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THE SAULT NEWS

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Health department urges residents to test well water

Brendan Wiesner
Sault Ste. Marie News
USA TODAY NETWORK

SAULT STE. MARIE — The Chippewa County Health Department is encouraging residents to have their drinking water tested as several homes in the area recently had their wells cleaned.

In May, a Sault resident living off M-129 in between 3 Mile and 5 Mile roads reported their water was smelling foul and were worried if it was safe. Over the next few weeks, several of their neighbors also noticed the same issue in their groundwater wells and

In May, a Sault resident living off M-129 in between 3 Mile and 5 Mile roads reported their water was smelling foul and were worried if it was safe.

called the Chippewa County Health Department (CCHD) for help.

Several of the homes collected samples of their drinking water and discovered bacterial contamination in their

wells. With help from the health department, they had their wells retested and cleaned. Since multiple wells in the area were suspected of contamination at the same time, the health department called in help from the state.

“We were concerned after having multiple positives, so we reached out to the state,” said CCHD Environmental Health Supervisor Suzanne Lieurance.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) came to Chippewa County and helped complete tests of well water between 3 Mile and 5

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Hordes of tarantulas across U.S. emerging for mating season

Elizabeth Weise USA TODAY

If you’re hiking or camping in the arid Southwest and West in the next couple of months, get ready for what could be the experience – or fright – of a lifetime.

Across the United States, in California, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico and Texas, tens of thousands of tarantulas will be crawling out of their burrows in search of females – making for a fascinating, if a little creepy, display of the wonders of nature.

It’s tarantula mating season.

“If you’re lucky enough, you can sometimes see them in hordes crossing the roads at certain times of the year,” said Dan McCamish, a senior environmental scientist with California State Parks.

While the idea of thousands of hairy, baseball-sized spiders picking their way through parks and campgrounds might give people the heebie-jeebies, in general these misunderstood, wandering arachnids are simply young males in search of love. And if they wander into your tent, they didn’t mean to.

“In truth they’re gentle, ecologically valuable animals,” McCamish said. “Mostly they’re interested in escaping from confrontations – especially with something they know could squish them.”

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Contrary to common fears, tarantulas don’t want to interact with humans any more than most humans want to interact with them. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

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Dan McCamish, senior environmental scientist with California State Parks

Report: Industries threaten Great Lakes

Water demand increases with AI, mining, farms

Caitlin Looby
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK

While the Great Lakes may seem to offer an endless supply of water, the balance is actually quite delicate.

Each year, only 1% of the water in the Great Lakes is replenished by rain, snow and groundwater.

Now, a new report from the Alliance for the Great Lakes shows that this delicate balance may be at risk because of rising demand from industries that use tremendous amounts of water, like data centers, mineral mining, and agriculture, all of which put pressure on groundwater resources.

Further, the increased water demand is happening just as climate change is making it more difficult to manage and plan water use, because precipitation no longer follows historical trends. That’s something Milwaukeeans saw firsthand earlier this month during the 1,000-year flood event.

Tax incentives from many of the eight Great Lakes states have lured industries that need water, like data centers, to the region. Further, any industry that needs access to that much water has to come, because the Great Lakes Compact ensures that large-scale, long-range diversions of water outside the basin won’t happen.

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