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Charlevoix County News

December 15, 2011

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sports



Pg 1B
PHOTO BY VIC RUGGLES
Rambler sophomore Ryan Carson #23 tries to lay up this reverse attempt just in front of the outstretched arm of Gaylord St. Mary's #11 Patrick Switalski. Looking on is St. Mary's Matthew Spyhalski.



Pg 2B
PHOTO BY CHRIS FIEL
Boyne Falls sophomore Calsey Matelski hustles after a loose ball as teammate Danielle Reynolds looks on.

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Gregory enters plea in murder case, sentencing set for January

CHARLEVOIX — A frail but composed 73-year-old Sandra Gregory entered the Charlevoix County Circuit Courtroom on Friday, Dec. 9, to enter her plea of “no contest” in the case of the murder of her mother,

Amelia Gregory. As she made her way with the assistance of a cane to stand beside her attorney Kraag Lieberman at the defense table, her family and several friends followed behind her and took

their seats in the courtroom. Lieberman, who had made an agreement with the county Prosecutor’s Office that Gregory would enter the plea, informed Judge Richard M. Pajtas

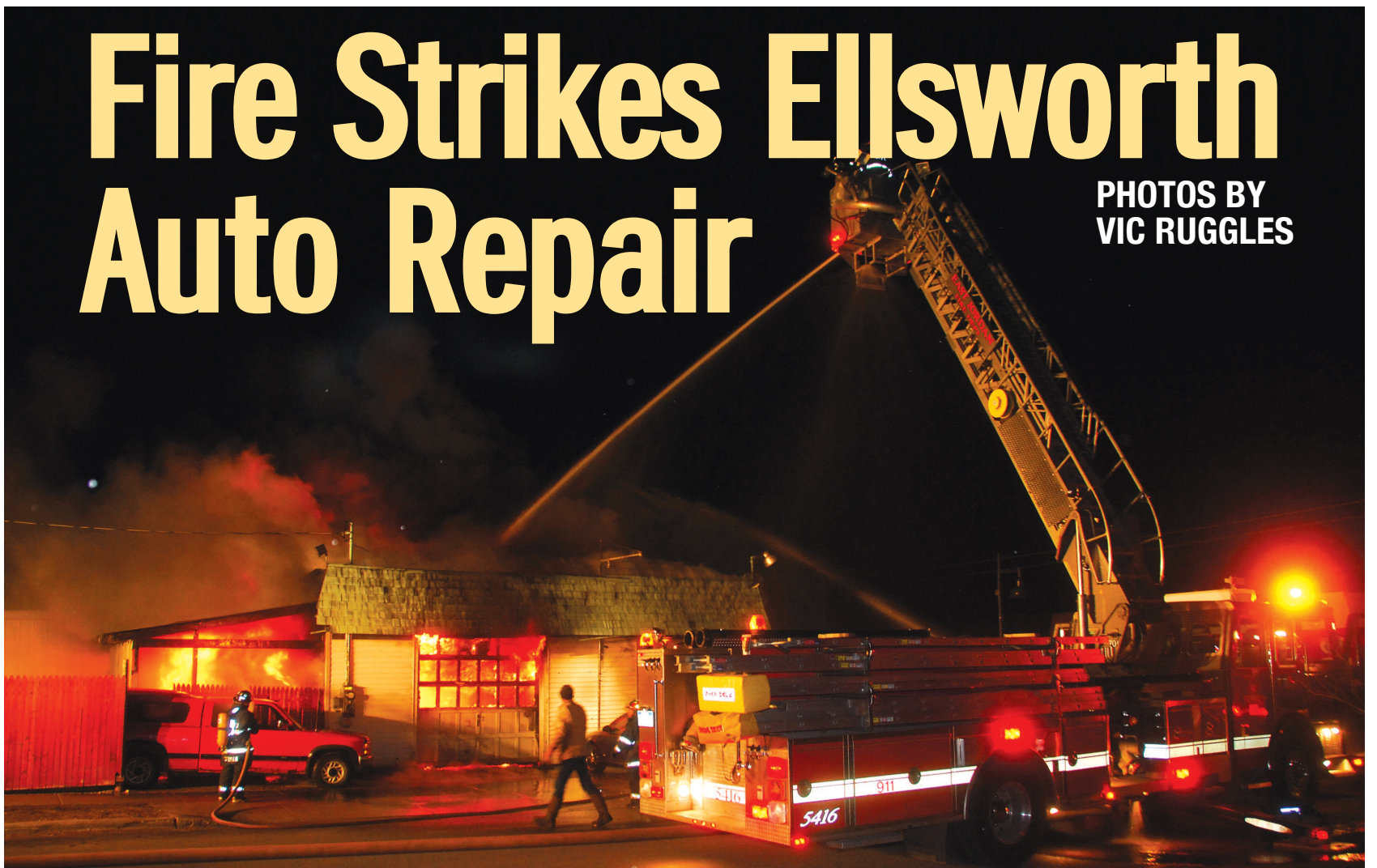
that the no contest plea was based on Gregory’s mental illness and dementia, saying her cognitive disabilities include the loss of memory. “She may not have the memory to support a guilty plea,” Lieberman said.

A temporary insanity plea had been considered but was rejected by Lieberman because typically there is an even chance between winning and losing a tem-

See Gregory Plea— 9A

Fire Strikes Ellsworth Auto Repair

PHOTOS BY VIC RUGGLES



By Tina Sundelius

ELLSWORTH—Six Area fire departments were all needed to subdue a fire that broke out at the Ellsworth Auto Repair Friday, Dec. 9 at 8:20 p.m. Firefighters worked hard to keep the fire from spreading to the historic Banks Township Hall. Responding Fire departments were from Charlevoix city, Charlevoix Township, Bone City, East Jordan, Torch Lake and Banks Township.

“It was quite a loss,” Mark Groenink, Banks Township Fire Chief said. “We were taxing the village water system pretty hard so we had the tankers called in. Charlevoix ran a hose from the lake up.”

“We saved the Hall,” Banks Township firefighter John Hastings said. “There’s some smoke damage and broken windows but otherwise it’s

ok.” The back of the Auto Repair is six feet from the Banks Township Hall.

“We put a lot of water between the two buildings,” Groenink said.

The garage was a total loss. “There are a lot of valuable things in there we are hoping they can salvage,” East Jordan EMS Lianne Jordan said.

Brian Lemond started the garage with his father 25 years ago, it was originally called Don’s Service.

“He’s owned this place for 25 years, they signed the papers the day my parents were married,” Michelle Lemond, Brian’s daughter said.

The property wasn’t insured. There were several diagnostic machines and antique cars at varying stages of restoration in the building.

Volunteers at the Front Porch restaurant, which is located

across the street from the garage, arrived only ten minutes after the fire department and stayed until 3am keeping a steady stream of hot beverages, soups and snacks in the hands of the firemen and EMS workers to ward off the cold and fatigue.

“Ellsworth has always been that community that all comes together when something happens- they’re a giving community.” Gerald J. Peck, East Jordan EMS Director said.

A donations only Sloppy Jo fundraiser dinner will be held for Lemond on Saturday, Jan. 14 at the Ellsworth High School gymnasium from 5-7p.m. Information on upcoming fundraisers can be found on the Front Porch Facebook page.



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Local News

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weather	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	snowfall	record temps
	HIGH: Low 40's LOW: Upper 20's	HIGH: Upper 20's LOW: Mid 20's	HIGH: Upper 20's LOW: Mid 20's	HIGH: Upper 30's LOW: Low 30's		

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

December 5-11

911 Hang Up Call	1
Abandoned Vehicle	4
Abuse	0
Alarm	9
Animal Complaint	12
Annoyance	5
Assault	0
Assist Citizen	2
Assist Motorist	0
Assist Other Agency	6
Attempt to Locate	3
Attempted Suicide	0
Bank Alarm	0
Boating Accident	0
Boating Violation	0
Breaking & Entering	1
Car/Deer Accident	9
Citations Issued	11
Civil Complaint	7
Criminal Sexual Conduct	0
Death	0
Disorderly Person	0
Disturbance	1
DNR Complaint	1
Domestic Dispute	1
Driving Complaint	2
Fireworks Complaint	0
Found Property	0
Fraud	5
Health & Safety	0
Hit & Run	1
Intoxicated Person	1
Juvenile	2
Larceny	1
Lockout	10
Lost Property	0
Malicious Destruction of Property	1
Mental Subject	0
Minor In Possession	0
Miscellaneous Criminal	5
Missing Person	1
Noise Complaint	0
Operating Under the Influence	0
Paper Service	7
Parking Violation	1
Personal Injury Accident	2
Personal Protection Order	1
Private Property Accident	1
Property Check	5
Property Damage Accident	8
Prowler	0
Road Hazard	0
Stalking	0

Suspicious Situation	6
Threat	1
Traffic Stop	36
Trespassing	0
Unknown Accident	1
Unlawful Driving Away of Automobile	0
Vehicle in the Ditch	1
Violation of Controlled Substance Act	2

COUNTY RECORDS

MARRIAGE LICENSES
The following people have recently filed for marriage licenses with the County of Charlevoix:

Derek Allan Langson, 29, Ishpeming and Mary Patricia Lahti, 28, Boyne City.
Kenneth Howard Brill, 84, Charlevoix and Suzanne Annette Muma, 51, Charlevoix.
Travis Vincent Stark, 19, Boyne City and Courtney Anne Schneider, 19, Boyne City.
Timothy Michael Kustron, 36, Chandler, AZ and Alison Marie Roberts, 23, Chandler, AZ.
Michael Brandon Webb, 35, Charlevoix and Christine Marie Cloud, 40, Petoskey.
Acel Lewis Edick, 20, Charlevoix and Allison Renee Hankins, 18, Charlevoix.
Nicholas Jason Lee, 20, East Jordan and Samantha Jean Morris, 18, East Jordan.

ASSUMED NAMES:
The following businesses recently filed with the Charlevoix County Clerk's office for an assumed name for doing business:

Mobile Reiki Services, 1690 Tomkins Road, Boyne City by Erika L. Hayden.
Crandall Construction, 1211 Anderson Road, Boyne City by Dustin Crandall.
Valley Assisted Living, 01970 Valley View Road, Boyne Falls by Marlene Robinson and Kevin Robinson.
None of Your Business, Business, 318 State St., East Jordan by Donald E. Norman.
En Movement Academy of Dance, 220 W. Clinton, Charlevoix by Leah Loveless.
J & S Auto Repair, 06807 Marion Center Road, Unit B, Charlevoix by Jeremy Moses and Steven Scolly.

DISTRICT COURT
The following cases were re-

cently decided in the 90th District Court for the County of Charlevoix:
Joseph John Holland, 47, Charlevoix. Disturbing the peace. Sentenced to pay \$300 in fines and costs and to 90 days in jail with credit for one day, serve 40 days and nine months on probation.
James Phillip Knope, 50, Waterford. Assault and battery. Sentenced to pay \$900 in fines and costs and to 93 days in jail with credit for one day, 82 days held in abeyance, 10 days of community service work and nine months on probation.
Steven Michael Walden, 19, Boyne City. Sex offender failed to comply with reporting. Sentenced to pay \$400 in fines and costs and to serve 11 days in jail with credit for 11 days.
Caleb Gilbert Blatt, 23, East Jordan. Use of controlled substance, methodone. Sentenced to pay \$1,275 in fines and costs.
Robert Joseph Matheny Jr., 48, Charlevoix. Driving while license suspended. Sentenced to pay \$335 in fines and costs.
Julianna Cesaro, 46, East Jordan. Driving while license suspended. Sentenced to pay \$500 in fines and costs.

BOYNE CITY POLICE DEPT.

Monday, December 5
3:00am False alarm in the 100 block of S Park St
5:08am Noise complaint from the 500 block of N Lake St
6:00pm Assist with false medical alarm in the 500 block of W Michigan. Phone problems.
10:48pm Unlock in the 200 block of S Lake St

Tuesday, December 6
12:30am Report of dead deer in roadway
11:09am Civil complaint received from the 1300 block of Boyne Av
3:10pm Unlock in the 200 block of N Lake St
4:01pm Report of stolen snowboard from car
4:30pm Report of unlawful entry in the 300 block of E Division St
5:22pm Arrested subject on warrant
7:56pm Unlock in the 800

block of State St

Wednesday, December 7
9:54am Complaint of speeders on Charlevoix St
10:55am Report of suspicious situation in the 400 block of N Lake St
1:57pm 2 vehicle property damage accident on Boyne Av near city limits
6:00pm Larceny of Ipod from the 1000 block of Boyne Av
7:23pm Received info about possible trespass in the 300 block of E Division St

Thursday, December 8
6:23pm Citation issued for expired plate
6:35pm Welfare check on subject who had allegedly made suicidal comments. Was located fine
10:23pm Report of assault in the 300 block of E Division St. Victim did not want to press charges

Friday, December 9
9:20am Report of bullying in the 100 block of Boyne Av
2:45pm Report of harassing messages being received on cell phone
3:45pm Report of suspicious vehicle in the area of Hannah and State Streets
4:15pm Report of subject selling items door to door
5:09pm Subject reports being threatened on Facebook
8:20pm Responded to 911 hang up in the 500 block of W Michigan St. Medical issue.

Saturday, December 10
6:57am Vehicle unlock in the 800 block of S Park St
9:30am Report of backed up sewer

Sunday, December 11
8:14am Probation violation in the 300 block of N Lake St
9:44am Report of suspicious situation in the 100 block of E Water St
12:20pm 2 juveniles at PD asking for a ride. Parents contacted
12:36pm Property damage accident in the 1300 block of Boyne Av
1:58pm Disturbance in the 300 block of E Division St. One subject arrested on warrant, and second subject arrested for resisting and obstructing.

THE SHERIFF'S DESK

HOLIDAY SHOPPERS URGED TO TO STAY SAFE



CHARLEVOIX — The holidays, a time for cheer, hope and joy, are here, but with them can come an increase in crime.

"Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else because they represent an increased opportunity for crime," said Sheriff Don Schneider. To help your shopping go safely Sheriff Schneider offers the following tips:

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put your wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Never leave your purse unattended in a shopping cart.
- Never carry large amounts of cash. Whenever possible use credit cards, debit cards or checks.
- Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- When returning to your car or home always have your keys in hand, ready to open the door.
- Before entering your vehicle carefully check the front and rear seats and floors for anyone that may be hiding there.
- Shop with friends or relatives. There is safety in numbers.
- Teach your children to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.
- For more safety tips Sheriff Schneider encourages residents to visit the Michigan Sheriffs' Association website at www.misheriff.org where you can sign up to receive monthly newsletters. Founded in 1877 the Michigan Sheriffs' Association is the oldest law enforcement organization in Michigan.

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General Manager DAVE BARAGREY 2 Dave2@CharlevoixCountyNews.com	News Reporter TINA SUNDELIUS Erin@WeeklyChoice.com
Editor JIM AKANS News@CharlevoixCountyNews.com	Advertising Sales ROB SMITH Rob@CharlevoixCountyNews.com 989-370-2710
Sports Editor MIKE DUNN Sports@CharlevoixCountyNews.com	CHARLES JARMAN Charles@WeeklyChoice.com
Sports CHRIS FIEL CoachF23@yahoo.com	JOAN SWAN Swan@WeeklyChoice.com 989-732-2271
JEFF BARAGREY Jeff@WeeklyChoice.com	Photography VIC RUGGLES ADAM ESSELMAN Adam@CharlevoixCountyNews.com
On-Line Manager CHAD BARAGREY webmaster@CharlevoixCountyNews.com	

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News

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Charlevoix Christmas Coloring Contest

Congratulations to this year's winners

Children in Charlevoix schools, ages 3-9 years old, took part in the annual Christmas Coloring Contest as part of the Charlevoix Community Tree Lighting festivities on November 25th. This year's coloring page was

designed by local artist, Todd Warner. The children's art work was divided into two age groups, 3-6 years old and 7-9 years old, and judged on holiday spirit and creativity.

Winners received prizes donated from Ace Hardware, Castle Farms, The Clothing Company and Ga Ga for Kids. Thanks to all of the participating children and congratulations to this year's coloring contest winners.



Delaney Boehm
1st Place: Ages 3-6



Peyton Scott
2nd Place: Ages 3-6



Abbey Wright
3rd Place: Ages 3-6



Avery Zipp
1st Place: Ages 7-9



Paige Pemble
2nd Place: Ages 7-9



Rachelle Veal
3rd Place: Ages 7-9

Charlevoix's warning siren may change jobs

B. J. Conley

CHARLEVOIX — Petunias in the summer, Charlevoix the Beautiful auto plates and the twice daily siren — they are all a part of the city. But one of them is likely to change.

The siren may become a part of a county-wide warning system that would sound an alarm at the same time as the cities of East Jordan and Boyne City and several other municipalities. Except for once a month testing, the sirens would be activated only when an emergency, such as a tornado or an attack, is eminent.

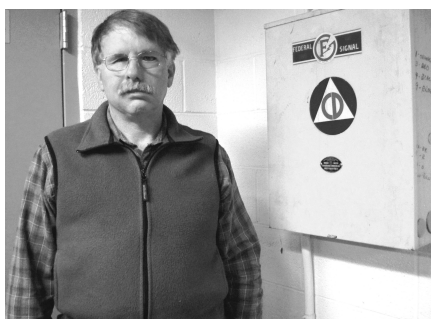
Charlevoix city council heard about the proposal from its Fire Chief Paul Ivan at a Dec. 5 council meeting. Ivan has met with the fire chiefs of East Jordan and Boyne City as well as 911 officials.

The consensus is that the regional notification of an emergency would omit any confusion for the public. Any costs would come from Homeland Security.

Hence, the proposed change in the function of Charlevoix's siren that currently sounds at noon and 9:30 p.m. daily. But it isn't the first change for the siren. It's been around at least since the 1930s and was a notice to residents in the civil defense shelter days. Later it was used to alert citizens to a tornado and eventually it notified firefighters.

"In the 1990s we stopped using it for fires because of the institution of 911 dispatch," Ivan said.

City manager Rob Straebel recommended to council that it give time for



community input before making a decision.

"It's tradition and we want public input," Straebel said.

The council decided to wait for a decision at the next council meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 19 at City Hall.

reporterbjh@gmail.com

DNR Trust Fund recommends \$300,000 for county trail

B. J. Conley

Supporters of the proposed Boyne City-Charlevoix Road non-motorized trail received a boost recently when a state agency recommended to the Michigan Legislature that a \$300,000 grant be approved for the development of the trail.

The state Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund made the recommendation after review of the county's application. The recommendation does not ensure that the county will receive the funds, but it makes the grant a definite probability.

"This funding, in addition to approximately \$630,000 in federal, local governmental and foundation funding gets us within \$17,512 of the amount necessary to develop Phase One of this trail," Larry Sullivan, county planning director said.

Phase One is a 3.2-mile stretch that would run from the city of Boyne City to the Evangeline Township and Bay Township line.

County Parks director Ross Maxwell said when all of the grants are in from the state, \$17,512 needs to be raised from private donations. The county board of com-

missioners made a commitment that no county taxes would be used for the construction of the trail. The county will maintain the recreational trail that in the future will run the entire length of the Boyne City-Charlevoix Road and connect to the existing Little Traverse Wheelway that runs from Charlevoix to Harbor Springs.

Maxwell said the non-motorized trail is supported by the Top of Michigan Trails Council and a committee is raising funds to obtain the \$17,512.

"If everything goes according to plan, construction of Phase One could start in the spring of 2013," Maxwell said.

Contributions may be made to the Top of Michigan Trails Council designated to the "BC to US-31 Trail Fund." The address is 445 E. Mitchell St., Petoskey, MI 49770. The Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. For additional information contact Shirlene Tripp, chairwoman of the Charlevoix County Parks Committee at: 231-347-9679.

reporterbjh@gmail.com

Ellsworth Village Seeks Marketing Manager

By Tina Sundelius

ELLSWORTH—At the Ellsworth Village Council meeting Monday, Dec. 12 the board discussed the Grand Vision Grant and the provisions it has for a Marketing Manager and banners to line Main Street, also representatives of the Ellsworth Auto Repair which burned on Dec. 9 were present to discuss plans for the property adjacent the township hall. The Village received the grant from the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments to help the community find resources through implementation of projects.

"The Grand Vision Grant for me as President has been a learning experience. I have to attend monthly meetings to learn to market our community," Village President, Hugh Campbell said.

The village is seeking to fill the position of Marketing Manager which has been made possible through the grant, and would like anyone interested in the job to go to www.ellsworthfarmersmarket.net for information or call the township office at 588-7411.

Trustee Erin Nickle brought rough drafts of the banner she is designing to line Main Street. At a meeting held in November, citizens in attendance agreed the banners should reflect a

field stone motif as well as an emphasis on the four seasons. The council agreed the designs were nice and offered ideas.

During the public comment portion of the Dec. 12 meeting Michelle Lemond, representing her father, owner of the Ellsworth Auto Repair, informed the council that her father intends to rebuild the garage.

"The garage has been his life, he started it with his Dad and they worked together for ten years. Josh and I have this crazy idea that we would get married at the garage," Lemond said. "It's been a big part of our lives."

"They have been doing some serious planning," Campbell said. "They know what the setbacks are."

Trustee Jerry Rasmussen notified the council that this year the trail groomers will be able to complete the trails from East Jordan to Ellsworth and that they will be groomed and ready.

"It's just a matter of snow," Campbell said.

The date for the Shiver Fest is set for the second week in February. The date for the Ellebration is set for July 7. The annual budget meeting is scheduled for Jan. 10. At 7 p.m. and is open to the public.

Winter Holiday Fun for the whole family at Raven Hill

Raven Hill Discovery Center has scheduled fun for the holiday season. Call and schedule a time to decorate your own Gingerbread House any day between December 17th and Christmas Eve day. The Center is open from noon and 4 pm each day. Or if you are looking for a creative way to make holiday gifts for loved ones this year, look no further. Raven Hill Discovery Center can help you make your own works of art to give or keep. Call to schedule a time for the whole family to experience an exciting day of gift making. Possibilities include Shibori, an ancient dyeing and folding technique that yields beautiful scarves, Precious Metal Clay (PMC), where you can turn clay into a pure silver pendant, or Hot Glass Beads, where you can

work with a torch to create your own glass beads. A variety of other Arts & Crafts can also be scheduled to fit your needs. Classes are priced according to time and materials. There will also be a do-it-yourself gift-wrapping station available throughout the holiday season.

A special celebration of the Winter Solstice is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21st. The Center will re-open at 6 pm for a special display on Timepieces Through the Ages. Both Father Christmas and Father Time will make an appearance and then around 7 pm those with hearty souls and a sense of adventure can snowshoe or cross country ski an illuminated trail to the Ancient World for a bonfire. Everyone is invited to bring food to

share around the fire.

A New Year's Eve Overnight for Kids will run from 6 p.m. on December 31 to 9 a.m. on January 1, 2012 and will entertain the kids with a variety of fun activities and keep them safe, while you celebrate with them or on your own. Registration is limited and spaces must be booked by December 24th, so call Cheri soon at 231-536-3369.

Or just treat yourself and your family to an afternoon of fun and exploration at Raven Hill Discovery Center this holiday season. Located between East Jordan & Boyne City, just off C-48 at Pearsall Road, the Center helps visitors build connections between science, history and the arts in an interactive learning environ-

ment. In addition to the hands-on museum and exotic animals, visitors can dress for the weather and spend time in the one-room schoolhouse, explore the Tree House, see the geologic history of the earth on the Exploring Beyond Jurassic Park outdoor exhibit, and snowshoe or cross country ski around the Taxi Trail and to the Ancient World outdoor exhibit. Raven Hill will be open every day noon to 4 p.m. from Saturday, December 17th to Saturday, December 31st. The cost of general admission is \$8 per person and the average visit is 2 hours even just indoors. For more information, phone 231-536-3369 or toll free 877-833-4254.

TRACKING LEGISLATION

A weekly compilation of selected bills, resolutions and actions of the House and Senate in the state Legislature.

To see more detail contact www.legislature.mi.gov/

HB 4163: This bill became Public Act 241 of 2011 on Dec. 6, 2011. This law states that every school district must enact an anti-bullying policy. It is known as Matt's Safe School Law in honor of Matt Epling, a Michigan teen who committed suicide in 2002 after enduring years of bullying. The bill was introduced by Rep. Philip Potvin.

Status: Approved by the Governor on Dec. 6, 2011 and assigned Public Act 241 of 2011 with immediate effect.

HCR 0041 of 2011: A House concurrent resolution to urge the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK) to pursue bicycle friendly policies by providing for bicycles on

board trains and bicycle parking in future station plans.

Status: Introduced by Rep. Sean McCann Dec. 6, 2011. Referred to Committee on Transportation on Dec. 6, 2011.

HB 5075 of 2011: Rep. Peter Pettalia: A bill to reduce certain circuit court

and district court judgeships. It would eliminate judgeships from certain district, probate and circuit courts; or consolidate certain judicial circuits; and shift the duties of some district judges to a county's probate judge.

Status: Passed by the House on Dec. 8, 2011.



STATE OF MICHIGAN CAPITOL BUILDING
PHOTOGRAPHER: BRIAN CHARLES WATSON

Compiled by B. J. Conley. 12-12-11

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Boyne City High School

STUDENT of the Week

Courtney Weldon



GRADE: 10
PARENTS: Becky and Jim Weldon
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field
HOBBIES AND INTERESTS: Reading, Spending time with friends and family, Playing with my pets
FUTURE PLANS/GOALS: "I plan to go to college and get a career in an English oriented field."

STAFF COMMENTS

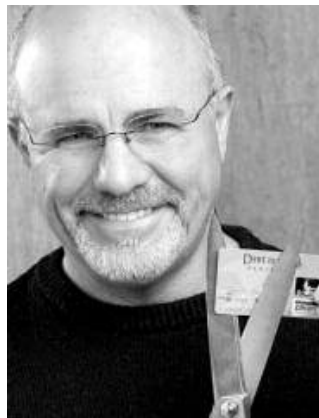
"Courtney is doing a great job in PALS! She is a pleasure to have in class. Keep up the good work!"
 (Mrs. Deming, PALS Coordinator)

"Courtney is a good role model and hard worker."
 (Mrs. Parker, Business, Skills and Technology Teacher)

DAVE Says

where does debt go when filing bankruptcy?

Dear Dave,
 What happens to the money that is owed when someone files bankruptcy? Do creditors just have to write it off, or do other people pay the price through taxes or higher interest rates?
 Grace



Dave Ramsey

Dear Grace,
 In most cases the creditor just loses the money. That's one of the risks businesses face. Of course, any bankruptcy is also a seriously bad mark against the filer's credit record. Chapter 13 filings may be considered a little less severe than Chapter 7 because you're showing an interest in retiring the debts. They often allow – if you have a regular income and limited debt – to keep some of the property you might otherwise lose. Also, some debt balances may be partially discharged, with the filer agreeing to make monthly payments to the trustee for distribution among remaining creditors.

A Chapter 7 bankruptcy is lots tougher on the one who files. It involves liquidating all assets that aren't exempt. Some of the filer's property may be sold by a court-appointed official – a trustee – or just turned over to creditors.

It's really a lose-lose situation, Grace. The business loses money, and the filer suffers the emotional pain of participating in a shameful process.
 —Dave

where does the donation go?

Dear Dave,
 Our financial situation is pretty good now, and my husband and I feel it is time to start giving something back. There are several organizations we're interested in helping, but how can we know if they're legitimate and will use our money wisely?
 Laura

Dear Laura,
 I really appreciate your giving spirit, but the truth is you can never be 100 per-

cent certain about this kind of thing. About the best you can do is put in some serious time researching and digging beneath the surface of various organizations to find some that are a comfortable fit for you.

My wife and I give the majority of our donations to Christian ministries. It's not unusual for us to take a tour of the place to see what kind of feel we get while we're there. If they're secretive or not forthcoming with what we consider to be basic information about how they operate, or if we see signs of opulence or super-luxury, you can bet we'll be asking lots of questions.

Talk to the leaders and administrators about what they plan to do with the money from your donation. You have a right to know this. I mean, if they're going to give the money to hurricane victims, you want the victims to get the money, right?

People who work for a charitable organization need to make a decent living just like everyone else. But if they're ultra-rich, it could be a sign that they're not being responsible with their donations. Take a look at their administrative costs - what percentage of donations goes directly to the cause - and anything else you feel would help you make the right decision.

Giving is like anything else. It takes time and work to do it responsibly and with excellence!
 —Dave

* For more financial help please visit daveramsey.com.

Frances Rollins Kohler

Long-time Charlevoix resident Fran Kohler died peacefully on Friday, Dec. 9, 2011, following a long illness. Fran was married for more than 50 years to the late Louis (Bud) Kohler of Charlevoix, and leaves behind four loving children, seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and a host of other devoted family members and friends.

Frances Eileen Rollins was the second of two cherished daughters born to Frank and Mary Rollins in Franklin, Kan. The very close-knit family moved to Detroit when Frances was a toddler, and raised their daughters there. Fran was a brilliant student who graduated as valedictorian of both her high school and college classes. She graduated from Detroit's Immaculate High School and Marygrove College, and later earned her master's degree from the University of Michigan.

Fran married Bud Kohler in Detroit on June 24, 1950. Following Bud's service in Korea with the Marine Corps, the couple lived in Detroit, and later in East Lansing and Saginaw, raising their two sons and two daughters. Prior to her marriage, Fran taught in the Detroit Public Schools. When her children reached school-age, Fran returned to teaching, devoting 20 years with the Saginaw Township Schools. Summers were always spent in Charlevoix, where Fran and Bud happily moved full time upon their retirements in 1986.

Friends and family members all appreciated Fran's remarkable intelligence, wit and great humor. She developed many close friendships among her teaching colleagues over the years, all of whom consistently referred to Fran as "the smartest, funniest person they ever knew." One former colleague commented, "We would call upon Fran regularly for information on any subject, in the same way people now turn to the internet!" Fran loved to read histories, biographies, and essayists; she recognized and appreciated good writing, and was quick to critique weak editorials.

Fran was also an excellent cook, known for her ability to take a seemingly simple dish and create something exceptional. She and Bud enjoyed visiting their children and grandchildren as their family grew, but took special delight in their summer and Christmastime celebrations in Charlevoix. As a couple, Fran and Bud traveled and actively supported many local interests, including the Charlevoix Historical Society, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Charlevoix's "Operation Petunia," the Charlevoix Hospital Foundation, and St. Mary's Church and School.

Fran was predeceased by her husband, Bud in November 2001, and by her cherished sister and only sibling, Rosemary Rollins Hicks in September 2005. Her parents, Frank and Mary Rollins died in 1992 and 2002 respectively.

Fran is survived by her sons Tom (Judith) Kohler of Boston, Mass., and Bill Kohler of Charlevoix; daughters, Judy (Kim) Krzeszewski of Reese, Mich., and Janet Kohler (Dan) Dueweke of Fairfax, Va.; grandchildren Christine Findlay Klass, Foster (Melissa) Findlay, Carey Rollins Dueweke (Tony) Stefano, Sarah and Anne Dueweke, John and David Kohler; great-grandchildren Charles Klass, Emily Schaub, Olivia and Alexandra Findlay. In addition, Fran is survived by 10 nieces and nephews, and many cherished friends.

A visitation is scheduled from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16, at Winchester Funeral Home followed by a Rosary

service at 8 p.m. A funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17, at St. Mary's Church. Those who would like to honor Fran's memory may wish to consider donations to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Retirement Fund (Monroe, Mich.), the Charlevoix Historical Society, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, or the Alzheimer's Association.

Shirley Olson

(MARCH 25, 1930 - DEC. 11, 2011)

Shirley Olson, 81, of East Jordan, died Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011, at the Georgia House in Charlevoix.

Shirley Joanne Nowland was born on March 25, 1930, in the boarding house on Main Street, East Jordan, to Roy and Alberta (LaClair) Nowland. Two years later her baby sister, Yvonne Noreen, was born. When the girls were 8 and 10 they moved to their parent's life long home on Echo Street. Shirley attended school in East Jordan where she met her childhood sweetheart, Ray Olson. After graduation from high school in East Jordan, his father, Elder Ole Olson, united them in marriage on Aug. 8, 1948, at the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Jordan Street in East Jordan.

Ray worked at the local A&P Store and Shirley set type for the Charlevoix County Herald. They worked side by side through their many years together on many real estate endeavors and their local business, Har-Ray's Shoes.

Shirley was a beautiful, active, fun loving, caring lady. She loved birds and animals, music and dancing, working and playing in the great outdoors, camping, traveling, cooking, cross word puzzles, shoes and helping others. Most of all, she loved her husband and her family.

Her idea of a perfect day was a campfire at the "40" with family, friends, food and taking "hauler rides" through the woods.

She is survived by her husband, Ray Olson of East Jordan; two daughters, Wava (Rich) Dietrich of East Jordan and Debbie (Glenn) Coon of Boyne City; two granddaughters, Darcie Dietrich-Buell of East Jordan and Jill (Randy) Guzniczak of Boyne City; three grandsons, Matthew (Brenda) Dietrich, Dennis (Kris) Moore of Boyne City and Brent Moore of Boyne City; three great-granddaughters, Haylah Buell and Hilary Buell, both of East Jordan and Clara Dietrich of Eaton Rapids; great-grandsons, Taylor Jepsen, Devvin Stackus, Tannis Guzniczak, Jasper Guzniczak, all of Boyne City; one sister, Yvonne Howe of New Port Richey, Fla.; as well as many brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Shirley's family wishes to send their heartfelt thanks to all of her wonderful caregivers and friends at Georgia House, including Shawn and Russ McCraney, Jennifer, Ashley, Tonya, Samantha, Heather, Kayla, Michelle, Tammy and Amy. They made her final days so much easier with their thoughtfulness, concern and caring hands. Also, a special thanks to Hospice of Northwest Michigan and Dr. Anna Young.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15, at the Penzien Funeral Homes, Inc. in East Jordan. The Rev. Jennifer Saad will officiate. Interment will be in Sunset Hill Cemetery, East Jordan.

The family will receive friends from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the Penzien Funeral Homes, Inc. in East Jordan.

Memorials may be given to Hospice of Northwest Michigan or the charity of donor's choice. Online condolences may be sent to www.penzienfh.com.

zienfh.com.

Bruce E. Gillespie, 79

Bruce E. Gillespie, 79, of East Jordan and formerly of Burton, died Friday, Dec. 9, 2011, at Grandvue Medical Care Facility in East Jordan.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the First Presbyterian Church in Flint. Interment will be in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Ill.

Further local arrangements will be announced later. Arrangements are by the Penzien Funeral Homes, Inc. in East Jordan.

Charles E. Billmayer

(FEB. 15, 1925 - DEC. 7, 2011)

Charles E. Billmayer, 86, of Boyne City and formerly of East Grand Rapids, died Dec. 7, 2011, at the Northern Michigan Regional Hospital in Petoskey.

He was born on Feb. 15, 1925, in Superior, Wis., the son of Charles and Lillian (Busse) Billmayer.

Charles was a lover of life and took advantage of all that life offered him. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He will be deeply missed by all those who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, JoAnne Billmayer; four daughters, Patricia Ann (Rick) McCullough, Susan Jane (Mike) Bates, Julie Amy (Robert) Koch, Melissa Kay (Scott) Haist; eight grandchildren, Edward F. (Katy) Hickey, Paige A. (Dave) Mahl, Alison L. (Stefan) Spork, Evan R. (Julie) Koch, Kelly L. Koch, Madeleine Rose Haist, Jonathon Charles Haist, and Lucas Perry Haist; three great-grandchildren, Oliver Mahl, Axel Mahl, and Sophie Ann Spork; and by a sister, June Specht. Charles was preceded in death by his parents and by a sister, Virginia Hildebrandt.

A memorial service was held on Monday, Dec. 12, at the Stackus Funeral Home in Boyne City.

Collin Lee Homan

(DEC. 20, 1998 - DEC. 6, 2011)

Collin Lee Homan, 12, of East Jordan, died Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011, at Charlevoix Area Hospital.

Collin was born in Charlevoix, on Dec. 20, 1998, the son of Nicholas and Danielle (Sutherland) Homan. He was a sixth-grade student at East Jordan Middle School. He loved to work on anything mechanical or electronic and could fix anything. He was currently repairing a treadmill and was also working on a go-cart. He enjoyed fishing and mushrooming. Collin completed the Hunter Safety class this year and on Sept. 25 he bagged his first buck which was a three point.

He is survived by his parents, Nick and Danielle Homan of East Jordan; his brother, Tyler Homan and sister, Hannah Homan, both of East Jordan; his grandparents, Randy and Debbie Homan of Mancelona; his great-grandparents, Joseph Sr. and Bonnie Thompson of Mancelona; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

The funeral service was Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Lighthouse Missionary Church, 7824 Rogers Road, East Jordan. The Rev. James L. Jordan officiated. Interment in Trojanek Cemetery, Jordan Township, Antrim County, Mich.

Memorials may be given to the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Endocrinology Department, 230 Michigan Street, N.E., Grand Rapids, Mich. 49503. Online condolences may be sent to www.penzienfh.com.

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20				21		22			23				
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58	59	60					61						
62				63			64			65			
66				67						68			
69				70						71			

Across

- 1- "The Joy of Cooking" author Rombauer; 5- Long stories; 10- Jutting rock; 14- Author Silverstein; 15- Freshwater fish; 16- Circle of light often seen around the head of saints; 17- Authenticating mark; 18- No longer a minor; 19- Anatomical passage; 20- Exclamation of triumph; 22- Drugstore; 24- Idealized concept of a loved one; 25- Cossack chief; 26- ___ Nui (Easter Island); 28- Nuisances; 32- Baum barker; 35- Dear one?; 37- Fashions; 38- Affirmative vote; 39- Replay feature; 41- Do one's part?; 42- Comeback; 45- Brit's raincoat; 46- Sounds of disgust; 47- Rome's Fontana di ___; 48- Makes brown; 50- Aerie baby; 54- Tropical fruit; 58- Subject to collapsing, maybe; 61- Steve-dore; 62- Andean country; 63- Bear; 65- Come-on; 66- Black cuckoos; 67- Bolshevik leader; 68- Boxer Spinks; 69- Alley; 70- Bridge feats; 71- Arizona city;

Down

- 1- Japanese immigrant; 2- Head cold; 3- Funny Anne; 4- Rapid in tempo; 5- Greek portico; 6- Comics bark; 7- Flip out; 8- Zero; 9- Water vapor; 10- Roof flue; 11- Pro ___; 12- A Baldwin brother; 13- Bloody; 21- Hawaiian acacia; 23- All ears; 25- Come down hard?; 27- Attention getter; 29- Smelting waste; 30- Kind of support; 31- Concordes, e.g.; 32- Fruit-filled pie; 33- ___ and terminator; 34- Head of France; 36- CD- ___; 37- Caribbean dance music; 40- Damon of "Good Will Hunting"; 43- Use too often; 44- 100 dinars; 46- Normally; 49- Vietnam's ___ Dinh Diem; 51- Scores; 52- Trademark; 53- Minneapolis suburb; 55- Farewell; 56- Poisonous fluid; 57- Boxing venue; 58- Fall birthstone; 59- ___ cava; 60- "___ Brockovich"; 61- Contact, e.g.; 64- Caliginous;

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Area non-profits offer up unique gift ideas



PHOTO BY B. J. CONLEY

More than a dozen non-profit organizations presented unique gift ideas for giving this Christmas season with the added gift for the shopper of helping others. On hand were the Charlevoix Area Humane Society (on the left), the Food Pantry (on the right), the Charlevoix Area Com-

munity Pool, the Charlevoix Area Hospital Foundation, Hospice of Northwest Michigan and Friends of the Public Library, among others. The event was held at the Charlevoix Public Library and sponsored by the library and Hospice and was held on Saturday, Dec. 3.

Time is running out for 2011 year-end tax planning

By Jim Akans

As the number of days remaining in 2011 start to wind down, time is running out for checking off those items on your holiday shopping list, filling in intentions for your New Year's resolution list, and taking a good look at your year-end tax planning list. Tax planning may not be as fulfilling as selecting holiday gifts for your loved ones, or as inspiring as setting personal goals for the brand new year, but it can certainly have a significant effect on the funds you will have available in the coming year to pay off holiday shopping expenses or funding those New Year's resolutions that might tap into the pocketbook.

Michael Sitz, of Rooyakker & Sitz PLLC in Gaylord, states, "Deduction timing is one important element of year-end tax planning. Deduction planning can be complex due to factors such as AGI (Adjusted Gross Income), filing status, if your itemizing deductions or not, what credits you may qualify for, and other criteria. A key aspect of tax planning is to estimate both your 2011 and 2012 tax liabilities and minimize your overall tax. Also, when considering whether to accelerate or defer income or deductions, you should be aware of the impact this action may have on your AGI and your ability to maximize itemized deductions that are tied to AGI. Your 2010 tax return and your 2011 pay stubs and other income-and deduction-related materials are a good starting point for estimating your AGI."

Following are a few checkpoints that just might result in a more of a festive spirit when getting to the bottom line of your 2011 Federal and State tax forms after the holiday season has passed.

- Remember that a deductible expense is only deductible in the year it was actually paid, so unless you expect your tax rate to increase in 2012, make those charitable donations, business-related equipment purchases, and 2011 property tax payments on or before December 31st, 2011.

In regard to charitable donations, please remember the following rules: (1) no deduction is allowed for charitable contributions of clothing and household items if such items are not in good used condition or better; (2) the IRS may deny a deduction for any item with minimal monetary value; and (3) the restrictions in (1) and (2) do not apply to the con-

tribution of any single clothing or household item for which a deduction of \$500 or more is claimed if the taxpayer includes a qualified appraisal with his or her return. Charitable contributions of money, regardless of the amount, will be denied a deduction, unless the donor maintains a cancelled check, bank record, or receipt from the donee organization showing the name of the donee organization, and the date and amount of the contribution.

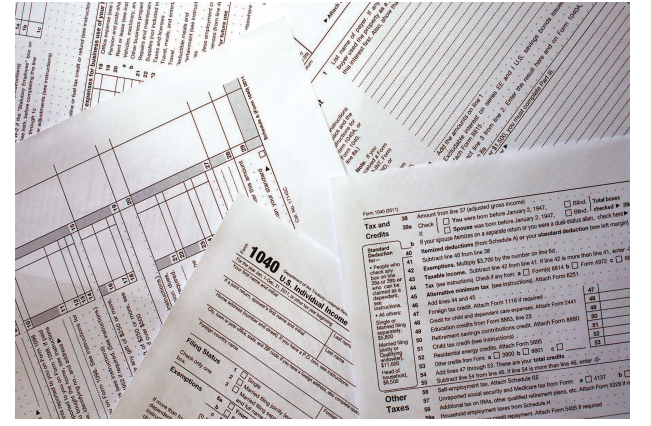
- Gifts and sponsorships to public radio, colleges and universities, libraries, museums, community foundations, homeless shelters and food banks will become ineligible for state tax credits after December 31, 2011.

- Medical expenses, including amounts paid as health insurance premiums, are deductible only to the extent that they exceed 7.5% of AGI. Consider bunching medical expenses into years when your AGI is lower.

- Tuition expenses are also deductible. The American Opportunity Credit is a dollar for dollar tax credit on the first \$2,000 of tuition expenses, and 25 percent on the next \$2,000 of expenses. Of this up to \$2,500 total credit, up to \$1,000 can be refunded whether the filer owes taxes or not. So if you have outstanding or pending tuition bills and have not reached this \$4,000 maximum tuition expense limit, it may be well worthwhile to send off another check to your or your child's college or university before the end of the year.

- If you anticipate a state income tax liability for 2011 and plan to make an estimated payment, consider making the payment before the end of 2011; instead of the January 2012 due date.

- For investment planning, the following rules apply for most capital assets in 2011 (Note that Congress did extend the reduced capital gains rates, through 2012). Capital gains on property held one year or less are taxed at an individual's ordinary income tax rate. Capital gains on property held for more than one year are taxed at a maximum rate of 15% (0% if an individual is in the 10% or 15% marginal tax bracket). You may



As the number of days remaining in 2011 start to wind down, time is running out for checking off those items on your holiday shopping list, filling in intentions for your New Year's resolution list, and taking a good look at your year-end tax planning list. PHOTO BY JIM AKANS

want to time the sale of assets so as to have offsetting capital losses and gains. Capital losses may be fully deducted against capital gains and also may offset up to \$3,000 of ordinary income (\$1,500 for married filing separately).

- Social Security: Depending on the recipient's modified AGI and the amount of Social Security benefits, a percentage —up to 85% — of Social Security benefits may be taxed. To reduce that percentage, it may be beneficial to defer receipt of other retirement income.

Michael Sitz affirms, "Although all the tax laws apply to each of us no matter what business we are in or what our taxable income may be, each of us is unique in our own personal tax situation. Things that work for some of us may not work for you or vice versa. Not knowing all the tax options or pitfalls that affect you can result in an overpayment of your income taxes. Coordination of the tax laws to minimize your taxes has become more complex with each new law passed by Congress. My suggestion is to find a professional that you can rely on so as April 15th approaches, you will not stay up at night wondering about the should of, could of, and would of tax planning steps that could of saved you thousands each year that may have been overlooked."

Ultimately, that is the best year-end tax planning advice of all; set aside a little time to gather up those income statements and tax-deductible receipts and schedule a chat with your tax professional. While Uncle Sam may need some of your hard-earned income, with some proper year-end planning, the New Year won't be any more taxing than it needs to be.

Blarney Castle helps Support Area Schools



Shawn Gray of Blarney Castle is presenting a check for \$500.00 to Mike Stefanski of Gaylord High School. This is the Exxon Mobil Blarney Castle educational alliance grant that is provided for math and science related programs. Checks have also been presented to Charlevoix Elementary, Boyne Falls and Vanderbilt area schools. Similar grants are provided to other school systems through out North West Michigan.

Ellsworth Lions and Lionesses Club Celebrate by Giving



The Ellsworth Lions & Lionesses Club held their Christmas Party at the Front Porch on December 8. The 33 members & guests generously donated \$578 to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry after hearing Director Mary Peterson tell of the needs of area families. Even with this nice donation, it represents less

than \$1 per family that the Food Pantry serves each month! (693 in November!) The Clubs have been great supporters of the Food Pantry over the years with donations and volunteers. Mary Peterson, left, accepted the donation from King Lion Dave Heeres and Lioness President Donna Heeres.

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Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows Rated PG13
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231-547-4353- hotline for schedule

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All you can eat...add \$4.00
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Roast Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus..... **\$17.99** (10 oz.)
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Letters to Santa



East Jordan Elementary School – 2nd grade

Dear Santa,

I hope you like me because I have been good this year. I love you because you spread love and gifts and joy all over the planet. I will make cookies and milk. I will give the reindeer goodies too. Tell the reindeer I love them. P.S. Will you please get me a DSI? Please send me a letter back. Am I on the good list?
Ethan A.

Dear Santa,

How are you? You must be very busy at the North Pole. Do you have any new reindeer this year? I have tried to be good this year. Would you please bring me a professional football that the NFL players use and the Lego Harbor. Have a safe trip.
Carter

Dear Santa,

I like your reindeer. I have been good this year. Can I go to your North Pole please. I want to tell you what I want for Christmas. I want a Justin Bieber cup, a Justin Bieber shoe and a Zoombaie set. I already have a list for Christmas. And how is your wife? Love,
Preske

Dear Santa,

How is Mrs. Claus doing and your reindeer? I can't wait till the 25th. May I have a bayblade, Monster energy hat, d.c. high tops. I've been good.
Jonathan C.

Dear Santa,

How are you Santa? I wonder if Blitson is leading the sleigh? How old are you in 35 years? May you please bring me an I touch. I want to be 35 to play professional Lions football.
Mason

Dear Santa,

How are you? Is the North Pole and Rudolph OK? I hope that you get me a nice shining diamond collar for a special kitten.
Macie S.

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa, how are you? Can I please have a DSI, Beyblade and D.S.I. games? How is Mrs. Claus and your reindeer? Is the North Pole really cold? Can you please take me to the North Pole? I hope you have a good Christmas.
Tristan C.

Dear Santa,

How are you? Are you okay? I have tried to be good this year. Are the reindeer okay? It must be very busy at the North Pole. Is Rudolph going to lead the sleigh this year? Would you please bring me a paint set.
Zoey

Dear Santa,

How are you? May I please have a calico or an orange kitten? If you can't do that I'll have a kitten pillow pet. Don't forget about my secret wish. Will there be snow for Christmas? Emma and I have been trying to be really, really, really good so we can have what we would like for Christmas. P.S. I'm sorry I've written you so many letters.
Jayde F.

Dear Santa,

Are your reindeer feeling good for a big, big trip. I would like a Pogo stick. I might leave some carrots in the kitchen. I hope you like the cookies.
Lee N.

Dear Santa,

How do you like your job. You are awesome, you are the best Santa Claus in the whole world. I want a buzz lightyeer and woody for Christmas.
Decker

Dear Santa,

How are your reindeer? Santa, is my brother on the nice list? How are you doing for Christmas? I would like a new snow hat.
Amber

Dear Santa,

Please get me a monster high doll dress skirts leggings, and beds with covers and pillows and a wizard wand. Please let me see you say Ho, Ho, Ho! Very loud so I can hear you.
Grace

Dear Santa,

My name is Aydden. Would you please get me a bunny. I will watch TV with it and feed it and water it. Please, please, please get me a bunny. I will put it in my sister's cage. Can you color it green too? Please, please, please get me a green bunny.
Aydden

Dear Santa,

Am I on the naughty or the nice list? I'd really like to have a touch screen, legos, Xbox 360, HALO and a px3.
Brandon

Dear Santa,

How are you? How fast are you going, because you must be going awfully fast, don't you get windburn? Who is your favorite reindeer?
Graham O.

Dear Santa,

My name is Alie. Would you please bring me for Christmas this year a REAL photograph of Rudolf. I have not seen him. So would you please bring me that for Christmas this year. Thank you, Santa. I have been really good with helping my mom with the laundry, bye. Merry Christmas!
Alie

Dear Santa,

Remember, I baked cookies and gave you some milk? I hope you liked them so much. It happened in Indiana. That made my Christmas for good. I like how Rudolf has a shiny red nose. I hope your elves are working on a D.S. for me.
Xander B.

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa. Do you ever wear green. I was trying to be good, so can you get me a 3DS and Mario Kart 7? I really want these!
Granger

Dear Santa,

My name is Shannon. Will you please give me an iPad. I would also like to have a bayblade. I would also like a DSI. Will I see you on Christmas eve? Maybe a chew toy for my dog. Some cat toys for my cats. I would like some new ice skates. Could I have the whole set of little house books. P.S. Can I also have a cage? I have been good all year.
Shannon

Dear Santa,

I hope you give me lots of presents. Can you please fill my stocking with lots of stuff? Please and thank you. Am I on the naughty list or the good list? I love you so much and I saw you in East Jordan.
J.J. W.

Dear Santa,

Have you finished all of the toys for boys and girls? Our stockings are on the cabinet on the top. Mine is the one that has an E. I wonder what you are going to get me? I think it is going to be COOL!! Is Rudolph going to lead the sleigh? I want a Dsixl and an iPod touch.
Evelyn

Dear Santa,

I hope you have a happy day. Can I have a 3 D.S., Snuggle cat. Dog slide phone, computer and iPod? I love your beard. I love your reindeer, games for my 3 d.s. I want puppets, super cute clothes, high heels and candy.
Jaeley J.

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East Jordan Elementary School – 2nd grade

Dear Santa,

How is Rudolph? Are you ready for Christmas? Is Rudolph ready? Is the North Pole really cold? Are you going to come even though there's no snow? I think you're cool. I would like a Panda pillow pet and a stuffed Dolphin. I have been really good.

Thomas R.

Dear Santa,

I hope you get me a Monster High game. I have been a good girl this year. Can you please give my dog a chew toy?

Autumn

Dear Santa,

I hope you had a great summer vacation. I would like a vampire, a cat and dogs, a twin and a reindeer.

Elijah T.

Dear Santa,

I hope you have a good night. Can I have a 3DS, a slidephone, 5 webkins, a dog and a cat, a Zombie, a skeleton and a vampire. That is it!

Brittany

Dear Santa,

I hope you have a good Christmas. Am I on the nice list? I would really like a camcorder. I would really like a DS. I am going to give you some cookies and milk.

Alainna S.

Dear Santa,

Did you have a good Christmas? I hope you did. Am I on the nice list? Can I get a camcorder, tweety bird, iPod and an easel too. I'll give you cookies on Christmas. P.S. I hope that your elves are doing good too.

Winter Ann Marie M.

Dear Santa,

I hope you give me a lot of toys. I hope your elves are working. I would like a Bayblade for Christmas.

Jacob L.

Dear Santa,

I hope you have a great Christmas. I hope I can get an iPod or an X-Box 360. I hope you can tell Rudolph that all of us love him, and please tell all the reindeer that. I hope I can get a monster high doll please and a slide phone. Please and thank you! Love you Santa Claus.

Haley L.

Dear Santa,

I hope you have a great time handing out presents. I hope I get a rocking horse some markers and a big coloring book.

Aslynn K.

Dear Santa,

Are your elves making good toys? How are your reindeer? For Christmas I would like Pokemon and an x-plorer guitar.

Kaleb K.

Dear Santa,

I like your reindeer names. I'll get milk and cookies. I would like a lego and DSI.

Heather H.

Dear Santa,

I hope you will give me an x-box 360 please. Can I have a nice gift for me please? You are nice. I will give you cookies and milk.

Trevor A.

Dear Santa,

I hope you are having a great Christmas. If you would please get me a Baby Alive and a computer. How are your elves doing? I hope you have a great Christmas.

Charlize A.

Dear Santa,

How are you? Can you get me a remote control boat and a beyblade.

Tanner

Dear Santa,

How are you? I'm good. How is your favorite reindeer?

Arary

Dear Santa,

I hope you have a very, very safe trip. How does your big red sleigh fly? What is your favorite color? For Christmas would you please bring me a MP3 player?

Alexandria S.

Dear Santa,

Are you busy? Are you going to bring Rudolph? Is Rudolph going to guide your sleigh. I want an iPod and headbands.

Haley

Dear Santa,

How are you? What do you do at the North Pole? I have tried to be good this year. Can you get me a Star Wars light saber?

Miles I.

Dear Santa,

How are you and the reindeer doing? Could you please get me a Peace sign scarf? How is Mrs. Claus doing?

Kilea

Dear Santa,

Who will guide your sleigh tonight? Can I please have a Beyblade?

George

Dear Santa,

I've been good ALL YEAR. So please bring me a scarf with black and gray stripes and a Beyblade. Thank you.

Nik

Dear Santa,

You must be tired wrapping the presents. Can you please give me an erector set.

Michael

Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing good. I hope you will get me a Bratz doll and a Barbie car.

Carleigh

Dear Santa,

Would you please bring my mom beads for her bracelet, for Evan and Owen Beyblades, for dad football video game 2012, and for me, well history stuff. I have been good all year.

Katie

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like a Flying helicopter with remote control. I have been good.

Philip N.

Dear Santa,

Would you please bring me an iPod? I have been very, very good this year.

Emily

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is a real cute baby Chihuahua and a baby blue DSI. That is all I want. I've been really good this year. I've been taking care of the dog, feeding him, taking him out and playing with him. I am really good with dogs.

Andrea S.

Dear Santa,

Would you please give me a dolphin pillowpet and a dog toy for my dog and a blanket for my mom and for my dad cars 2.

Madelyn R.

Dear Santa,

Would you please bring me a grave digger remote control and a real dirt bike and a real gun and a guitar.

Alister

Dear Santa,

Would you please bring me a DSI for Christmas. This year please. I have been really good this year.

Natalee

Dear Santa,

I would like a semi automatic 22, beyblade and a deer hunting rifle. I have been really good this year.

Alex W.

Dear Santa,

When is there going to be snow? I wonder if you can get me a pillow pet and a computer. Oh and I would like a real puppy for Christmas.

Taylor S.

Dear Santa,

For Christmas would you get me a bike a bayblade and an iPod.

Jaylan M.

Dear Santa,

Can I please have for Christmas a ripstick and a bayblade and a real shotgun. I love you Santa,

Ryan H.

Dear Santa,

What is it like to be in the North Pole? How do your raindeer fly? Santa can you get me a DSI?

Carina G.

Dear Santa,

I want to know how the Elves, Rudolph and Mrs. Claus are doing? May I have a few books, some shoes and some P.Jays.

Hayden P.

Dear Santa,

Has Rudolph been good? How many toys have your elves done? May I have a beyblade and Hot Wheels?

Jason S.

Dear Santa,

Can I please get a Bayblade for Christmas? I have been good this year because I clean the house.

Aiden H.

Dear Santa,

I really wish I could have a toy train.

Wilbur J.

Dear Santa,

Can I please have a gineepig for Christmas? Can I please have a zebra pillow pet.

Emma R.

Dear Santa,

Can I please have a laptop because I have been good. Can I please have a cat and a dog because I have been nice.

Lexi F.

Dear Santa,

I like Christmas. How is Mrs. Claus? Can I please have glasses, a watch and a puppy? I have been good this year.

Kenny P.

Dear Santa,

How are you doing Santa? Can you please get me a Bayblade and a laptop? Please Santa. I love you Santa.

Madolyn G.

Dear Santa,

Tell Rudolph I say hi. Please bring me a dog pillow pet. I would also like a lego set so I can make machines.

Christopher

Dear Santa,

How are you doing Mr. Claus? Can I have Rudolph the red nose reindeer. I wonder if Frosty the snowman is real.

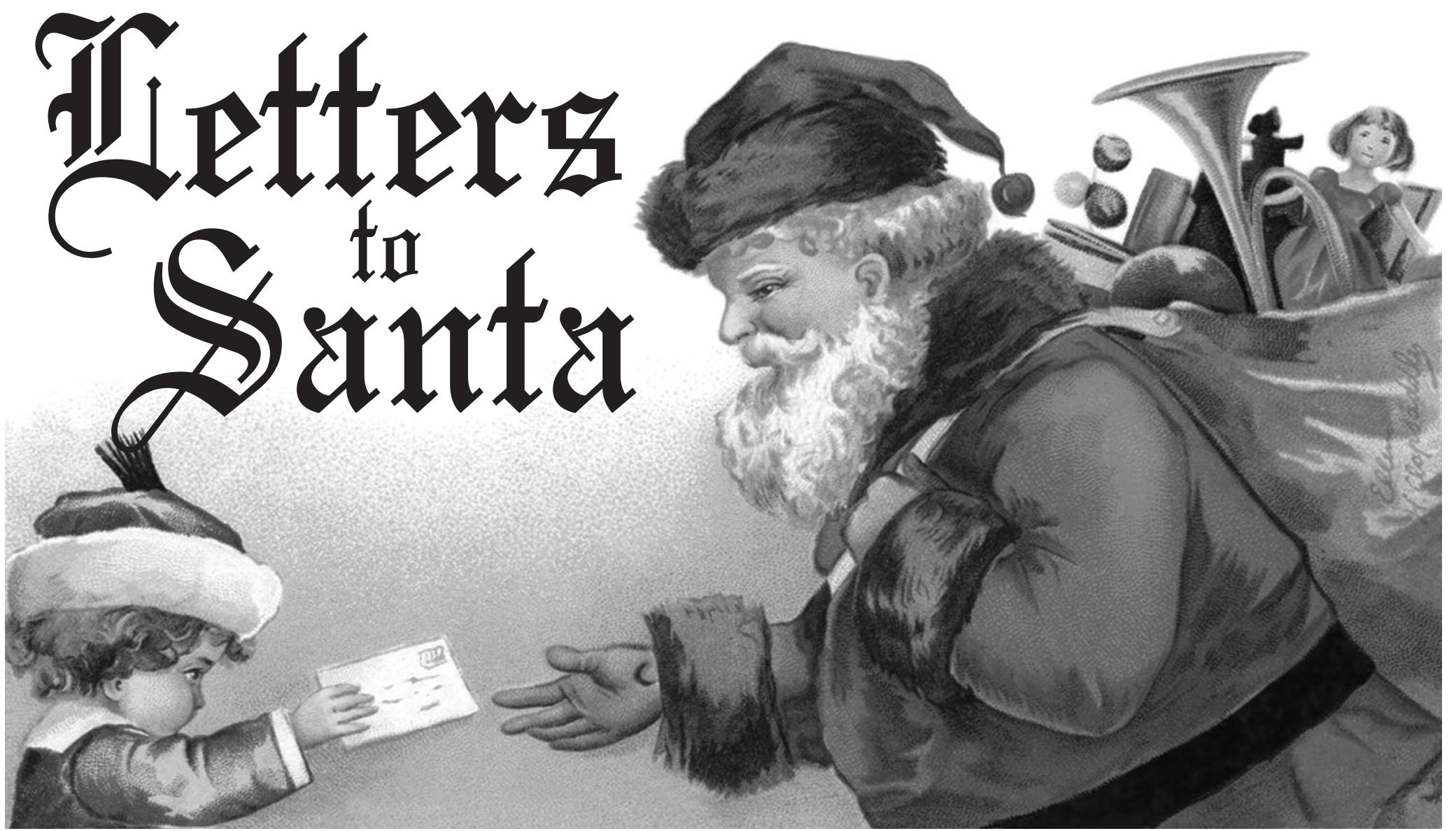
Shianna L.

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Phone:
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Boyne City Elementary School – 1st grade

<p>Dear Santa, How is Rudolph? Santa I've been good this year. I would love to make you cookies. Can you bring me lots of presents? I love Christmas. It is the best time of the year. Maggie M.</p>	<p>Dear Santa, Please give me a DS and a dog. I been good. Landon</p>	<p>Dear Santa, I have two of your elfs. I know both of the elfs names. It's Bob and Sparkis. Santa they are very nice, they are the friendliest elfs in the world, Oh, by the way I rilly want a iPod. See you later. Ho, Ho, Ho. John J.</p>
<p>Dear Santa, I have been good. How is Rudolph and the other reindeer? I would like for Christmas is a tenater Camro and Zhu Zhu pets. Merry Christmas! Morgan D.</p>	<p>Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. I hope you think so too. I want to see you soon. Brooks W.</p>	<p>Dear Santa, Can I please have a toy camera and a DS? Please Santa Claus. Madison S.</p>
<p>Dear Santa, How is Rudolph? I have been good. Will you git me a Kapll mamas with babys for Christmas? You are the best and than you Santa. Lily S.</p>	<p>Dear Santa, So how is Mrs. Claus? I been real good in school so can I please have some presents? Alexa T.</p>	<p>Dear Santa, I would like a riley nise kity watch. How is the elfs doing on the toys? Reagan</p>
<p>Dear Santa, Can you please give me a buny for Christmas? I have been rilly good this year. Can you give me ice skates please? Carrie S.</p>	<p>Dear Santa, Please can you give me a Barbie. How is Comit? Sydney W.</p>	<p>Dear Santa, I would like a silver bike and a ball. That's all I want. Aiden H.</p>
<p>Dear Santa, How are your elfs? I want a D.S.I. and a green light saber. I looovve Christmas very much! Do you like going all over the world to give people presents? Winter is my favorite season. Do you like all those cookies? How do you eat so much? Jacob J.</p>	<p>Dear Santa, Are the other reindeer lafing at Rudolph still? If they are I'm sorry for him. Anyways can you give me a parrot? And I want a horse. Annabelle L.</p>	<p>Dear Santa, I want Mario cart please. I've been good at home. I help my mom and dad. How is Rudolph doing? Sophie F.</p>
<p>Dear Santa, How is Rudolph and all of the reindeer? I've been a good girl and how do you deliver all of the presents. Can you please get me a CD and a micraphone and skrap paper and a new Christmas dress. Abigail S.</p>	<p>Dear Santa, I been good this year because I been helping my mom and dad wash the dishes and clean up in my room. Addy C.</p>	<p>Dear Santa, I've been good could you give my cat something? Could I please have a zoodl mamas and my two front teeth. I think you no what I want, I saw you at Petoskey. Sara O.</p>
<p>Dear Santa, Please may I have a DS. How is Rudolph? Mike T.</p>	<p>Dear Santa, Santa you know that Christmas is coming. This year I want a 3D DS please. I will see you on Christmas. Ethan K.</p>	<p>Dear Santa, I love you Santa Claus. I will leave you some cookies and milk. Can you please bring me an iPod. I would like it a rily rily rily lot. Rachel C.</p>

Check back next week for more Letters to Santa from area kids!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A LETTERS TO SANTA PAGE IN NEXY WEEK'S PAPER?

E-MAIL: OFFICE@CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

GREAT GIFT IDEA!
Footprints in the Sand, a true historical sketch of when Northwest Michigan was inhabited by Indians, Mormons and Fishermen. This intriguing story, told in the first person by Stephen Horatio Smith, grandfather of Charlevoix resident Kenneth Staley, has been a long time reaching its audience, and is now for sale in area stores.

Now available for purchase in Boyne City at Country Now and Then and Fresh Waters; in East Jordan at Busy Bridge; in Charlevoix at Round Lake Books, Book World, the Historical Society and Central Drugs; in Alwood at Frisko's Market; in Ellsworth at The Front Porch Restaurant; in Central Lake at Adam's Madams; in Petoskey at MacLean & Eakin; in Harbor Springs at By the Bay and Between the Covers Bookstore; and in Good Hart at the General Store or by contacting the distributor Donna Staley Heeres.

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News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

MDOT and CRAM remind motorists: "Snowplows Need Room to Groom!"

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) today announced an education campaign aimed at urging motorists to remember good driving habits in winter weather conditions, "Snowplows Need Room to Groom!"

"Road crews put their lives on the line every day to keep Michigan roads safe for everyone," said State Transportation Director Kirk T. Steudle. "Motorists must

remember to drive with caution no matter how much salt we use or how often the roads are plowed."

A steady decrease in road funding and an increase in costs have forced state and local agencies to alter their winter maintenance plans and change plowing priorities. However, one important fact has not changed: road crews must have ample room in order to safely clear the many miles of roadway of snow and ice.

"Motorists must do their best to

minimize distractions and focus on driving and changes in road conditions," John Niemela, CRAM director, said. "Every year, despite the flashing lights on snowplow trucks, poor driver behavior near snowplows leads to collisions that can be deadly."

MDOT and CRAM offer the following reminders for motorists:

Snowplows have limited visibility and drivers cannot see directly behind their trucks;

Snowplows often throw up snow clouds, reducing visibility

on all sides of the truck;

Distracted driving is dangerous driving. Motorists should not text or talk on cell phones while they are behind the wheel. In fact, texting while driving is illegal in Michigan;

Motorists should never attempt to pass a moving snowplow on the right. With new wing-plow technology, the blade can clear the shoulder and the lane of travel simultaneously. Motorists attempting an illegal pass through a snow cloud on the right and/or shoul-

der of the road most likely won't see the plow blade and run the risk of a serious crash; and

Always wear your safety belt and allow extra time to reach your destinations this winter.

Steudle added, "For the safety of everyone, motorists should use extreme caution when traveling in winter weather conditions. We can't emphasize this enough: Snowplows Need Room to Groom!"

MDOT reminds drivers: Snowplows need room to groom.



Challenge Mountain Resale Shops in Boyne City and Petoskey

By Jim Akans

In 1984, the Challenge Mountain 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization was founded to raise funds to develop an adaptive ski program to allow physically and mentally challenged individuals enjoy the thrill and excitement of the sport of downhill skiing free of charge. With a motto of "If I can do this I can do anything!" the Challenge Mountain organization grew over the years to include Summer Games, Day Camps, Overnight Camps, Camp

Quality, Winter Games and much more.

Challenge Mountain Resale Shops, located in Boyne City and Petoskey, offer a wide range of donated clothing and household items for sale with proceeds utilized to help support Challenge Mountains' ongoing mission. The 6,600 square foot facility in Boyne City and 4,200 square foot facility in Petoskey each present a seemingly endless array of men's, women's and children's clothing items, books, music, furniture, linens, glassware and

other household items to select from.

The Boyne City store is located at 1158 S. M-75, just east of Boyne City toward Boyne Falls (where the facility was actually once located), and the Petoskey store is at 2429 US 31 North across from Houghton Gas.

Each store is open Monday through Friday from 10 am until 4 pm, and on Saturdays from 10 am until 3 pm. For additional information about Challenge Mountain, please visit www.cmski.org.

Historical Book Donated to Library



Donation of two copies of "Footprints in the Sand" was recently made to Charlevoix Public Library. Beth Strawbridge, Michigan Room coordinator accepts the books from Donna Staley Heeres, great granddaughter of the author, Stephen Horatio Smith. "Footprints in the Sand" is a true historical sketch of

when Northwest Michigan was inhabited by Indians, Mormons and Fishermen. This intriguing story about the pioneer days in NW Michigan during the 1850's, has been a long time reaching its audience. It is available in many local retail outlets and now at Charlevoix Public Library.

FROM PAGE 1

Gregory Plea

porary insanity case, he said. If Gregory lost, sentencing was a minimum of 13 years in prison. A reduced charge of felony manslaughter could mean up to 15 years in prison.

Gregory took care of her mother for many years. Police received a 911 call from the Gregory residence on the south end of Charlevoix on March 27.

They arrived at the house to find Amelia Gregory lying on the floor, dead. The daughter told police that she had killed her mother. She had then tried to kill herself by slitting both wrists. Sandra Gregory was charged with open murder at that time. Open murder carries an automatic life sentence.

As part of the judge's deter-

mination of whether to accept Gregory's no contest plea, Judge Pajtas asked Gregory a series of questions. He asked if she understood that with a no contest plea she gave up her right to a trial and an automatic appeal of her case if she lost at trial and she answered that she understood. She was asked if her plea was freely given and if anyone threatened or coerced her to enter the plea and she said it was her decision.

Judge Pajtas then verified with county prosecutor Shaynee Fanara that the prosecution had stipulated and agreed to the plea and Fanara confirmed the agreement.

The judge said he accepted Gregory's no contest plea. He ordered a pre-sentencing investigation and set her sentencing date for 9 a.m. on January 6, 2012.

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Northern Michigan Treasure Hunter's Guide to area antique, consignment, resale and thrift shops

To add your business listing E-Mail office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com

News Briefs

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

ELLSWORTH

Wooden shoe festival

Ellsworth Wooden Shoe Holiday Festival activities are also being coordinated for Wednesday, December 14th beginning at 6:00 PM - Banks Township Hall. Tree Lighting, Caroling, Children's Activities, Twister Joe and Refreshments. If you'd like to help, please contact us!

EAST JORDAN

Christmas wreath sale

\$22 each made with fresh greens sold by the Girl Scouts. Call Connie for more information or to place an order. 231-675-4332

BOYNE CITY

Business after hours

Bella Vita restaurant will host the Boyne Chamber's holiday Business After Hours from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15. Formerly known as Monte Bianco, Bella Vita is a casual fine dining Italian restaurant that reopened May 18 under new owners Kelly Woodard and Ryan Houghton. "We specialize in authentic Italian cuisine while relying on Northern Michigan products whenever possible," Woodard said. "Our focus is on the dining experience as a whole - quality dishes hand-prepared with the freshest ingredients, exceptional service, combined with a full bar, eclectic wine list, and good friends." They are located at 2911 Boyne City - Charlevoix Road, phone 231-582-3341. Bella Vita has been closed since Oct. 15 and will reopen Dec. 16, the day after Business After Hours.

BOYNE CITY

BBQ moving

The BBQ restaurant is moving from the old train depot to the restaurant formerly named Bella Vita and Little Lena's, adjacent to the Sportsman Bar at 118 S. Lake St.

PETOSKEY

Handel's Messiah

Handel's Messiah will be presented by the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Petoskey on Thursday, Dec. 15 and Friday, Dec. 16, at 7pm. A quartet of outstanding soloists, Sarah Hibbard, soprano; Martha Hart, alto; David Theis, tenor and Mark Goros, baritone. The orchestra's presentation of Handel's "Messiah" is sponsored by the Bank of Northern Michigan, The Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, the National

Endowment for the Arts, and contributing members. Reserved tickets are available at Treatickets.com, www.glorchestra.org or by calling 231-487-0010. General admission tickets (\$15) are available at chambers of commerce and bookstores in Boyne City, Petoskey, Harbor Springs, Charlevoix and East Jordan. Remaining tickets will be sold at the door.

EAST JORDAN

Holiday Art

Looking for a unique gift? Stop by the Jordan River Art Center, 301 Main St. thru Dec. 17 to shop for holiday art created by the talented local artists at the Jordan River Arts Council.

BOYNE CITY

Horton Creek concert

The popular local bluegrass band Horton Creek will play a Christmas show at 7:30pm Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Boyne City Performing Arts Center, located at Boyne City High School. Horton Creek describes itself as "A simple bluegrass band formed out of Charlevoix County, started as a one-gig get-together to fill a spot in a show and it went so well the clan decided to give it a run." Harmonica player Dan Cole will be joining the band for this concert. Randy Calcaterra will be doing visual production, Bob Harmeling has designed an awesome stage set, and once again Randy Nash will be mixing sound. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for students and senior citizens age 65 and up. available at the door, the Boyne Area Chamber, Country Now & Then.

EAST JORDAN

Free Movie

Beethoven's Christmas Adventure Dec. 18, 1:30pm at Jordan Valley District Library Community Room. Sponsored by the Library Friends.

CHARLEVOIX

New waterfront park in the works

Hayes Township officials are moving forward with their application for a grant to purchase 23 acres with more than a thousand feet of Lake Charlevoix shoreline. The township is hoping to be approved for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to purchase the property. The property, on the north side of Lake Charlevoix, is currently home to Camp Sea-Gull, an all-girl summer camp. The township would like to turn it

into a park with amenities such as a boat launch ramp, swimming beach and perhaps other recreational facilities.

EAST JORDAN

Christmas Art Sale

Jordan River Arts Council is hosting an art sale thru Dec. 18, 1-4pm.

NORWOOD

Warmth Drive

Norwood United Methodist Church is holding its' annual "Warmth Drive" for the benefit of the Good Samaritan in Ellsworth. We are collecting warm items of clothing for all ages, pajamas, blankets and all outdoor clothing. Also we are collecting new, unwrapped toys for distribution through Good Samaritan at Christmas time. Items can be dropped off at the church on Sunday from 10:30am to 1:30pm or call Lights at 547-9356 or Ditlows at 547-4935.

EAST JORDAN & ELLSWORTH

Holiday Business Decorating Contests

Be sure to register for the two Holiday Business Decorating Contests sponsored by Charlevoix County News. Forms available at the Chamber or on-line at www.ejchamber.org.

EAST JORDAN

New session of Masterminds

The Chamber and Dr. John Kempton are finalizing the schedule for two (2) Mastermind Leadership Classes. A second session of "Mastermind on Main Street" will be offered over a ten (10) week period in early 2012. A "Mastermind on Main Street - Communication" class will be offered over a nine (9) week period in early 2012. For further information on the class offerings, cost, etc. please contact the Chamber Office, 231-536-7351 or Dr. John Kempton, "Achieve 360 Inc." at 231-222-2146.

BOYNE CITY

Boyne Community Christmas needs donations

The Boyne Area Community Christmas Baskets program is expecting that the need for assistance will be greater than ever this year. Non-perishable, unwrapped food, toys, games, books, clothing and blankets may be dropped off at the Early Childhood Education Center on Pine Street from Dec. 1 through 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Checks may be made

payable to Boyne Area Community Christmas, c/o Treasurer Eleanor West, 915 Robinson St. #15, Boyne City 49712. Dec. 20 is the basket-packing day and those eligible for baskets may pick them up Dec. 20 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Early Childhood Center gym. For further information call Ruth Witek at 582-3152 or Nancy Hosmer at 582-7346.

EAST JORDAN

Band Concert

Middle School/High School band concert Dec. 19, 7pm at East Jordan High School Gym

CHARLEVOIX

Christmas Farmers Market

There will be a special holiday market on December 22 so that you can stock up for your Christmas meals. Products available at the winter market include: apples, squash, garlic, onions, pumpkins, greens, tomatoes, organic meat, cheese, fresh bread, mustard, pasties, jam/jellies, frozen corn, Christmas trees, bagels, soup, scones, wild mushrooms, salad dressings, BBQ sauce, canned vegetables and fruit, dried flowers, cherry juice, dried fruit, beef jerky, pet treats, cookies, hummus, salsa, plus much more. Open from 10am to 2pm at the Charlevoix Public Library's Community Room. Help to support your local farmers, keep your money in our community, and eat the freshest products available at the Charlevoix winter Farmers Market.

EAST JORDAN

Christmas Tree sale

Lions club Christmas Tree sale, until December 24, at True Value Family Center.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

United Way Donation Drive

Are you looking to spread holiday cheer? Char-Em United Way can help point you in the right direction. United Way's website now has a section listing local donation drives. "Our online listing of local donation drives explains how to donate food, clothing, and holiday gifts," says Casey Adams, AmeriCorps VISTA for Char-Em United Way. "It also lists the ongoing drives of food pantries and resale shops, as well as seasonal events such as United Way's Stuff the Bus." To find the listing of Donation Drives go to www.charemunitedway.org/activities/find-donation-drive or

click on the Donation Drive link on Char-Em United Way's homepage. "We hope this will be a useful clearinghouse for generous people wanting to donate," said Adams. "Agencies wanting to post donation drives can submit information using the form on the webpage." For more information, contact United Way at 231-487-1006 or info@charemunitedway.org.

BOYNE CITY

Free Christmas dinner

December 25th serving free dinner Noon until 2 pm at 1st Presbyterian Church, 401 S Park St.

GAYLORD

3 on 3 Basketball Tourney

Otsego County Parks and Recreation will host a holiday 3 on 3 basketball tournament on December 29th, 30th, and 31st. Tournament is for 3rd - 8th grade boys and girls. Each grade bracket will be limited to the first 6 teams that register. 4 players per team. Each team is guaranteed 3 games. Cost is \$40 per team. Games will be officiated. Registration deadline is Dec. 26. Stop by the Otsego County Community Center, 315 S. Center St. Gaylord or call 989-732-6521 to register.

BOYNE CITY

Student art show

Continuing at the Boyne Arts Collective gallery is "Boyne Area Schools Present... ART It's ELEMENTARY." Boyne Falls, Boyne City and Boyne Concord elementary school students will display their artwork through Dec. 31 at 210 Lake St. Gallery hours are Friday 1 to 5, Saturday 10 to 6, Sunday 12 to 4. For information call 231-675-7071. The Arts Collective will move to a winter location during January, February, and March at the Boyne Mountain "Made in Michigan: Gift Shop." Artwork of members will be displayed while artists demonstrate how they create their art.

CHARLEVOIX

Trails are open

Believe it or not, trails are open! The volunteers of the Charlevoix Snowmobile Club have done a great job marking the trails this year and we are hoping for your support so we can keep our trails in good shape for young and old to enjoy.

CHARLEVOIX

Juried photography show

Life in Northern Michigan-Places and People is the theme for the annual photography show at the Charlevoix Circle of Arts. The show is administered by the Charlevoix Photography Club. The photos will be on exhibit until December 30.

CHARLEVOIX

Commission on Aging Board Openings

The Charlevoix County Commission on Aging Advisory Board has two openings in the Charlevoix area as of January 1. Members of the

community who have an interest in the well being of County seniors and supporting their caregivers are encouraged to apply. Particularly encouraged to apply are those with interest, experience or education in developing community awareness and messaging and/or who desire to serve in a leadership capacity including board chair. Interested citizens can print an expression of interest form from the Commissioners page at the County website (charlevoixcounty.org) or by calling 231-547-0866 (COA board chair) or 231-237-0103 (COA director). Mail the interest form to 218 W Garfield, Charlevoix, or fax to 231-547-0873. Please contact us as soon as possible; the COA Board will be making recommendations to County Commissioners by the end of November.

BOYNE CITY

Computer lab

The Community of Christ Church at 777 Vogel St. has installed a computer lab that is open to the public at no charge. The lab is open for general use Monday through Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m. and Fridays from 6 to 8 p.m. In the future, classes will be offered on resume and cover letter writing and general computer use. The church is also starting a Coupon Club with tips on finding and using computers and access to the computer lab from 6 to 8 p.m. Mondays.

BOYNE CITY

Computer Classes

Free computer classes are held at the Boyne District Library at 1 p.m. on Fridays. Classes are tailored to your skill level, beginner to advanced. For more information call the Library 582-7861 or instructor Ron Grunch at 231-582-6974

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

Just stuff it

To the wonderful folks who are becoming avid recyclers, those of us trying to monitor the sites need your help one more time. Remember the bad old days at the Charlevoix and Boyne City sites when there was only one cardboard bin? Remember how hard you worked to get your cardboard in, but the bins were often full? We finally have two (2 - count 'em) cardboard bins at each site, but it is not helpful for hauling if one is not completely filled before you begin using the other. Could we please ask you to take the time to flatten your cardboard and take the few extra steps to fill the back of the bin? And, before you start on the second bin please stuff it! cram it! until it the first bin is entirely full. These two simple acts will save all of us money because we won't be hauling bins that are half full. Thanks for working with us.

EAST JORDAN

Roller Skating

Harvest Barn Church, Noon - 3pm every Saturday through winter. Fun for all ages. \$5 per person.

CHARLEVOIX

Indoor farmers market

The Charlevoix Winter Farmers Market will be held indoors at the Charlevoix Public Library the first Thursday of every month from 10am to 2pm, November through May. In addition to the regularly scheduled markets, there will also be a holiday market on December 22nd, just before Christmas.

CHARLEVOIX

Life in Northern Michigan Art

Original art & gift certificates on sale at the Charlevoix Circle of Arts, 109 Clinton St, thru Dec. 30. The 3rd annual juried photography show. Vote in the People's Choice Award.

CHARLEVOIX

Fiddlers & Pickers Jamboree

9th annual music fest featuring area violinists, fiddlers, guitarists and other string instrument artists. Any string instrument artist is invited! A musical hoe down for fun and laughs. Food and beverages available. Proceeds fund area youth music scholarships. Jan 14, 3pm - 10pm. at VFW HALL, 12735 US N 31

continued on page 9

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News Briefs

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Charlevoix County Collects Toys for Tots

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

Advertising funds the County News

We love to run community announcements and news releases about all the things happening around the area in the Charlevoix County News. We help publicize hundreds of events and activities all across our area. Readers love the fact that the County News covers all of Charlevoix County. However, it is expensive to publish this newspaper each week filled with news and sports. Our main source of revenue comes from advertising. If your business or organization has an advertising budget, be sure to include the Charlevoix County News in your plans. Our advertising rates are far less than most other papers and your message will reach readers all across Charlevoix County. The Charlevoix County News is distributed on news stands and by subscription to Boyne City, Boyne Falls, Charlevoix, East Jordan, Ellsworth, Atwood and Walloon Lake. Contact us at Office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com.



Front: Donna Heeres, Connie Mahoney, George Wahl. Middle: Ken and Arlene Staley, Russ Bolt, Will Bolt. Back: Dave Heeres.

BOYNE CITY

Winter Farmers Market

Thanks to the support of the Boyne District Library, the Boyne City Farmers "Winter" Market is now open. Winter hours will be Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. The market will be held in the red building next to the library. The library recently purchased the building for possible future expansion. It is estimated the space will allow for approximately 15 to 20 vendors to participate. The market will be held each Saturday in with the exception of Dec. 24th. A special market is planned Dec. 23. For more information about the Winter Market call the Boyne City Main Street office at 231-582-9009.

Charlevoix County volunteers and businesses teamed up with the United States Marie Corp to deliver toys to young people in Charlevoix County. The popular Toys for Tots program is operated throughout the nation by the United States Marie Corp.

RIGHT: Russ Bolt and Ken Staley of the Toys for Tots Program in Charlevoix picked up nearly 200 toys at Ricks Chiropractic Clinic.

BELOW: Dr Jeff Ricks and Dr Kristen McClure



CHARLEVOIX

State of the Community

The 2nd Annual State of the Community Address will be held on Wednesday, January 11th from 11am-2pm at Castle Farms. Tickets are \$30 person and include a full lunch and bound booklet of over 50 different community reports. Speakers include Erin Bemis, Charlevoix Chamber of Commerce; Boogie Carlson, City of Charlevoix; Chief Charles Burley, Charlevoix Coast Guard; Cheryl Potter Browe, Charlevoix County Clerk; and Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

CHARLEVOIX

K of C Free Throw contest

Boys and girls ages 9-14 can register to participate in the Knights of Columbus annual free throw contest. Forms are available at all area schools. The contest is January 14 at Charlevoix Middle school. Registration at 12:30pm, competition begins at 1pm. Players compete by age and gender and can advance to district, regional and state competition.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

Giving Circle grants

Are you part of an organization in Emmet and Charlevoix seeking funding for projects that help local women and girls? The Hestia Women's Giving Circle is welcoming applications for its sixth grant cycle. Applications are due February 1, and grants will be announced in May and awarded in mid-June. Organizations applying for grants must have 501(c) 3 non-profit status or be a school or government agency, or have a fiscal agent with non-profit status. The Giving Circle is a donor-advised fund of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (CCCF) which also assists the Giving Circle in grant making and distribution. Applications will be available on the Foundation's website at www.c3f.org. Click on "All About Grants" and follow the Hestia link. Potential applications should call Maureen Radke at CCCF at (231) 536-2440 prior to filling out an application. For more information about the Giving Circle, contact Christine Carpenter, chairwoman, at 348-0736, Diane Neal, secretary, at 242-0298, or send an email to INFO@hestiacircle.org.

THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER

The Winter Solstice begins a long journey to summer

By Jim Akans

There's still plenty of winter ahead, but at 12:30 am on Thursday, December 22nd, the earth's axis will begin to tilt back toward the sun, resulting in greater amounts of sunlight here in the north every day until mid June...so the days will soon be getting longer.

It's the winter solstice, also known as Midwinter, the Solar New Year, the Longest Night, Yule, DongZhi, Soyal...and many more tongue-twisting handles that reference the same celestial event in differing cultural perspectives. The universal message, however, is clear; the path toward summer is about to be broken in.

The word "solstice" comes from a Latin phrase that means; "sun stands still." After months of crossing lower and lower in the sky the sun appears to stop before beginning to arc higher in the sky each day for the next six months. Alas, it takes a few months before the increasingly prevalent sun actually warms things up, resulting in a period we refer to as "winter" around these parts, but it's comforting to know we are heading in the right direction.

Always a major "turning point," the solstice has been celebrated throughout human history, as demonstrated by the Newgrange tomb in Ireland, one of the oldest structures in the world, which captures light from the winter solstice sunrise.

Germanic cultures celebrated Winter Solstice with Yule festivals, which ushered in the long-standing tradition of burning a Yule log for good luck. The Greeks held a winter solstice

festival called Lenaea, or the Festival of Wild Women...now that's an interesting name for an event. Romans held the festival of Saturnalia where schools were closed, prisoners were not executed, and people paraded around the streets in masks (sort of an ancient Mardi Gras). Apparently, people like to party during the longest night of the year.

Yet, as Newton's Third Law indicates: for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. So while half the world sees greater amounts of daylight after the winter solstice, the other half experiences a steadily decreasing amount of daily sunlight. The same Winter Solstice that begins the slow march toward summer in Cleveland also notifies old man winter its time to think about sauntering back to southern hemisphere places such as Sydney, Australia.

Closer to home, the always fascinating Raven Hill Discovery Center, located on Fuller Road near East Jordan, will celebrate the coming of the Winter Solstice on Wednesday, December 21st, starting at 6 pm. Indoors, the focus will be on ancient calendars and timepieces with family activities planned. Guided trips out to Stonehenge in Raven Hill's Ancient World are available on request. Indoors or out, the entire family will have great fun.

Though there is lots of great outdoor fun yet to come during the beautiful northern Michigan winter ahead, summer seems a little closer, and the world looks a little brighter every day after the Winter Solstice.

Health & Wellness

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

10 BENEFITS of Having Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)

By ADD Coach, Jennifer Koretsky

There is a common misconception in the world that having Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) is a bad thing. While the ADD-wired brain certainly presents some challenges, it also offers some incredible benefits. The following is a list of characteristics that I consistently see in my clients, friends, and colleagues with ADD.

1. Compassion

People with ADD have a tremendous power to connect with other people. But it goes a step further than that. We also have an advanced ability to empathize with others, and to see many different perspectives.

2. Creativity

I've never met an ADD-er who wasn't creative! Writers, painters, musicians, film makers, designers, sculptors, comedians and the list goes on! Artistic talents are abundant. Composers Mozart and Beethoven are believed to have had ADD.

3. Drive

When an ADD-er is bored with a task, completing it can seem like torture. But give an ADD-er an interesting project to work on and watch out! When we want to succeed, and we have the necessary

tools to do so, there is no stopping us!

4. Problem Solving Ability

ADD-ers thrive on solving problems and puzzles. Give us an interesting problem to solve and we won't be able to drop it until we've found the solution! Important historical inventors such as Thomas Edison and Thomas Jefferson are believed to have had ADD.

5. Hyper-Focus

The ability to hyper-focus is something that ADD-ers can use to our advantage. When kept under control and directed towards productive tasks, like accomplishing goals and living dreams, it can be an incredible asset that allows us to get the job done, and done well!

6. Sense of Humor/Comedic Flair

Most ADD-ers love to laugh, and many also have a knack for making others laugh! Famous comedians such as Whoopi Goldberg and Robin Williams are rumored to have ADD.

7. Resiliency

There's no denying that even though there are many great qualities that come along with ADD, there are also challenges. But ADD-ers have an incredible ability to bounce back from those challenges, and others' criticism of those challenges that we've endured.

8. Intuition

ADD-ers have a sharp sense of intuition. This may be due to highly tuned levels of perception, or great insight into the human mind, or something else that we have yet to understand. Whatever the reason, it's a very useful gift!

9. Idea Generating

ADD-ers are wonderful idea generators. We don't usually like to be bothered with details, but we can come up with ideas at lightning speed! We're a true asset in brainstorming meetings!

10. That "Special Something"

Many ADD-ers feel that they have a unique way of looking at the world, a perspective that others just don't understand. That is, until the ADD-er meets other people with ADD! You might say that we're on our own wavelength!

Jennifer Koretsky is a Professional ADD Management Coach who helps adults manage their ADD and move forward in life. She encourages clients to increase self-awareness, focus on strengths and talents, and create realistic action plans. She offers a 90-day intensive skill-building program, workshops, and private coaching. Her work has been featured in numerous media, including The New York Times Magazine and The Times (UK). To subscribe to Jennifer's free email newsletter, The ADD Management Guide, please visit <http://www.addmanagement.com/e-newsletter.htm>



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Shirodhara – An Eastern Indian Tradition and Ther- apy for Superb Relax- ation and Balance

Shirodhara is a practice of Ayurveda (Eastern Indian traditional medicine) that promotes deep relaxation and well-being. The name comes from the Sanskrit words shi-ras (head) and dhara (flow). What is unique about Shirodhara is that it is tailored to suit your specific needs. A person having a Shirodhara session will be assessed by an Ayurvedic Practitioner for their "Dosha", or constitution (body type, diet, lifestyle). Your Dosha indicates what herb-infused oil is required to help balance your system. Not only are the herbs customized for you but also the oil. One person may require sesame seed oil while another individual may need coconut or jojoba oil. A typical Shirodhara session requires three liters of herb-infused oil and lasts approximately thirty minutes.

Imagine lying down, wrapped cozily in blankets and relaxing in a warm, quiet, dimly lit room with soft music playing. Above your head is a copper pot filled with warm, herb-infused oil that has been created specifically for your needs. As you breathe deeply, the warm oil gently trickles from the copper pot onto your forehead (The Third Eye Point), just between your eyebrows. For 15-20 minutes you simply lie back in the warmth and comfort and allow your Mind, Body and Spirit to quietly drift as the herbs and oil balance your pituitary and pineal glands. The warm oil penetrates your skin and hair as your mind flows into a gentle meditative state.

Once the copper pot is empty, your Shirodhara therapist gently works the warm oil into your face, neck and hair, leaving your hair and skin nicely conditioned. The Shirodhara session is often followed by steam or dry sauna to assist the body in purification. Those fortunate enough to experience a Shirodhara session state that they've never felt so relaxed and at ease in their entire lives.

Shirodhara has been shown to increase blood circulation to the brain, improve memory, decrease tension and stress, improve left and right brain hemispheric balance, relieve depression and anxiety and is helpful in relieving PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). Shirodhara is also beneficial for the skin and hair offering a lustrous glow and anti-aging properties.

Submitted by Angela Welch-Kumar,
Board Certified Holistic Health Practitioner, IHTwellnessshopgaylord.com

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