

## A hometown blast in Boyne

**Boyne City's annual Fourth of July celebration is a time-tested favorite**

Steve Zucker

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BOYNE CITY — If ever there was an event that encapsulated Boyne City's motto of "Hometown feel, small town appeal," the community's annual Americana-infused Fourth of July celebration would be it.

With its day-long slate of traditional Independence Day activities, the event is one of the community's signature events and it draws people from all over:

A lot of people.

In fact, Liz Kroondyk, who along with Ann Parks has for many years co-chaired the Fourth of July committee, said organizers estimate 18,000 people came to town for last year's celebration.

That's a lot of people in a city of 3,500 residents.

But the popularity of the event is no surprise to Kroondyk.

"It's just what people are looking for on the Fourth. It's a good, old-fashioned, Norman Rockwell Fourth of July celebration," Kroondyk said. "It's the Boyne City atmosphere. Boyne City has always been known for its friendliness and welcoming attitude."

And while Kroondyk and the rest of the committee are pleased to see the event bring in so many people, she notes it has always been designed first and foremost with the locals in mind.

She said for many people, the event serves as an annual family reunion. Several years ago, an all-years Boyne City High School class reunion was added to the list of events with the same idea in mind.

Kroondyk said the reason the festival is so popular is that it offers a day full of "events for everyone" — from the road race that kicks off the day at 7:30 a.m. to the grand parade, the Rotary Club's famous chicken dinners, children's activities, music, soapbox derby, arts and crafts show, and many more events, to the fireworks finale that caps the day at dusk.

But, with this year's event just days away, Kroondyk and the rest of the committee are putting out two pleas to the community.

First, with the stagnate economy, fundraising for the annual fireworks show is down. Kroondyk didn't have exact numbers available, but she said the total is well short of the \$18,000 cost. She said the fireworks for this year's show have already been or-



**Capping off** a day full of Independence Day events, a large fireworks shell explodes over Lake Charlevoix near Veterans Park on July 4, 2008.

NEWS-REVIEW/FILE

dered, so sluggish fundraising won't affect this year's show. But it could have an impact on future years.

Secondly, she said the committee is in desperate need of more volunteers to help share the load in hosting the event each year.

"We're a very small committee and it's shrinking every year," Kroondyk said.

Not wanting the festival to meet the same demise as the nearby Horton Bay parade, which has been mothballed this year because of a lack of organizing volunteers, she's hoping some new people will step forward to see the Boyne City's Fourth of July festival into the future.

Kroondyk said it takes a team of about 50 volunteers to staff events throughout the day, that's to say nothing of the organizing work done at other times of the year to prepare for the festival.

Kroondyk noted that, in keeping with the family-oriented spirit of the festival, most volunteers are only

scheduled for a few-hour block of time on the Fourth, so that they can still spend time with their families.

She said many people on the committee have been involved with organizing the event for many years.

Kroondyk, who has been on the committee for the past 24 years, said seeing everyone enjoying themselves on the Fourth is what keeps her coming back.

"I love fireworks. When I sit down with my family in Veterans Park a couple hours before the fireworks, and the kids are running around, and everyone's having fun, and then the fireworks start and everyone is 'oohing' and 'ah-ing,' that's awesome. That's everything to me," Kroondyk said. "Every year a few days before the Fourth I think 'I can't do this anymore.' Then when the fireworks end and everyone is clapping I say, 'I have to keep doing this.'"

For more information on the festival, visit [www.boyne4thofjuly.com](http://www.boyne4thofjuly.com)

## 4th of July schedule of events

(All events are in Veterans Park unless otherwise noted)

### FRIDAY, JULY 3

- 9 a.m.-9 p.m., bouncers and more, Inflatable Alley at Veterans Park
- 11 a.m.-6 p.m., 32nd annual Waterside Arts & Crafts Show
- 1-3 p.m., all-class reunion for Boyne City Schools
- 6-9 p.m., "Stroll the Streets" with music on Water and Lake streets

### SATURDAY, JULY 4

- All day - food, games, concession stands of non-profits
- 6:30 to 7:15 a.m., running race registration, behind chamber building
- 7:30 a.m., running race, 10k or two-mile.
- 8:30 a.m., parade line-up at water works building, Division Street
- 9-9:15 a.m., children's bike and costume line-up, Early Childhood Center parking lot. Judging at 9:30 a.m. sharp.
- 9 a.m.-7 p.m., bouncers and more, Inflatable Alley
- 10 a.m.-6 p.m., 32nd annual Waterside Arts & Crafts Show
- 10 a.m., Grand Parade on Water Street and Lake Street
- 11 a.m., Boyne City Rotary Club chicken bar-becue
- 11:15 a.m.-7 p.m., live music in Veterans Park
- Noon-2 p.m., Kiwanis Club children's games
- 2 p.m., raft race in the Boyne River
- 2:30 p.m., rubber duck race in the Boyne River - Chance to win \$1,000 - \$10 tickets at chamber of fice
- 4 p.m., soap box derby, Park and Cedar streets
- 5-7 p.m., Masonic Lodge pork loin roast dinner, 212 North Lake St.
- 6-9 p.m., "Stroll the Streets" with music on Water and Lake streets
- 10:30 p.m., fireworks over Lake Charlevoix



NEWS-REVIEW/FILE

**One of the many popular July 4 events** is the bicycle decorating contest that is part of the Grand Parade.



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**Sack races** are just one of the many children's events that take place in Veterans Park as part of Boyne City's annual Fourth of July celebration.

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**Musical performers** Dennis and Allison Palmer sing and play at the Gazebo in Boyne City's Old City Park as the Boyne Area Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Evenings at the Gazebo concert series kicked-off recently. Concerts will take place in the park at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday through Aug. 26. For a complete list of scheduled performers visit [www.boynechamber.com](http://www.boynechamber.com).

## What is hip?

There's a woman in the kitchen, cleaning up the evening slop.

And he looks at her and says,

'Hey darlin', I can remember when you could stop a clock.'

'Little Pink Houses' — John Mellencamp

You know you're getting old when your bass player needs a hip replacement. Apparently, those years of performing split jumps onstage and fueling up before gigs on super-sized fast-food rations have taken their toll. No longer cutting the lithe and careless figure of yore, my old friend Miles is scheduled to receive replacement parts.

"I'm actually looking forward to it," he told me during a recent phone call from his home in Cape Canaveral where he is now a genuine rocket scientist. "It's gotten to the point where it hurts all the time and I've been using a cane."

A cane? It's hard to imagine Miles needing a cane. Granted, we haven't seen each other in a while, but he's still acerbic and irreverent and he peppers his speech with hipster slang. He's as loud as ever, and I have to hold the phone away from my ear when he laughs.

"Haw haw haw," he brays from 1,500 miles away. "I'm a doddering old coot."

"That's okay, darlin'. I remember when you could stop a clock."

This is our little joke. It started years ago when I first heard the John Cougar Mellencamp song "Little Pink Houses." It rankled me that the singer misused the saying, sticking it into a verse as a compliment.

"It means the exact opposite of what he's trying to say. He means to say that he can remember when she was so beautiful that she could stop traffic. He's saying that she was so ugly she could stop a clock. Geez, you'd think that somebody would have caught it before he recorded that song. His manager or a record exec or someone."

"But 'traffic' doesn't rhyme with 'slop,'" Miles said.

"You're right. And it would be tragic to change a word of that inspired bit of poetry into

something less repugnant. If you want to nitpick, 'clock' doesn't rhyme with 'slop', either. Do you notice how he kind of slurs the last three words? I think he had a feeling it wasn't right and he's trying to mumble over it."

"Why do you care?"  
"I don't. I'm just saying. Okay, I do care. It drives me crazy."

"Because...?"  
"Because the gist of the song is good. It's poignant and true, but that one line is just unforgivable."

"So what? It's just the lyrics. Listen to that bass line."

"That's the sort of stuff we used to talk about. It was the mortar that held our big brick friendship together. That, and the music — our version of air and water."

When we played, Miles would bounce and lunge, nodding his head over his bass guitar, his lank brown hair flopping around his face from underneath a tweedy wool cap. He would crowd into me and share the microphone when he was inspired to contribute back-up vocals. We were songwriting partners. I wrote the lyrics and sang the tune to Miles while he picked out the chords on his acoustic guitar. Or he'd come up with a tune and I'd fill in the story. We performed all over Los Angeles with a revolving cast of drummers and guitar players. He played in seedy dives and some semi-illustrious dumps as well. Once we even opened for Santana when they were down on their luck, long after their success with "Black Magic Woman" and a couple of decades before "Smooth" resurrected their career. No doubt, you've never heard of us.

And this shared history is an even stronger bond than the music. It's my theory that this is at least part of the reason people stay married. Here's someone who remembers when your skin was taut and you habitually vaulted up the stairs two at a time. When they look at you, they see a person that has yet to spend an entire afternoon looking for their reading glasses.

So I'm still joined to Miles at his new titanium hip. I hear his voice and I picture him in midair. He calls me kid. We remember when we could stop a clock.

Write to Christine Gwidt at [moreorlesschristine@gmail.com](mailto:moreorlesschristine@gmail.com).



Christine Gwidt

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*Saturday*

A publication of the Petoskey News-Review



STEVE ZUCKER/NEWS-REVIEW

In a classic Northern Michigan summer scene, two women chat as they stand on the beach at Young State Park watching the sun set at the end of a beautiful sunny day.

## Boyer City American Legion news

At the regular meeting of Ernest Peterson Post 228, held on June 4, 2009, the regular business was suspended and the newly elected officers for the 2009-2010 Legion year were installed by past department commander Alton Ford as follows: commander Donald Kleinschrodt, first vice commander Joseph Gerant, second vice commander David Wassenaar, adjutant John Mathers, finance officer Marvin Potter, service officer Dean Kleinschrodt, judge advocate Peter Vellenga, chaplain Art Cosier, historian Brian Morrison, sergeant at arms Fred Leyh, delegate to department convention Gerald Evans and trustee for three years Donald Kleinschrodt.

Past department commander Ford installed the newly elected officers of Ernest Peterson Unit 228 as follows: president Pat Cosier, vice president Patti Crozier, secretary Pat Schmalzried, treasurer Peggy Crozier, chaplain Evelyn Bunting, historian Ann Reyes and sergeant at arms Jean Limron.

Following adjournment, commander Kleinschrodt convened an executive committee meeting to discuss goals and events for the upcoming year and receive reports as follows:

- A \$500 donation was received from the Gaylord Middle School Student Council to be used for Legion programs.
- The honor guard conducted graveside services for Everett Leist and Eugene Lechowicz and “Veteran of the Month” ceremonies for Paul Francis Cassidy and Bernard Wayne Cassidy.
- The honor guard and color guard conducted Memorial Day services at nine locations, demonstrated flag folding and its meaning, presented the POW/MIA table ceremony and participated in the World War II Memorial Dedication ceremony.
- The Fourth of July parade start time is 10 a.m. with lineup at 8:30 a.m.
- Bingo has been canceled for Saturday, July 4, because of the many family activities of the workers.
- The chaplain reported on area veterans who are sick, disabled, shut-in or have answered the final call and stated that there are 16 veterans in Grandview Medical Care Facility.

The Petoskey News-Review/Generations published Veteran of the Month John Marcus Cassidy and the News-Review’s Observer published Boyer City American Legion News for May.

The Legion is accepting items from the public to be sent to our troops overseas, at the post on Saturdays between 3-9 p.m., and Blue Star Banners and magnetic troop support

ribbons, for display on a vehicle or any metal surface such as storm, garage or refrigerator doors, are available to the public.

The next regular meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 2, in the post home and will be preceded by the Veteran of the Month ceremonies at 6:15 p.m. to be followed by a potluck supper in their honor. Area veterans are welcomed and encouraged

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# Saturday

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  - Alibi Tavern • Leona's
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  - Alibi Tavern • Ridge Resort Murray's Bar & Grill
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A girl throws rock and sand into Lake Charlevoix from the beach at Young State Park as she and her family watch the sun set at the end of a recent sunny day.

## Artists Gathering schedule

The Jordan River Arts Council is announcing the schedule for the summer 2009 Artists Gathering, with the theme of "Vistas and Visions."

Each site has been chosen for its open vista as well as features of interest for those who like a more confined focus. There is no fee, and artists can choose any media to create.

Following is the schedule:  
July 9 — The House on the Hill, 9661 Lake St., Ellsworth.  
July 16 — Lavender Hill Farms, 07354 Horton Bay Road

July 23 — Kiteley's Farm Market, 3805 Brock Road

July 30 — Rex Beach Road/Antrim Natural Area, public beach and nature preserve. Take U.S. 31 to Atwood past Royal Farms.

Aug. 6 — Vistas of Lake Bellaire, west on Cayuga Street to Bellaire Highway.

Aug. 13 — Fred Vemeersch' Orchard View, 1344 Vermeersch Road, Central Lake.

Aug. 20 — Bellaire Bed and Breakfast, 2112 Park St., Bellaire.

Aug. 27 — Jordan River Watershed Center, 101 Union St., East Jordan.

Directions to each site will be posted at the Jordan River Art Center, 301 Main St., East Jordan.

A full description of each site and directions are available by calling Nancy Carey at 582-6399. Call Karen Kimmel at 582-0593 or Sherry Kay Marshall at 533-9321 for carpooling information.

A host and hostess will be available at each site, with restrooms available. Information can also be found on the JRAC Web site: [www.jordanriverarts.com](http://www.jordanriverarts.com).

### Dr. McMillian's Mental Health Corner



#### Binge Eating Disorder

Obesity is not an indicator of psychological suffering. However, psychological communities determined Binge Eating Disorder (BED) describes a certain eating pattern and pathological disturbances. For instance, BED is a sudden, compulsive ingestion of large amounts of food in a short period followed by agitation and severe self-criticism. The diagnostic criterion for BED follows. Eating in a two hour period large amounts of food, feeling out of control, cannot stop eating, eat more rapidly, eat until uncomfortable, eat large amounts of food when not hungry, eating alone, embarrassed by how much you eat, disgusted with oneself, depressed and guilty over eating. There is a distress related to BED and the eating pattern occurs on at least two days a week for six months. Research suggests this pattern begins with obesity, then failed dieting cycles, followed by BED, which affects self-identity. If you suffer from BED bring this to your doctor's attention along with seeking psychological intervention.

Tammy McMillian, Ph.D.  
582-0553  
[pazzaone@charter.net](mailto:pazzaone@charter.net)

## News around the neighborhood

Calling all cars, East Jordan, where are you? Remember that old TV show?

Well, that's what I am attempting to find out with you East Jordan residents, but I need your help. Please call or e-mail me about things to share in this column that is meant for you, too!

Congratulations Paul and Dorothy Pfahler! On June 12, they celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary!

Grandvue Auxiliary met June 18 with 14 members and one resident attending.

Social worker, Tammy Sides, explained the services covered for her position. This included an Alzheimer's support group open to the public. She announced the next community education series open to the public on June 25, titled Peace of Mind (Making Important Decisions Now). From 2-4 p.m. officers of the auxiliary were re-elected for the year 2009-10. They are Ardith Hawley, president; Helen Deming, vice-president; Shirley Howie, secretary and Peg Crozier, treasurer. The auxiliary will have a salad luncheon for members and residents



Nancy Northup

### Neighbors

on July 9.

Kathy Rice of Tecumseh is here visiting her mother, Arlene Inman and family. Her husband, Jim, will return in two weeks to take her back home.

Several people from Boyne City attended the memorial service for Bill Pearson who died on June 12 in Gaylord. He and his wife Jan (Coon) both graduated in 1956 from Boyne City High School. Bill endured Parkinson's disease for quite some time. May he rest in peace.

Food Pantry caretaker of Boyne, Lei Nahinu, sends out more praise and appreciation to the many who are donating their time as well as money and whatever extra it takes to keep it up and running and meeting the needs in the area.

Good news it is ... that Janet Massey is back on the job at Ace Hardware.

Starting out at doing four hours a day, she really is feeling much better since her recent surgeries.

Monday Study Club had their last meeting on June 15. There were 16 members attending a lovely lunch at Deer Lake's Beach Haus. Highlighting the event was an interesting and informative talk given by James Bauman, director of the chamber of commerce. He spoke of the updated projects around town as well as future endeavors. Monday Study Club will resume their meetings in September.

Andy and Connie honored Adam Lynch, a 2009 grad on Saturday with an open house, friends and relatives, including the Kelts cousins. They enjoyed lots of good fun, food and music. Special entertainment of the Morris girls from downstate wowed everyone with their Hawaiian dancing. Adam plans to continue his education in the fall.

Dorothy Ward is in the Charlevoix Area Hospital after taking a fall at home.

Heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Karl Waldner of Dietz Road in Boyne City. Mr. Waldner passed away this past week.

Lillian Cikalo has returned to her home after successful back surgery at the Munson Hospital in Traverse City last week. She is reported to be recuperating very well at home.

Boyne Area Seniors beat the Petoskey Friendship Center Seniors at Wii bowling on Tuesday by 6 points ... yea Boyne! On Friday, about 8 to 10 Grandvue residents joined the Boyne Area Seniors for "Crunchy Dummy's" a favorite lunch, with all the fixin's, making it a total of 83 around the tables. Entertainment was the lively dancing of the Jordan Valley Stompers and the Boyne Area Steppers.

An Anderson-Russell family reunion was on Saturday at the Pavilion

in Boyne Falls. About 50, throughout Michigan as well as Texas and North Dakota brought in a variety of good food for the potluck picnic and special family time. Joann Anderson Biven, was honored for her 80th birthday. She was also pleased that five out of her six children and grandchildren were able to be there. Bonnie Kaminski organized the gathering.

Henry Davies of Detroit and daughter Brenda Reisor of Prudenville were here on last week's beautiful Saturday; they picked up his Aunt Ruth Sheets and enjoyed a tour of Charlevoix, which included lunch at the Weathervane.

Over this past winter, four babies were born in the Varnum family, this past week, Gen Varnum, Woody, Penny and Jenny Hardy all went to see all the newborns in Ohio. It was like a mini-family reunion, of three generations, as they were joined there by Pam and Mike Smith of Redford, Paul and Amy Hardy of Alabama, and of course, Peggy and Keith McGeorge were already there. The newborns were twins, a boy and a girl, Eli and Amelia, born to Kasha McGeorge Brackett and husband Dan, a son, Clark, born to Collins and Steph McGeorge, and another son, Gabriel, born to Patrick and Angel Varnum. The weather was so hot while they were celebrating with water bal-

loons and water pistols; it was a cooling relief to get shot!

Hope to be seeing lots of you at the All School Reunion from 1-3 on Friday, July 3, at Veterans Memorial Park. Old pictures to share or just see who's all there!

Items of interest for Nancy's column may be called into her home phone: 582-9174 or e-mailed to [neighbors@gtlakes.com](mailto:neighbors@gtlakes.com) before her deadline of every other Wednesday in the Boyne-East Jordan Observer and Charlevoix Courier.



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