Happening column, your guide to local entertainment-type events in the Great Lakes Bay region. If you have an event you would like included, please email the information to Reporter Ashley Schafer, ashley.schafer@hearnstp.com

Friday, Jan. 22 Virtual Q&A with Midland Inventor Steve Dombrowski will begin at 7 p.m. online via Zoom. The link for the webinar is https://bit.ly/2XfUOW1 and the passcode to the Zoom event is 071552. Dombrowski invented a shovel lever attachment that helps lift snow and other heavy materials, carrying most the weight. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask him questions about his invention.

Saturday, Jan. 23 Reimagining Dinosaurs with National Geographic is a live event set for 7 p.m. Join MATRIX:MIDLAND as part of Midland Center for the Arts’ Virtual Pass to Reimagine Dinosaurs with National Geographic Live. Groundbreaking new science is changing what we thought we knew about how dinosaurs looked, moved, and lived. New-found troves from the Moroccan desert suggest that the immense predator Spinosaurus spent much of its time in the water. And in Chile, scientists have discovered a shocking new theropod. Unlike its cousins, Velociraptor and T. rex, Chilesaurus consumed a vegetarian diet. Join leading paleontologists Nizar Ibrahim and Sebastián Rozadilla for stories and conversation about the evolving science of dinosaurs. This event is included with a subscription to Midland Center’s Virtual Pass at just \$9.99/month. Purchase online at midlandcenter.org or by calling the box office at 989-631-5930.

Come Meet the Makers, an event to showcase and support local makers and growers, is set for 7:30 a.m. to noon at Live Oak Coffeehouse, 711 Ashman St. Midland. There will be two to eight vendors every Saturday through April, picking up where the Midland Farmer’s Market left off and takes a break for the season. All vendors and patrons will adhere to current mask and social distancing guidelines, and

hosts will limit traffic and gathering in common areas, provide opportunities for sanitizing. Interested in being a vendor? Sign up on the following form to inquire about being added to the schedule: http://bit.ly/MeettheMakers2020.

A Bottle and Can Drive is set for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lowe’s in Midland, to help support the local and international humanitarian efforts of The Glory Ministry. A drop and go location for donations will be at Lowe’s, 1918 Airport Road in Midland. People who are unable to make these dates or times can contact Robert at 989-324-8937 or visit www.thegloryministry.org

Snowshoe Sampler is set for 10 a.m. to noon at Chippewa Nature Center in Midland. Free for all ages, 18 and younger with adult. It’s time to play outside! Drop by any time to give CNC’s snowshoes a try, do a winter scavenger hunt or warm up by a campfire. Meet at the Homestead Cabin and come enjoy a winter morning in the snow. www.chippewanaturecenter.org

Monday, Jan. 25 Evening Snowshoe Hike is set for 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland. Come discover the beauty of a winter night! We will look for signs of animals, study tree silhouettes and enjoy the winter sky. Bring a headlamp or flashlight. Ages 15 and older; younger than 18 with adult. Reserve snowshoes online or call 989-631-0830. Registration required. www.chippewanaturecenter.org

Wednesday, Jan. 27 Tiny Habits Workshop is set for 12:30-1 p.m. on Zoom. Learn how improving your personal wellbeing has a ripple effect on families, friends, workplaces, and communities. Join this free, fun and engaging half hour Tiny Habits Workshop to discover how the power of tiny habits can have a positive effect in your life. In this workshop you will learn what tiny habits are, the science of why they work, how to use them effectively, and have time to practice developing your own! This workshop is interactive and practical - each participant will leave prepared to use this tool personally and will be encouraged to share it with others. Or maybe you have already learned about tiny habits and just want time to practice

and troubleshoot with others. The workshop will be delivered by Peggy Szczepanski, leader of Dow’s Health & Wellness strategy/implementation for North America, and Kathy Snyder, Midland Area Wellbeing Coalition coordinator. To register visit www.midlandarea-wellbeing.org and if you have any questions or would like to schedule this workshop for your group or organization, please email info@midlandareawellbeing.org.

Evening Snowshoe Hike is set for 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland. Come discover the beauty of a winter night! We will look for signs of animals, study tree silhouettes and enjoy the winter sky. Bring a headlamp or flashlight. Ages 15 and older; younger than 18 with adult. Reserve snowshoes online or call 989-631-0830. Registration required. www.chippewanaturecenter.org

Thursday, Jan. 28 Full Moon Stroll is set for 5 to 6 p.m. at the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland. This month’s Wolf moon recognizes the shorter days and longer nights that occur near the winter solstice. Bundle up to look and listen for nocturnal wildlife moving under the moon light. Wear dark clothing and bring a flashlight. www.chippewanaturecenter.org. Free, ages 9-plus; younger than 18 with adult. Register by Jan. 27

A community read of “Kindred” is set for 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Zoom. Join facilitators who will guide participants through a series of discussion questions about the book. The session is free but participants should register at www.justicelibrary.org. The novel by Octavia Butler is the story of a contemporary Black woman who time-travels to a plantation prior to the Civil War, where she meets her ancestors and is forced to negotiate the life of a slave. This book explores issues of race, power and privilege—all ideas that apply to our current times. A select number of free copies of the novel, along with the graphic novel version by Damian Duffy, are available at the Public Libraries of Saginaw branches. Hoyt and Zauel, through curbside pickup. The e-book is also available to residents with a public library card.

Saturday, Jan. 29 A virtual Evening of Music and Conversation with Jeff Daniels is set for 7:30 p.m. Daniels, award-winning actor, musician and playwright, brings an intimate virtual concert experience to the

Midland community as part of the Virtual Pass at Midland Center for the Arts. Tickets are on sale now by subscribing for the Virtual Pass at just \$9.99/month at midland-center.org or by calling the center ticket office at 989-631-8250. Families subscribed for the Virtual Pass will have access to this virtual event along with many others.

Jan. 29-31 Zehnder’s Snowfest: Join us for Zehnder’s Snowfest (limited event) . Although Snowfest will be different this year, visitors may still enjoy a limited number of larger-than-life snow sculptures and beautifully detailed ice carvings. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year’s event will not include entertainment, warming tent or fireworks but we encourage guests to view the snow and ice sculptures throughout downtown Frankenmuth.

Saturday, Jan. 30 Come Meet the Makers, an event to showcase and support local makers and growers, is set for 7:30 a.m. to noon at Live Oak Coffeehouse, 711 Ashman St. Midland. There will be two to eight vendors every Saturday through April, picking up where the Midland Farmer’s Market left off and takes a break for the season. All vendors and patrons will adhere to current mask and social distancing guidelines, and hosts will limit traffic and gathering in common areas, provide opportunities for sanitizing. Interested in being a vendor? Sign up on the following form to inquire about being added to the schedule: http://bit.ly/MeettheMakers2020

Winter Tree Identification is set for 1 to 2 p.m. at Chippewa Nature Center in Midland. Learn to identify trees in winter by their bark, branches and buds. Compare characteristics of opposite, alternate or whorled, then look closer at bud shape and color. Dress for the weather for this outdoor program. Free for people ages 9 and older; 18 and younger with adult. Free. www.chippewanaturecenter.org

Sunday, Jan. 31 Free virtual event, “Why Draw?” with artist Armin Mersmann is set for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mersmann will share his experiences as an artist, his philosophy, his artwork, contour drawing, and graphite drawings and techniques you would learn in a beginning drawing class. The event is presented by the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum at Saginaw Valley State University.



A presentation on “Rethinking Mental Health,” is set for 7 p.m. Feb. 17 on Zoom with Ben Nemtin, a New York Times best-selling author and star of MTV’s The Buried Life. The virtual presentation is part of the Delta College President’s Speaker Series. **(Photo provided/Delta College)**

Guided virtual tours and field trips of a new exhibition, “Form Foundations: Figure Studies by Marshall M. Fredericks” are available and can be scheduled by contacting the museum at 989-964-7125. The public is also invited to share their drawings with the museum as they build a gallery page of their works. To register for this event visit www.marshallfredericks.org/calendar

Monday, Feb. 1 A new virtual exhibit “Hip Hop Icons” opens at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum at Saginaw Valley State University. The exhibition includes over 150 original objects related to the history of hip hop culture in America focused around the following themes: Pioneers, Emcees, Groups, Women, Movies, and Detroit. The exhibition will include

Hip Hop Top 10 movie posters featuring some of the most significant and impactful films on hip hop culture: Wild Style, Beat Street, Breakin’, Krush Groove, House Party, Do the Right Thing, Juice, 8 Mile, Dave Chappelle’s Block Party, and Straight Outta Compton.

Tuesday, Feb. 2 Evening Snowshoe Hike is set for 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland. Come discover the beauty of a winter night! We will look for signs of animals, study tree silhouettes and enjoy the winter sky. Bring a headlamp or flashlight. Ages 15 and older; younger than 18 with adult. Reserve snowshoes online or call 989-631-0830. Registration required. www.chippewanaturecenter.org

Thursday, Feb. 4 Evening Snowshoe Hike is set for 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland. Come discover the beauty of a winter night! We will look for signs of animals, study tree silhouettes and enjoy the winter sky. Bring a headlamp or flashlight. Ages 15 and older; younger than 18 with adult. Reserve snowshoes online or call 989-631-0830. Registration required. www.chippewanaturecenter.org

Saturday, Feb. 6 Snowshoe Sampler is set for 2-4 p.m. at Chippewa Nature Center in Midland. Free for all ages, 18 and younger with adult. It’s time to play outside! Drop by any time to give CNC’s snowshoes a try,

SEE WHAT’S HAPPENING, 4A

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST											
Name	Tkr	52-Wk Range	Low	High	Close	Chg	%Chg	Wk	Mo	Qtr	YTD
AGNC Investment Cp	AGNC	6.25	→	19.65	16.08	+19	+1.2	▲	▲	▲	+3.1
AT&T Inc	T	26.08	→	39.14	28.83	-.13	-0.4	▼	▲	▲	+0.2
Abbott Labs	ABT	61.61	→	115.14	112.95	+0.6	+0.1	▲	▲	▲	+3.2
Annaly Capital Mgmt	NLY	3.51	→	10.50	8.36	+0.8	+1.0	▲	▼	▼	-1.1
Brist Myr Sqb	BNY	45.76	→	68.34	64.18	-2.07	-3.1	▼	▲	▲	+3.5
CMS Engy	CMS	46.03	→	69.12	58.11	-.59	-1.0	▼	▼	▼	-4.8
CSX Corp	CSX	46.81	→	97.54	91.61	-1.60	-1.7	▼	▲	▲	+0.9
Caterpillar Inc	CAT	87.50	→	200.17	192.19	-.15	-0.1	▼	▲	▲	+5.6
Comerica Inc	CMA	24.28	→	67.40	62.06	-1.06	-1.7	▼	▲	▲	+11.1
Corning Inc	GLW	17.44	→	38.84	37.94	-.51	-1.3	▲	▲	▲	+5.4
Corteva Inc	CTVA	20.38	→	44.96	41.65	-2.01	-4.6	▼	▲	▲	+7.6
DTE Energy Co	DTE	71.21	→	135.66	122.53	+2.8	+0.2	▼	▲	▲	+0.9
Deere Co	DE	106.14	→	306.35	305.50	+4.56	+1.5	▲	▲	▲	+13.5
Dow Inc	DOW	21.95	→	61.31	57.56	-1.01	-1.7	▲	▲	▲	+3.7
DuPont de Nemours	DD	28.33	→	87.27	80.98	-3.31	-3.9	▼	▲	▲	+13.9
Duke Energy	DUK	62.13	→	103.79	90.18	-.60	-0.7	▼	▲	▼	-1.5
Eli Lilly	LLY	117.06	→	201.77	202.35	+1.09	+0.5	▲	▲	▲	+19.8
Ford Motor	F	3.96	→	10.87	11.53	+6.7	+6.2	▲	▲	▲	+31.2
Gen Electric	GE	5.48	→	13.26	11.07	-.32	-2.8	▼	▲	▲	+2.5
Horizon Bop IN	HIBN	7.42	→	18.55	16.80	-.27	-1.6	▼	▲	▲	+5.9
Hormel Foods	HRL	39.01	→	52.97	45.25	+5.2	+1.2	▲	▲	▼	-2.9
IBM	IBM	90.56	→	158.75	131.65	+15.7	+1.2	▲	▲	▲	+4.6
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	109.16	→	164.14	161.73	-.65	-0.4	▲	▲	▲	+2.8
Kellogg Co	K	52.66	→	72.88	57.89	+2.5	+0.4	▼	▼	▼	-7.0
Kroger Co	KR	26.72	→	37.22	33.21	+1.4	+0.4	▼	▲	▲	+4.6
Lowes Cos	LOW	60.00	→	180.67	172.34	-.05	...	▲	▲	▲	+7.4
Masco Corp	MAS	27.04	→	60.16	58.02	-.41	-0.7	▲	▲	▲	+5.6
McDonalds Corp	MCD	124.23	→	231.91	213.53	-.10	...	▲	▲	▼	-0.5
Miller Herman	MLHR	14.39	→	41.55	36.57	+0.2	+0.1	▲	▲	▲	+8.2
Neogen Corp	NEOG	48.91	→	85.86	83.56	-2.11	-2.5	—	▲	▲	+5.4
Owens Corning	OC	28.56	→	87.00	86.30	-.64	-0.7	▲	▲	▲	+13.9
Pfizer Inc	PFE	27.88	→	43.08	36.48	-.02	-0.1	▼	▼	▼	-0.9
Rite Aid Corp	RAD	8.85	→	22.45	19.49	-.05	-0.3	▲	▲	▲	+23.1
Shyft (The) Group	SHYF	9.01	→	31.86	31.70	+1.22	+4.0	▲	▲	▲	+11.7
Stryker Corp	SYK	124.54	→	247.44	243.60	-1.61	-0.7	▲	▲	▼	-0.6
TCF Financial Corp	TCF	16.96	→	46.10	43.15	-.41	-0.9	▼	▲	▲	+16.6
Verizon Comm	VZ	48.84	→	61.95	57.27	+0.1	...	▼	▼	▼	-2.5

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LOTTERY

DETROIT (AP) — Michigan lotteries drawn Thursday:

Poker Lotto

4D-5H-QH-JD-KH

Midday Daily 3

5-4-0

Midday Daily 4

1-4-7-5

Daily 3

2-2-2

Daily 4

4-1-0-9

Fantasy 5

1-17-21-24-31

Keno

1-2-3-14-18-19-20-22-34-40-41-42-46-48-49-51-63-66-71-74-75-77

Mega Millions

Est. Jackpot: \$970 million

Powerball

Est. Jackpot: \$20 million

Midland County adds seven COVID-19 cases Thursday

Nine new deaths recorded in the local region

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Midland County added seven confirmed COVID-19 cases on Thursday, according to the daily state report. A total of nine new deaths were also added throughout the five-county region including Midland, Saginaw, Bay, Isabella and Saginaw counties.

Thursday, Jan. 21 daily numbers

- Midland County: Pandemic total is 4,018 cases, 551

probable, 50 deaths and three probable deaths.

- Bay County: 22 cases and five deaths and one probable death were added; pandemic total stands at 6,676 cases, 265 probable, 242 deaths and four probable deaths.
- Gladwin County: four cases and one death were added; pandemic total stands at 1,165 cases, 202 probable, 35 deaths and three probable deaths.
- Isabella County: 12 cases were added; pandemic total stands at 3,375 cases, 401 probable, 64 deaths.
- Saginaw County: 68 cases and three deaths were added; pandemic total stands at 13,098 cases, 646 probable,

447 deaths and 11 probable deaths.

The state on Thursday added 2,165 new cases and 148 deaths, including 128 deaths identified during a vital records review. Overall, Michigan is at 544,311 cases and 14,053 deaths.

Testing

The state report shows as of Jan. 21, Midland County has performed 48,048 COVID-19 tests. Gladwin County is listed as having administered 13,484 tests.

COVID at a glance

Midland County
New cases: 7
Positivity rate: 6.5%

Gladwin County
New cases: 47
Positivity rate: 6%

Vaccination sign up

Seniors age 65 and older can register for the vaccination by following the COVID Vaccination Information link in the upper left corner of the Midland County Health Department's website.

MidMichigan Health

Midland County's seven-day rolling positivity rate on Jan. 17 was listed at 6.5%, and Gladwin County was listed at 6%. Our 12-county region is 6.9% and Michigan is at 6.7%.

statistics

As of Jan. 18, MidMichigan Medical Center in Midland is listed as having a 75% bed occupancy, with 34 COVID-19 patients, including seven in the ICU. MidMichigan Medical Center in Gladwin is listed as having a 26% bed occupancy, with three COVID-19 patients and none in the ICU.

Regarding PPE supplies, the Midland hospital reported 15-30 days for N95 masks; 15-30 days for surgical masks; 30-plus days for surgical gowns; 15-30 days for exam gloves and 30-plus days for eye protection. The Gladwin hospital reported 30-plus days for all the reported supplies.



Flint resident Mohammed Busaqir loads a fellow resident's vehicle with cases of free bottled water during World Water Day on Friday, March 22, 2019 in Flint. A judge granted preliminary approval Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021 to a \$641 million deal that would benefit Flint residents who were harmed by lead-contaminated water. The settlement includes \$600 million from the state of Michigan, although Flint, an area hospital and an engineering firm are also part of the agreement. (Jake May/The Flint Journal via AP)

Judge gives preliminary OK to \$641M Flint water deal

BY ED WHITE
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A judge granted preliminary approval Thursday to a \$641 million deal that would benefit Flint residents who were harmed by lead-contaminated water. The settlement includes \$600 million from the state of Michigan, although Flint, an area hospital and an engineering firm are also part of the agreement. U.S. District Judge Judith Levy signed off in a 72-page opinion.

"There may be no amount of money that would fully

recognize the harm the residents of Flint have experienced, including their anxiety, fear, distrust and anger over the events of the last seven years," Levy said. "Litigation has its benefits but also its limitations, and the preliminary approval of this settlement does not affect or preclude other avenues of redress."

Preliminary approval triggers a monthslong process during which Flint residents can object and pursue their own claims, Levy said.

Regulators in then-Gov. Rick Snyder's administration allowed Flint to use the

Flint River in 2014-15 without treating the water to reduce corrosion. As a result, lead in old pipes broke off and flowed through taps.

Separately, experts have blamed the Flint River water for an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, which led to at least 12 deaths in the Flint area.

Snyder last week was charged with two misdemeanor or counts of willful neglect of duty in Flint. Eight other people were also charged, including two health department officials who are blamed for the deaths of nine people with Legionnaires'.

Sen. Jim Stamas announces staff changes

Midland Daily News

Senate Appropriations Committee chairman Jim Stamas announced several staff changes for the 101st Legislature on Thursday.

New roles and additions to Stamas' staff include Patty Hertrich as chief of staff, Brian Shoaf as senior budget advisor, and Bryce Webster as legislative director.

Cherryl Khoury is continuing in her role as scheduler and constituent relations director and Stacey Gomoll is continuing as

Stamas' office assistant and constituent aide.

"I am proud to have Patty and Bryce join our team as we continue to tackle the tough issues affecting the people of Michigan and the 36th Senate District every day," said Stamas, R-Midland. "Brian has been with me from my start in the Legislature, and I am happy to see him take on a new role focusing on meeting our budget challenges. I also want to thank Cherryl and Stacey for continuing to help us provide the best constituent services possible."

Hertrich most recently served as chief of staff for Senate Majority Floor Leader Peter MacGregor and previously worked for Reps. Joe Haveman and Chuck Moss when they chaired the House Appropriations Committee.

Shoaf is currently Stamas' chief of staff and previously worked for Stamas in the House, former Rep. John Moolenaar and former Sen. Bill Schuette.

Webster previous-



Jim Stamas

ly worked for former Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, Americans For Prosperity, and Reps. Lynn Afendoulis and Ken Borton.

Residents can contact Stamas' office toll-free at 1-855-347-8036 or via email at SenJStamas@senate.michigan.gov. Residents may also visit Stamas' Senate website at www.SenatorJimStamas.com or send a letter via U.S. Mail. The mailing address is Senator Jim Stamas, P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909.

CRIME LOG

The following list includes recent reports from the Midland County Sheriff's Office and the Midland Police Department. Compiled by reporter Mitchell Kukulka.

Tuesday, Jan. 19

8:43 p.m. — A deputy was dispatched to a Porter Township residence in reference to a car-deer crash that occurred on Redstone Road near South Ten Mile Road.

7:14 p.m. — Officers responded to a report of domestic violence in the 5300 block of Sunset Drive.

11:42 a.m. — Officers responded to a vehicle crash in the area of North Saginaw Road and Eastman Avenue.

10:46 a.m. — Officers responded to a report of domestic assault in the 1300 block of Glen Road.

10:07 a.m. — Deputies responded to a car-deer crash in Edenville Township.

8 a.m. — Officers responded to a vehicle crash in the 1700 block of South Saginaw Road.

7:54 a.m. — Officers responded to a vehicle crash in Geneva Township.

7:11 a.m. — Officers responded to a vehicle crash in the area of Eastlawn Drive and Swede Avenue.

5:44 a.m. — Officers responded to a vehicle crash causing injuries in the area of East Ashman and Washington streets.

4:08 a.m. — Deputies were dispatched to a Greendale Township business in reference to a report that the front door of the business broken. Entry was not made into the business. The damage to the door was about \$500. This case is still open pending investigation.

12:35 a.m. — Deputies responded to a vehicle crash in Greendale Township.

Monday, Jan. 18

11:20 p.m. — Deputies responded to a Jerome Township residence in reference to a malicious destruction of property complaint. Upon arrival, deputies made contact with the victim, a 27-year-old Bay County man and her ex-boyfriend, a 31-year-old Mills Township man. The woman said her ex-boyfriend caused about \$2,000 in damage to her car and he tried running her off the road. Deputies also located suspected meth inside the man's vehicle. The man was arrested and transported to the Midland County Jail.

11:12 p.m. — Deputies responded to a vehicle crash in Greendale Township.

8:53 p.m. — Officers performed a warrant arrest in the 1500 block of

East Sugnet Road.

8:23 p.m. — Officers responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1300 block of Haley Street.

7:54 p.m. — A 60-year-old Jerome Township woman reported an unknown man followed her home and pulled into her driveway behind her. The woman said the man parked in her driveway for about one minute before leaving. She said she did not know who the man was, nor had she even seen the car. Deputies encouraged the woman to call 9-1-1 again if she feels like she's being followed, or if he shows back up at her house.

6:07 p.m. — Officers responded to a report of malicious destruction of property in the 4000 block of Wellness Drive.

4:24 p.m. — Officers responded to a vehicle crash in the 4000 block of Wellness Drive.

5:09 p.m. — A 45-year-old woman reported her trash can was stolen. The approximate value of the stolen trash can is \$75. There are no suspects.

3:34 p.m. — A deputy spoke with a 78-year-old woman regarding a possible fraud. She said that several months ago, she let an unknown individual remotely control her computer in an effort to clean it. Recently, she has been missing money from her PayPal account. She said that she is missing \$150. There are no suspects.

1:59 p.m. — A 56-year-old man reported he was being harassed by his 39-year-old ex-girlfriend. The harassment was occurring over Facebook. Deputies contacted the woman and advised her not to contact the complainant. The man was referred to the courts for a Personal Protection Order.

12:42 p.m. — Officers responded to a domestic assault in the 3600 block of Isabella Street.

12:41 p.m. — A 70-year-old woman reported she was being harassed over Facebook messenger. She did not recognize the name of the person sending her the harassing messages. She was advised not to respond and to block the unknown subject.

11:56 a.m. — A deputy was dispatched to the Village of Sanford for a report of a damaged government owned sign. There are no suspects.

8:24 a.m. — Animal Control received a fax in reference to a dog bite that occurred in Warren Township. A child was bitten by the family's dog, and an isolation notice issued.

6:39 a.m. — Deputies responded to a vehicle crash in Jerome Township.

12:29 a.m. — Deputies responded to a traffic crash in Jerome Township.

ROAD RESTRICTIONS

The following list contains the most up-to-date reports of road restrictions and closures in the Midland County area, according to the Midland County Road Commission.

Compiled by reporter Mitchell Kukulka.

Road closure:

8 Mile Road — Saginaw Road to Nielsen Road in Jerome Township. This will be

a lengthy closure.

Road restriction:

Orr Road — Tittabawassee River Road to Laporte Road in Ingersoll Township — bridge work.

Son-in-law’s distraction may be more than forgetfulness

DEAR ABBY: I’m responding to the letter from “Open-and-Shut Case in Virginia” (Oct. 20), who complained her son-in-law was “disrespectful” because he didn’t close cupboard doors, cereal boxes, etc. My guess is that “Kirk” is displaying classic symptoms of Adult Attention Deficit Disorder (AADD). Multistep tasks may be difficult for him to complete because he is easily distracted.

My husband has this. (It was not diagnosed until he was in his 50s, and I had nearly torn all my hair out.) He still occasionally leaves cabinet doors and drawers open. I tease him that he can’t remember to walk from one side of the room to another if he forgets to take his medication.

I strongly recommend that

Kirk be evaluated by a behavioral psychologist for AADD. Treatment may save the relationship between Kirk and his in-laws. -- WIFE OF A MAN WITH A.A.D.D.

DEAR WIFE: Thank you for your letter. I received a deluge of responses about the letter from “Open-and-Shut Case in Virginia,” and the vast majority of the writers mentioned ADD, ADHD and AADD. Many of them recommended patience on the part of the in-laws and volunteered that Kirk may be able to manage the disorder if he is diagnosed.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 73-year-old retired woman



Abigail Van Buren

who still maintains contact with a number of old and new friends for movies, dinner, museum visits, etc. Until the COVID virus, we did things often. Now, not so much.

Someone in this group told me that on a couple of occasions, a few of them were not very nice when my name came up. (“Why doesn’t she see her grandkids more often?” “She goes out more than most, yet doesn’t want to eat in certain restaurants.”) My husband and I have a good marriage, but many of these ladies are widowed or divorced. How do you handle backstabbing at this age? -- MYSTIFIED IN NEW YORK

DEAR MYSTIFIED: Try not to take it personally. Obviously, these gossips have less to occupy their minds than

one would hope. You might also consider seeing these particular individuals even less often than you already do in the age of COVID. If you do, it may give them less ammunition concerning what you do (or don’t do) with your time.

DEAR ABBY: I began using a wheelchair two years ago. Since then a dear friend of roughly 30 years has become fixated on my disability. While we once shared a deep, close “BFF” relationship, she now speaks to me in baby talk and only shows an interest in my physical limitations. I feel objectified, hurt and disappointed.

I have mentioned to her that I prefer to focus on other things in life, and she responds with platitudes like, “The body is just a shell,” and “All that

matters is the heart,” but her actions tell me otherwise. I hate to end this friendship, but I am at the end of my rope. Any advice? -- PATRONIZED IN ARIZONA

DEAR PATRONIZED: If you haven’t done it already, tell this person that you no longer wish to discuss your disability and you prefer she stop raising the subject and treating you differently. Period. If she continues to pursue the subject after that, make your visits less frequent, if they happen at all.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Raynaud’s features an aggressive response to cold extremities

DEAR DR. ROACH: Sixty years ago, I was diagnosed with Raynaud’s syndrome by my doctor. I started taking nifedipine during winter months, but not during the summer. After moving to Colorado, I took the medication year-round because the weather here was often cool in the mountains even in summer. Then I was told to take two tablets a day rather than just one. I had been wearing support hose for three years due to leg swelling. One day I reviewed the medication paper that comes with the prescription and saw that nifedipine could be causing leg swelling. So, I discontinued taking the prescription last summer, but I am really struggling with symptoms in my hands and feet. Is there any other medication available to improve my circulation? Even wearing socks and gloves all day is not helping this winter. -- M.W.

ANSWER: Raynaud’s phenomenon is an overexuberant body response to cold, causing color changes in the extremities, such as fingers, toes, and

earlobes. Severe cases can cause tissue damage, even leading to gangrene. In addition to avoiding cold places wherever possible and wearing protective clothing, medication treatment can be very effective. Nifedipine, a calcium channel blocker approved for use in the United States in 1981, is one effective treatment, but the swelling of the legs can sometimes make it intolerable.

There are several other options, some of which may be surprising. Sildenafil (Viagra) has been a very effective option for some people. Nitroglycerine cream is reasonable for people who have limited exposure, but isn’t a good choice for someone with symptoms year-round. Fluoxetine (Prozac) is helpful for some, as is the blood pressure medicine losartan (Cozaar). In general, I wouldn’t recommend stopping a medicine without talking to your doctor about an alternative plan.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I keep hearing, inconsistently, that N95 masks should be used only once or twice and then discarded. I’ve been wearing the

same one, uncleaned, since COVID-19 began. Doesn’t smell bad, is a little dirty, but seems like the filtering qualities “look” unchanged. What is your opinion and recommendation? Second, are those light-blue flimsy masks that come in the 100 pack any good at all? So much space around sides of the face. -- T.A.

ANSWER: Many of my colleagues are reusing their N95 respirators due to limited supply. Current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that the N95 masks may be used for an extended period as long as they continue to have a tight fit and have not become contaminated. We use a surgical mask (the “light-blue flimsy” ones) on top of the N95 to extend its lifespan. N95 masks should be discarded after high-risk procedures, such as performing an intubation on a patient with severe COVID-19.

Surgical masks do provide some protection: They protect you to some



Dr. Keith Roach

extent, but they protect others around you, and that probably has more public health benefit. The current thinking is that people are most infectious in the day or two before they develop symptoms. Wearing your mask, even if you have no symptoms, protects the people around you, if you should have an asymptomatic case of COVID-19 or you haven’t developed symptoms yet.

I recommend a well-fitting, multi-layered cloth mask, since they provide better protection than surgical masks. We should save N95 masks for the front-line hospital workers who most need them. Cloth masks should be washed regularly.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu or send mail to 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

CONTINUED FROM 2A

do a winter scavenger hunt or warm up by a campfire. Meet at the Homestead Cabin and come enjoy a winter morning in the snow. www.chippewanature-center.org

Feb. 6-7
A Winter Festival is set for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Midland Center for the Arts. Join Midland Center for the Arts for a one-way exploration through the building with festive art, science and history activ-

ities for people of all ages. Shop local in our artisan village and experience the artwork of famous artists Norman Rockwell, Grandma Moses, and more in the Center’s lobby gallery. Bring your entire family for kids activities to explore 1800’s cold weather traditions and winter fun from around the world plus a colorful light display featuring an ice princess. Families looking to get a photo with their loved ones can choose between a variety of winter scenes, decorated by the Midland County Historical Society’s volunteers from

the Bradley Home. Tickets are \$7 per person and free for museum members. Purchase tickets online at midlandcenter.org or by calling the box office at 989-631-5930.

Monday, Feb. 8
Meet butterfly expert Brenda Dziedzic as she discusses growing native plants that caterpillars, butterflies and moths need at 6:30-8 p.m. The virtual event is presented by Mid Mitten Wild Ones. Dziedzic will talk about the native plants that butterflies and moths depend on, and emphasize what you can do to create habitat

for them, no matter what size area you have. She will also cover how to raise caterpillars safely and responsibly. Brenda is an advanced master gardener, and author of the book “Raising Butterflies in the Garden” which can be purchased on Amazon.com or Bookshop.org. She founded the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, and is a Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist who has traveled to the monarch sanctuaries in central Mexico. She raises caterpillars in her yard and indoors, takes excellent photos of their

development, and knows the native host plants they require to survive. Register for the free event by emailing hendersonjeanne23@gmail.com prior to Feb. 7.

Evening Snowshoe Hike is set for 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland. Come discover the beauty of a winter night! We will look for signs of animals, study tree silhouettes and enjoy the winter sky. Bring a headlamp or flashlight. Ages 15 and older; younger than 18 with adult. Reserve snowshoes online or call 989-631-0830. Registration required. www.chippewanaturecenter.org

Wednesday, Feb. 10
Family Snowshoe Hike is set for 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland. Event is for ages 5 and older with adult. Reserve snowshoes online or call 989-631-0830. Registration required. Bring the whole family for an afternoon of exploration on snowshoes - no experience needed! We will search high and low for signs of animals as we explore on and off trails. Please bring a sled to pull younger children. www.chippewanature-center.org

ancestors and is forced to negotiate the life of a slave. This book explores issues of race, power and privilege—all ideas that apply to our current times. A select number of free copies of the novel, along with the graphic novel version by Damian Duffy, are available at the Public Libraries of Saginaw branches, Hoyt and Zael, through curbside pickup. The e-book is also available to residents with a public library card.

Thursday, Feb. 11
Citizen Science: Wood Duck Box Clean Out is set for 3-5 p.m. for kids 9 and older with an adult at Chippewa Nature Center. Registration required. Join Tom Lennon, director of Land Facilities, as we monitor wood duck boxes, counting the number of hatched eggs from last season and seeing if anyone has been using the boxes since then. Meet at the end of the Homestead Road by the pavilion and dress to be outdoors for the entire program.

Saturday, Feb. 13
I <3 Science is set for 2 p.m. Celebrate Valentine’s Day early with the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science & Art as we learn about heart health, amazing innovations in medical technology, and well-being science. Join the center virtually for special health talks, a hands-on heart activity, and even a virtual dance lesson. Supply kits for the hands-on activity are included in your registration cost of \$7 or \$5 for Museum Members. Sales will close on Sunday, Feb. 7 at noon. Purchase tickets online at midlandcenter.org or by calling the box office at 989-631-5930.



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Sudoku By The Mephram Group

				2				
			1	6			3	8
		9				8	6	
3				7				8
				9		5	7	
9				1				4
8		4	7			9		
	6	7			9	8		
				4				

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Level **1 2 3 4**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit from 1 to 9. For strategies on solving Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.

Solution to Thursday’s puzzle

4	9	2	5	6	7	3	8	1
5	3	6	8	9	1	4	2	7
8	1	7	2	4	3	6	9	5
6	7	9	3	1	8	2	5	4
1	5	8	4	2	6	9	7	3
3	2	4	9	7	5	8	1	6
9	4	5	1	3	2	7	6	8
7	8	3	6	5	9	1	4	2
2	6	1	7	8	4	5	3	9

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Many Americans want payback. We need a uniter instead.

After the shocking attack on our Capitol on Jan. 6, many Americans feel it's time for payback. That former president Donald Trump, his Republican enablers and the white supremacist, conspiracy-minded seditionists all deserve the contempt of the nation and a lifetime ban from dignity.

In these circumstances, the word “unite” — a word on which Joe Biden ran for president and a vision in which many of us believe — has itself drawn contempt. Uniteres are seen as wishy-washy and spineless.

Nothing could be further from the truth. No one I know who hopes to wear the label of “uniter” is suggesting that those responsible for sedition and violence should not be held accountable. Shallow calls to unite from Republicans

responsible for one of the most divisive days in U.S. history won't work either.

Here's what makes a uniter approach distinctive — and why uniting the country remains the essential and urgent challenge of now: When facing polarizing forces, uniters make the high-risk step of crossing divides. Think of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” Think of Nelson Mandela inviting his former jailer to dinner. Think of the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland. In each of these instances, enormous division and injustice was transformed by avoiding



Timothy Shriver

contempt. When facing factions and hostile interests, uniters search for creative solutions that create common purpose grounded in transcendent principles such as truth, goodness, justice and peace.

For uniters, the enemy is often a condition in the human heart. Mandela was a uniter who spent his entire life while opposing racism that he saw deep in the hearts of his oppressors. Mahatma Gandhi opposed colonialism, but he did so with a vision of a free and nonviolent Indian democracy without demonizing the British. Mother Teresa opposed the caste system but rarely scapegoated Indians. Abraham Lincoln opposed slavery but sought a country with “malice toward none.”

I can tolerate a lot of debate about the qualities of a uniter,

but being told that trying to unite our country is a coward's path is too much. On the contrary, being a uniter is the more difficult path because uniters risk the hatred of all those — on the left and the right — who have become convinced that hatred and destruction of the other side is the only path forward. Lincoln offered malice toward none and was murdered a month later. King offered a world where love defeats hate and gave his life for it. My uncle Robert F. Kennedy said that what our country needed in 1968 was love, and eight weeks later, he was gone. Too frequently, uniters pay with their lives, because when hatred and contempt rage out of control, the one who calls us to the self-sacrificing work of uniting is often the victim.

Biden ran to be a uniter. People may oppose him, but at least they ought to understand the enormity of what he is trying to do. Does he have to respect the vote from House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., to overturn the election? No. Should he invite McCarthy to join him in rushing resources to schools and children in crisis around the country? You bet. Should he invite Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Tex., to dinner at the White House? Not until Cruz faces the truth of his actions and offers to change. But can Biden treat him with dignity and ask him to join in generating new solutions to the challenge of immigration that affects so many Texans? Let's hope so. And instead of exhausting his

SEE SHRIVER, 7A

GUEST VIEW

Lawmakers taking on transparency reform is a great first step

It's an understatement to say Michigan's government transparency record is dismal.

The state regularly lands on the wrong end of worst-in-the-nation rankings for government accountability. Those ratings, lists that often place our state at or near the wrong end, repeatedly highlight inadequate open records and open meetings laws. They also point toward a wholesale exemption lawmakers and the governor enjoy from the Freedom of Information Act.

Maybe that's why we were encouraged by remarks made this week by the recently seated speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives.

Speaker Jason Wentworth, R-Clare, seemed to plant a priority in government accountability and transparency in the first days of his tenure. “Anything that improves the transparency and accountability of government is on the table,” he said, according to the Associated Press.

We hope he means it. More, we hope Wentworth puts some action to those words and does something to finally lift our state from the murky end of those rankings. We hope he, and his lawmaking colleagues, see fit to finally rectify the abhorrent blockades that allow those doing the public's business to effectively shield themselves from public view.

Those reforms should include making both the legislature and the governor subject to FOIA; fixing gaps in the law that allow government agencies to delay release of records arbitrarily as a matter of practice; and eliminating the absurd language that allows bureaucrats to charge thousands of dollars for the release of documents created, catalogued, and maintained with taxpayer dollars.

Sure, we probably have a little more experience with these regulations than most Michiganders, and therefore we carry a little more animosity toward their shortcomings.

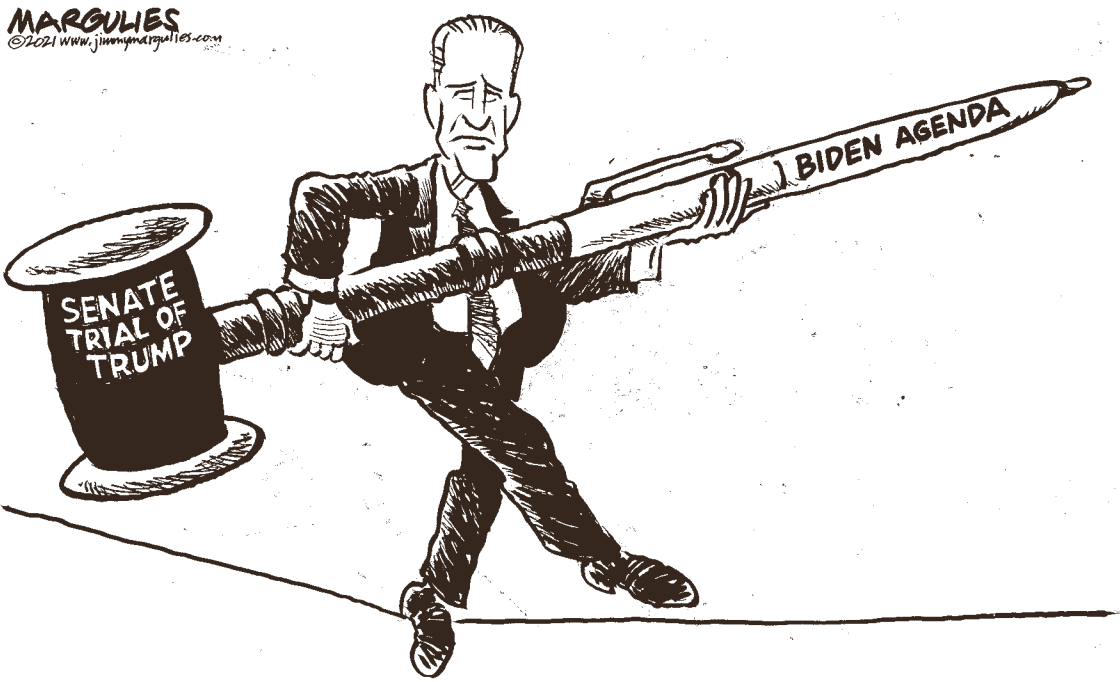
But fixing the structures that cut our governance and its execution from public view probably is one of the most meaningful public service projects lawmakers could tackle.

For decades, those who become comfortable either in elected office or inside the bureaucracy have worked against any reform that would bring meaningful transparency to our state. In fact, resistance to transparency reforms seems to come from all corners.

Likewise, government transparency is, in our view, the single most nonpartisan issue in our state. If we, the taxpayers are footing the bill, shouldn't we have a right to inspect the fruits of our investment?

For those reasons, we hope Speaker Wentworth succeeds in his pledge to bring transparency to Michigan government.

— Traverse City Record Eagle



YOUR VIEW

Michigan Future Inc. president: Why a road diet matters

To the editor:

Across the country cities, large and small, are implementing road diets. The prime reason is economic development. Those cities understand that as former New York City Mayor Bloomberg said: “talent attracts capital far more effectively and consistently than capital attracts talent”. The asset that matters most to employers — and that local communities can do the most about — is talent.

The 21st Century path to prosperity is concentrated talent. Concentrated talent increasingly is what attracts high-wage employers. Talent is also entrepreneurial, so where it is concentrated increasingly are the places with the most high-wage business start-ups. So talent concentration is essential to high-wage job creation.

And where you have concentrations of high-wage workers you get increased demand for local services. From buying and fixing up homes and second homes, to car and boat purchases to increased demand for retail and hospitality.

What we think of as local and regional economic development now is the icing on the cake, not the foundation of a prosperous economy. That foundation now

is creating communities where mobile talent wants to live and work.

Across the country mobile talent — particularly young mobile talent — increasingly wants to live in high-density mixed-use, high-amenity neighborhoods that are not just designed for cars, but for walking, bikes, and transit.

Which brings us to why a road diet matters. Transportation is the essential policy lever that, in city after city, has fostered dense, walkable places. The simple fact is that you cannot create walkable, high-density, high-amenity neighborhoods with multi-lane highways. To create the kind of places talent wants to live in, we need to move away from transportation designed to quickly move people into and out of cities to transportation designed for people to enjoy the downtowns and neighborhoods where they both live, play and work. To retain and attract talent and to get the resulting population and economic growth, cities need to move to downtowns and neighborhoods that are designed for people, not cars.

LOU GLAZER
Michigan Future, Inc. President

Couple concerned MSU is dropping swimming program

To the editor:

The Michigan State University trustees are planning to drop the Swimming and Diving Program for the 2021-22 season. They claim that the cost of the program is too great and that it does not achieve high enough ratings at Big Ten events. First, the costs associated with the Swimming and Diving program is only 1% of MSU's athletic budget. In order to be more competitive, MSU needs to invest in a better pool to help with recruitment. Secondly, the Swimming and Diving Program usually ranks anywhere between last and third from the bottom in Big Ten events. However, MSU's Swimming and Diving athletes have some of the highest GPA in MSU sports. Last year, 43 of MSU's 97 winter sports Academic All-Big Ten honorees were swimming and diving athletes. Swimmers and divers attend MSU for the academics, but still want to continue their high school and club swimming and diving routines. Right now, swimming and diving families need to write, email, or call the following persons to advocate on behalf of the program.

- Dr. Samuel L. Stanley, Office of the President, MSU, 426 Auditorium Road, Hannah Administration Building, Room 450, E. Lansing, MI 48824-1046, email: President Stanley@MSU.edu, phone: 517-355-6560.

SEE LETTERS, 7A

SHARE YOUR VIEW: The Midland Daily News welcomes letters to the editor from people who live within our readership area. Letters provide a forum for the public to express their views. Letters should be short and to the point, and should not exceed 350 words. The paper will edit letters for length, conciseness and clarity. Letters should include the writer's first and last name and hometown address and a way for the newspaper to contact the letter writer, preferably an email address or daytime telephone number, to verify the author and should there be a question about the submission. If a topic has been thoroughly debated in the letters column, subsequent letters will not be published if they do not add new information or ideas to the debate. Letters that are libelous, malicious, inaccurate, in bad taste, demonstrably false, contain conspiracy theories or those that make personal attacks on private or public people, will not be published. All submissions will be posted with a first and last name along with the city of residence of the author. Under most circumstances, authors will be limited to one published letter every three weeks. Letters that exceed the 350-word count and/or whose authorship cannot be determined will not be published. Letters can be submitted online at ourmidland.com or by email to midlanddailynews@gmail.com

Biden signs burst of virus orders, requires masks for travel

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a burst of executive orders, President Joe Biden served notice Thursday that the nation’s COVID-19 response is under new management and he’s demanding progress to reduce infections and lift the siege Americans have endured for nearly a year.

The 10 orders signed by Biden are aimed at jump starting his national COVID-19 strategy to increase vaccinations and testing, lay the groundwork for reopening schools and businesses, and immediately increase the use of masks — including a requirement that Americans mask up for travel. One directive calls for a addressing health care inequities in minority communities hard hit by the virus.

“We didn’t get into this mess overnight, and it will take months to turn this around,” Biden said. “Despite the best intentions we’re going to face setbacks.” But he declared: “To a nation waiting for action, let me be clear on this point: Help is on the way.”

The new president has vowed to take far more aggressive measures to contain the virus than his predecessor, starting with stringent adherence to public health guidance. He faces steep obstacles, with the virus actively spreading in most states, slow progress on the vaccine rollout and political uncertainty over whether congressional Republicans will help him pass a \$1.9 trillion economic relief and COVID

response package.

“We need to ask average Americans to do their part,” said Jeff Zients, the White House official directing the national response. “Defeating the virus requires a coordinated nationwide effort.”

Biden officials say they’re hampered by lack of cooperation from the Trump administration during the transition. They say they don’t have a complete understanding of their predecessors’ actions on vaccine distribution. And they face a litany of complaints from states that say they are not getting enough vaccine even as they are being asked to vaccinate more categories of people.

Biden acknowledged the urgency of the mission in his inaugural address. “We are entering what may well be the toughest and deadliest period of the virus,” he said before asking Americans to join him in a moment of silence in memory of the more than 400,000 people in the U.S. who have died from COVID-19.

Biden’s top medical adviser on COVID-19, Dr. Anthony Fauci, also announced renewed U.S. support for the World Health Organization after the Trump administration had pulled out of the global body. Fauci said early Thursday that the U.S. will join the U.N. health agency’s efforts to bring vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics to people in need, whether in rich or poor countries and will resume full funding and staffing support for WHO.

The U.S. mask order for travel being implemented by Biden will apply to airports and planes, ships, intercity buses, trains and public

transportation. Travelers from abroad must furnish a negative COVID-19 test before departing for the U.S. and quarantine upon arrival. Biden has already mandated masks on federal property.

Although airlines, Amtrak and other transport providers now require masks, Biden’s order makes it a federal mandate, leaving little wiggle room for passengers tempted to argue about their rights. It marks a sharp break with the culture of President Donald Trump’s administration, under which masks were optional, and Trump made a point of going maskless and hosting big gatherings of like-minded supporters. Science has shown that masks, properly worn, cut down on coronavirus transmission.

Biden also is seeking to expand testing and vaccine availability, with the goal of 100 million shots in his first 100 days in office. Zients called Biden’s goal “ambitious and achievable.”

The Democratic president has directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to begin setting up vaccination centers, aiming to have 100 up and running in a month. He’s ordering the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to begin a program to make vaccines available through local pharmacies starting next month. And he’s mobilizing the Public Health Service to deploy to assist localities in vaccinations.

There’s also support for states. Biden is ordering FEMA to reimburse states for the full cost of using their National Guards to set up vaccination

centers. That includes the use of supplies and protective gear as well as personnel.

But some independent experts say the administration should be setting a higher bar for itself than 100 million shots. During flu season, the U.S. is able to vaccinate about 3 million people a day, said Dr. Christopher Murray of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in Seattle. “Given the number of people dying from COVID, we could and should do more — like what we’re able to do on seasonal flu,” he said.

Zients said Biden will not follow through on a Trump administration plan to penalize states lagging in vaccination by shifting some of their allocation to more efficient states. “We are not looking to pit one state against another,” he said.

Biden has set a goal of having most K-8 schools reopen in his first 100 days, and he’s ordering the departments of Education and Health and Human Services to provide clear guidance for reopening schools safely. States would also be able to tap FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund to help them get schools back open.

Getting schools and child care going will help to ease the drag on the U.S. economy, making it easier for parents to return to their jobs and restaurants to find lunch-time customers.

But administration officials stressed that reopening schools safely depends on increased testing.

To ramp up supplies, Biden is giving government agencies a green light to use a Cold War-era law called the Defense

Production Act to direct manufacturing.

“We do not have nearly enough testing capacity in this country,” Zients said. “We need the money in order to really ramp up testing, which is so important to reopen schools and businesses.”

This means that efforts to reopen the economy will hinge on how quickly lawmakers act on the \$1.9 trillion package proposed by Biden, which includes separate planks such as \$1,400 in direct payments to people, a \$15 minimum wage and aid to state and local governments that some Republican lawmakers see as unnecessary for addressing the medical emergency. The Biden plan estimates that a national vaccination strategy with expanded testing requires \$160 billion, and he wants another \$170 billion to aid the reopening of schools and universities. The proposal also calls for major investment in scientific research to track new strains of the virus, amid concern that some mutations may spread more easily and also prove harder to treat.

As part of his COVID-19 strategy, Biden will order the establishment of a COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force to ensure that minority and underserved communities are not left out of the government’s response. Blacks, Latinos and Native Americans have borne a heavy burden of death and disease from the virus. Surveys have shown vaccine hesitancy is high among African Americans, a problem the administration plans to address through an education campaign.

LETTERS

CONTINUED FROM 6A

• Office of the Board of Trustees, MSU, Hannah Administration Building, 426 Auditorium Road, Room 450, E. Lansing, MI 48824-1046, email: trustees@msu.edu, phone: 517-353-4647.

• Bill Beekman, Athletic Director, Athletics Administration, 1855 Place, 550 S. Harrison Road, E. Lansing, MI 48823, email: ad@ath.msu.edu.

A petition drive has also been initiated and can be found at this site: change.org/p/Michigan-state-university-athletic-department-save-spartan-swimming-and-diving?-signed=true.

We would like to thank everyone who is willing to help remedy this situation.

JIM AND MARY YEOMANS
Midland

Reader thankful for new heart and vascular center

To the editor:

On Monday two weeks ago, I visited my family physician because of what I believed was excess gas resulting in chest pains. After asking several doctor type questions, running an EKG and comparing it with one done a few years previously, she immediately made an appointment for me with my cardiologist. Less than 24 hours later, I was scheduled for an outpatient

procedure at the Midland hospital to place a stent in one of my heart arteries.

Approaching the door to the hospital at 6:30 a.m. the following Monday, I admit that I was a little nervous, scared, and intimidated. We were talking a life changing situation here. I remember my dad spending several days in the hospital 30 years ago undergoing heart by pass surgery, followed by several weeks of recovery. Yet, I was scheduled to go home that same afternoon.

From the moment that the person clothed in hospital garb walked through the double doors separating the waiting room from the working area asking for “John?” I knew I was in good hands. I talked with and was assisted by at least a dozen health care professionals that day. Their sole purpose in life seemed to be to make sure that I was comfortable, relaxed and well informed as to what was going on around me.

I was briefed at every step along the way. What was happening, what was going to happen and why. They answered every one of my questions without hesitation.

Dr. Michael Lauer performed the actual procedure. Like the rest of his team prior to his appearance, he briefed me as to what he was going to do and how. He also answered my questions, even about the fact that we were both going to be cheering for the Big Ten team playing in college football’s national championship that evening. After he finished his job, he

telephoned one of my out of state sons to inform him what he had done, that Dad was in fine shape and would be going home in a few hours.

I had heard that the Heart and Vascular Center at our hospital was good, but my experience in the time that I was there convinced me that was more than true. Everyone that I met that day was part of a team and seemed to me to be proud of it. They knew their assigned task, worked well together and in my mind, everyone of them has earned the right to be called Professional, with a capital P.

I thank each and every one of you.

JOHN RÜPPEL
Midland

Reader: Concerned about election fraud? What about gerrymandering?

To the editor:

If Trump and associates believe the elections were rigged, what do you call it when you favor gerrymandering, remove or place as far as possible polling stations without any transportation or very little, to discourage-avoid minority population to vote? It is so anti-democratic, disgusting, you pretend to defend democracy. When the leader of the Senate says “We’ll make sure the president will be a one-term president (Obama),” this not democracy either; that’s another reason we are where we are!

JACQUES RANOLET
Midland

SHRIVER

CONTINUED FROM 6A

political capital to drive a stake through the heart of Trump, should Biden use that same energy to convince Trump’s 74 million voters that there is an American future in which they belong and to which they can contribute, full of the faith, freedom and justice that they espouse? For sure.

Will he win them over? Time will tell. But that’s the best outcome — not defeating “them” but finding ways to create a new “us.”

Dividing is easy. It costs little. The blame and the solution are all in others. It’s a recipe for feeling good about one’s group, going to battle against others and trying to win. Division isn’t just a problem for some; it’s also the solution.

I want to unite not because it’s the nice thing to do but because it’s the only way to solve our problems. I want justice. I want no part of racism and lying and sedition. And I’m choosing love to oppose them all. You can accuse people like me of many things, but please don’t suggest we’re choosing the easy road. Uniting people without compromise and without contempt is the hardest road of all. And the only one that will heal our country today.

Timothy Shriver is chairman of Special Olympics and a co-founder of Unite, a civic and social issues initiative.

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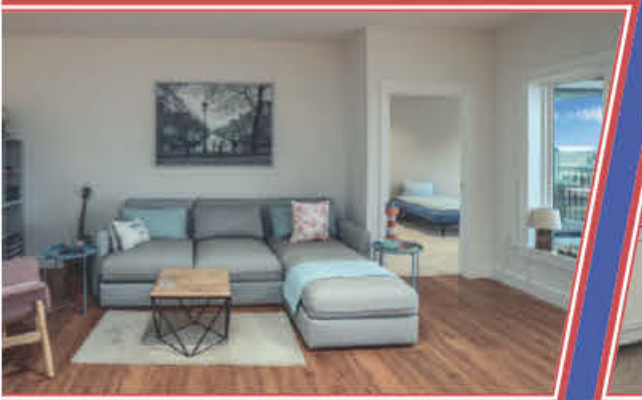


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Prep Profile: Getting to know Meridian’s Jack Murphy

FRED KELLY
fred.kelly@mdn.net

Name: Jack Murphy, Meridian senior
Sports played: Baseball, basketball, football, track
Favorite sport: “Basketball has been my favorite sport since seventh grade, with pickup games being the biggest contributor to my love for it.”

Best moment while playing sports: “I couldn’t name a specific best moment in my career. Instead, my favorite part of sports is that I get to play a game and have fun with my friends.”
Game day routine/tradition/superstition: “I always like to say a prayer during the national anthem before a game.”

Favorite athlete: “Larry Bird because of his basketball IQ and craftiness.”
Extracurricular activity: National Honor Society
Favorite school subject: “My American history class was the most interesting class I remember having.”
Favorite teacher ever: “Mr. Blake. He was funny, a great teacher, and a phenome-

nal person.”
Favorite meal: “A Culver’s butterburger is the greatest thing I ever remember tasting.”
Favorite movie: “*Avengers: Endgame* had my favorite ending to any movie, making it my No. 1 pick.”
Favorite hobby: “Content consumption. Whether it’s



Jack Murphy

funny or informative, I love watching videos, reading, or doing anything that keeps my mind entertained.”
Best friend: “Jordan Dinkins has been my closest friend since the second grade.”
Surprising/amusing fact most people don’t know: “I love to eat food.”

Fab freshman: Blanchard tearing it up at Ferris

Freeland grad leading GLIAC in scoring at nearly 26 ppg in 1st season

FRED KELLY
fred.kelly@mdn.net

Kadyn Blanchard had no intention of going off to college to be a benchwarmer. Then again, she never expected to be leading the GLIAC in scoring as a true freshman, either. Blanchard, a 2020 Freeland graduate and former All-State basketball player for the Falcons, is off to a tremendous start at Ferris State. Such a tremendous start, in fact, that she couldn’t help laughing about it. Asked if she has surprised herself, Blanchard replied immediately with a chuckle, “I have, yes. Most people don’t think that you’re going to see much playing time when you come in as a freshman, but I’ve actually been starting. That was my goal, though. I didn’t want to go somewhere and sit for the first year. “Honestly, it feels really nice to be starting

and to be doing what I’m doing right now,” she added. What Blanchard is doing is nothing short of amazing. Through the Bulldogs’ first four games, she is averaging a whopping 25.8 points per game, which leads the GLIAC by more than three points per game over the next-closest player. She also leads her team in rebounding (6.8 rpg) and steals (2.5 spg) and is among the league leaders in field-goal percentage (48.6), free-throw percentage (90.0), and assists (3.5 apg). Blanchard credited both her teammates and her continued development for her early success. “I’ve been really fortunate to have a lot of opportunities (to score). We have an offense that I really fit in well with, and I work well with all of these girls,” she noted. “I’ve played some travel ball with Amaka Unobagha (a freshman forward from Saginaw Arts and Sciences), and so we have a lot of chemistry. And I love playing with Mal (sophomore point guard Mallory McCartney from Saginaw Heritage). Mal

is so good at finding open people with the ball. “ ... I’ve been doing really well getting to the basket, and my mid-range game that I added last year has definitely helped,” she added. “I’ve always had the (ability to make the) 3-ball, although I haven’t utilized that as much this year. I’ve been getting more of my points driving to the basket, but teams will start catching onto that, so I have to make sure I still have my other stuff in the bag.” Blanchard, who led Freeland to a Division 2 state runner-up finish in 2019, got her collegiate career off to a good start by scoring 18 points and 21 points in losses to perennial power Ashland. She then upped that total to 25 points in a loss to Wisconsin Parkside last Friday before completely going off a day later. In the Bulldogs’ first win of the season, a 91-89 thriller over Parkside last Saturday, Blanchard tallied 39 points, 10 rebounds, and seven assists and was 15 of 15 from the foul line. Blanchard said she has “grown a lot” as a basketball player over the past few months and has

“Honestly, it feels really nice to be starting and to be doing what I’m doing right now.”

adjusted to the collegiate level pretty well. “The college level is a whole different level than high school, a different pace and everything,” she noted. “On the defensive end, a lot of things have changed, and I need to continue to work on that. But, offensively, I think I have a quicker first step now, and, shooting-wise, I’ve expanded my game even more, with the 3-point line being farther out.” Blanchard said she used quarantine time to make sure she was as ready as possible to play collegiate basketball. “Over the summer, there was a church gym I could get into, and I was working out there and staying in shape the best I could -- just working on the little things that led to me being able to do the big things,” she said. “It was hard not having game experience for so long. You miss out on being able to read situations and stuff like that,

but it was nice to get a lot of 1-on-1 time, because that’s really all you could do. You could only work on yourself (during quarantine).” She noted that she worked extensively not only her skills but also on her stamina and strength during the offseason and preseason. “At first, I could tell the change in the speed of the game from high school to college, but we did a lot of conditioning after Thanksgiving, and that really helped me get to the pace we need to be at,” she said, adding of the physicality of the collegiate game, “ ... I’ve always been kind of a bigger guard, so that hasn’t changed much, but being in the weight room has definitely helped. “ ... I wouldn’t say I’m jacked or anything,” she added with a laugh, “but I’m more toned than I was before.” FSU coach Kurt Westendorp said he has been impressed not only with

Blanchard’s attitude on the court but also her work ethic off the court. “Kadyn has really stepped in and played with a fearlessness you typically don’t see from a freshman,” Westendorp noted. “She is an extremely hard worker and has grown tremendously from the start of our workouts last fall. Her performances to start the season are evidence that she’s put the work in. “One of the things that is impressive about Kadyn is that she’s very humble and is trying to find ways to get better each day,” he added. Blanchard, a pre-med student majoring in biology, said she is enjoying the vibe at Ferris State, noting that it is “just a different experience” than high school. “My team, honestly. Everyone on the team,” she replied when asked what she has enjoyed most about FSU thus far. “It’s such a family atmosphere. In high school, some people are on the team just to play with friends, but here everyone is here for the same reason -- we want to win and we want to be successful together.”

Kyle Theisen lists his top 10 Dow hoops players

Longtime coach calls Davis, Schroll best athletes; Mills best player

FRED KELLY
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Dow High girls’ basketball coach Kyle Theisen was asked recently to name the top 10 Dow players he’s seen since beginning teaching at the school in 2005. Theisen began coaching subvarsity basketball at Dow in 2006 and eventually took over the varsity coaching job in 2014. Considering the substantial number of excellent players who have suited up for the Chargers over the past 15 years or so, Theisen understandably had a difficult time limiting his list to 10. He also declined to rank those 10 in any particular order, while adding that current players Alexa Kolnitys and Abby Rey have the potential to one day be on this list. “This was not easy to put together,” Theisen said of his top-10 list. “Everyone in the top 10 has (gone) on to play at the college level, and even girls outside of the top 10 went on to play in college in a different sport.” With so many great players to choose from, Theisen included some honorable mentions. They are as follows (in alphabetical order): *Sarah Arent

*Nadia Atton
*Asjia Blanton
*Alexie Flaminio
*Chelsea Gray
*Leah Kebler
*Jenna Queary
*Josie Queary
*Taylor Thurston
Now, on to Theisen’s top 10 girls’ basketball players he’s seen at Dow High. They are as follows (again, in alphabetical order): ***Jami Cynecki** “Jami was the first in a line of good point guards at Dow. There have been some great point guards since then, but Jami kind of started things,” Theisen said. “She was a tremendous passer and a very underrated shooter. ... When Jodi (Ostergren) and Chelsea (Gray) graduated, she really took the scoring on her shoulders. She was a do-it-all player who started a great tradition of point guards at Dow.” ***Molly Davis** “Molly was probably the best athlete on this list -- and that’s saying some stuff. She’s just such a competitor -- a great athlete and a great competitor and a top-level shooter,” said Theisen. “ ... She can defend and shoot at a high level, she’s a tremendous passer, and she’s just so smart. She’s the kind of player who wouldn’t want to tell you things, because she wants to be respectful to her coach, but once you asked her (for input), she could tell you 10 different things we could be

doing (differently) out there.” ***Jada Garner** “Jada has grown in her game since her freshman year probably more than any of our other girls did. ... We knew Jada was good coming in, but she has definitely developed more in her all-around game than the rest of them,” said Theisen. “During her first two years, she kind of played in Molly (Davis) and Maizie’s (Taylor) shadow, but last year she stepped out on her own and really took off. She’s a tenacious defender and very good shooter, and she’s very good at finishing in the lane for her size.” ***Taylor Mantyla** “Taylor missed quite a few games due to injuries, but she was just a pure talent, and she belongs up there,” said Theisen. “She was a very good shooter, and she understands the game very well. She’s got a coach’s mind. She was a good athlete, good defender, and she had a really high IQ.” ***Becca Mills** “I didn’t really want to say who’s No. 1 or No. 2 or No. 3 on this list, but Becca would probably be No. 1. Her skill set was unbelievable, and to be such a good shooter and passer for her size was amazing,” said Theisen. “She really wanted to get her teammates involved more, but she knew we needed her to score to win games. She leads our school in scoring, but she could’ve had so many more points if she had wanted to.

“She’s the nicest person in the world off the court, but you wouldn’t know it on the court, because she would do whatever she could to win games. Her combo of size and skill was pretty impressive.” ***Jodi Ostergren** “Jodi was the kind of player who did more than her physical ability allowed her to do. Her work ethic and desire to be the best made her a great player,” said Theisen. “She was not the biggest, fastest, or strongest, but she had all the post moves and just had a desire to get better. She just had a will to win. She was very quiet on the court and a lead-by-example player, and she did her job every day.” ***Jessica Schroll** “Jess might have a claim against Molly for the best athlete on this list. She’s definitely the fastest player I’ve ever coached. ... She was a tremendous athlete, and, physically, she was somebody who dominated the court from the moment she walked out for warmups. She mentally dominated people before the game even started,” said Theisen. “She was such a physical presence on the court. Defensively, she got up in people’s faces and got a ton of steals and transition baskets, and she was just a hard worker. If she hadn’t torn her ACL before her junior year, she would be higher up on our list of all-time leaders.” ***Ellie Taylor**

“Ellie is the best shooter on this list. She leads Dow in every 3-point category and is a very smart player,” said Theisen. “She reminds me of (Dallas Mavericks’ star) Luka Doncic in that she won’t outrace people, but she understands changing speeds and using angles and footwork to get to the rim. She developed her all-around game pretty well.” ***Maizie Taylor** “Maizie is probably the best passer I’ve seen at Dow. She was always a pass-first player. She started to score more in her junior and senior years when she needed to, but she always preferred to be a facilitator,” said Theisen. “She was very quick in transition, and she throws the best long pass over the top that I’ve seen. ... She’s just a tremendous passer and a great teammate. Everybody loved playing with Maizie. She made the game easier for everyone around her.” ***Kaylee Wasco** “Kaylee was just a dominant inside scorer. She’s not as tall as Becca (Mills), but Kaylee would dominate the block and really knew how to score in the post, and her footwork was tremendous,” said Theisen. “She could score over her left or right shoulder, and she was so good at that baby hook shot. She was a very hard worker, and she put a lot of time into her game. She’s somebody who just put time in to get better every year.”

All eyes on QBs as Packers host Bucs

BY STEVE MEGARGEE
AP Sports Writer

For as much as Tom Brady and Aaron Rodgers have accomplished in their Hall of Fame-caliber careers, they've rarely faced off on the field.

Never have they met with so much at stake.

When Rodgers' Green Bay Packers (14-3) host Brady's Tampa Bay Buccaneers (13-5) in the NFC championship game Sunday, it will be just the fourth time they've squared off as starting quarterbacks, and first in the playoffs.

"I remember when I heard the news about him coming to the NFC, I thought this was a real possibility," Rodgers said. "I'm excited about the opportunity to play against him one more time."

The Bucs trounced the Packers 38-10 in Tampa on Oct. 18. They met two other times during Brady's tenure in New England, with the Packers winning 26-21 at Green Bay in 2014 and the Patriots winning 31-17 in Foxborough four years later.

Both understand all eyes will be on them Sunday. Kurt Warner, the Hall of Fame quarterback and NFL Network analyst, said that's just human nature.

"When I played, I always knew who was on the other sideline," Warner said. "I always said when I went into these matchups, at the end of the day, I know if we're going to win this game, I've got to outperform that guy. I've got to be better than the quarterback on the other side."

Brady, 43, has helped the Bucs earn a fran-



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers pumps his fist after an NFL divisional playoff football game against the Los Angeles Rams Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, in Green Bay, Wis. The Packers defeated the Rams 32-18 to advance to the NFC championship game. (AP Photo/Mike Roemer)

chise-record seven straight road wins. A win at Lambeau Field clinches their first Super Bowl berth since their 2002 championship season.

"This is one of the coolest stadiums in the league to play in," Brady said. "I know they're excited, we'll be excited, and it will make for a great football game."

Brady is trying to join Warner, Peyton Manning and Craig Morton as the only quarterbacks to lead two separate franchises to a Super Bowl. He already won six Super Bowls and played in nine total with the Patriots.

Green Bay is making its fourth NFC championship game appearance in the past seven seasons, but Rodgers hasn't reached a Super Bowl since leading the Packers to a title in the 2010 season. Warner said the postseason weighs heavily on where players stack up in history.

"That's why Tom is the GOAT (greatest of all time)," Warner said. "It's why Joe Montana is up

there and guys who've been there numerous times — the John Elways — and everyone else kind of gets knocked down a notch. Even though they're been great in the regular season, there's a combination of the two that I think weighs heavily."

Simply put, Rodgers needs this victory more than Brady.

"He plays in one Super Bowl, I think there will be something about that that just doesn't sit right with anybody," Warner said. "It doesn't sit right with any of us who love this game and know how great he's been. It just doesn't seem to fit."

This may be the best remaining chance for the 37-year-old Rodgers at that elusive second Super Bowl berth.

"It's been a while since he was last a world champion," CBS Sports analyst and 2002 NFL MVP Rich Gannon said.

"I think that would certainly cement his legacy as one of the greatest to ever play the game in my opinion. Not that he needs it, but I'm just telling you

that's probably how he's wired."

TURNOVER WATCH

Green Bay has committed a league-low 11 turnovers this season, including only two during its current seven-game winning streak. The Bucs have scored 27 points off five takeaways during their two playoff victories.

LONG TIME COMING

Tampa Bay ended a 12-year playoff drought this season. The journey to the NFC championship game has been especially gratifying for ninth-year linebacker Lavonte David, eighth-year defensive linemen William Gholston and seventh-year receiver Mike Evans. They've spent their entire careers with the Bucs.

"It just goes to show throughout the hard times, the people upstairs and around the building believed in me," David said. "Obviously, I believed in them, as well. It's just an honor to still be here, to still be able to live out my dream as a Tampa Bay Buccaneer."

More NBA games called off as contact tracing continues

BY TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

COVID-19 didn't keep Miami center Bam Adebayo out of any games last season, even though he tested positive for the virus not long before the NBA's restart bubble opened.

He missed two games last week because of the virus — without having the virus.

Adebayo is one of many players sidelined at some point in recent weeks by contact tracing, the method of figuring out who may have possibly been exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. It has been a major factor in the decisions to postpone 20 games so far this season, including the latest three Memphis Grizzlies' games that the league decided Thursday to push back.

"As much as we may complain about it, it's only for our own benefit," Washington's Bradley Beal said.

Beal missed a Jan. 9 game while going through contact tracing, a process in which the NBA and its teams take a deep dive into who people have been around over a two-day period once someone tests positive.

Everything is examined — who might have shared a car ride with whom, who sat where on the team plane, who had dinner with others and what their whereabouts have been. Even the cameras that have been used for advanced stat tracking during games are utilized, just to see how long one player may have been in close proximity of someone else during a game.

"I think we're doing as well as we can be, during what's a very difficult time, not just for the NBA but for a lot of people in the country," said NBA senior vice president David Weiss, who helps oversee all the health and safety efforts for the league. "And I think we're doing that well because everybody — from players, staff, families — is making some shared sacrifices to try to do as well as we can."

The NBA has some staff with public health backgrounds, who knew what contact tracing was before it became a buzz term in the sports world a few months ago, to assist in the process. Players get asked a series of questions; examples include if they played 1-on-1 against anyone in practice, if they've recently gotten a massage or therapy, was the person administering that treatment wearing a mask, or if they've recently socialized with others for more than a few moments.

The answers help create the path for investigators to follow.

The biggest culprits that have led to players being flagged and ruled out during the contact tracing process: meals and shared rides, improper mask usage. The smaller the area where people are congregating, the smaller the air volume, the higher the risk — and the NBA has been telling teams that since the protocols for the bubble were established back in June.

"Contact tracing involves a lot of different sources and information," Weiss said. "The core of it is interviews, to the stats that we collect digitally, to pictures of spaces, to all to all kinds of different things. And the information technology is helpful."

The Grizzlies won't have enough available players until at least the middle of next week, the NBA said — in part because of contact tracing. Friday's game at Portland, along with home games Sunday and Monday against Sacramento, were pushed back, the NBA said.



Miami Heat center Bam Adebayo (13) crashes into Toronto Raptors center Aron Baynes (46) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, in Tampa, Fla. (AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)

RE/MAX[®]

OF MIDLAND

5915 Eastman Ave., suite 200
Midland, MI 48640
Office: 989-832-0090
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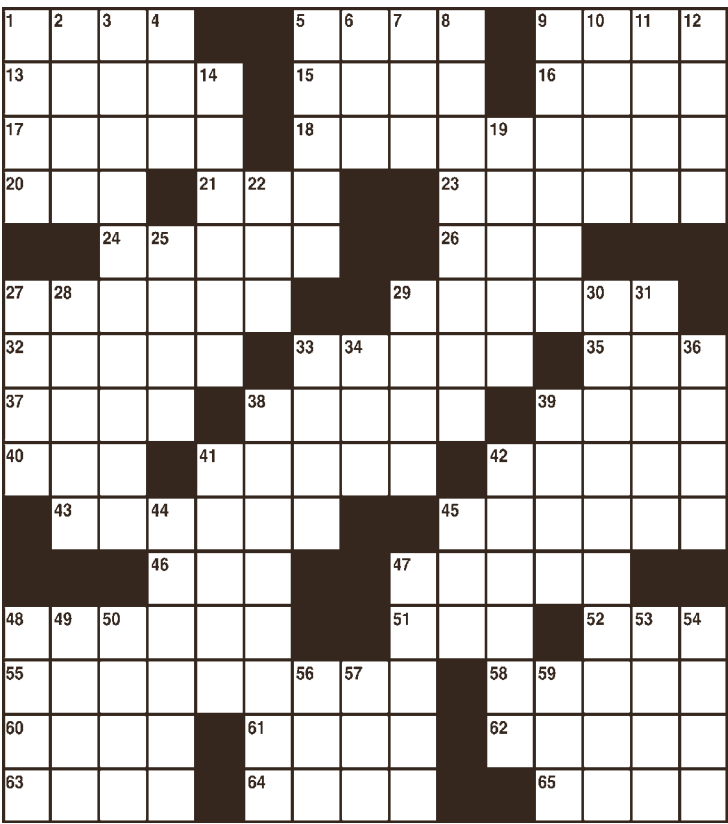
Let **RE/MAX** of Midland Agents help with all your needs!

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<p>Vicky Sowden Cell: 205-5442 vickysowden@remax.net</p>	<p>Gordon Hall Cell: 600-1802 ghall@remax-midland-mi.com</p>	<p>Christina Reimer Cell: 430-9099 christina@clmidlandmi.com</p>
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<p>Crystal Nelson Cell: 312-351-2338 crystalnelson@remax.net</p>	<p>Ann Arthur Cell: 330-2334 annarthur@remax.net</p>	<p>Drew Dulaney Cell: 513-2308 drew.dulaney@remax.net</p>
<p>Rich Williams Cell: 859-3332 richwill@remax.net</p>	<p>Jordan Hingston Cell: 860-6008 jordan.hingston@remax.net</p>	<p>Tracy Sampson Cell: 859-6286 tracy.sampson@remax.net</p>
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

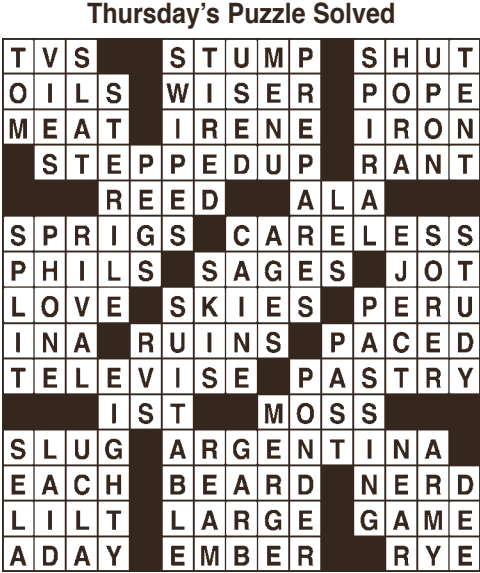
- ACROSS**
- 1 Dick & Jane's dog
- 5 Rise dramatically
- 9 Gobbles up
- 13 Traditional Sioux home
- 15 Arrived
- 16 Tight hold
- 17 Game venue
- 18 Noted Greek philosopher
- 20 Skedaddle
- 21 Light of day
- 23 Self-confident
- 24 Wet
- 26 Koch & Harris
- 27 Horse's halter
- 29 Mischief-makers
- 32 Jackson or Travis
- 33 Funny and clever
- 35 "A Nightmare on ___ Street"
- 37 Finds a sum
- 38 One of the planets
- 39 Düsseldorf woman
- 40 Pass on
- 41 Kawasaki's location
- 42 Draw in; lure
- 43 Most peculiar
- 45 Speak highly of
- 46 Head topper
- 47 Pillages; plunders
- 48 Country singer
- 51 Unnecessary flurry
- 52 Sharp tool
- 55 Supervisors
- 58 Sales tag info
- 60 Per ___; daily wage
- 61 Gullible fools
- 62 Squirreled away
- 63 Lioness in "Born Free"
- 64 Japanese wrestling form
- 65 Make a ___ of; botch

- DOWN**
- 1 Constellation member
- 2 Neighbor of Bolivia



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 1/22/21

- 3 Receptive to new ideas
- 4 Part of a royal flush
- 5 Meager
- 6 Rower's item
- 7 French friend
- 8 Holds in high esteem
- 9 Diva's problem
- 10 Painting, sculpturing, etc.
- 11 Rummikub piece
- 12 Ran fast
- 14 In an effortless way
- 19 At the present time
- 22 ___ up; spend all of
- 25 Track bettor's concern
- 27 Paper fastener
- 28 Dashboard device
- 29 Astonish
- 30 Unwilling to say "No" to
- 31 Hits with a open hand
- 33 Bawled



- 34 Jim Croce's "Time ___ Bottle"
- 36 TV remote device
- 38 Immensity
- 39 Heroic deed
- 41 Dungarees
- 42 Girl Scout groups
- 44 TV's "___ & Greg"
- 45 Group of whales
- 47 Cowboy's need
- 48 Ore deposit
- 49 Wicked
- 50 Very wide shoes
- 53 Large clubs
- 54 Ties the knot
- 56 ___ de cologne
- 57 Record speed letters
- 59 Male animal

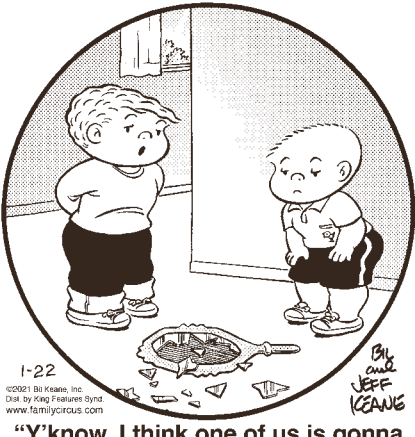
MARMADUKE



"I see you, Marmaduke. Knock it off."

FAMILY CIRCUS

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



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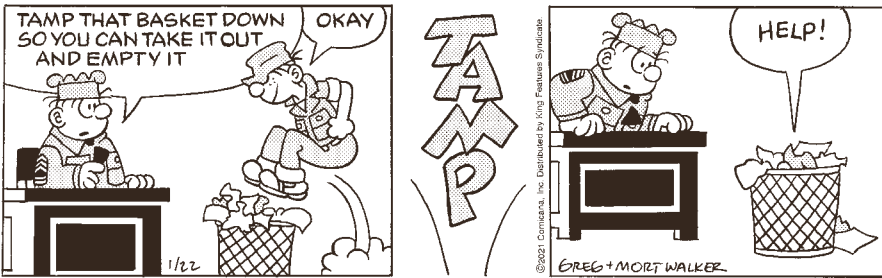
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



BEETLE BAILEY



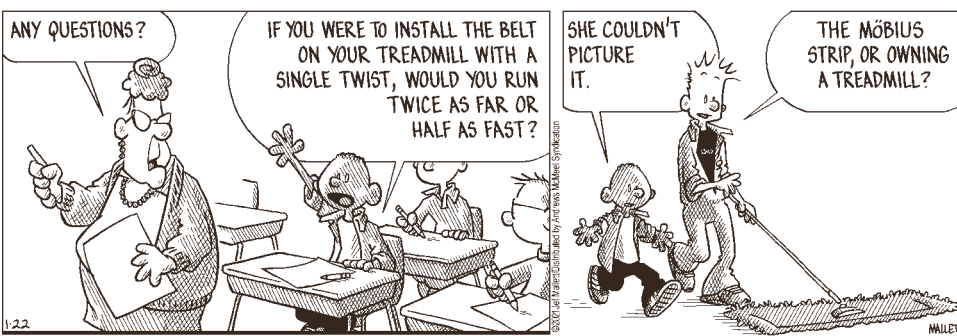
GARFIELD



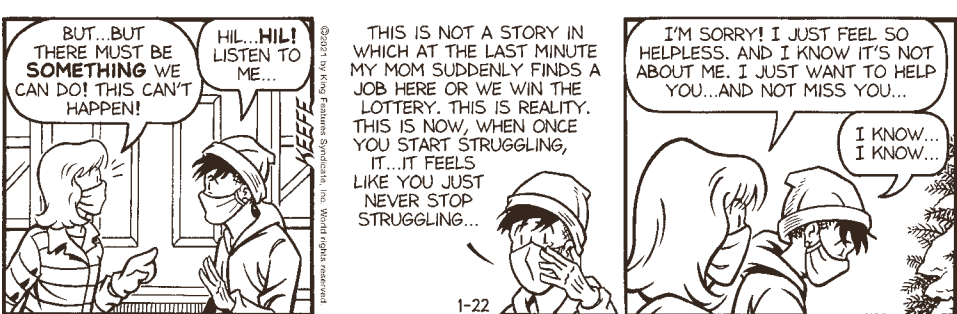
DILBERT



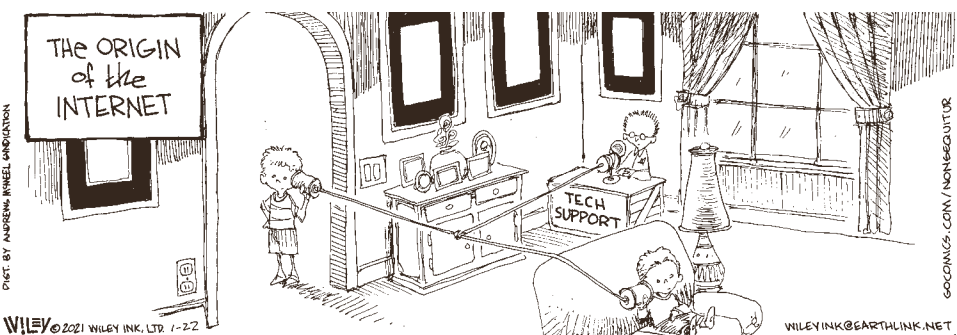
FRAZZ



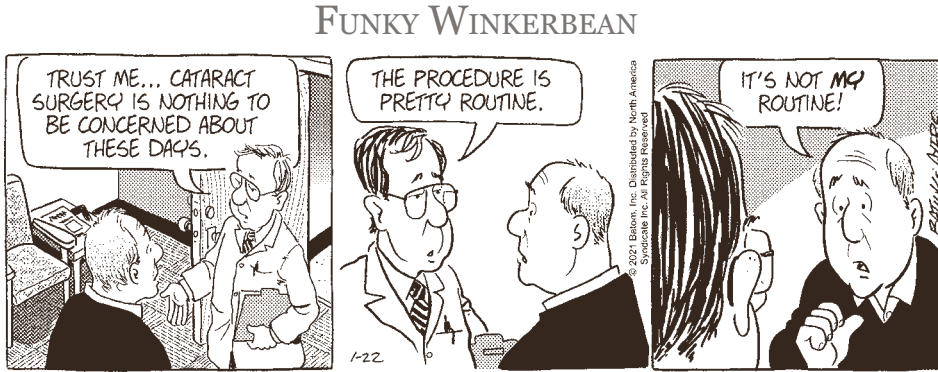
SALLY FORTH



NON SEQUITUR



ZITS

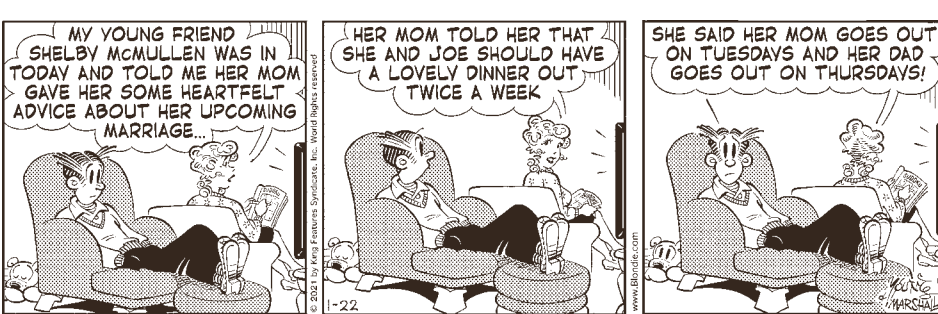


FUNKY WINKERBEAN

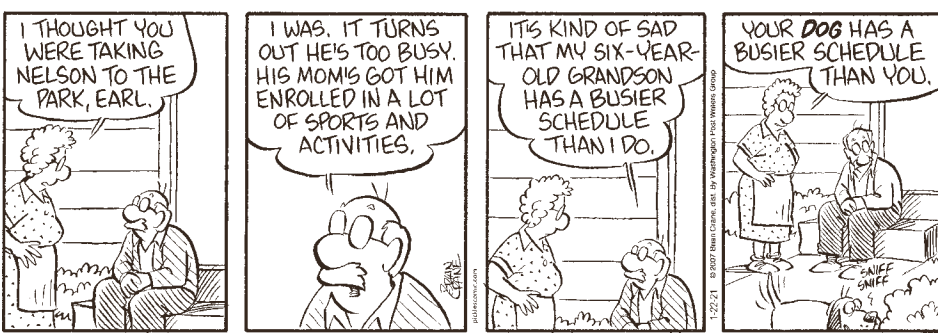
BABY BLUES



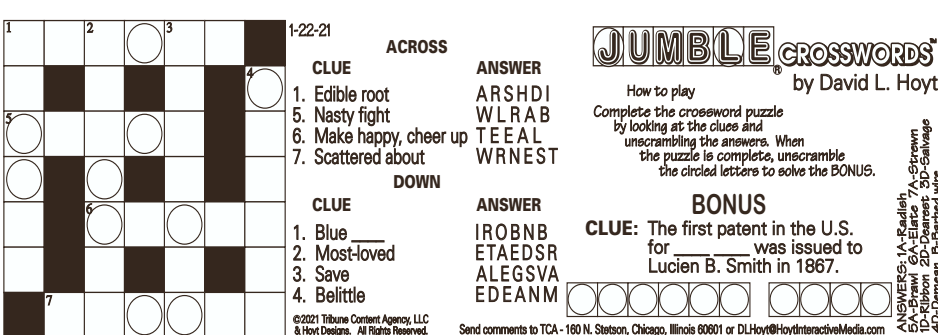
BLONDIE



PICKLES



JUMBLE CROSSWORDS



Brad Wehner
839-4250
bwehner@mdn.net

Cars 5501:
DriveGreatLakesBay.com

Real Estate 5601:
GreatLakesBayListings.com

DEADLINES FOR THE MIDLAND DAILY
NEWS CLASSIFIEDS ARE:

Tuesday – Friday: by 1 PM the day prior
Saturday: by 11 AM Friday
Monday: by 1 PM Friday

Legals:
legals@mdn.net
Classifieds:
classified@mdn.net
Help Wanted:
classified@mdn.net

Place a Classified

989-835-7171 ext. 2

Fax 989-794-6158

Midland
DAILY NEWS & 

Office Hours:
Mon.-Fri.
8:30 a – 5:00 p

5001 Legals

5001 Legals

5001 Legals

5001 Legals

5001 Legals

5001 Legals

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL COURT -
FAMILY DIVISION
MIDLAND COUNTY

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
OF HEARING FOR
NAME CHANGE

CASE NO. 21-1385-NC

In the matter of Eli Pete
TerBurgh

TO ALL PERSONS, including:

whose address is unknown and
whose interest in the matter
may be barred or affected by
the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will
be held on Wednesday, Febru-
ary 10, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at
Midland County Probate Court,
301 West Main Street, Level 2,
Midland, MI 48640 before
Judge Dorene S. Allen,
P32468 to change the name of:

Eli Pete TerBurgh to Ellie Petra
TerBurgh

Attention homeowner: If you
are a military service member
on active duty, if your period of
active duty has concluded less
than 90 days ago, or if you
have been ordered to active
duty, please contact the attor-
ney for the party foreclosing
the mortgage at the telephone
number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by adver-
tisement. Notice is given under
section 3212 of the revised ju-
diciary act of 1961, 1961 PA
236, MCL 600.3212, that the

following mortgage will be fore-
closed by a sale of the mort-
gaged premises, or some part
of them, at a public auction
sale to the highest bidder for
cash or cashier's check at the
place of holding the circuit
court in Midland County, start-
ing promptly at 10:00 AM on
FEBRUARY 23, 2021. The
amount due on the mortgage
may be greater on the day of
the sale. Placing the highest
bid at the sale does not auto-
matically entitle the purchaser
to free and clear ownership of
the property. A potential pur-
chaser is encouraged to con-
tact the county register of
deeds office or a title insur-
ance company, either of which
may charge a fee for this in-
formation.
Default has been made in the
conditions of a mortgage made
by Gary A. Falke, an unmar-
ried man, to Bank One, N.A.,
Mortgagee, dated January 18,
2000 and recorded January 19,
2000 in Liber 938, Page 1250
Midland County Records,
Michigan. Said mortgage is
now held by Citibank, N.A., not
in its individual capacity but
solely as Owner Trustee of
New Residential Mortgage
Loan Trust 2018-RPL1, by as-
signment. There is claimed to
be due at the date hereof the
sum of Fifty-Five Thousand
Three Hundred Ninety-Eight
and 10/100 Dollars
(\$55,398.10).
Under the power of sale con-
tained in said mortgage and
the statute in such case made
and provided, notice is hereby
given that said mortgage will
be foreclosed by a sale of the
mortgaged premises, or some
part of them, at public venue
at the place of holding the cir-
cuit court within Midland
County, Michigan at 10:00 AM
on FEBRUARY 23, 2021.

Said premises are located in
the City of Midland, Midland
County Michigan, and are de-
scribed as:
Lot 190, Adams Acres Subdivi-
sion No. 1, a part of the South
1/2 of the Southeast 1/4, Sec-
tion 13, Town 14 North, Range
2 East, as per Plat thereof re-
corded in Liber D of Plats,
Pages 25 and 26 of Midland
County Records.
4407 Hancock Street, Midland,
Michigan 48642
The redemption period shall be
6 months from the date of such
sale, unless determined aban-
doned in accordance with
MCLA §600.3241a, in which
case the redemption period
shall be 30 days from the date
of such sale.
If the property is sold at fore-
closure sale, pursuant to MCL
600.3278, the borrower will be
held responsible to the person
who buys the property at the
mortgage foreclosure sale or to
the mortgage holder for dam-
age to the property during the
redemption period.
Dated: January 22, 2021
File No. 20-006320
Firm Name: Orland PC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big
Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248)
502.1400

(01-22)(02-12)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF MIDLAND

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TRUST ADMINISTRATION

Harry J. McCaffrey Trust, dated
July 5, 2000, as Amended and
Restated on May 4, 2011

TO ALL CREDITORS:*

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The
decedent, Harry J. McCaffrey
Date of Birth: 11/19/1931, who
lived at 1308 Wildwood St,
Midland, Michigan, died
12/11/2020.

Creditors of the decedent are
notified that all claims against
the estate will be forever
barred unless presented to Bri-
an McCaffrey, named suc-
cessor trustee within 4 months
after the date of publication of
this notice.

1/22/2021

Poznak Dyer Kanar Schefsky
Thompson PLC
Wendy D. Kanar P59017
143 McDonald Street
Midland, MI 48640
(989) 832-1770

In accordance with the
Michigan Open Meeting Act,
updated by PA 254 on Decem-
ber 23, 2020, the Great Lakes
Bay Michigan Works! Career &
Educational Advisory Commit-
tee meeting will be held virtu-
ally on Monday January 25,
2021 at 3:30 p.m. Requests for
Public Comment (Audiences)
must be made to the Great
Lakes Bay Michigan Works!
Administration Office at (989)
754-1144 or by email at GL-
BAdmin@michiganworks.com
prior to 12:00 p.m. the day of
the meeting. Please include
your phone number so you can
be un-muted when it is your
time to speak. Under the
Michigan Open Meeting Act,
this meeting is open to all

members of the public. Great
Lakes Bay Michigan Works!
will provide necessary reason-
able auxiliary aids and ser-
vices to individuals with disabil-
ities at the meeting/hearing
with at least five (5) working
days' notice.

TO ALL CREDITORS:*

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF MIDLAND**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate**

FILE NO. 20-1329-DE

Estate of James E. Johnson,
deceased
Date of birth: 11/15/1947

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Decedent's Estate**

FILE NO. 20-1329-DE

Estate of James E. Johnson,
deceased
Date of birth: 11/15/1947

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Facebook’s oversight board to rule on Trump ban

BY BARBARA ORTUTAY
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Facebook is passing the buck for its indefinite suspension of former president Donald Trump to a quasi-independent oversight board, setting up a major test of the recently established panel.

The social media giant said Thursday that it believes it made the right decision to suspend Trump after he incited his supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol in a deadly

assault on Jan. 6. But it said it’s referring the matter to the oversight board for what it called an “independent judgment” on upholding the decision.

Facebook’s panel is intended to rule on thorny content issues, such as when posts constitute hate speech — or if the decision to ban a world leader was the right one. It is empowered to make binding rulings — that is, ones that can’t be overturned by CEO Mark Zuckerberg — on whether posts or ads violate

the company’s rules. Any other findings will be considered “guidance” by Facebook. The board does not set Facebook policies or decide if the company is doing enough to enforce them in the first place.

Its 20 members, which will eventually grow to 40, include a former prime minister of Denmark, the former editor-in-chief of the Guardian newspaper, along with legal scholars, human rights experts and journalists such as Tawakkol Karman, a Nobel Laureate and journalist from

Yemen, and Julie Owono, a digital rights advocate.

The first four board members were directly chosen by Facebook. Those four then worked with Facebook to select additional members. Facebook also pays the board members’ salaries.

Twitter, by contrast, permanently banned Trump from its platform. CEO Jack Dorsey defended his company’s Trump ban in a philosophical Twitter thread last week, saying that resulting risk to public safety created an “extraordinary and

untenable circumstance” for the company.

But he acknowledged that shows of strength like the Trump ban could set dangerous precedents, even calling them a sign of “failure.” He suggested that Twitter needs to find ways to avoid coming to have to make such decisions in the first place and lamented the fact that they highlight the extraordinary power that Twitter and other Big Tech companies can wield without accountability or recourse.

US jobless claims decline to a still-high 900,000

BY CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell slightly last week to 900,000, still a historically high level that points to ongoing job cuts in a raging pandemic.

The Labor Department’s report Thursday underscored that President Joe Biden has inherited an economy that faltered this winter as virus cases spiked, cold weather restricted dining and federal rescue aid expired. The government said 5.1 million Americans are continuing to receive state jobless benefits, down from 5.2 million in the previous week. That suggests that while some of the unemployed are finding jobs, others are likely using up their state benefits and transitioning to separate extended-benefit programs.

More than 10 million people are receiving aid from those extended programs, which now offer up to 50 weeks of benefits, or from a new program that provides

benefits to contractors and the self-employed. All told, nearly 16 million people were on unemployment in the week that ended Jan. 2, the latest period for which data is available.

“Unemployment claims continue to show a job market unable to progress further as long as COVID-19 remains in the driver’s seat,” said Daniel Zhao, senior economist at Glassdoor. “While the vaccine offers a light at the end of the tunnel, we’re still far away from a complete reopening of the economy that could drive rehiring and stem further layoffs.”

New viral infections have begun to slow after months of relentless increases, though they remain high and are averaging about 200,000 a day. The number of deaths in the United States from the pandemic that erupted 10 months ago has surpassed 400,000.

Economists say one factor that has likely increased jobless claims in the past two weeks is a government financial aid package that was signed into law in late



A “Now Hiring” sign hangs on the front wall of a Harbor Freight Tools store in Manchester, N.H. The latest figures for jobless claims, issued Thursday, Jan. 14, 2021 by the Labor Department, remain at levels never seen until the virus struck. (AP Photo/Charles Krupa, File)

December. Among other things, it provided a \$300-a-week federal unemployment benefit on top of regular state jobless aid. The new benefit, which runs through mid-March, may be encouraging more Americans to apply for aid.

Once vaccines become more widely distributed, economists expect growth to accelerate in the second half of the year as Americans unleash pent-up demand for travel, dining out and visiting movie theaters and concert halls. Such

spending should, in theory, boost hiring and start to regain the nearly 10 million jobs lost to the pandemic.

But for now, the economy is losing ground. Retail sales have fallen for three straight months. Restrictions on restaurants, bars and some stores, along with a reluctance of most Americans to shop, travel and eat out, have led to sharp spending cutbacks. Revenue at restaurants and bars plunged 21% in 2020.

The loss of so many jobs has meant

hardship for millions of American households. In December, employers cut 140,000 positions, the first loss since April and the sixth straight month in which hiring has weakened. The unemployment rate remained stuck at a still-high 6.7%.

Yet there are signs that the \$900 billion federal aid package enacted late last month may have begun to cushion the damage, in large part thanks to \$600 checks being sent to most adults. The government began distributing the payments at the end of

last month.

Those payments have likely helped drive an increase in spending on debit and credit cards issued by Bank of America, economists at the bank wrote last week. Total card spending jumped 9.7% for the week that ended Jan. 9 compared with a year earlier. That was up from a 2% year-over-year increase before the stimulus payments, Bank of America said.

Last week, Biden unveiled a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus plan that would provide, among other things, \$1,400 checks for most Americans, which, on top of the \$600 checks already being distributed, would bring the total to \$2,000 per adult.

The new plan would also make available \$400 a week in federal benefits for jobless Americans and extend a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures through September. Biden’s proposal will require congressional approval, and some congressional Republicans have already expressed reservations about its size.

5501Automobiles

2014 Buick Encore. FWD, 39K miles, Florida car & Florida title, perfect Carfax, gray metallic, clothe interior, moonroof, loaded with navigation, priced to sell, looks like new. \$11,500.
989-429-4092

2012 Lincoln MKS Loaded 106 K Miles Very Good Condition \$8300.00 Please Call 989-636-7773

2014 Black Cadillac XTS. Arizona car. Never seen snow. 21,000 miles, Excellent condition. \$21,500 989-430-4726

5601Real Estate For Sale

3 bedroom home 345 Stockholm Village 989-684-7050 (Rent to own)

HOUSES

Cute 3 bedroom ranch, 2020 Wheeler - Midland. \$900/month. New kitchen, new bath, new floor coverings, available immediately. 989-430-9796.

For rent: 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch house in Beaverton (near Strykers Marina). 1600 sq ft, 3 season sun room & shed. \$800/month + deposit. Call 586-206-5555

Stratford Place Apartments

4835 E. Patrick, Midland

Large 1 & 2 Bedroom Units Available

Units feature central air, washer/dryer, dishwasher, private patios/balconies & pets welcome. Water/sewer & trash included in rent. Country setting in city limits. No Application Fees!

Discount Spectrum Select TV cable & high-speed internet package

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stratford@gldmanagement.com

FEENY

CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM

MIDLAND

Feeny Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram of Midland is looking to hire a Full Time Parts Counter Person/Advisor.

Looking for a person with prior parts and service experience, but willing to train the right individual. Job responsibilities would include but not limited to; utilizing our FCA parts ordering software, FCA parts training, working with service to order customer parts, ordering parts for customers directly, plus stocking and distributing parts. Feeny offers a great pay plan and a nice benefits program which includes 401k, health, dental, and vision insurance. Looking to hire as soon as possible. Please contact Robert Marshall and email all inquiries to rnm37@feeny.com

SUDERMANS AUTO CUSTOMIZING WINTER SALE (4 1/4 miles west of Midland on M-20)

2011 Chevrolet Impala White, tan interior, column shift, new brakes, good tires, 74K miles \$6,950.00

2009 Chevrolet Malibu Blue, 4 cylinder auto, Only 87K miles \$5,950.00

2009 GMC Sierra 1500 4 x 4, exceptionally clean solid truck, extended cap, 147K miles \$11,850.00

2007 Saturn Ion White, 4 door, auto, power windows locks and cruise, only 125K miles \$3,950.00

Kevin: 989-631-6910 or 989-430-4710

MANUFACTURED HOMES

BEST MIDLAND VALUE! \$480/mo. includes cable, sewer, water, trash! Pets ok. 989-832-0045

ROOM RENTALS

Rooms for rent, No credit check, No deposit, All utilities included, Free cable TV and Wi-Fi, Indoor heated pool. Econo Lodge Inn and Suites, Auburn, Michigan Call 989-662-7888

VACATION RENTALS

Timeshare for rent. Native Sun, Lauderdale by the Sea. Big beach, 1 bdrm, 1 bath, kitchen/eating area. Dates available: Feb 6 - Feb 20. \$1,200/week. 989-631-2680 or 989-615-6958

COLEMAN FIELDS ASSISTED LIVING

Exceptional Assisted Living at All-Inclusive Pricing

Coleman Fields offers All-Inclusive Pricing and the cost of your room will not increase just because your assistance needs increase. Our community also offers Respite Care for those who may need some short term assistance.

If you are concerned that assisted living may not fit in your budget, call Jodi to learn about the Area Agency on Aging MI Choice Waiver and Veterans Aid and Attendance Waiver programs. www.colemanfields.com 989-442-4184 288 W. Old Orchard Trail, Coleman, MI

A GREAT WAY TO SAY, “HAPPY BIRTHDAY!”

Making someone’s birthday really special is a piece of cake. Place a Birthday Greeting now!

WEATHER

ALMANAC
Midland through 2 p.m. Thursday

TEMPERATURES

High/low	40/28
Normal high/low	28/16
Record high	47 (2017)
Record low	-9 (2019)

PRECIPITATION (in inches)

24 hours ending 2 p.m. Thu.	0.00
Month to date	0.79
Normal month to date	1.18
Year to date	0.79
Normal year to date	1.18
Record for date	0.64 (1974)

SNOWFALL (in inches)

24 hrs through 2 p.m. Thu.	0.0
Month to date	6.6
Normal month to date	8.1
Season to date	10.8
Normal season to date	21.0

RIVER STAGES
In feet as of 7 a.m. Thursday

Location	Flood Stage	24-hr. Stage chg.
Tittabawasee River		
Midland	24	10.65 -0.17
Pine River		
near Midland	12	3.34 +0.23
Alma	8	N.A. N.A.

LAKE HURON
In feet as of 7 a.m. Thursday

Location	Normal Pool	Level
Essexville	579.3	580.58
Harbor Beach	579.3	581.24

SUN AND MOON

	Today	Sat.
Sunrise	8:03 a.m.	8:02 a.m.
Sunset	5:35 p.m.	5:36 p.m.
Moonrise	12:49 p.m.	1:18 p.m.
Moonset	2:32 a.m.	3:34 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First

Jan 28Feb 4Feb 11Feb 19

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR MIDLAND

TODAY

23
12
Mostly cloudy; flurries, breezy and colder
RealFeel: 13/7

SATURDAY

25
18
Sunny to partly cloudy
RealFeel: 25/14

SUNDAY

30
21
Considerable cloudiness with snow, 1-2"
RealFeel: 26/20

MONDAY

32
21
A thick cloud cover; snow at night
RealFeel: 26/16

TUESDAY

27
14
Partial sunshine
RealFeel: 26/8

WEDNESDAY

26
16
Sun and areas of low clouds
RealFeel: 33/8

THURSDAY

24
14
Cloudy with snow showers possible
RealFeel: 19/16

The patented **AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature®** is an exclusive index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors. Shown are the highest and lowest values for each day.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Breezy today with a couple of flurries. Winds west-northwest 7-14 mph. A little snow at times in the north tonight. Winds west-northwest 6-12 mph.

SOLUNAR TABLE

The solunar period schedule allows planning days so you will be fishing in good territory or hunting in good cover during those times. Major periods begin at the times shown and last for 1.5 to 2 hours. The minor periods are shorter.

	Today	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.
Major	6:40 a.m.	7:21 a.m.	8:04 a.m.	8:49 a.m.	9:37 a.m.
Minor	12:51 p.m.	1:10 a.m.	1:52 a.m.	2:36 a.m.	3:23 a.m.
Major	7:02 p.m.	7:44 p.m.	8:29 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	10:04 p.m.
Minor	---	1:33 p.m.	2:16 p.m.	3:02 p.m.	3:50 p.m.

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2021

NATIONAL FORECAST

City	Today	Sat.
Anchorage	34/27/c	31/25/sn
Atlanta	57/35/r	58/40/s
Baltimore	47/27/s	36/22/s
Boise	41/25/pc	38/23/s
Boston	43/25/pc	31/19/s
Charlotte	61/33/c	52/26/s
Chicago	22/10/s	27/25/s
Cincinnati	34/19/pc	32/25/s
Cleveland	30/19/sf	26/20/sf
Dallas	58/49/c	59/55/sh
Denver	47/25/pc	46/22/c

City	Today	Sat.
Des Moines	23/11/c	28/25/pc
Detroit	27/15/sf	28/20/s
Grand Rapids	23/16/sf	27/21/s
Honolulu	81/72/pc	82/71/pc
Indianapolis	29/14/s	32/25/s
Las Vegas	63/45/pc	54/39/c
Little Rock	55/31/pc	48/41/s
Los Angeles	62/49/c	59/46/sh
Miami	79/61/s	80/65/s
Minneapolis	16/3/s	20/16/sn
Nashville	51/26/pc	47/32/s

City	Today	Sat.
New Orleans	69/55/r	61/56/sh
New York City	45/27/pc	32/22/s
Norfolk	57/34/pc	42/28/s
Philadelphia	46/26/s	34/22/s
Phoenix	67/55/pc	61/49/c
Pittsburgh	31/19/sf	26/17/pc
St. Louis	36/20/s	38/33/s
Salt Lake City	47/32/c	37/25/sn
San Francisco	55/44/sh	56/44/s
Seattle	46/30/s	43/37/pc
Washington, DC	50/29/s	39/26/s

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation today. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

showers t-storms rain flurries snow ice cold front warm front stationary front

-10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110s

Life Tributes Obituaries

DALE J. DUCOMMUN

Dale Jesse Ducommun, 92, of Midland, went to be with The Lord on Wednesday, January 20th, 2021 at MidMichigan Hospital Center. Dale was born in Urbana, Illinois on September 15th, 1928 to Elizabeth Blanche (Rasmus) Ducommun and Jesse Clarence Ducommun, while Jesse was an instructor at the College of Engineering at The University of Illinois. The family moved to Whiting, Indiana in 1929, where his father worked for Standard Oil of Indiana. As a youth, he held jobs such as a movie theatre usher and a ticket collector on the train. He snuck out of the house to take flying lessons at one point. Dale graduated from George Rogers Clark High School in 1946, and went on to earn his B.A. degree

at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, where he met his beautiful bride-to-be, Anna Janet Cain. They married on June 16th, 1951. Dale went on to continue his education at The University of Iowa, eventually earning his M.D. degree. He interned at Munson Medical Center, Traverse City, Michigan. He then went into active duty for the U.S. Navy from 1959-61, stationed at Fort Detrick, MD and the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. He was the attending physician in the ambulance on the capitol grounds during the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy. He was released from active duty in 1961 and remained in the Naval Reserve, eventually retiring as a Captain in

The Medical Corps in 1988. During his tenure with the Navy, he was nominated for Rear Admiral twice. From 1961-1967, he worked as Assistant Medical Director for Harrison Radiator Division, General Motors Corporation, in Lockport, New York. He

moved to Midland in 1967, hired as a staff physician for Dow Chemical, and retired in 1989 as an occupational health associate. His many accomplishments and honors include; Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces; Consultant to the Surgeon General of the Navy; Board of Directors and Founding member of TriCities Navy League; Vice President and board member of the Visiting Nurses Association; Board of Trustees of the Civil Aviation Medical Association; Associate Fellow, Aerospace Medical Association; Fellow, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine; Life member, American

Academy of Dermatology. Despite his many accomplishments, Dale was a humble, caring soul and a friend to everyone. He was a lifelong member of The United Methodist Church. He was predeceased by his wife of 67 years, Anna Janet Ducommun. He is survived by his brother, Donald Paul Ducommun, sister Diane (Dennis) Harrison, daughter, Karen (Tom)Morrell, daughter, Jean (Bob) Carle, son, Mark (Tina) Ducommun, granddaughters, Bethany and Kelsey Carle, and Kaylyn Ducommun, great-granddaughters, Jennica, Adeline, and Violetta Maxbauer. Funeral and commitment services will be held at 5:30 p.m. Saturday January 23, 2021 at First United Methodist Church with

Rev. Anita Hahn and Rev. Dr. J.D. Landis officiating. Interment will be in Midland City Cemetery. Family will receive guests at the CHURCH on Saturday from 4:30 p.m. until the time of service. In lieu of flowers memorials may be offered to First United Methodist Church or DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. A link of the service will be available on his tribute page after the service at www.wilson-miller.com

EU summit assesses virus restrictions amid worrying reports

BY SAMUEL PETREQUIN AND
RAF CASERT
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders assessed more measures to counter the spread of coronavirus variants during a video summit Thursday as the bloc's top disease control official said urgent action was needed to stave off a new wave of hospitalizations and deaths. The 27 leaders were looking at further border restrictions like limits on all non-essential travel, better tracking of mutations and improving coordination of lockdowns, worried that another surge of deaths across the EU was imminent. The head of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Andrea Ammon, said that "an increasing number of infections will lead to higher hospitalization and death rates across all age groups, particularly for those in older age groups." Some 400,000 EU citizens have died from COVID-19-related causes since the start of the pandemic. In a study published just before the summit, the ECDC warned of the high dangers of the new variants, like those initiating in Britain, Brazil and South Africa, and Ammon said

that "member states are also encouraged to accelerate vaccination of high-risk groups, and prepare the health care system for high demand." Some EU countries have already strengthened restrictions by imposing stricter curfews and more stringent mask requirements on public transport and in shops. Among the measures the ECDC recommends is a ban on nonessential travel and a speeding up of vaccinations. "We must do everything in order to prevent the introduction of further mutations like the Brazilian one," said Austria's Prime Minister Sebastian Kurz. "We need clear and uniform standards at the borders and regarding the entire travel sector." He also called for the European Medicines Agency to speed up work so the candidate vaccine of AstraZeneca can be quickly approved and distributed. Kurz said many other leaders agreed with him that EMA "needs to work night and day." "A quick and unbureaucratic decision is needed," he said, adding that "there's nothing standing in the way of an approval." The EU's executive Commission believes that the health situation is at a critical point

and has urged member states to step up the pace of vaccination, to ensure that at least 80% of those over age 80 are vaccinated by March, and that 70% of the adult population across the bloc is protected by the end of the summer. But since the EU doesn't expect vaccines to be ready for mass distribution before April, leaders should in the meantime find efficient ways to contain the new variants. The commission believes that better tracking of the virus' mutations with genomic sequencing, coupled with an increased use of rapid antigen tests, will be crucial. The EU Commission said several EU nations are testing under 1% of samples. It has proposed to "urgently" increase genome sequencing to at least 5% of positive test results and would ideally see that figure reach 10% to detect the variants. Member states unanimously agreed Thursday on a common framework for the use of rapid antigen tests and the mutual recognition of PCR test results across the bloc of 450 million inhabitants, in a bid to facilitate cross-border movement, tracing of the virus and treatment. "This is a central tool to help mitigate the spread of the virus

"We must do everything in order to prevent the introduction of further mutations like the Brazilian one," said Austria's Prime Minister Sebastian Kurz. and contribute to the smooth functioning of the internal market," the EU Council said in a statement. The coordination of lockdown measures seems trickier, with a myriad of initiatives coming from members states. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has warned that new border checks might be needed if they don't coordinate. "Extensive border controls would be a last resort for us too and (...) we will do a lot to try to prevent that," Merkel told reporters in Berlin. "But they also can't be ruled out completely, if someone has completely different ideas." Echoing the ECDC advice, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo has proposed a temporary ban on nonessential travel during the February school break and will make a proposal to his counterparts to adopt it across the bloc. "It is important to be clear

that this does not mean that we close the borders," De Croo said. "Non-essential travel, which we can do without now, such as tourism, clearly we can no longer take that risk." The issue quickly became a hot debating point at the summit. Discussions will also focus on the disruption of vaccine deliveries after Pfizer last week announced a temporary reduction that has affected all EU countries. The EU has sealed six vaccine contracts for more than 2 billion doses, but only the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have been approved for use so far. The EU now expects Pfizer to keep the drop in deliveries limited to this week, while resuming full distribution again next week, with the resulting backlog made up during February. Leaders will also weigh a Greek proposal to issue vaccination certificates to ease travel. But with doubts about whether the people vaccinated could still be contagious, and only a small fraction of the EU population already vaccinated, several member states have expressed reservations. At this stage, vaccination proof certificates should only be considered for medical purposes and not as travel document, an EU official said.