



Special to the EagleHerald

Peshtigo Middle School students practice with choir director Jacob Hickey. Band and choir students in the Peshtigo School District are making the most of things despite limitations

The beat goes on for music programs

Peshtigo music and band students, along with teachers, adjust during these chaotic times

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PESHTIGO — Band and choir teachers all over the nation are trying to find their new normal. Normally, in addition to teaching music theory, they prepare students for concerts to show off their new and progressing skills. Due to social distancing restriction, concerts are no longer possible and while Zoom has been wonderful for some aspects of learning, due to lags in internet speed and latency issues, live performances don't work.

The Peshtigo School District's music program is led by three teachers: Alex Shuffield, band director; Jacob Hickey, choir director; and Lane Ludtke, elementary music teacher.

They have been working hard to find solutions to the challenges of the year. Students practice during the school day spaced apart and wearing masks, even while playing a wind instrument.

Band students in Peshtigo wear surgical styled masks with holes cut in them for mouthpieces in addition to having bell covers fastened over the ends of instruments to lessen the possible spread of air propelled germs. Whenever possible, choir practice is done outside.

“*Music never fails to bring people together.*”

Lauren Halfmann
Peshtigo sophomore

“At the elementary level, we normally share different instruments between classes and between grades.” This year, this isn't possible. Ludtke explains that he doesn't want students touching the same objects, so he “just has to adapt and have fun with the many other aspects music has to offer.”

“I've been bringing in some of my personal instruments to share with my students, including the banjo, resonator guitar, and the electric guitar. I show them how they're made, how they work, and how they play. Students love seeing and hearing instruments at a close range, especially instruments that aren't very common,” he said.

With choir, Hickey explains, “They're sharing a very personal part of themselves, publicly.

Students feel strength in numbers and are uncomfortable singing when it's a small group. We can't allow our skills to fall backwards. Every single choir student is picking a solo to work on their individual skills.”

Hickey has over 300 songbooks to search for solos. He matches songs to students' voice type, skill level, and interest. Peshtigo choir students grades 7 through 12 attend in person on an a/b schedule. The smaller groupings mean that the entire choir only meets on special occasions, and practice outside as weather permits. The entire band doesn't practice together as a group, however on Wednesday afternoons the jazz band does meet up together to practice in the gym.

Music teachers are forced to change their goals and focus this year on more one-on-one instruction. Shuffield explains, “Teaching-wise, this has given us a unique opportunity to focus more on individual development.”

“It's forced kids to be more self aware and evaluate what each needs to work on individually. Kids work on weaknesses we normally don't have time to address. We prescribe things to help with self-identified weakness.”

Shuffield states that one pos-



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Peshtigo kindergarten student Kyla Koronkiewicz sings into the microphone as she is accompanied by elementary music teacher Lane Ludtke.

sible scenario he's looking into is to have students pre-record each individual piece and then digitally combine them to create a pre-recorded live stream concert by the end of the year. “It's something to shoot for, but we have a lot of the details to work out yet.”

Students are glad to be playing and singing together again, no matter what the restrictions are.

“It's really nice to be playing and singing with other people again. It makes the music sound better since it blends together better,” said freshmen Anneliese Koch.

Sophomore Lauren Halfmann shared, “Playing my instruments and singing are two of my favorite things to do. I love how music allows you to express yourself.”

Freshmen Christina Powers

adds, “There is a certain depth added to the music when we have a variety of instruments.”

Will the spread of COVID be greatly diminished so much that it will allow an in-person concert by year-end? Will the team at Peshtigo be able to construct some type of format to produce a finished performance to distribute by the end of the year? Time will tell.

Powers said what many are thinking. “I want the band to showcase what we have learned and how we have continued learning despite what has happened. We are all hoping to show the community what we have been working on!”

Halfmann adds, “Music never fails to bring people together.”

Whitmer: Mask mandate in effect

By DAVID EGGERT
The Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said Monday that a statewide mask requirement remains in effect despite the Michigan Supreme Court's invalidation of a law that underpins her orders to control the coronavirus pandemic.

She asked the court to declare its Friday ruling not binding until Oct. 30, to give her administration, the Republican-led Legislature and local health departments time to transition. Whitmer warned that people could lose unemployment benefits as a result of the court's decision and called on lawmakers to return to session instead of recessing until after the November election.

She pointed to a separate order issued by the state Department of Health and Human Services in June — under a 1978 public health law — mandating face coverings in enclosed



The Associated Press

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, shown during a speech last month, said Monday a statewide mask requirement is still in effect.

public spaces and crowded outdoor places.

“We know that masks work. It's on all of us to do our part and to have some personal responsibility keeping ourselves, our families and our economy going,” Whitmer told reporters following a campaign event for a lawmaker in Davison.

Violators can be fined up to \$1,000 under state Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon's order. They faced a misdemeanor charge under Whitmer's orders but not jail time.

The governor said the “fallout” from the high court's decision was “still being ascertained.” The ruling means

she needs approval from legislators to extend a state of emergency and cannot act on her own. GOP lawmakers have criticized Whitmer's unilateral approach.

“We're studying it to make sure that where we can act we do, where there are gaps to be filled we work to do that as well,” she said. “I am by no means undeterred or finished trying to protect the health of the people of this state.”

In asking the Supreme Court to clarify when its opinion should be enforced, the state cited a court rule to argue it should take effect after 21 to 28 days.

Landis name removed from baseball plaque

NEW YORK (AP) — The name of the former baseball commissioner who never had a Black player in the majors during his long reign is being pulled off all future MVP plaques after more than 75 years.

Kenesaw Mountain Landis won't be depicted on the annual awards presented by the Baseball Writers' Association of the America, the group said. The decision came after 89% of its membership voted this week for removal.

“We will no longer will be associated with the Landis name, and the MVP plaques will be nameless in 2020,” BBWAA president Paul Sullivan wrote.

“Hopefully when some sense of normalcy returns in 2021 we can have a healthy debate over whether to add a new name or just leave it as the BBWAA MVP award,” he said.

In a story by The Associated Press in late June, former MVP winners Barry Larkin, Mike Schmidt and Terry Pendleton said they favored pulling Landis'

name because of concerns over his handling of Black players.

Larkin, the Black shortstop voted NL MVP in 1995 with Cincinnati, applauded the decision.

To me, the MVP award should be something that's all positive,” Larkin told the AP on Friday. “There shouldn't be a cloud over it.”

“I was always aware of the Landis name and what it meant to slow down the color line in Major League Baseball,” he said, adding, “I think the MVP honor stands on its own. It doesn't need a name.”

MLB will redesign the trophies, said Jack O'Connell, BBWAA secretary-treasurer. The AL and NL winners awards in this virus-shortened season will be announced on Nov. 12.

Landis became MLB's first commissioner in 1920 and no Blacks played in the majors during his control that ended with his death in 1944. Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947 and Larry Doby followed later that year.

From the Files

100 YEARS AGO: Fire of unknown origin broke out last night about 9 o'clock in the dry kilns of the Sawyer Goodman plant in East Marinette, and for a time, threatened the entire lumber yard. Had the heavy winds which prevailed for the past three days been blowing, it is believed that the entire lumber yard would have been destroyed. The fire broke out about 9 o'clock and altho the exact origin is unknown, it is the belief of officials of the company and chief Duket that it started from overheated steam pipes, with lumber laying on top. The dry kilns, piled high with lumber, where all destroyed and the damage is estimated at \$25,000, all covered by insurance. The quick response of Marinette's motorized department, and the efficient manner in which chief Duket's men worked probably saved the lumber yard. The local house No. 2, the motorized department, traveled eleven blocks and had a length of hose playing on the fire before the horse-drawn from No. 1 arrived, a distance of only five blocks.

50 YEARS AGO: The principals of Marinette and Menominee high schools confirmed today that they are on top of the situation regarding the future of the M&M football series. There has been some concern about the future of the M&M series since Marinette High School is scheduled to enter the 10-school Bay Conference for the 1971-1972 school year. The Bay conference is now on record that the 10 schools play a round-robin schedule. This would mean a nine-game card for each school and could jeopardize the future of the M&M football series which is the oldest high school rivalry in Wisconsin and Michigan and fourth oldest in the nation. Principal W.J. Jones of Marinette High said today that should the conference hold firm on its position to play a round-robin schedule, then Marinette could petition the WIAA for special permission to play a 9th game. If Marinette received permission to play the 10th football game it would likely mean the M&M game would have to be played the first week of November.

25 YEARS AGO: A circuit judge has dismissed

a lawsuit filed by an alderman against the mayor, agreeing there can't be any debate over the legality of a city contract without having the contract in court. In matters stemming from a plan to overhaul the city's marina and waterfront, Circuit Judge Francis Brouillette also narrowed the legal issues in any future suit Alderman Ernest Pintarelli might bring against the city, and he postponed nay discussion in an alleged Open Meetings Act violation which Pintarelli has tacked on to his suit. Under consideration, Friday was Pintarelli's lawsuit filed over a 5-2 council vote June 26 that approved a waterfront renovation agreement with the Marina Management Group of the M&M Yacht Club. Pintarelli had alleged that six votes were necessary to approve the agreement because according to the city charter the agreement dealt with the disposition of city property.

10 YEARS AGO: Thoughts of what lies beyond the grave have captivated man's imagination for thousands of years. Spirits, ghosts, poltergeists, whatever you choose to call the paranormal entity, one thing is for certain, interest

in it is alive and well. It's nearly impossible, especially around Halloween, to turn on the television without seeing a movie or show dealing with the afterlife. Among the most popular shows of this nature are found on the Syfy network, shows like “Ghost Hunters” and “Ghost Hunters International,” “Paranormal State” and “Destination Truth.” “It's kind of the ticket right now on television,” said Chris Twork of Menominee. “When Ghost Hunters started people were wary at first, but they gained more respect. I think they have more than 100 episodes.” By day, Twork is a driver for M&M Taxi Service. He recently started up M&M Ghost Tours, an adventure into the paranormal around the Twin Cities. Don't let his day job fool you, he's very dedicated to tracking down evidence from beyond. “I've always been interested in the paranormal, specifically interested in if there was life after this life,” he said.