FREE TALK of the NORTH

Featuring Northern Michigan Mall.com

SHOPPING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Vol. 1 No. 40

March 29, 2010





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WJML's Morning Host Michael Patrick Shiels

Indianapolis -Basketball and More



Michael Patrick Shiels is a regular weekly contributor to TALK of the NORTH.

By Michael Patrick Shiels

Next weekend one of the most popular and lucrative events in American sports – the NCAA Basketball Tournament, will conclude with its "Final Four" competing in Indianapolis, Indiana. A sellout crowd of over 70,000 people will watch the games in a giant stadium built to host the NFL's Colts - and countless others will mill about in the streets of downtown Indy. You can be sure that, ticket to the game or not, they will all feel like they're a part of the action. Downtown Indianapolis feels like an amusement park with each attraction just steps away.

During the Big Ten Basketball Tournament, I stayed at the snazzy, four-

During the Big Ten Basketball Tournament, I stayed at the snazzy, four-diamond Omni Severin Hotel. Sitting in "Olives," the hotel's posh martini and cigar lounge (yes, you can still smoke indoors in Indiana), I quizzed the Omni's vice-president of marketing Chris Ratay, about nearby activities.

- "Indiana Pacers game?" I asked.
- "Less than two blocks that way."
- "Indianapolis Colts?"
- "Look out that window," he said.
- "Shopping?"
- "You don't even have to go outside to shop. We're connected to, and the official hotel of, Circle Center Mall."

Theater, Off-Track Betting, a zoo, the NCAA Headquarters and Hall of Champions, The Indiana State Capitol Building and Museum, White River State Park, and the world's largest Children's Museum are among the many attractions reachable on foot. You can even watch a live radio show every day from the town circle

Almost every brand of hotel is "on campus," and dining? Capital Grille, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Weber Grill, 14 West, and Buca di Beppo are literally a stone's throw from each others, mixed among casual eateries such as Hooters, Champp's, and Steak and Shake. Probably Indy's most revered and traditional restaurant, St. Elmo Steakhouse, opened in 1902, and has been "the spot" for celebrity sightings, sports celebrations, and deal making.

Nightlife of every variety is threaded all through the town. The Slippery Noodle, the city's oldest bar, was once a brothel. It retains all of the color and character, but now features giant screen televisions for sports and two live jazz bands every single night! The Conrad Hotel's unique new bar, "Tastings," offers its entire massive wine selection for sample, with every bottle then available at retail price. Patrons purchase a card and use it to draw wine samples out of bottles protected by vacuum-sealed, automated sommeliers!

Ratay and the Omni take a casual approach to the Indianapolis activities, choosing to give hotel guests and visitors top notch service, but in a relaxed atmosphere, as evidenced by the team banners and decorations in the lobby. At Union Station, across from the Omni's valet entrance, a giant, whimsical basketball rim hangs this month.

"The Omni becomes like a big tailgate party," he said. "We want people to have fun."

During the annual Indianapolis 500 each May, the Omni offers police-escorted shuttles to get its guests to and from the famed Motor Speedway faster than any of the other 200,000 spectators headed there.

The sports world has taken note. In addition to the men's and women's Big Ten Basketball Tournament, Indianapolis hosted last summer's U.S. Senior Open Golf Championship, and will host the 2012 Super Bowl. Minor League baseball is played every summer, and NASCAR holds its biggest race of the year at the Speedway, too. The NCAA has also made a deal to grant the city the Final Four event every five years.

So is Indy a racing town; a basketball town; or, with the success of the Colts, a football town?

"Yes," answered John Dedman, who leads the Indiana Sports Corporation. "We are all of those depending on the season.

In my experience, Indianapolis has the feel of Melbourne, Australia, in that so much of the town is active and geared toward recreation. Even the Speedway is bursting with activities: a museum in the front and The Brickyard, a Pete Dye-designed golf course which winds its way around and into the track's infield!

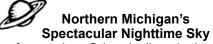
One needs no more evidence of how vibrant Indy is than to meet Chris Gahl, the young, amiable representative of the Indianapolis Visitors and Convention

"I moved my family back from living in Hawaii to live and work in the city I grew up in and the city I love," he said.

Indianapolis offers a remarkably clean, compact, and user-friendly big city experience. It's the perfect family field trip; or women's shopping trip; or boys golf weekend away...or all three combined. To plan your trip, visit www. VisitIndy.com

Michael Patrick Shiels can be heard weekday mornings 6 am - 9 am on WJML AM 1110 Petoskey and AM 1210 Traverse City in its 22-county coverage area in Northern Michigan "from Cadillac to Canada"

THIS WEEK IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN March 29 - April 4



This is the time of year when Orion declines in the southwest after dark, with his Belt roughly horizontal. When does Orion's Belt appear exactly horizontal? It depends on your time zone and your latitude.

Moon phase: Full Moon - March 30

Northern Michigan Weather
Normal High this week: 45°
Record High this week: 82° on March 27, 1910
Normal Low this week: 26°
Record Low this week: -1° on March 28, 1923
Average Snowfall to date: 145.7"
Snowfall to date: 78.5" (Gaylord)



Special Days

Mar 29 - Passover Begins at Sundown Mar 30 - Doctors' Day Apr 1 - April Fools' Or All Fools' Day Apr 2 - Good Friday Apr 4 - Easter Sunday

Talk of the North

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Display your best photos of Northern Michigan on the front cover of **TALK** of **the NORTH!** We are looking for the most unique scenic photos of the spring and summer season in Northern Michigan. The best photos will be published on our front cover. Send your photos to: talk@wjml.com with the subject line "PHOTO COVER." Photos should be in jpeg format and not resized. Submitting your photo to **TALK** of **the NORTH** constitutes an agreement between you and Talk of the North that you are the original owner of the image and you agree to allow Talk of the North to publish your photo without payment.

On the cover this week:

Spring is here and even dogs are happy for the warmer weather and all the sunshine - especially after a chilly swim in GT Bay. *photo by Chris Doyal*



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For even greater savings, listen to the WJML Shopping Spree Show every Saturday

morning from 10 am to 12 noon on AM 1110 in Petoskey and AM 1210 in Traverse City. (231) 947-1210 in Traverse City or (231) 348-5000 in the Petoskey Charlevoix area.











Spring Events Calendar

March 27th - Mardi Gras at Nub's! - Nub's Nob Ski Area
Their annual Spring Fling with fun and games for all. Don't
miss the Soaker Cup, Costume Contest, Crazy Couples and Pepsi
Challenge races and the Petoskey Steel Drum Band on the Deck!

April 9th -11th - Habitat For Humanity Flower And Garden Show More than 40 vendors set up displays at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center to the delight of gardeners, homeowners and those just yearning for a splash of spring color. For more information please call (231) 941-4663.

April 23rd - 25th - Chef's Challenge, Boyne Falls - Boyne Mountain The Chefs Challenge is an extraordinary event featuring Michigan-made products, foods, culinary, beers, wines and spirits. The day starts off early on April 24 with seminars and vendors at 10 a.m. For more info, go to www.chefschallenge.com.

May 13th - 16th - Annual National Morel Mushroom Festival
Each May, Boyne City MI fills with hundreds of mushroom lovers from
around the country who come seeking that elusive delicacy-the marvelous morel. Found in nearby woods and clearings, morels are favored by
those who know their 'shrooms.

May 22nd - 21st Annual Zoo-de-Mackinac Bike Tour

The bike ride starts Saturday morning at Boyne Highlands Resort and spans 51 miles along Lake Michigan on a paved road with very little traffic. Riders pedal through countryside and forests, along sandy beaches, with breathtaking views of Lake Michigan from 400' high bluffs. We stop approximately half way, at a unique place called Legs Inn for a leisurely lunch. The ride continues on to Mackinaw City, where you'll catch a ferry to Mackinac Island. Go to www.zoo-de-mack.com for more information.

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Save 30%-50% or more on Northern Michigan Retail Goods and Services!



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Downtown Frame Up, The Traverse City		\$50 Gift Certificate
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Covering & Furniture		289R Recliner
Hanni Gallery	Harbor Springs	\$20 Gift Certificate
Living Well		
Gourmet Pet Eatery	Petoskey	\$20 Gift Certificate
Granite & Quartz		
Countertops	Petoskey	\$300 Gift Certificate
Petoskey Flooring	Petoskey	\$300 Gift Certificate
Quality Sports & Tool		
Consignment	Harbor Springs	\$50 Gift Certificate
REH Acres		
Home Heating	Boyne City	Comfortec Gas Fireplace
Shadetree Stained		
Glass Studio_	Petoskey	\$50 Gift Certificate
Solar Power Electrical		
Backup System		\$500 off - Only \$1597
Taffy Barrel, The	Charlevoix	2-\$10 Gift Certificate

Services

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Bay Area Turf Care Brian Frost	Petoskey Area Sr	now Removal Gift Certificate	
Landscaping FSBO N. Michigan	Alanson Petoskey	Landscaping Certificate Home Selling Pkg.	
Good Hart Farms Storage	Harbor Springs	8x30 Storage Unit 8x20 Storage Unit	
North Country Cabinet Olsen	S Petoskey	\$250 Gift Certificate	
Construction Services Quack Karaoke	Petoskey	Furnace Tune-up Certificate	
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Northern Michigan Artists Market

An informal gallery with a broad spectrum of select original artwork in all media by artists who live and work in Northern Michigan from Traverse City to the top of the Upper Peninsula. The best selection of Northern Michigan Art anywhere!

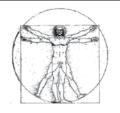


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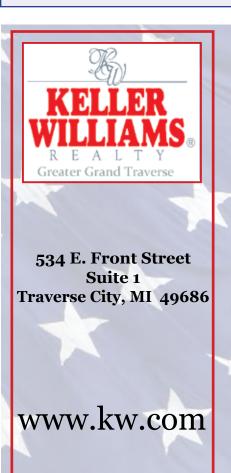




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Elk Lake views! 3 BR, 2 BA, hot tub walk to beaches, oversized garage www.rkshop. \$141,000. MLS # 1698200.



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Magical Hobby Farm near Suttons Bay. 40 acre valley setting w/3 spring fed ponds + trout stream. Remodeled farmhouse w/2 story barn w/stalls and stable + 100 yr. old log cabin. One of a kind property. \$560,000. MLS # 1711947



11 Acre Parcel near Suttons Bay. \$89,900 Also avail. as 2 acre sites from \$29,900-\$35,000. L/C terms. MLS # 1711945



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Holiday Hills home with two man caves! Ski hill and VASA Trail nearby. 3 BR, 2 BA, fin. LL. \$179,900. MLS # 1710916



Captivating Charm in Old Mission! Quaint farmhouse walking distance to beach, near state land. \$183,000. MLS # 1711610



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TC CONDO - 2 BR/2 BA, full bsmt, att. garage, open floor plan, in-town. \$119,900/Carol Franklin 633-3672/#1706963



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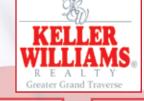


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Very Nice 3 BR, 2 BA home in TC. Finished lower level family room, open floor plan, great back yard. \$179,900. MLS # 1711223.



shack! 1 mile from Kingsley Village. Hardwood & pines. \$149,900. MLS # 1711270.



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3 BR, 2 BA w/fin. LL including FR, office, BA & bonus room/bedroom. Large land-scaped yard. \$149,999. MLS # 1709535.



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4 BR, 2 BA in Carter Woods. Extra large dining and kitchen. 3 car gar and 1 acre wooded lot. \$199,000. MLS # 1707880.

Tips from the Coupon Queen

Jill Cataldo saves hundreds of dollars on groceries by making the most of the common coupon.
You can too. Here's how!



The Coupon Queen is a regular weekly feature in TALK of the NORTH.

Beyond Stacking: Multi-stack to Magnify Savings

LESSON #38

By Jill Cataldo

In previous columns, I've discussed coupon stacking at great length. It's one of the easiest ways not only to reduce the cost of items we're buying but also to get items for free. Many stores allow shoppers to stack one store coupon and one manufacturer coupon together, which gives us an even deeper discount on the same item. Just a few days ago I purchased a \$2.50 tube of toothpaste. I used a \$1.50 manufacturer coupon for the toothpaste and I added to it a \$1 store-issued coupon for the same toothpaste. With a total of \$2.50 in coupon value, the toothpaste was free! And free is, of course, my favorite price to pay.

Store coupons are offered in different formats, so it's important to note which kinds your stores offer. Do some research. Many stores print their store coupons in a weekly flyer. Others offer printable coupons on the store's Web site. Still others offer store coupons electronically. These electronic coupons can be loaded to your shoppers' card and stacked with manufacturer coupons for additional savings.

Now, when we combine coupon stacking with other deals running at the store at the same time, our savings increase even more. What's better than stacking? Multi-stacking! When we multi-stack at the store, we use both store and manufacturer coupons and take advantage of additional money-back deals involved. These additional deals typically offer instant savings at the register or a money-back coupon (commonly called a Catalina) that prints at the register for savings on a subsequent shopping trip.

Here's an example. One of my stores recently advertised a sale offering a Catalina coupon good for \$5 off your next shopping trip if you purchased any two items in the flyer. When I see an advertisement like this, I immediately look for the items that are going to be the best deals – typically, the items for which I already have both store and manufacturer coupons.

During this particular sale, the store had triple-packs of baby wipes on sale for \$5.99. Buying two items in the promotion will earn me a \$5 coupon for my next shopping trip. To keep track of my savings, I always figure that \$5 savings into my current shopping trip. I may pay that \$5 out-of-pocket at the register to buy these items today but I get it right back in the form of a Catalina good for \$5 off my next shopping trip. So, buying two packages of wipes costs \$11.98 but I'll get \$5 of that back at checkout. That essentially brings the cost of the two packages of wipes down to \$6.98 for 2 packages.

To bring the price down further, we're going to stack coupons here, too! I had a manufacturer coupon for \$2 off 2 packages of wipes. The wipes were also on my electronic store coupons for \$1.50 off each package. So, stacking these coupons together yields another \$5 in savings.

After coupons, I paid \$6.98 for the two triple-packs of baby wipes and I received the \$5 Catalina coupon at the register. Since I got \$5 of my original \$6.98 back, the end cost of these two items was just \$1.98! Triple-packs of baby wipes at less than a dollar a package? That's a great price... made possible by multi-stacking! Consider that each triple-pack started out at \$5.99 before all of these discounts were put together.

Any time I see sales at the supermarket that involve money-back promotions, I always look for both store and manufacturer coupons to help reduce the final price I pay even further. In the weeks ahead, I'll show you more examples of multi-stacking and explain how to make the most out of these promotions.

© CTW Features - Jill Cataldo, a coupon workshop instructor, writer and mother of three, never passes up a good deal. Learn more about couponing at her Web site, www.super-couponing.com. E-mail your own couponing victories and questions to jill@ctwfeatures.com. Her column appears weekly in TALK of the NORTH. Archives of her columns also appear at our website: northernmichiganmall.com





COMMON SENSE REAL ESTATE Dear Dee-Dee:

By Dee-Dee Burch, Realtor

Dear Dee-Dee is a regular weekly feature in TALK of the NORTH.

Dear Dee: We want to downsize and I know we probably won't be able to sell our house for what it was worth a few years ago. Our house appraised for \$330,000 in 2008 and I think it would now have to sell for under \$300,000. Everyone keeps telling us we should wait to sell our house until prices go back up, but I really want a smaller, newer home closer to my daughter and don't want to wait for years. Should we just be patient and stay where we are until our house regains its value?

Dee-Dee: More and more sellers are not only getting realistic about their homes declining value, but they are thinking about their lifestyle. Some sellers feel they are taking a loss if their house will sell for less than they paid, less than it appraised for, less than what they owe, less than it assessed for, less than what they feel it's worth, or less than what they may have been offered two years ago. Many sellers are over their original shock and are getting realistic about trading the "loss" on their home versus the enjoyment of a new house that betters suits their way of life. If you feel that you would enjoy life more by downsizing and having a newer home closer to family, then you have to decide what that is worth to you. I have worked with Baby Boomers approaching retirement who are looking for smaller homes or condos that don't require a lot of maintenance and are close to shopping, dining and hospitals. They may be "taking a loss" on their large homes, but feel that the increased enjoyment of life is worth it.

E-mail your questions to ddburch@gmail.com. Common Sense Real Estate is a weekly feature in TALK of the NORTH. Dee-Dee Burch is a full time Realtor with Keller Williams Realty. Read her real estate blog at www.ddburch.com.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

Submit your free classifieds online for publication in the TALK of the NORTH Shopping Guide. Go to: talkofthenorth.com to submit your classifieds. You can view all classified ads online 24 hours a day. Although free classifieds are for non-commercial use by individuals only, business are encouraged to submit "Help Wanted" ads at no charge. Free classifieds are a service of the new TALK of the NORTH Shopping Guide and WJML Radio.

AUTOMOBILES

Wanted: Automobile

Family with two disabled people looking for someone with a car that's in good running condition, willing to donate or sell cheaply. Call 275-6215

1974 Bolens Sprint Snowmobile

Vintage 1974 sprint. Everything works 295 cc engine, extra belt, new drive shaft, top speed 48 mph. Very dependable, drive as is or restore. East Jordan Call Matt 231-675-7293 \$375/poss trades obo

1989 Chevrolet Silverado

350 Small block chevrolet, runs drives good, automatic, 2wd. Not pretty but dependable. Would make great wood hauler/farm truck East Jordan 231-675-7293 Matt

BOATS, MARINE, RV's

Wanted

Older pontoons or boats. Call 231-564-2790 or 231-564-1432. Ask for Gloria or Don, or email at fraziergj2002@

Winnebago Motorhome - \$ 20,000

1996 class a 31' Winnebago motorhome. In very good condition with only 34,500 miles. Comes loaded with camping gear. Call 231-529-7002 for more info.

CHURCH EVENTS

Bible Study Forming in Interlochen

Looking to form a non-denominational Bible study in Interlochen. Please email Heather @ TCHeather@mail.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Tutor Available / Interlochen

Tutor available. E-mail or check out my profile at Wyzant.com for more information on my availability, rates and subject.

EMPLOYMENT

Experienced Window Installer Needed

Looking for an experienced window installer to install replacement windows. Need to carry own liability insurance, have a reliable work truck, have your own brake and know how to wrap windows and do basic interior trim work. Must be reliable. Call or e-mail Jon @ 231-947-9488

House Hunter Needed

Flexible part time hours. Must have reliable transportation and digital camera. You set the pay rate! Got to www.cherrylandhousehunters.com for details.

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Nixon Resigns Newspaper

Detroit Free Press "Nixon Resigns" newspaper dated August 9,1974. Front page section. Very good condition. \$45.00. (231)348-1815.

Paying Cash Now!

Military memorabilia. Medals, hats, helmets, uniforms, etc. U.S. & foreign. Call 231-348-1942

Wanted:

Old vintage rubber stamps with business names, banks, etc. Any size. Call (231)348-1815

Oak Flooring

5" wide, 3/4" thick. Premium oak flooring by Gilford, pre-

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Humidifier

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Aquarium

55 Gallon Aquarium w/ oak cabinet stand, filter, and extras. \$100. 231-389-2946

Bunk Bed

Twin size bunks with solid wood frame, includes 2 twin mattresses. Can be set up as 2 separate twin beds. \$50. 231-389-2946

Pastured Poultry Pre-Orders

Chicken available for pickup at farm in TC June-Sept. Limited supply. Place your order by calling 847-271-6002 or email shasta707@yahoo.com for more infor-

Diorama or Display Cabinet

96"Wide x 60"High x 26"Deep x 1"Thick oak. Formerly contained a diorama depicting underwater scene w/ fish. \$25. 231-389-2946

Electric Guitar NIB

First \$50.00 takes it home. First Act electric guitar, new in box. 231-228-6724



Comfortec Gas Fireplace

A brand new Comfortec Gas Fireplace from Reh Acres Home Heating in Boyne City. Model CDV40 Top Vent Diect Vent gas fireplace. 37" h x 43" w. Retail price \$2000. Purchase for only \$1399 through the WJML Shopping Spree Show 231-348-5000 or online www.Northern-MichiganMall.com.

Mesa Boogie Nomad 55

2x12", Three channel, Has never been out of my nonsmoking home. With footswitch and extra tubes. Reduced to \$700. Call 231-267-9244.

HOMES & LAND FOR SALE

2 Acre Lots for sale x 3 East Leland

For Sale: Three 2.0 acre parcels for sale. Both Suttons Bay and Leland's school buses drive right by. The lots are elevated from the road and have a constant incline to the rear. These lots are located in the heart of Leelanau and near Wild Cherry RV Resort and Campground. They are currently building 9 holes of golf. The driving range is finished and will open this summer. The property is also attached to Spinniken Orchards who are planting grapes and currently have a 7 generation cherry & apple farm. They have also mentioned adding a horse board/riding farm on their 200 acres. The lots face the west to south west. The lots are also located in a beautiful valley view setting, with no homes in sight! This spot is centrally located in Leelanau. Both Suttons Bay and Lake Leelanau are 2.5 miles away with Leland around 6 miles. Northport 10 miles and Traverse city 17. Please call for pricing! We are pricing to move these lots fast!!!! Call 231-271-6954 and ask for James.

RV Campground Lots for Sale near Sutton's Bay

Hurry and get your deposit in before all our site are accounted for. Each site has Full hook up, 50 amp service, concrete patio and established turf on a large big rig friendly 45' x 70' lot. The Resort is located in the heart of leelanau just 2.5 miles from Suttons Bay and 2.5 miles from Lake Leelanau. Leelanau County is the new up and coming Napa Valley for wine with 14 local wineries. Just make a \$2,500 refundable deposit for your choice of RV Site/Lot. This entitles you to a 10% discount and will hold your site until the condo documents and survey work is complete. Please Call 231-271-5550 for more info on Pricing please contact us, and visit us at wildcherryresort.com A special thanks to The Talk of the North for giving us this exposure and opportunity to advertise. Thank you W.C.R. Staff!

Home in Indian River, MI 4 Bedroom

Home in Indian River, Michigan for sale by Owner. 4 Bedroom - 2 Bath on 1.3 acres. 1510 Temple Road. 28X66 - 1716 Sq Ft. quiet setting with pear and apple trees and grapes. Shed on site with plenty of room for a garage! Great first home or home UP NORTH \$59.500. or Best Offer. MOTIVATED SELLER! Call Anytime. 231-238-9068 or 231-420-6126.

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301 Spring Street, Kingsley; Remodeled ranch home. 1300 Sq Ft. with full basement. Hardwood floors; remodeled bathrooms; 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths; bonus room in lower level. New Deck. 2 Car Attached Garage. Asking \$119,900 Call: 231-944-2041

Small Cottage for Sale

Small cottage for sale. Lake front, north end Crooked Lake, Bossingham Resort, \$70,000 Call Dave @ 989-

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4-Chocolate Brown Pinto 2 yr.old "Joyful" \$550.

5-Copper Overo yearling "Precious" \$550. 6-Black splash overo, bald face, blue eyes "Show Stopper" \$550. Each are worked with everyday and love attention. Range in size from 30" to 35"

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FROM THE STANDS..

A fan's view of Northern Michigan sports

with WJML's play-by-play voice of Petoskey Northmen Girls Basketball

Marty Scott

Marty Scott is a regular contributor to TALK of the North

Change of Seasons

With the unbelievable weather we have had for the last few weeks, I have been thinking a lot about the change of seasons. From winter to spring AND high school basketball to baseball, track and all the other spring sports.

Girls basketball is leaving us with some great memories and a touch of wait until next year. Before we let hoops go, how about the girls from St. Ignace who proudly took Northern Michigan basketball all the way to the Class C State finals at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. They hung in there until the end of the second overtime before loos-



ing an exciting game on a layup with one second remaining to Flint Hamady 68-66.

Boys basketball will be over too by the time you read this. As I am writing, Suttons Bay is taking Northern Michigan's hopes and a 24-1 season record into the Class C semifinals against Bridgman Thursday night. From further north, also on Thursday, the Yooper banner is being carried by Class D Eben Junction Superior Central (23-3), located a bit west of Munising, into the semifinals against Marine City Cardinal Mooney

As Basketball reaches its final whistle, the recent tradition of schedule changes continues as the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) is discussing a different format for district tournaments – the nontraditional draw. Instead of one school hosting all district games, games are played at the home gym of one of the teams. We have already seen this in some basketball and volleyball districts but if the new system is adopted, the non-traditional draw could be required for most districts in these sports. Recalling its recent battles over the scheduling of girls sports, the MHSAA website explains, In spite of what the Federal courts did to Michigan's sports seasons, we still believe that doing things differently isn't wrong; it may mean doing things better for everyone involved. Stay tuned. Nothing is decided yet.

There is barely enough time to catch our breath from the winter sports excitement before the spring action starts with baseball, boys golf, girls golf (UP), boys and girls lacrosse, girls soccer, softball, boys tennis (UP), girls tennis (LP), and boys and girls track and field. In case you didn't notice, all of those spring sports take place outdoors. In most years at this time, the snow and ice forces practice to start late or be limited to what can be accomplished inside. With the recent unseasonably great weather in most of Northern Michigan, the fields have thawed and dried out, giving the local teams a chance to get started early, like the folks down state do every year.

It is time to follow the lead of our local athletes and get outside. While Northern Michigan weather still may have some surprises in store for us as we move from winter to spring, the new sports seasons are just around the corner. I for one am looking forward to leaving behind my parka, snow shovel and the gym bleachers for the fields of spring and getting together with you as we watch spring sports FROM THE STANDS . . .

Marty Scott has a day job as an owner of the Northern Michigan Artists Market on Mitchell Street in Petoskey's Gaslight District. Email your comments or questions to him at marty@wjml.com.

Northern Michigan Daily News.com

BASKETBALL ON THE RADIO...



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All Michigan State Spartan basketball tournament games - dates and times to be determined Wed. March 31st Miami Heat at Detroit Pistons 7:30 pm Fri. April 2nd Phoenix Suns at Detroit Pistons 8:00 pm Sat. April 3rd Detroit Pistons at Atlanta Hawks 7:00 pm Tue. April 6th Detroit Pistons at Philadelphia 7:00 pm Wed. April 7th Atlanta Hawks at Detroit Pistons 7:30 pm Fri. April 9th Detroit Pistons at Miami Heat 7:30 pm Sat. April 10th Detroit Pistons at Charlotte 7:00 pm





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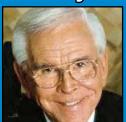


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10 - 11 am Dr. Robert Schuller **Hour of Power**



11 - 11:30 am Day 1



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