



Day trip



Record-Eagle/Jan-Michael Stump

Daniel Fleming and Kelci Gormley of Mt. Pleasant walk along West Grand Traverse Bay at Clinch Marina in Traverse City. The two, both graduate students at Central Michigan University, took a day trip to Traverse City while the school is on spring break.

INVESTIGATION

Ritter case heads to special prosecutor

Attorney general's office yet to make an appointment

BY MARDI LINK
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TRAVERSE CITY — A yet-to-be named special prosecutor will decide whether former Jail Administrator Todd Ritter will face criminal charges. Grand Traverse County Prosecutor Noelle Moeggenberg filed a petition with the state's attorney general's office Tuesday, a staffer confirmed.



Ritter

A spokesperson from the state Attorney General's office said they'd received the petition, and someone would be assigned "fairly quickly."

"It will be granted and if no prosecutor from any neighboring county picks it up, the AG's office would handle it ourselves," Ryan Jarvi said Thursday.

Ritter, who served the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department for decades, left the role through a forced resignation on April 11, 2019, amid accusations of inappropriate conduct with former inmates.

Capt. Chris Barsheff was appointed as Ritter's replacement in June.

SEE RITTER PAGE 2A

COVID-19

Cancellations aplenty in face of virus

BY SHERI McWHIRTER
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Americans hunker down amid virus. Page 6A

We have 12 today. We expect more to come," Whitmer said.

All K-12 schools must remain closed from Monday, March 16, through Sunday, April 5, the governor ordered.

SEE CANCELS PAGE 2A

weeks in the face of growing COVID-19 cases and expectations of continued spread.

Whitmer made the announcement late Thursday after she confirmed the

state now has 12 presumptive positive cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. That's a spike from Wednesday.

"We had two yesterday.

COURT

VanDeHoef admits to slaying

Teen pleads guilty to second-degree murder of James Chisholm

BY JORDAN TRAVIS
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TRAVERSE CITY — A teen from California admitted to slashing the throat of a man who was camping out near the Boardman Lake Trail.

Joshua Todd VanDeHoef, 19, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in 13th Circuit Court on Thursday. He agreed he cut James Chisholm's throat not intending to kill him but knowing that the

injury he caused probably would cause Chisholm's death.

VanDeHoef, who lived in Carmichael, California, but has ties to Traverse City, turned himself in to police in July, five weeks after walkers found Chisholm's body near the trail in May, as previously reported. One of VanDeHoef's friends said he got a Snapchat message from VanDeHoef saying he had slashed a homeless man's throat and cleaned the blood off of his clothes.

GPS readings from VanDeHoef's phone also put him within meters of where Chisholm's body was found, as previously reported.

VanDeHoef told Judge Thomas Power he's taking medication for bipolar

disorder, and Jesse Williams, his attorney, said his client has mental health problems.

"Prior to the incident he was medicated, and since the incident his medication's drastically changed, and he's just trying to make good and take responsibility in a very confusing world for him," Williams said.

VanDeHoef will be sentenced April 24, Power said.

Grand Traverse County Assistant Prosecutor Charles Hamlyn declined to comment following VanDeHoef's plea.

SEE PLEAD PAGE 2A



VanDeHoef

SENTENCING

Supal to serve 30-50 years

Victim's husband, sister say it's not enough

BY JORDAN TRAVIS
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TRAVERSE CITY — A man who admitted to beating, strangling and stabbing a woman before dumping her body in the woods will spend at least 30 years in prison.

Thirteenth Circuit Court Judge Thomas Power on Thursday sentenced Frank Theodore Supal to 30-50 years in prison for second-

degree murder, with credit for 90 days served. He pointed to Supal's long history of assaultive behavior, including a domestic violence conviction a month before he killed Wanda Mae Lyons.

Power also pointed to the lack of plausible explanation for why Supal killed Lyons.

Lyons and her husband, Donald Nichol, were staying at the same Traverse City hotel as Supal, 50, as previously reported. Nichol stepped out on Dec. 11 following a disagreement with his wife, then returned to see she was gone and their room was bloody.

Police found Lyons' body in a roadside ravine near Maple City later that day after a passerby followed drag marks to her nude, plastic-wrapped body.

SEE SUPAL PAGE 2A



Supal



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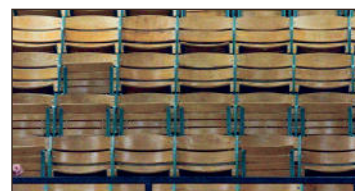
LOTTERY

Midday Dailies: 8-4-0, 7-4-6-4
Dailies: 1-9-1, 5-7-4-4
Fantasy 5: 04-10-12-33-38
Classic 47 jackpot: \$1.75 million
Keno: 01-03-04-07-13-14-17-30-37-39-43-46-50-53-55-65-66-67-68-72-77-78
Mega Millions jackpot: \$80 million
Powerball jackpot: \$120 million

WHAT'S INSIDE



ETC: Field guide made to be puny, personalized.
Page 1B



Sports: MHSAA suspends winter sports.
Page 1C

WEATHER



High: 40 **Low:** 28
Page 6D

INDEX

Advice 5B
 Business 6C
 Classifieds 1D
 Comics 4D
 ETC 1B
 Nation/World 6A
 Obituaries 4B
 Opinion 4-5A
 Region/State 3A
 Sports 1C

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