

Sno Blast Chili Supper
See page 8 for details

Charlevoix County News

January 5, 2012

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31st Annual SNO-BLAST FESTIVAL

Coming to East Jordan Next Weekend



Old Man Winter (the late Ron Klooster), presides over the Belle of the Blizzard 2011 (Charla Telgenhof), and Winter Knight 2011 (Jay Peck). PHOTO COURTESY OF EJ SNO-MOBILERS CLUB.

2012 has arrived... and 2013 will too!

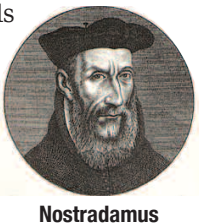
Despite myths surrounding Mayan Calendars and Nostradamus, the world has plenty of spinning left to do

By Jim Akans

Welcome to the brand New Year! 2012 has arrived as countless years before; with the dropping of lighted balls and the tooting of glittering cardboard horns at midnight on New Years Eve, though this particular year also brings some speculation that it all may end before we can ring in 2013 in such a traditional way.

Two fixations fueling this increasingly popular "end of the world" myth are the predictions surrounding interpretations of the Mayan Calendar and a very persistent 16th Century figure; Nostradamus. Now while the Mayan's had a pretty powerful empire and prepared a very long range calendar back in the

See 2012 Myths—10A



By Jim Akans

Prepare for a real "Sno-Blast" weekend! Next Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 13th through the 15th, East Jordan will be hosting its 31st annual Winter Festival that will feature hay rides, a downtown parade, the Rotary Chili Supper, an always fascinating antique snowmobile show and drag racing

event, indoor sidewalk sales, games and contests, and the crowning of the "Belle of the Blizzard" and "Winter Knight."

Over the weekend, residents and visitors will enjoy lots of festivities and fun downtown East Jordan, including the E.J.'s Got Talent contest and the uncommon challenge of competing in a "Frozen Pancake" Toss; guaranteed to be a

memorable experience for those of every age. The East Jordan Chamber of Commerce encourages businesses, organizations to dress up in a costume, put a float together, and join in the fun of the Sno-Blast Parade through downtown on Friday evening.

The antique snowmobile show and races, and the delicious Sno-Lovers Breakfast events will be

Former county commissioner speaks out

B. J. Conley

CHARLEVOIX — A former county commission board member, a founder of the Charlevoix County Recycling Program and chairwoman of the Recycling Committee berated the board of commissioners at the Dec. 28 meeting for their actions at a previous meeting.

Shirley Roloff, who has served the county for 14 years, said she was disappointed that she was not reappointed to another term with the Recycling Committee, but what disappointed her more was the method commissioners used at the Dec. 11 meeting when making the decision of whom to appoint.

Roloff addressed the commission board at the Dec. 28 meeting.

"I personally wanted to tell each one of you how much I was disappointed and embarrassed with the Charlevoix County Commissioners . . . During my 14 years serving the County I have never wit-



PHOTO BY B. J. CONLEY

Former county commissioner and recycling committee chairwoman Shirley Roloff spoke to county commission board members about appointments on the recycling committee at the county building on Dec. 28, 2011.

ness[ed] such a lack of class and professionalism," she said.

The commissioners changed the number of members for the Recycling Committee several times until they could eliminate

her from it, she said. Commissioners deny Roloff's assertion.

"It is obvious that the object of this appointment was not to select the most qualified for this position but to eliminate me from

it," she said.

A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Gillespie to appoint all applicants except Diane Gustin and Larry Levengood. Then Commissioner Chris Christensen said that several applicants are on multiple boards. Gillespie withdrew his motion and a motion was made by Commissioner Bob Drebenstedt to remove Roloff and appoint Diane Gustin.

Roloff developed the initial recycling program 11 years ago when county commissioners then on the board appointed her to initiate a program. This involved asking voters for a millage, writing various contracts, negotiating an agreement with Emmet county for disposal of recyclable materials and ordering bins, among other organizational tasks.

Roloff said she listened to a tape recording of the meeting and found that several commissioners were joking about

See Roloff—2A

East Jordan teachers, board still far apart

Special meeting may result in progress

B. J. Conley

EAST JORDAN — The East Jordan Public School District Board of Education has been in mediation for a new contract with its teachers for more than a year, but significant progress towards an agreement has not been made, says the attorney for the school district.

"We're in mediation, but it seems we're heading towards fact-finding," Attorney Eric Delaporte of Thrun Law Firm said. "The parties unfortunately are still far apart."

Delaporte said the district receives only the base rate per pupil from the state and with costs increasing the district must cut back on ex-

See EJ Teachers—5A

Index

- Weather.....2A
- Legislative Update3A
- Crossword.....5A
- Obituaries.....6A
- News Briefs8-9A
- Local Sports1-2B
- Health.....3B
- Classifieds/Real Estate4-6B



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weather	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	snowfall	record temps
	HIGH: Low 30's LOW: Upper 20's	HIGH: Upper 30's LOW: Low 30's	HIGH: Low 30's LOW: Low 20's	HIGH: Upper 20's LOW: Low 20's		
	2010-11 Amount	2011-12 Amount	Day.....Avg. High.....Avg. Low.....Record High.....Record Low			
Atlanta 1/3/2011.....12.9	1/2/20124	5.....30°F.....15°F.....50°F (2007)-2°F (1968)				
Charlevoix 1/3/2011.....22.2	1/2/20126.3	6.....30°F.....15°F.....50°F (2008)-12°F (1973)				
East Jordan 1/3/2011.....32.7	1/2/201217.7	7.....30°F.....15°F.....52°F (2008)-12°F (1973)				
Gaylord 1/3/2011.....44.2	1/2/201237.6	8.....30°F.....15°F.....49°F (2008)-17°F (1981)				
Mio 1/3/2011.....5.8	1/2/20127.6	9.....30°F.....14°F.....49°F (2003)-25°F (1977)				
Onaway 1/3/2011.....27.4	1/2/20128.5	10.....30°F.....14°F.....48°F (2002)-15°F (1982)				
Petoskey 1/3/2011.....42.6	1/2/201217.5	11.....30°F.....14°F.....50°F (1914)-23°F (1981)				

COUNTY RECORDS

ASSUMED NAMES:
The following businesses recently filed with the Charlevoix County Clerk's office for an assumed name for doing business:
Kenwabikise Gillgetter's Inc., 6137 Barnard Road, Charlevoix by Andrew William Kenwabikise.
A Place to Call Home, 02791 Sequanota Road, East Jordan by Sheila Johnstone.

MARRIAGE LICENSES
The following people have recently filed for marriage licenses with the County of Charlevoix:
Andrew Charles Wright, 25, Charlevoix and Amanda Lynn Holder, 29, Charlevoix.

BOYNE CITY POLICE DEPT.

Monday, December 26
1:30am Domestic Dispute in the 1000 block of West St
8:45am Report of barking

dogs in the 500 block of W Michigan Av
Tuesday, December 27
4:38am Assisted Sheriff Department with disturbance
7:43am Suspicious vehicle in the 500 block of Groveland St
10:22am Stop sign run over in the 500 block of N Lake St
10:35am NSF check complaint received from the 100 block of N Park St
12:46pm Civil dispute over a laptop in the 100 block of E Water St
8:51pm Assist Fire Department in the on Kaden Ln
Wednesday, December 28
1:00am Assist Sheriff Department with domestic dispute on Church Rd
1:35pm Empty money bag turned in that was found in the 300 block of N Lake St. Returned to owner.
3:08pm Unlock truck in the 700 block of Wenonah St
6:54pm Citation issued for speed.
7:30pm Citation issued for speed
11:32pm Report of tires being slashed on Franklin St
Thursday, December 29
8:58am Assist Sheriff Depart-

ment on Behling Rd.
10:42am 911 hang up call from the 1000 block of Boyne Av
12:02pm Report of stolen wallet in the 400 block of N Lake St
12:04pm Report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of Lake Park Dr
8:10pm Responded to the 100 block of E Pine for report of house being trashed. Unfounded.
Friday, December 30
7:02am Assist Fire Department in the 100 block of S Lake St
8:37am Unlock in the 800 block of S Park St
11:47am Harassing phone communications reported in the 900 block of Roosevelt St
12:17pm Arrested subject for DWLS 3rd offense and improper plate.
2:30pm Subject at PD with custody questions
3:04pm Domestic dispute in the 400 block of State St
9:00pm Alarm in the 900 block of N Lake St
Saturday, December 31
12:00am Assist Sheriff Department on Brown Rd
9:15am Report of phone fraud in the 800 block of S Park St
12:15pm Drive off from the 1300 block of Boyne Av
12:38pm Driving complaint in

the 400 block of N Lake St
5:00pm Report of harassing phone calls being received on Jaycee Ln.
8:50pm Citation issued for No Proof of Insurance
Sunday, January 1
12:53am Report of fight in the 100 block of N Park St. One subject arrested for warrant.
1:24am Arrested subject for OWI/OUID, possession of marijuana, transporting open intoxicants, and DWLS at n East and Bailey Street
1:32am Report of possible fight in the 300 block of E Division St
1:51am Report of fight in the 400 block of N East St
3:13am Arrested subject for assault, possession of marijuana, and attempted resisting and obstructing.
4:02am Checked on suspicious subjects in Veteran's Park
4:43am Checked on suspicious subjects in Rotary Park.
11:37am Subject at PD with possible child abuse/neglect complaint.
12:13pm Lodged stray dog at shelter
8:15pm Citation issued for No Proof of Insurance. Arrested one for DWLS
10:15pm Civil complaint in the 300 block of E Division St
10:34pm Arrested subject for DWLS
11:31pm Report of slashed tire in the 400 block of Trent St. Not slashed just flat.
11:40pm Report of MDOP to Nintendo, stereo and TV cables in the 300 block of E Division St

Man arrested for child pornography

CHARLEVOIX — An arrest was made of a Hayes Township man when detectives found more than 400 images of child pornography on his computer.
Robert R. Howard, 47, was arrested by the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Department on Dec. 24, 2011 on five counts of child sexually abusive material, a four-year felony and a sixth count of computer use to commit a crime, a seven-year felony.
Howard was arraigned in Charlevoix County District Court on Tuesday, Jan. 3. A \$20,000 bond was posted. Howard is out on bond. A preliminary examination will be scheduled soon.
The investigation led to pictures of females nude or semi-nude, ranging in ages from 7-years-old to 16-years-old.
Sheriff Don Schneider said the investigation continues.

Car hits Fire Hydrant

On Sunday January 1, 2012 at approximately 9:40 p.m. the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to a private property accident at the intersection of Disciples Court and Mountain Pass Road located at Boyne Mountain. The driver was identified as 50 year old Tammy Remsberg, of Boyne City, who lost control of her 2007 Kia and impacted a fire hydrant. The impact caused Remsberg's forehead to make contact with the windshield. She sustained a minor laceration to her forehead and sought treatment at Northern Michigan Hospital. Remsberg was treated and released the same night.

FROM PAGE 1 Roloff

whether to appoint her. She did receive apologies from them.
Commissioners Richard Gillespie, Bob Drebenstedt, Ron Reinhardt and Shirlene Tripp voted not to appoint Roloff for another term on the Recycling Committee and Joel Evans voted to appoint her. Chris Christensen voted with Evans, but he said it was because he does not like the slate of names method, but prefers to vote for individuals.
Roloff ended her presentation to the board with a question and a statement.
"Who will be hurt next just because we don't like that person or [are] just plain jealous of them?" she said. "Commissioners — Charlevoix County deserves better."
reporterbjh@gmail.com

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News

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How things have changed in 100 years

Compiled by Jim Akans

There's nothing quite like the turning of the year to provoke one to look back at the times past with a sense of nostalgia for what has been as well as anticipation of what is to be. Looking back 100 years ago, when the 20th Century was just getting steady on its legs, the world was a significantly different place than it is today. Here are a few "mind boggling" statistics from a world just a few generations past;

- The average life expectancy was 47 years; according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) today it is 77.9 years.
- Only 14 percent of homes had a bathtub.

- Only 8 percent of homes had a telephone.

- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

- The average wage in 1909 was 22 cents per hour. The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year. A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per

year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year. According to the 2010 Census, today's median family income is \$49,777.

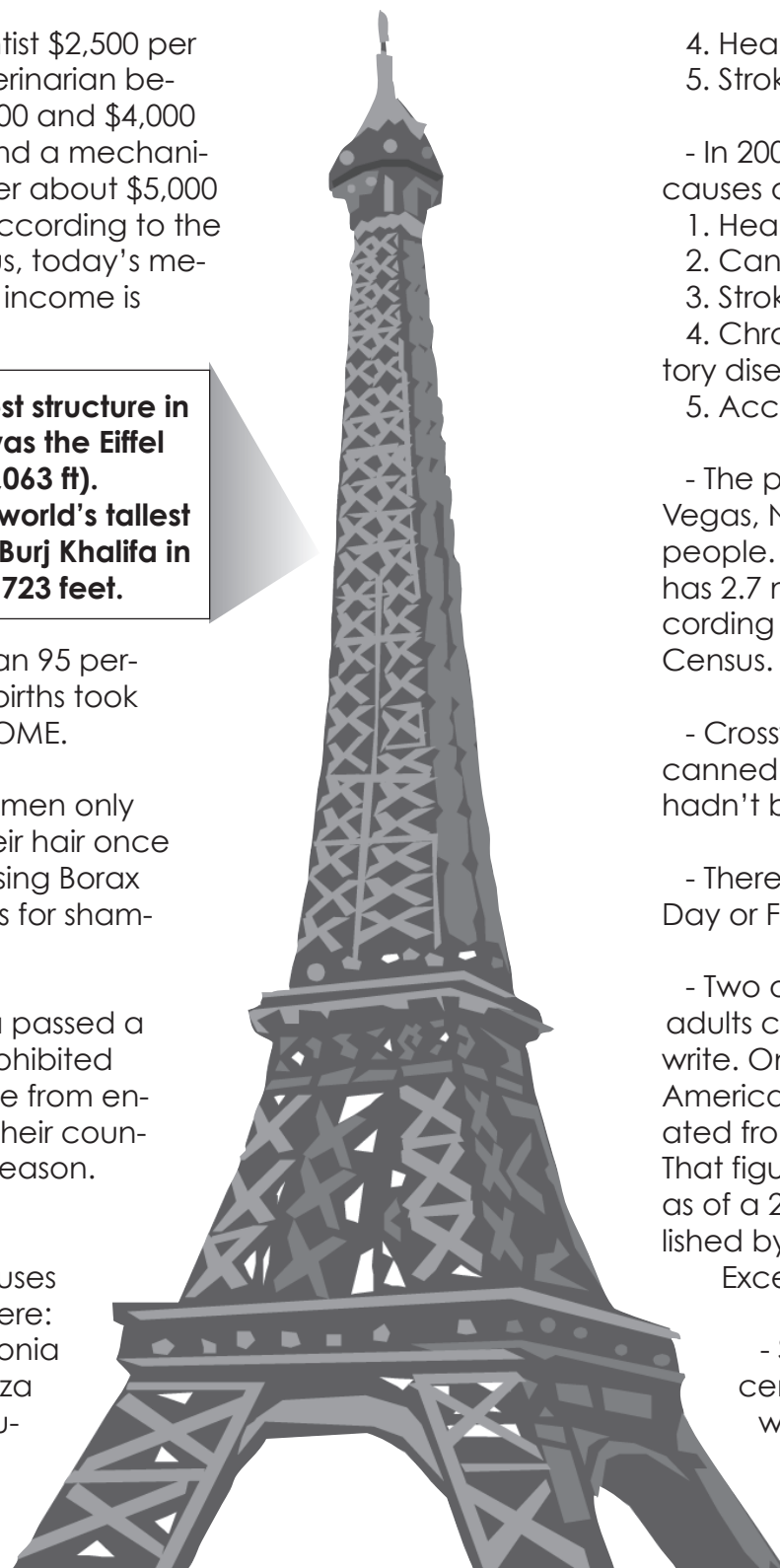
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower (at 1,063 ft). Today, the world's tallest structure is Burj Khalifa in Dubai, at 2,723 feet.

- More than 95 percent of all births took place at HOME.

- Most women only washed their hair once a month, using Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

- Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

- The five leading causes of death were:
 1. Pneumonia and influenza
 2. Tuberculosis
 3. Diarrhea



4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

- In 2009, the leading causes of death were;

1. Heart disease
2. Cancer
3. Stroke
4. Chronic lower respiratory diseases
5. Accidents

- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was 30 people. Today, the city has 2.7 million people according to the 2010 US Census.

- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea hadn't been invented yet.

- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

- Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write. Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school. That figure is at 69 percent as of a 2009 report published by the Alliance For Excellent Education

- Sugar cost four cents a pound, eggs were fourteen cents a dozen, and coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then pharmacists said, 'Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health.'

- Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

- There were about 230 reported murders in the entire United States. The U.S. Department of Justice reported 16,272 homicides in 2008.

- There had been no World Wars.

- There were only 8,000 cars, (in 2007 the Department of Transportation (DOT) estimated there were 254.4 million registered passenger vehicles) and only 144 miles of paved roads, (up to 3.9 million as of 2008 according to Bureau of Transportation data).

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/

The following is an analysis of Public Act 0269 of 2011 that was signed by the Governor on Dec. 19, 2011. It was introduced on Nov. 9, 2011 as Senate Bill No. 806 to amend 1936 Public Act 1, entitled "Michigan Employment Security Act." It will be of interest to employers and employees. Although extensive, this is not the complete language of the Act.

PUBLIC ACT 269 of 2011

The bill amended the Michigan Employment Security Act to do the following:

- Increase the taxable wage base from \$9,000 to \$9,500, but reduce it to \$9,000 for nondelinquent employers when the balance in the Unemployment Compensation Fund reaches \$2.5 billion.
- Phase in a reduction of the experience rating period from five to three years.
- Allow certain employers with 25 or fewer employees to apportion their first-quarter contributions.
- Phase in a requirement for all employers to file quarterly wage reports electronically.
- Revise criteria that apply to seasonal employment.
- Provide for an employer's account not to be charged for a week and the remaining weeks in a benefit year if a claimant reports earnings at least equal to the employer's weekly benefit charges for that individual.
- Require claimants to be actively engaged in seeking work, and to report details of the work search, in order to qualify for benefits.
- Provide that claimants will be considered unavailable for work if they fail to communicate with a chargeable employer or the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA), or cannot be reached by mail or phone.
- Provide that, after a claimant has received benefits for 50% of a benefit year, work will not be considered unsuitable because it is outside of his or her training or

experience if it pays at least 120% of the weekly benefit amount.

- Until October 1, 2015, require benefits to be reduced by 40 cents, rather than 50 cents, for each dollar of remuneration a claimant earns or receives, and provide that total earnings and benefits may not exceed 1-3/5, rather than 1.5, times the weekly benefit amount.
- Include theft, absenteeism, and the loss of a job requirement, in the grounds for disqualification for benefits.
- Designate as a felony certain criminal violations that involve benefits or payments over \$3,500 but less than \$25,000.
- Include officers and directors in provisions that prohibit willful violations.
- Increase the administrative fine for employers' noncompliance with reporting requirements.
- Increase from 20% to 50% the amount that may be deducted from benefits or wages for improperly collected benefits, and otherwise revise restitution provisions.
- Authorize the UIA to conduct an amnesty program for the recovery of improperly paid benefits.
- Allow the UIA to obtain restitution of benefit overpayments by various methods, including administrative garnishment.
- Establish a new test for whether services are employment, effective January 1, 2013.
- Allow a business entity to ask the UIA to determine whether services are in covered employment, and provide that only wages paid after the determination will be used for benefit qualifying purposes, and penalties will accrue only on contributions based on those wages.
- Permit the UIA to disclose information to law enforcement agencies for criminal investigations.
- Require a lottery prize of \$1,000 or more to be remitted to the UIA for the amount the winner owes to the Agency.
- Eliminate the Special Fraud Control Fund.

- State that a reference in the Act to transmission or receipt by mail includes any form of electronic transmission or receipt approved by the UIA.
- Delete a requirement that, at the close of each fiscal year, money in the Contingent Fund in excess of \$15.0 million lapse to the Unemployment Trust Fund.

Employers

Employer Contribution Rate

The Act requires the UIA to determine the contribution rate of each contributing employer for each calendar year according to calculations specified in the Act. The calculations take into account wages paid by the employer over a five-year experience rating period.

Under the bill, the five-year experience rating period will apply to an employer that was a contributing employer before January 1, 2012, and does not convert from a reimbursing employer to a contributing employer on or after that date. A four-year experience rating period will apply to an employer that becomes a contributing employer during 2012, and a three-year experience rating period will apply to an employer that becomes a contributing employer on or after January 1, 2013.

The bill also revises the calculation of the chargeable benefits component of an employer's contribution. For 2012, the calculation will be based on the amount of benefits charged to the employer's experience account and the employer's taxable payroll within a 48-month period (instead of 60 months); and for 2013 and future years, the calculation will be based on the amount charged to the experience account and payroll within a 36-month period.

Taxable Wage Limit

The Act establishes a "taxable wage limit" (or base) for the purpose of determining the amount of contributions due from an employer.

Beginning with the 2012 calendar year, the bill increases the taxable wage limit from \$9,000 to \$9,500. If the balance in the



STATE OF MICHIGAN CAPITOL BUILDING
PHOTOGRAPHER: BRIAN CHARLES WATSON

Unemployment Compensation Fund at the beginning of a year equals or exceeds \$2.5 billion, however, and the UIA projects that the balance will remain at or above that level for the remainder of the quarter and the entire next quarter, the taxable wage limit for that quarter and the next quarter will be \$9,000 for an employer that is not delinquent in the payment of unemployment contributions, penalties, or interest.

Apportioned Employer Contributions

The bill requires the UIA to allow a contributing employer that employs 25 or fewer individuals during the pay period that includes January 1, 2012, or during the corresponding pay period in each subsequent calendar year, and that incurred 50% or more of its total previous year's contribution obligation in the first quarter of that year, to pay its contributions due in the following year through quarterly payments that distribute the payment of the first quarter's obligation equally over the four quarters in that year.

The first quarterly payment must include 25% of the obligation incurred in that quarter. The second, third, and fourth quarterly payments each must include the obligation incurred in that quarter plus 25% of the first quarter's obligation.

To avoid interest and penalties that otherwise would apply to those payments, the employer must notify the UIA of the election to make apportioned payments with the first quarter's payment, and then timely file each quarter's payment in the amounts prescribed.

These provisions will apply to contributions beginning in the 2013 tax year.

See Legislation— 9A

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DAVE Says

Saving is always smart

Dear Dave,
My wife and I have gone from having almost nothing to making about \$90,000 in the last few years. The problem is that I can't get her interested in saving money. What's worse, her father is the preacher at our church and he has convinced her that he knows the Lord is coming back in our lifetime. Thinking this, she says there's no reason to save because it will all be gone anyway. What can I do?



Dave Ramsey

could cause more problems down the road!
—Dave

Brian

Dear Brian,
I'm all for people living their lives according to God's word. But the Bible says that no man knows when the Lord will return. So, I get pretty leery when a guy – especially a preacher – tells me he knows when it's going to happen.

The Bible also tells us very clearly that it is wise to save, and the Bible does not contradict itself. So basically, if you don't save you're being foolish. Still, it probably wouldn't be a great idea for you to run and tell your wife that financially she's behaving like a fool.

This is a touchy situation in other areas, too. Right now her dad's theology is ruling your marriage, and that's not good. Husbands and wives should grow in their faith together. I think you guys should sit down with a good marriage counselor and, for the good of your family, come to an agreement on a new place of worship.

I mean, even if her dad is right about this – and if he turns out to be right, I'm pretty sure it's not because he has inside information – there's some stuff going on here where he's interwoven his own ideas and spiritual authority in with your household authority. And that kind of thing

Company needs to step up!

Dear Dave,
My company makes me use my personal credit card for overseas travel. They take care of my expenses, but sometimes they don't send the money until after the payment is due. Does this affect my credit score?
Marshall

Dear Marshall,
Unless you pay on time instead of waiting for their money, you bet it affects your credit score. It's your card! You signed for it, and it's in your name. Every late payment affects your credit bureau score.

I don't know who you work for, but this is a very dangerous and bad practice – both by you and your company. Your company is using your credit and abusing you in the process. Talk to them about furnishing you with a corporate card. Better yet, a corporate debit card! If your employer is going to send you overseas, or anywhere on the road, it shouldn't cost you money or cause you problems.
—Dave

* For more financial advice please visit daveramsey.com.



MKR Consignments in Petoskey is an "Upscale Boutique" featuring new and resale items

By Jim Akans

There is an exceptional new "upscale boutique" in Petoskey, located on M 119 between La Senorita restaurant and Toski Sands, that offers a fantastic collection of slightly used and new items at incredible values. MKR Consignments is truly a treasure hunters delight, and owner, Mary Roberts, states that her customers absolutely love the quality and value they discover throughout her approximately 1,700 square foot facility.

"Once someone visits our shop," she notes, "they are hooked. It's a wonderful place to treasure hunt. Nearly everyone enjoys looking for that special treasure...and we have them here!"

Roberts points out there are currently 178 consigners offering items in her shop. Among those items are a wide range of men's and women's clothing, including such well respected brand names as Pendleton and Geiger washed wool products, professional attire as well as sportswear, jewelry and accessories, and furnishings and décor accents for every room in the home. "We also offer many new items from the Homestead Furniture Collection," she notes, "which is produced locally. Among those are cedar log beds and several beautiful chair collections."

The wide array of items shoppers will discover at MKR Consignments are also fantastic values...providing



Mary Roberts, who established MKR Consignments in August of 2011, states, "Nearly everyone enjoys looking for that special treasure...and we have them here!" PHOTO BY DAVE BARAGREY

an extraordinary opportunity to purchase top quality merchandise for literally "pennies on the dollar."

MKR Consignments is located at 2010 Harbor-

Petoskey Road (M 119) between La Senorita and Toski Sands, and is open Monday through Friday from 10 am until 5 pm, and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. For ad-

ditional information, or to inquire about submitting and item for consignment, call (231) 881-6130 or visit www.MKRConsignments.com.

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

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News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Charlevoix County Community Foundation Youth Advisory Committee Distributes \$13,000 in Grants

The youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity. Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881), British politician and author. In 1992 the Charlevoix County Community Foundation established the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), empowering young people in Charlevoix County to make a difference in their communities. Recently the YAC distributed \$13,000 in grants among six local nonprofit agencies offering programs that benefit youth.

The Youth Advisory Committee is made up of 16 high school students representing Beaver Island, Boyne City, Boyne Falls, Charlevoix, East Jordan and Northwest Academy. Twice each year these young people are faced with the challenge of determining how distributions from the Youth Fund can best be used to add value to the lives of young people residing in Charlevoix County. "Our Youth Advisory Committee is very excited to make very important decisions to better help the youth in our area. Money is tight in our economy right now so helping nonprofit organizations is a big job. With the needs growing, so are our responsibilities as YAC members," commented Kiersten Bielas, a junior at Boyne Falls High School, and YAC member.

"Members of the Youth Advisory Committee are very mindful when making decisions and a lot of thought and heart goes into the discussions that lead to determining the awards to grantees," stated Jennifer Booher, the Community Foundation's YAC Program Associate. "The students do a great job, and each school's advisors are really helpful too," she added.

YAC grant awards from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation's Youth Fund for the fall grant cycle include:



Charlevoix County Community Foundation Youth Advisory Committee members (l-r) Olivia Carey (Beaver Island), Casey Keane (East Jordan) and Emily Matelski (Boyne Falls) evaluate grant proposals with advisor Kelly Matelski (Boyne Falls) during a recent YAC meeting.

Camp Daggett – For scholarships for the adventure education program

Crooked Tree Arts Council – For percussion instruments for the Youth Orchestra Health Department of Northwest Michigan – For a behavioral screening tool for children ages 0-5

The Manna Project – For supplies for the "Backpacks for Kids" program Planned Parenthood of West and Northern Michigan – For Project "Safe and Healthy"

Raven Hill Discovery Center – For the "Second Saturday" program for kids and families

The Youth Advisory Committee was cre-

ated in response to a statewide challenge by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, who matched funds raised for youth up to a million dollars over five years. In order to meet the requirements of the challenge, a permanently endowed Youth Fund was created to address youth issues on a county-wide basis. Since its inception, YAC grants to local youth projects total nearly \$700,000.

To learn more about the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, including how to make a gift to the Youth Fund, please visit the Foundation online at www.c3f.org, or contact us, at 231-536-2440.

FROM PAGE 1 EJ Teachers

penses. School district superintendent Susan Wooden said that East Jordan's teachers are highly valued and she looks forward to an agreement and new contract.

The process for a new contract begins with the parties meeting face to face to express their wants and needs. If the parties cannot agree on a contract, a mediator steps in to attempt a settlement for both sides. If mediation fails, a fact-finder is assigned to the parties. The fact-finder studies the issues and makes a recommendation. The recommendation is non-binding and may or may not be accepted by the teachers. If it is not accepted the parties are at an impasse.

Both Delaporte and the teachers' union, the Michigan Education Association's Mary Lieberman, hope for a satisfactory agreement that will be good for both sides.

"The association [MEA] has faith in the mediation process and would like to see it have its full opportunity to work for both parties," Lieberman said.

The East Jordan Education Association has 55 members, four of them are school secretaries.

Lieberman said three mediation sessions have been held thus far.

"The Association is committed to work with the Board of Education to reach a resolution that is fair and equitable with respect to the needs of both parties," Lieberman said.

Delaporte said the district's Board of Education has scheduled a special meeting on Jan. 10. Much of the meeting will be in closed session, but it will eventually open up for a public discussion of the negotiations.

reporterbjh@gmail.com

A Ten-Point Checklist for the New Year

By Jim Akans

It's the New Year! A time to tuck away memories of a year gone by while looking forward to a clean slate stretching across 52 weeks of possibility. While many utilize the ceremonial switch of the calendar year as an opportunity to pursue a New Year's resolution or two, here is a checklist that requires a little less, well... resolve, but can help get the coming year off to a great start just the same.

1. Simplify

Great advice any time of the year that can reduce stress, debt and increase the quality of life. Put cabin fever to good use by going through closets, cupboards, basement storage areas and getting rid of unused items. If they are still functional, sell them on eBay or Craigslist, donate them to local agencies such as Goodwill or a resale store, and if applicable, be sure to get a tax-deductible receipt for next year's tax return. Take those old magazines and newspapers to the local recycle center.

2. Make a primary goal for 2011

What is your 2012 "hot button." Whether gaining control of finances, going on a dream vacation, improving personal health... whatever your goal, be specific about your plan to achieve it - write it down, and review your progress at least monthly.

3. Prepare for the tax season

Now is the time to gather income statements and tax-deductible receipts. Make a list of items and forms you will need to file your 2011 taxes such as mortgage interest statements, W-2's or 1099's. Check these items off as you receive them and file taxes as early as possible (even if you owe taxes, prepare your forms early so they are ready to file). You, and your tax preparer, will be grateful for avoiding the April madness.

4. Plan for next years holiday shopping.

Oh yeah, do it now while receipts from the 2011 holiday shopping season are still near at hand. Utilize those to review your retail performance this past season and estimate your spending for 2012. Try to set aside one-tenth of the 2012 target amount each month and you won't have to pull out the plastic as the next holiday shopping season approaches.

5. Make a financial plan for the year

While digging through last year's bill statements and receipts, group them by spending category and prepare a household budget for the coming year. Look at small ways you can save money, such as cutting down on dining out, not stopping for that cup of coffee on the way to work, limiting alcohol or tobacco purchases, or starting to utilize shopping lists and sticking to them.

6. Fill out the calendar

Go through the 2012 calendar, month by month, and mark the birthdays and anniversaries of family members and friends, special events such as graduations or reunions, and block out desired vacation weeks before your co-workers can even think about asking for the time off. Note reminders for making appointments for annual and semi-annual events such as dental or doctor exams.

7. Check your credit report.

One report is available free of charge once per year. Go to AnnualCreditReport.com. You can dispute any errors online through each credit bureau.

8. Take care of small maintenance tasks around the

house.

Take care of small maintenance tasks around the house. Install fresh batteries in smoke and CO2 detectors, change the furnace filter, touchup paint on interior walls, replace burnt out light bulbs with new energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs, lubricate squeaky door hinges (don't forget the garage door). Speaking of doors, check to see that your spare front door key is still hidden where you

think it is.

9. Back up your computer

This should really be done on a more short term basis, say monthly or even weekly, but just in case you forgot, back up documents, financial records and don't forget to sort and label those 2011 digital photos before storing them on disk.

10. Take stock of reoccurring expense items.

Take stock of reoccurring expense items. Do some price comparison-shopping for your auto, home, medical and insurance policies. Pull out statement for mortgage, equity line, charge cards, and investment accounts. Write down the balances and interest rates. Go online (remember; if it looks

too good to be true...), or call local lenders or investment professionals to see if more attractive terms are available.

After completing the checklist sit back, relax, and take satisfaction in knowing that whatever the New Year brings, each of these items are well under control, at least until January 2013.



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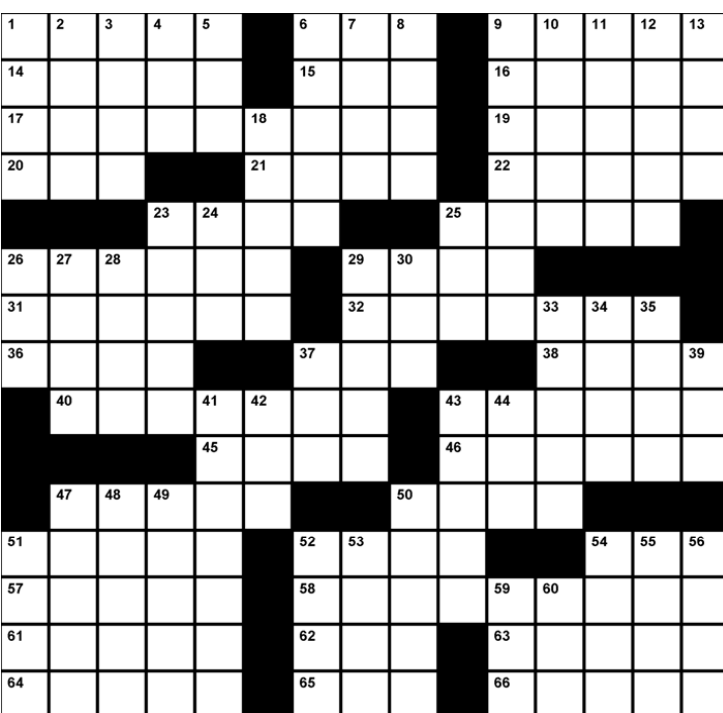
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Crossword Puzzle



Across

1- Hiding place; 6- Draft org.; 9- Foil maker; 14- Thin as ___; 15- City in NW Iran; 16- Inclines; 17- Depravity; 19- Fable; 20- Orch. section; 21- Alleviate; 22- ___ a time; 23- Germinated grain used in brewing; 25- Lots; 26- Defile; 29- Hard, in Havana; 31- Beyond; 32- Tacit; 36- Digits of the foot; 37- Avoid responsibility, with "out"; 38- Russian no; 40- Lee side; 43- Ancient Palestinian; 45- Routine; 46- Fix beforehand; 47- More or less vertical; 50- Debatable; 51- Trample; 52- Gulf War missile; 54- Circle section; 57- Author of fables; 58- Silver sulfide; 61- Stickum; 62- Fall behind; 63- Assisted; 64- Guide; 65- Actress Brenneman; 66- Fluff, as bangs;

Down

1- Burmese, Manx, and Scottish Fold; 2- Stuck in ___; 3- Singer Vikki; 4- In; 5- Actor Wallach; 6- Crouch; 7- Lays down the lawn; 8- Hook's helper; 9- Intoxicating liquor; 10- Sierra ___; 11- Port of Crete; 12- Available; 13- I'd hate to break up ___; 18- Informs; 23- Bullwinkle, e.g.; 24- Hung. neighbor; 25- Dada pioneer; 26- Baseball club; 27- Earth Day subj.; 28- At liberty; 29- Electron tube; 30- Diamond authority; 33- Atlas featuring; 34- Baby blues; 35- Sand hill by the sea; 37- Monitor, for short; 39- Asian holiday; 41- Envelope; 42- Fine; 43- Form of lyrical poem; 44- Hit sign; 47- Bothered; 48- Deputised group; 49- Chew the scenery; 50- Humid; 51- Enervates; 52- Room in a casa; 53- Burn the midnight oil, studying; 54- Opera set in Egypt; 55- Numbered rds.; 56- Give up; 59- Writer Hentoff; 60- Bind;

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Martha Resch, 89

Martha Resch, 89, of Charlevoix, died Monday, January 2, 2011, at her home. A funeral Mass will be 11:30 am, Saturday, January 7, at Saint Mary Church in Charlevoix. The Reverend Matthew Wigdon will officiate. Visitation will be at St. Mary Church beginning at 9:30 am Saturday, before the funeral.



Martha was born August 16, 1922, in Tonet, Wisc. The daughter of Joseph and Ann (Decremer) Lhost. On September 20, 1941, she married John G. Resch at Saint Gillian Church in Luxemburg. They made their home in Manitowoc, moving to Charlevoix in 1966. John preceded Martha in death on December 13, 1974.

She worked at the Charlevoix Middle School cafeteria for twenty-five years, and was a member of Saint Mary Catholic Church. Matha was always proud of her kids and the things they did, whether it was work, fishing or hunting. She enjoyed being close to her family and friends, and put others first, never worrying about herself.

Martha is survived by her children, Jack (Carol) Resch of Manitowoc, Wisc., Betty (Neil) Schroeder of Two Rivers, Wisc., Tony (Linda) Resch, Don Resch, Jeff (Becky) Resch all of Charlevoix, Debbie (Shawn) Husband of Williamsburg; grandchildren, Michelle, Kim, Jill, Todd, Amy, Stacy, Jesse, Tiffany, Heather, Dustin, Ryan, Kerry, Finn, and Sully; eighteen great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Agatha DeBauche of Green Bay, Wisc. Martha was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Orpha Vincent and Ethel Taboran; and brother, Ervin Lhost.

Those wanting to share a memory of Martha, or condolences, may do so at www.winchesterfuneralhome.com

Sue Lois Lamb

(FEB. 13, 1924 - JAN. 1, 2012)

Sue Lois Lamb, age 87, formerly of Boyne City, died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012, surrounded by her loving family at her home in Clare, Mich.

Sue was born on Feb. 13, 1924, in Duluth, Minn., the daughter of Lloyd Walter and Grazia (Vincent) Green.

On Nov. 30, 1946, she married G. Ervin Lamb. Sue taught at the Boyne Falls Public Schools and the Boyne City Public Schools early in her marriage and then moved back to Duluth where she continued to teach. In 1958, Sue and Ervin and their daughter, Wendy, moved to Clare, Mich., and she began to teach in the Farwell Area Schools until her retirement.

Sue enjoyed her family and the joy of her life was spending time with her precious grandchildren and great-grandchildren. To Sue, nothing was more important than family.

Sue is survived by her daughter, Wendy Lamb, of Clare; grandchildren, Troy Moline of Taylor, Michelle (Mike) Yule of Farwell; great-grandchildren, Jillian and Conner Yule; nephew, Dave (Kathy) Lamb; and niece, Sally Moran.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, G. Ervin Lamb; and twin brother, Lloyd Green.

A celebration of Sue's life will take place at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 4, at Stackus Funeral Home in Boyne City with Pastor David Behling officiating. Burial will take place at Maple Lawn Cemetery in Boyne City.

Family and friends wishing to share a thought or memory of Sue are encouraged to do so online at www.stonefuneralhome-inc.com.

Jack Balchik

(MARCH 26, 1949 - JAN. 1, 2012)

Jack Balchik, 62, of Petoskey, died Jan. 1, 2012, at home surrounded by his family.

On March 26, 1949, John and Mary Balchik were blessed with their first born, John Joseph Balchik, better known to us as "Jack." He was born in Detroit, Mich., though their family lived in Albion, Mich., at that time. At a very early age, he developed his love of all nature and the outdoors by accompanying his father in the woods, but most especially

on the water, learning the art of fly fishing when just a small boy. His love for fishing, hunting and learning everything he could about our great outdoors became his passion. He generously passed this passion and knowledge to each of his children and grandchildren. He loved spending time with them at their beloved family cabin in Ellsworth, Mich., teaching them and sharing all he knew about the outdoors and nature.

He proudly told of his beginnings as being a "country boy." He attended a one-room country schoolhouse through the eighth grade. His parents then moved to Jackson, Mich., to provide him a better education. He attended St. John's Catholic High School.

In 1968, he met Marisa Craig, his first love, and they were married in 1973. The first thing they did in starting their new life together was to move north, where Jack and Risa started their new home in Petoskey. God blessed them with three children, Andy, Anna and Aleece. They all grew to love this area and became deeply imbedded in the community through their church, school, and many, many friends. They loved their life together here and showed their happiness and love to so many people. They shared themselves and thus were loved back by all.

In the year 2000, everything changed for the Balchik family when Risa was stricken with cancer and died in August of 2002. It took so much strength, faith and courage for the family to continue on but they had deep faith and God walked with them and continued to walk with them on this journey of life.

Jack met Nancy Whitley in January of 2004 and life once again took a new turn no one expected. They fell in love and were married on June 17, 2005, in St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.

Nancy had also lost her husband of 30 years, Jigs Whitley, to cancer. Their love story of finding each other and becoming man and wife made everyone that knew them so happy. It was such a wondrous feeling to find happiness again and share it with so many.

Jack's family was the absolute real love and passion of his life. He loved them deeply and would always put them first.

His parents, John and Mary, preceded him in death. He leaves behind his wife, Nancy; three brothers; Tom (Brenda), Mark (Nancy) and Mike (Joy), his children, Andy (Judy) Balchik, Anna (Ben) Walker, and Aleece Balchik; his stepchildren, Jessica, Ben and Luke; his grandchildren, John Balchik, Adrienne Balchik, Calvin Walker, Maya Whitley, Kai Whitley and Enzo Bertinelli.

Jack worked for many years at the Emmet County Sheriff's department on the Marine Division and most of his years as Animal Control Officer. He was greatly respected throughout the county for the work he did. His Emmet County co-workers have been totally supportive and have bestowed many kindnesses to Jack and his family beyond the call of duty.

A celebration of Jack's life will start with a visitation 10-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 7, at St. Francis Xavier Church with funeral Mass immediately following.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Jack's name can be directed to The Good Samaritan or Front Porch Ministries in Ellsworth, Mich., or to Emmet County Memorial Fund to help families in need.

Arrangements were handled by Stone Funeral Home, Petoskey. Friends and family can offer online condolences at www.stonefuneralhomeinc.com.

Charles C. Papineau

(OCT. 25, 1921 - DEC. 31, 2011)

Charles C. Papineau, 90, of Charlevoix, died Saturday, December 31, 2011, at Grandvue Medical Care Facility in East Jordan. He was born October 25, 1921, in Detroit, the son of George and Agnes (Carey) Papineau. He graduated from Fordson High School in 1939 and the United States Merchant Marine Academy at King's Point in 1943. He received a Navy Commission and served onboard the USS Sheridan during WWII.

On December 18, 1943, he married Jessie McLean at Greenfield Village in Dearborn. He was a combustion engineer for Metrol

Company in Detroit for 35 years, and after retiring moved to Charlevoix permanently.

Chuck was a private pilot and an avid golfer and fearless leader of the "Belly Eight" weekly golf group. He was a member of the Petoskey Elks Club and the King's Point Alumni Association.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Jessie of Charlevoix; sons, Greg (Annie) Papineau of Brownstown and Chris (Lynn) Papineau of Charlevoix; daughter, Betsy (Hugh) Mason of Charlevoix; grandchildren, Joe Papineau, Peggy (Andrew) Strachan, Cathy Sacconi, Scott (Julie) Papineau, Chuck and Matthew Mason; sister, Helen (Bill) See of Charlevoix; five great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

At Chuck's request, no services will be held. Interment will take place in Brookside Cemetery in Charlevoix.

The Winchester Funeral Home in Charlevoix is handling the arrangements.

Those wanting to share a memory of Chuck, or condolences, may do so at www.winchesterfuneralhome.com

Paul P. Kondziela

(AUGUST 23, 1934 - DECEMBER 30, 2011)

Paul P. Kondziela, 77 of Petoskey, died December 30, 2011 at his home surrounded by his family following a year long battle with cancer.

Paul was born and raised in Walloon Lake, Michigan on August 23, 1934 to Donald and Julia (Dubel) Kondziela. He attended the Melrose Elementary School, St. Francis School and graduated from Petoskey Public Schools. He later attended University of Michigan.

On November 10, 1956, Paul married the love of his life, Audrey R. Mummert and together they made their home in Petoskey. Together they owned The Basket Shop in Petoskey and Paul served as Sales manager of and Northern Office Suppliers until 1979 at which time He became a Realtor and later an Associate Broker.

He was member of the Lions, Elks, long time member of Petoskey Bay View Country Club. Paul served on the Zoning Board of Appeals and was the secretary of the Michigan Bear Hunters for a number of years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and golf as long as he was physically able. He and his wife loved to polka dancing and attended many festivals and were members of the "WOW" polka dancing group.

Paul is survived by his wife of 55 years, Audrey; two daughters, Terri Seymour and Lori Mendez of Santa Barbara, California; three grandchildren, Casey and Hannah Mendez and Tyler Seymour; four brothers, Robert (Lynn) Kondziela of Tennessee, John Kondziela of Maryland, Frank (Renee) Kondziela of Chicago, Edward (Pat) Kondziela of Grand Rapids, MI; and by a sister, Margaret (Robert) Danzeisen of New Jersey.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents and by a sister, Jean Selden of Port Huron.

A memorial mass was held on Wednesday, January 4 at the St. Augustine Catholic Church in Boyne Falls with Fr. Duane Wachowiak officiating.

Arrangements are by the Stone Funeral Home.

Alice Goodenow, 98

Alice Goodenow of Charlevoix, died Friday, Dec. 30, 2011, at her home.

Services are pending.

The Winchester Funeral Home in Charlevoix is handling the arrangements.

Januice "Nona" Cesaro

(SEPT. 18, 1937 - DEC. 29, 2011)

Januice "Nona" Cesaro, 74, of East Jordan and formerly of Lakes of the North, died Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City.

She was born on Sept. 18, 1937, in Pontiac, Mich., the daughter of Allen and Iola (Osborne) Sweet.

Januice married Eliseo V. Cesaro on June 18, 1955, in Orchard Lake, Mich. They were residents of Lakes of the North since 1981, before moving to East Jordan in January 2003. Prior to residing in Lakes of the North, they spent many years in Oakland County.

OBITUARIES

Nona was a co-owner and bookkeeper of JC Tire and Automotive for many years.

She had attended the Lighthouse Missionary Church in East Jordan.

Nona is survived by five children, Deborah (Scott) Behnke of White Lake, Jill (Steve) Piche of Elmira, Jeffrey (Pam) Cesaro of Charlevoix, Lisa (James) Nichols of East Jordan and James (Debbie) Cesaro of East Jordan; 15 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one sister, Nancy (Neil) Spillane, of West Bloomfield; as well as many more adopted grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Eliseo V. Cesaro, on June 3, 2003.

A memorial service will take place at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 6, at the Lighthouse Missionary Church, 7824 Rogers Road, East Jordan.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until the time of service on Friday at the church.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Munson Foundation, in honor of A-3 Wing for Nursing Education, 210 Beaumont Place, Traverse City, Mich. 49684; or East Jordan Little League, P.O. Box 641, East Jordan, Mich. 49727.

Arrangements were handled by the Penzien Funeral Homes, Inc. in East Jordan.

Joseph Sevenski

(FEB. 4, 1923 - DEC. 28, 2011)

Joseph Sevenski, 88, of Hudson Township, died Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011, in Hopkins, Mich., surrounded by his loving family.

Joseph was born Feb. 4, 1923, in Hudson Township, son of Joseph and Blanche (Magee) Sevenski.

On Feb. 1, 1943, he joined the U.S. Army, serving until Feb. 4, 1946. Joseph married his sweetheart, Myrtle A. Pope, on May 24, 1947, in Lansing.

He enjoyed spending time fishing, hunting, farming, reading and building things. He liked watching Detroit Tigers, U of M football (Go Blue!), and over the last several years became a big NASCAR and Matt Kenseth fan. Joseph loved his two dogs, Lacy and Tanner.

He worked at Lansing Drop Forge for more than 40 years and was president of Local Union 724 for 22 years. After retiring to his 80 acres and log home, he became involved in Knights of Columbus, American Legion and V.F.W.

Joseph is survived by his loving wife, Myrtle; children, Nancy (Terry) Thompson, Joseph Sevenski, Gerald Sevenski, Kim (Julie) Sevenski, Kenneth Sevenski, Tamara (Robert) Sevenski-Popma; stepdaughter, Jean (Paul) Flores; brother, William (Carol); sister-in-law, Della Sevenski; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Robert, Walter (Elaine "Skeeter"), and Dan; sisters, Clara (Bernie) and Virginia (Andy); two grandsons and one great-grandson.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday, Jan. 3, at the church with the Rev. Duane Wachowiak serving as celebrant. Burial will follow at St. Augustine Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the family, in care of Myrtle, or to the American Legion Post of Boyne City.

Family and friends wishing to share a thought or memory of Joseph are encouraged to do so online at www.stonefuneralhome-inc.com.

Stackus Funeral Home of Boyne City is serving the family.

Louise "Teedee" Litzenburger

(JULY 25, 1934 - DECEMBER 28, 2011)

Louise "Teedee" Doris Litzenburger, a life-long resident of Boyne City, died unexpectedly Dec. 28, 2011, at Northern Michigan Regional Hospital.

Teedee was born July 25, 1934, to Dr. A.F. and Marjorie Litzenburger in Detroit. Shortly after her birth the family moved to Boyne City where Teedee made her home.

She graduated from Boyne City High School and obtained a teacher's certificate from Central Michigan University. After gradu-

ation, she returned to Boyne City and taught second grade for thirty years at Boyne City Elementary School. She was a faithful teacher and loved teaching students of that special age.

Teedee was an avid reader, a supporter of the Charlevoix County Humane Society, was interested in the historical preservation of her hometown, especially Pearl Street, and loved to help at her nephew's landscaping Company, Litzzenburger Landscaping of Harbor Springs.

Her parents, Dr. A.F. and Marjorie Litzenburger, and her brother, Albert Litzenburger, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her brother and sister-in-law, Seberon "Boo" and Diane Litzenburger of Harbor Springs; her sister and brother-in-law Nancy (Litzenburger) and William Watt of Westlake, Village, CA; sister-in-law, Sue Litzenburger of Boyne City; her nephews Gow Litzzenburger of Harbor Springs and Albert Watt of Los Angeles, CA; her nieces Liesel (Litzenburger) Meijer of Grand Rapids and Heather Watt of Florida.

A gathering of friends and family was held Monday, January 2, 2012 at the Eagles Lodge FOE in Boyne City. Memorial contributions are suggested in Teedee's name to the Charlevoix County Human Society.

Stackus Funeral Home of Boyne City is serving the family.

Ruby Curtis

(JULY 2, 1917 - DEC. 28, 2011)

Ruby Curtis, 94, of Charlevoix, passed away Wednesday, December 28, 2011, at Georgia House in Charlevoix. Friends may meet Ruby's family from 6-8:00 pm, Thursday at the Winchester Funeral Home in Charlevoix, where the funeral will be at 1:00 pm, Friday, December 30. The Reverend Ginger Stevens of Third Day Fellowship and Outreach will officiate. Burial will be in Brookside Cemetery in Charlevoix.

Ruby was born in Charlevoix on July 2, 1917, to William W. and Addie (Rush) Gregory. She graduated from Charlevoix High School. On February 11, 1939, Ruby married Eugene Curtis, and they made their home in Charlevoix.

Ruby worked for D.M.E. in Charlevoix, retiring in 1982. After retiring she volunteered at the Rainbow Shoppe and the Charlevoix Food Pantry. She was a member of the Community Church of God.

She is survived by her two daughters, Jean Davis and Linda Ostling both of Charlevoix; grandchildren, Scott (Susan) Davis of Harrison Township, Michelle (Jody Putman) Stevens of Charlevoix, Kimberly (Jim) Atkinson of Bloomfield Township, Dennis Curtis of Charlevoix; great-grandchildren, Brandon (Liz Dohm) Stevens, Bailee Stevens, Katelyn, Trey, and Courtney Atkinson, Stephanie Fels; sister, Winifred (Willard) Biallas of Walloon Lake; special cousin, Madelyn Heise, and many nieces and nephews.

Ruby was preceded in death by her husband Eugene on October 13, 1963; her parents; son John "Jack" and his wife Katherine "Katie" Curtis; sons-in-law, Rex "Rick" Davis and Eugene Ostling; sister Opal; brother, Harold; half-brothers, Willis and Clifton. Ruby will be greatly missed by her family.

Memorial contributions may be made to Northwest Michigan Hospice, 220 West Garfield, Charlevoix, MI 49720, or to Third Day Fellowship, PO Box 174, 1204 Bridge Street, Charlevoix, MI 49720.

Doris Biddick, 103

Doris Biddick of Boyne City, died Monday, Jan. 2, 2012, at Mallard Cove Adult Foster Care in Petoskey.

Services are pending.

The Winchester Funeral Home in Charlevoix is handling the arrangements.

Ruth Swanson Cook, 99

Ruth Swanson Cook of Charlevoix, died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012, at Grandvue Medical Care Facility in East Jordan.

The Winchester Funeral Home in Charlevoix is handling the arrangements.

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

JordanValley District Library partners with MORE Program

The Jordan Valley District Library has partnered with the MORE (Matching Opportunities and Resources for Entrepreneurs) Program, a U.S. Department of Labor funded non-profit organization to provide free access to the InsYght portal, an online tool that can connect small businesses and start-ups to over 2,000 public, private and non-profit organizations and services. Entrepreneurs represent a significant percentage of Michigan's population. More than two-hundred thousand businesses are founded each year in the state. That's one out of every 31 adults in the state working to develop an idea or establish a business. Many of these entrepreneurs are members of the community and they're looking for help to bring their ideas from concept to reality.

The MORE program has been gathering data on resources throughout the state for entrepreneurs to use the InsYght portal. The user accesses the system by creating a profile of his or her company. There are currently over 580 users registered using the portal. InsYght does the rest, by providing listings of available resources that closely matches the information to connect the user to the available resources. Local additional partners include Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, North Central Michigan College, Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Small Business Technology and Development Centers and others. Learn more at www.themoreprogram.com or on the library's website (jvdl.info) under resources/business resource center.

RECREATION, EVENTS, ARTS & DINING

Schubert's "Trout Quintet" concert at Indian River's Cross in the Woods



The Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra's Sunday Series of Chamber recitals will present Franz Schubert's famous "Trout Quintet" featuring Paul Sonner, GLCO concertmaster, Interlochen Arts Academy faculty colleagues, and friends. COURTESY PHOTO

The Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra's Sunday Series of Chamber recitals will present Franz Schubert's famous "Trout Quintet" featuring Paul Sonner, GLCO concertmaster, Interlochen Arts Academy faculty colleagues, and friends. As an introduction to the quintet, Amy Joy Cross, soprano, will sing the Schubert song, Die Forelle, for which the Schubert quintet is named. The recital will be given at the Cross in the Woods, Indian River, at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, January 8, 2012.

Sonner will be joined by David Holland, viola; Liz Bert, cello; Gary Gatzke, bass, and Steven Larson, piano, all of whom have performed on GLCO events. Sonner serves as concertmaster of both the GLCO and the Traverse Symphony Orchestra while teaching violin and chamber music at the Interlochen Arts Academy. David Holland teaches viola at IAA, Central Michigan University, and the University of Michigan. Liz Bert plays with the GLCO, is principal cellist with the Traverse Symphony Orchestra and is a string specialist faculty for the Traverse City Area Public Schools. Gary Gatzke, graduate of both IAA and Juilliard, is on the staff at IAA and performs as principal bass in the TSO. Gatzke received both his Bachelor of Music and his Master of Music degrees from Juilliard. Steven Larson, accompanist at IAA, has performed in recitals and chamber music festivals throughout the Midwest, including the Absolutely Amadeus Festival in Milwaukee and Chamber Music North.

Amy Joy Cross is relatively new to northern Michigan and the GLCO is pleased to introduce her in such a special program. Cross studied voice at Boston University before moving to California where she performed with many Bay Area opera companies, including Opera San Jose, and West Bay Opera.

Sponsored by the Roger and Peggy Dicken Schwer Fund administered by the Petsokay/Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, the program is free and open to the public. For further information, contact the GLCO: www.glcorchestra.org & 231-487-0010.



Amy Joy Cross, soprano, will sing the Schubert song, Die Forelle, for which the Schubert quintet is named. COURTESY PHOTO

OPINION

Support Independently Owned Businesses in 2012

By Dave Baragrey

As we begin a new year you can make a difference in our local economy. Make a commitment to shop at stores owned and operated by your neighbors.

The benefits of shopping at independently owned stores are well documented by research. Studies done by economists show that:

When you spend \$100 at a locally owned business \$62 stays in our community.

When you spend \$100 at a national chain \$42 stays in our community.

When you spend \$100 online \$0 stays in our community.

These figures alone should convince you of the benefit of shopping at independently owned local businesses but there is so much more. Spending at an independently owned business leads to better schools, better roads and local support of community charities and fundraisers.

Studies also show that local, independently owned businesses paid higher wages and used more local goods and services stretching that local dollar even further.

In yet another reason for consumers to consider shopping locally, new research reveals that successful small businesses are helping bolster sagging real estate markets in some communities.

That's the finding of the American Express Open In-

dependent Retail Index, which found that neighborhoods with thriving independent businesses saw home values outperform citywide markets by 50 percent over the last 14 years.

The report specifically studied 27 neighborhoods where small businesses have thrived in 15 major U.S. cities, concluding that home values there outperformed their broader markets.

In addition, when you shop at independently owned businesses you will often deal with the owner of the business. Their knowledge of the product or service and their concern to see you leave as a happy customer will usually result in a very pleasant shopping experience.

If consumers would simply look for the opportunity to shift a portion of their spending from on-line businesses to independently owned businesses it could make a difference in our region of Northern Michigan.

Make 2012 the year you make the effort to make a difference. Make the decision to move 10% of your spending to independently owned businesses. The elegance of the 10 percent shift right now is that it doesn't ask people to expand their budgets and spend more. It asks people to be more conscious about where they spend what they've already budgeted for.

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Sherlock Holmes: ALL DAYS 7:00PM
We Bought a Zoo: FRI 7:00, SAT/SUN 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, MON-TH 7:00
Girl with the Dragon Tattoo: FRI 7:00, SAT/SUN 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, MON-TH 7:00

231-547-4353- hotline for schedule

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EAST JORDAN

Astronomy Club Meets Jan. 5

Thursday, January 5, 2012 is the next scheduled meeting of NOMAC, the newly formed Northern Michigan Astronomy Club at Raven Hill Discovery Center. Bryan Shumaker will share "Basic Cosmology: How things work and what do all those abbreviations mean?" The club meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. After the indoor program, the group will spend time at the Center's Moon Base viewing the heavens through the Center's 16-inch reflecting telescope, if the weather permits. Attendees are also invited to bring their own telescopes. Call 231.536.3369 for more information.

BOYNE CITY

Applications open for market manager

Boyer City Main Street is accepting applications until 5 p.m., Friday, January 6, for an independent contractor to serve as Market Man-

ager of the Boyne City Farmers Market. The market manager's job description is available at www.boynecityfarmersmarket.com or by contacting the Main Street office. Please submit your resume, letter of interest, and three references to Main Street, 112 South Park St., Suite F, Boyne City, MI. 49712. For more information, email mainstreet@boynecity.com or call 231.582.9009.

PETOSKEY

Poverty Simulation

The Char-Em Poverty Reduction Initiative will hold a Poverty Simulation at the Emmet County Fairgrounds on January 27 from 10am to Noon. This event is being held to expand public awareness of the daily struggles many residents of Charlevoix and Emmet County that live in poverty experience. There is no charge to participate, but space is limited. Registration is requested by January 6. For more information or to register or contact Casey Adams at

vista@charemunitedway.org or call at 231-487-1006

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 1pm 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

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.

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 Wallow Lake. Contact us at Office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com.

EAST JORDAN

Winter Farmers Market

The East Jordan Garden Club is sponsoring a winter Farmers' Market, 10 am to 2 pm, at the East Jordan Civic Center. It will be open the second Thursday of each month; January 12, February 19, March 8 and April 12.

EAST JORDAN

Sno-Lovers Breakfast

East Jordan Sno-Mobilers

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Club House, Mt. Bliss Rd. Adults-\$6, Kids (5-10) \$3, Under 4 Free. Every Sunday, 7am - Noon

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

AKtion Club's Annual Penny Drive

Please send in any odd pennies you have hanging out and the AKtion Club will do the rest! AKtion Club helps with a variety of Christmas Projects including filling shoe boxes for operation Christmas Child, shopping for Adopt a Family, and making fruit baskets for area Senior Citizens who receive commodities in Boyne City and Charlevoix that are delivered by Charlevoix AKtion Club! If you have questions, ask an AKtion Club member or call Kim Brock at 231-547-2979X11. Thank you in advance for your support!

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

Donations and pledges needed to finish recreational trail

Since the recent announcement of a major state grant has assured that the Boyne City to U.S. 31 recreational trail, local residents have pledged \$3,500 towards the project. Assuming those pledges come through, the project needs another \$14,000 in donations to cover the cost of the \$965,000 project. This is according to Michael Sheean, president of the North Country Bicycle Club, based in Boyne City. "We've got a great start on this, but we still need support from the public," Sheean said. Private donations to allow the development of the trail can be made to the Top of Michigan Trails Council with the following notation on the memo line of the check: "BC to US-31 Trail Fund." If the donors wish to remain anonymous, that should also be noted in some fashion either on the check or in a note attached to the donation. Pledges for future funding may be made in writing the Top of Michigan Trails Council, 445 E. Mitchell St., Petoskey, MI 49770. The Trails Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and, as a result, donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Funds raised over and above the \$17,500 (if any) will be used to assist in developing the second phase of the trail. For additional information, contact Shirlene Tripp, Chair of the Charlevoix County Parks Committee, at 231-347-9679.

BOYNE CITY

Winter Farmers Market

After a holiday break the indoor winter market resumes Jan. 7. Winter hours will be Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. The market will be held in the red building next to the library.

EAST JORDAN

Glow in the Dark Play Extravaganza

This fun filled play is perfect for the whole family from age 1 to 101. Saturday, January 7 at 7pm in the East Jordan Community Auditorium. Entry by donation.

CHARLEVOIX

Safe at home

Comfort Keepers of Northern Michigan has joined forces with local senior centers, fire departments and libraries to host free "Safe at Home" seminars. The events will feature hands-on demonstrations and information from safety experts. A seminar takes place at 3pm, Jan. 9 at Charlevoix Public Library

BOYNE CITY

Blood Drive

Blood drive in the Boyne Area will be held Jan. 10 at Boyne City Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. To schedule a donation time or get more information about giving blood or platelets, visit red-

crossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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.

BOYNE CITY

Help design Boyne City's future

Are you interested in shaping Boyne City's future? If so, plan to attend a City-wide Goal-Setting Session at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12 in the Parish Hall at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, 1303 Boyne Avenue (M-75 South). This meeting is an opportunity to share suggestions, ask questions, hear what your fellow citizens are thinking, and receive updates on the status of previously established goals. Input received at this meeting will assist the City Commission and other city boards and commissions in determining the short-term and long-term goals for our community. If you are not able to attend, you may submit suggestions to: City of Boyne City, 319 N. Lake St., or by emailing cgrice@boynecity.com. For additional information or questions, contact City Hall at 582-6597.

EAST JORDAN

Spaghetti dinner

The East Jordan 6th Grade class will be holding a Washington D.C. trip fundraiser: Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday, January 19 at the East Jordan Middle School from 5-7 PM. Ticket price is \$6.00 single ticket and \$20 family ticket. There will also be a Silent Auction and Bake Sale. Tickets can be purchased from any 6th Grade student or at the door.

EAST JORDAN

SNO-BLAST

SNO-BLAST 2012 is days away! January 13-14-15 are the dates for the 31st Annual Sno-Blast Winter Festival. Check out the fun schedule of events for all ages to enjoy. Back by popular demand is the Sno-Blast Parade scheduled for Friday night as part of the Friday Night on Main Street activities along with the Rotary Chili Supper, hayrides with Tom Sheridan and his awesome Ford tractor and lighted wagon, Twister Joe sponsored by Bay Winds Federal Credit Union, Crowning ceremonies for Belle of the Blizzard and Winter Knight, merchant sidewalk (indoor) sales and more. Get into the fun-build a float, dress in costume - promote your business or organization - join the parade!

CHARLEVOIX

Fiddlers and Pickers Jamboree

Join the Charlevoix Knights of Columbus on Saturday, January 14th from 3-10pm at the VFW Hall for the 9th annual music fest featuring area violinists, fiddlers, guitarists, and other string instruments. Any area string musician is invited! It's a musical "hoe down" for fun and laughs. Dancing and sing alongs are encouraged. Food and beverage will be available for sale. Proceeds fund area youth music scholarships. Entry cost is donation only. For more information contact Gabe Campbell at 231.547.9739 or Ed Linse at 231.547.4526

East Jordan Rotary Club

presents...

Sno Blast Chili Supper

Friday, January 13

Chili, Cornbread, Drink & Desserts

WHERE: Downtown East Jordan at the Senior Center

WHEN: Friday, January 13, 4:30-7PM

TICKETS: \$8-Adult, \$7 Senior, \$5 Child

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Orders will be taken until noon on Friday, January 13

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News Briefs

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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

Winterfolk Concert Series

Monday's, 6:30pm at Charlevoix Public Library, 220 W. Clinton St.

January 23: Melissa Welke

February 27: Ernie Mindel

March 26: Bob & Letty Faccett

EAST JORDAN

Wild Game Potluck

Saturday, January 14th, 6pm. Come out to the Martha Wagbo Farm and Education Center for our third annual wild game potluck! Join us at the Wagbo farmhouse at 6pm and share in the bounty of northern Michigan foods. Bring a dish of wild or local food to pass if you can, but it's not required for attendance. The potluck wraps up with a showing of the film *The Complete Angler* at 7pm. Set amidst the beauty and tranquility of Irish and English waterways, this visual poem celebrates the joys of nature and literature, of solitude and beauty and the elegant art of fly fishing. Free and open to the public. For more info, call 231-536-0333. Located three miles south of East Jordan.

CHARLEVOIX

Drug Use Trends in Charlevoix County

How can we respond? Drug use trends in Charlevoix County will be reviewed and updated information will be shared about national trends and how these are impacting our area. The program will also talk about how we need to respond at all levels: personal, family, school, and community responses. Audience: parents, grandparents and interested community members, especially community leaders and decision makers. Jan. 24, 6:30-8pm at the Charlevoix Library, 220 W. Clinton St. The speaker for this class will be Scott Kelly, Executive Director of BASES teen center.

CHARLEVOIX

Check the Facts

Political, Health and Urban Legends. This event will be held at the Charlevoix Public Library on Tuesday January 31 at 6:30 pm. make sure you call to register for the event! 231.237.7340.

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.

BOYNE CITY

Ice Out contest returns

The Great Lake Charlevoix Ice Out contest will be held again this winter as a fund-raiser benefiting the Alano Clubs of Boyne City and Charlevoix. Community members will have the opportunity to purchase guesses on the day and time the carefully selected rock, "Rocky Balboa", will fall through the ice. The person who picks the closest date and time will win \$1,000. The rest of the funds will be split between the two organizations. Rocky and a specially constructed clock will be placed on Lake Charlevoix near the marina lighthouse as soon as ice conditions allow. Tickets are available until March 15. The cost for each guess is \$2 and tickets will be sold by Alano Club board members and at participating businesses, including the Boyne Area Chamber, Local Flavor bookstore and Pat O'Brien Real Estate. Alano clubs manage facilities that host 12-step recovery programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Alanon, Alateen, Narcotics Anonymous, etc. to meet the needs of individuals, families and communities. For more information about this contest or the Alano Clubs of Boyne City or Charlevoix, contact Pat O'Brien at 231-582-1700 or Richard O'Leary at 231- 547- 9184.

EAST JORDAN

Wassailing Winter Celebration

Saturday, January 21st, 6pm. Join the Martha Wagbo Farm and Education Center for a potluck and winter celebration. Wassailing is an ancient rural tradition of toasting to the health of an orchard in hopes that a bountiful crop will ensue the following year. A community celebration, Wassailing is done on a January night beginning with a feast and libations, followed by a short procession to the orchard where toasts are made and torches lit. Bring a sled! Immediately following will be a sledding party! Free and open to the public. For more info, call 231-536-0333. Located three miles south of East Jordan.

BOYNE CITY

Safe at home

Comfort Keepers of Northern Michigan has joined forces with local senior centers, fire departments and libraries to host free "Safe at Home" seminars. The events will feature hands-on demonstrations and information from safety experts. A seminar takes place at 2pm Jan. 19 at Boyne Public Library

BOYNE CITY

Winter Farmers Market

After a holiday break the indoor winter market resumes Jan. 7. Winter hours will be Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. The market will be held in the red building next to the library.

FROM PAGE 3

Legislation

Quarterly Wage Report; Electronic Filing

The Act requires each employer to file a quarterly wage report with the UIA. The bill requires an employee to file the quarterly reports by an electronic method approved by the UIA. The schedule for implementing this requirement will be based on the number of employees an employer has on January 1, 2013, as shown below:

of Employees Implementation Date
25 or more First quarter of 2013, 6 to 24 First quarter of 2014, 1 to 5 First quarter of 2015. Upon the application of an employer with five or fewer employees, the UIA director may grant additional time if he or she determines that electronic filing would cause economic hardship for the employer.

An employer that complies with these electronic filing requirements will not be required to file periodically to disclose contributions under the Act. Seasonal Employment

Under the Act, unemployment benefits based on services by a seasonal worker performed in seasonal employment are payable only for weeks of employment that occur during the normal seasonal work period. Benefits are not payable to an individual based on services performed in seasonal employment for any week of unemployment that begins during the period between two successive normal seasonal work periods if the individual performs the services in the first of those periods and there is a reasonable assurance that he or she will perform the services for a seasonal employer during the second period. An employer may apply to the UIA for designation as a seasonal employer.

The previous definition of "seasonal employer" referred to an employer, other than an employer in the construction industry, whose operations and business "are substantially engaged" in seasonal employment. The bill refers to an employer whose operations and business "require employees" in seasonal employment.

The definition of "seasonal employment" also included employment of one or more individuals to perform services in an industry, other than the construction industry, that customarily operates during regularly recurring periods of 26 weeks or less in any 52-consecutive-week period. The bill generally retains this provision but omits the requirement that the industry "customarily operate" during periods of 26 weeks or less.

The previous definition also included employment in an industry, other than the construction industry, that customarily employs at least 50% of its employees for regularly recurring periods of 26 weeks or less within a period of 52 consecutive weeks. The bill deleted that provision.

Benefit Charges: Claimant Earnings

The Act requires the UIA to maintain in the Unemployment Compensation Fund a nonchargeable benefits account and a separate experience account for each employer.

For benefit years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, benefits payable to an individual for a week and for each remaining payable week in the benefit year must be charged to the nonchargeable benefits account if either of the following occurs:

— The individual reports gross earnings in a week with a contributing base period employer at least equal to the employer's benefit charges for the individual for the week.

— A contributing base period employer timely protests a determination charging benefits to its account for a week in which the employer paid an individual gross wages at least equal to the employer's charges for benefits paid to the individual for that year.

Other Employer Provisions

Under the bill, if an employer has not had workers in covered employment after 12 or more consecutive calendar quarters, and the employer again becomes liable for contributions, the employer must be considered as newly liable for contributions for purposes of the rate calculation. Previously, this applied if an employer did not have workers in covered employment after eight or more consecutive quarters.

The Act previously required an employer's contribution rate to be reduced if the balance in the Unemployment Compensation Fund, excluding money borrowed from the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund, was at least 1.2% of the aggregate amount of all contributing employers' payrolls for a 12-month period. The bill deleted this requirement.

Claimants Actively Seeking Work

The Act requires an individual to meet various criteria in order to receive benefits. These include requirements that the individual has registered for work and is seeking work. The bill requires an individual to be "actively engaged" in seeking work.

For benefit years beginning on or

after January 1, 2013, to be actively engaged in seeking work, an individual must conduct a systematic and sustained search for work in each week he or she is claiming benefits. The work search will be subject to random audit by the UIA.

Availability for Work

The Act requires an individual to be able and available to perform suitable full-time work of a character that he or she is qualified to perform by past experience or training, that is generally similar to work for which the individual has previously received wages, and for which he or she is available full-time.

The bill provides that an individual will be considered unavailable for work under any of the following circumstances:

— The individual fails during a benefit year to notify or update a chargeable employer with telephone, electronic mail, or other information sufficient to allow the employer to contact the individual about available work.

— The individual fails, without good cause, to respond to the UIA within 14 days after a notice to contact the Agency is mailed or a phone message requesting a return call is left, whichever is later.

— Unless the claimant shows good cause for failure to respond, mail sent to the individual's address of record is returned as undeliverable and the telephone number of record has been disconnected or changed or is otherwise no longer associated with the individual.

The bill also requires an individual to appear at a location of the UIA's choosing for evaluation of eligibility for benefits, if required.

Under the Act, an individual is disqualified from receiving benefits if he or she failed without good cause to apply for available suitable work after receiving notice from the UIA of the availability of that work. Under the bill, an individual will be disqualified if he or she failed without good cause to apply "diligently" after receiving that notice, or failed to apply for work with employers that could reasonably be expected to have suitable work available.

Suitability of Work

Under the bill, beginning January 15, 2012, after an individual has received benefits for 50% of the benefit weeks in his or her benefit year, work will not be considered unsuitable because it is outside of the individual's training or experience, or unsuitable as to pay rate if the following apply: the pay rate for that work meets or exceeds the minimum wage, the pay rate is at least the prevailing mean wage for similar work in the locality for the most recent full calendar year for which data are available, and the pay rate is 120% or more of the individual's weekly benefit amount.

Disqualification Due to Leaving Work

Except as otherwise provided, an individual is disqualified from receiving benefits if he or she left work voluntarily without good cause attributable to the employer.

Under the bill, an individual will be considered to have voluntarily left work without good cause attributable to the employer if he or she is absent from work for at least three consecutive work days without contacting the employer.

The Act provides that an individual claiming benefits has the burden of proof to establish that he or she left work involuntarily or for good cause attributable to the employer. Under the bill, an individual claiming to have left work involuntarily for medical reasons must have done all of the following before the leaving:

— Secured a medical professional's statement that continuing in the current job would be harmful to the individual's physical or mental health.

— Unsuccessfully attempted to secure alternative work with the employer.

— Unsuccessfully attempted to be placed on a leave of absence with the employer to last until the individual's mental or physical health would no longer be harmed by the current job.

If an individual files a new claim for benefits and reports the reason for separation from a base period employer as a voluntary leaving, he or she will be presumed to have voluntarily left without good cause attributable to the employer and will be disqualified unless the individual provides substantial evidence to rebut the presumption.

Qualification Despite Leaving Work

Under the Act, certain individuals are not disqualified from receiving benefits even though they left work. These include an individual who has an established benefit year in effect and during that benefit year leaves unsuitable work within 60 days after beginning it. A person who is the spouse of a full-time member of the U.S. armed forces also is not disqualified if the leaving is due to the military duty reassignment of that member to a different geographic location.

Under the Act, an individual is not disqualified from receiving benefits if he or she leaves work to accept permanent full-time work with another employer and performs services for that employer. The bill extends this to an in-

dividual who leaves work to accept a referral to another employer from the individual's union hiring hall.

Drug Testing

The grounds for disqualification include discharge for illegally ingesting a controlled substance on the employer's premises; refusing to submit to a drug test that was required to be administered in a nondiscriminatory manner; and testing positive on a drug test that was administered in a nondiscriminatory manner. Previously, if the worker disputed the result of the testing, a generally accepted confirmatory test had to be administered and had to indicate a positive result before the worker was disqualified.

Under the bill, instead, if the worker disputes the test result and if a generally accepted confirmatory test has not been administered on the same sample previously tested, then a generally accepted confirmatory test must be administered on that sample. If that test also indicates a positive result, the worker who was discharged as a result of the test result will be disqualified. A report by a drug testing facility showing a positive result will be conclusive unless there is substantial evidence to the contrary.

Benefit Reduction for Remuneration

The Act requires the weekly benefit rate of an eligible individual to be reduced with respect to each week in which he or she earns or receives remuneration. Previously, the rate had to be reduced by 50 cents for each whole dollar earned or received. The bill lowers the reduction to 40 cents for each dollar earned or received until October 1, 2015, when it will return to 50 cents.

Lottery Prize

The bill requires the State Lottery Bureau, before payment of a prize of \$1,000 or more under the Lottery Act, to determine whether the prize winner has a current liability for restitution of unemployment benefits, penalty, or interest assessed by the UIA and the amount of the prize owing to the UIA, and to remit that amount to the Agency.

Legislative Analyst: Suzanne Lowe
FISCAL IMPACT

The bill will generally have a positive fiscal impact on the State's finances. Certain aspects of the bill will result in the payment of a lower amount of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, and others will result in increased revenue.

One of the principal fiscal effects the bill will have is increasing State Unemployment Tax Act (SUTA) tax revenue by approximately 5.6%. The bill increases the taxable wage base for employees from \$9,000 to \$9,500. For calendar year 2012, the Unemployment Insurance Agency had estimated that it would collect approximately \$1.33 billion in SUTA revenue. Under the bill, this number will increase to approximately \$1.40 billion, or an increase of \$74.5 million annually. The bill also specifies that employers with positive experience account balances will have their taxable wage base reduced to \$9,000 once the Unemployment Compensation Fund (UCF) balance reaches \$2.5 billion. Currently, the UCF's balance is effectively zero, as the UIA has used SUTA collections in excess of benefit payments to repay Michigan's substantial Federal unemployment debt. The State may use SUTA tax revenue only for two things: payment of unemployment insurance benefits and repayment of Federal unemployment loans.

Under the law, a recipient of UI benefits is required to be willing and able to perform suitable work. The bill describes additional actions that will cause a recipient to be considered unavailable for work. Also, under the bill, a recipient who has received benefits for 50% of the benefit weeks in his or her benefit year will be unable to turn down work that does not match his or her training or experience, as long as the pay rate is at least 120% of the individual's weekly benefit amount. These two factors will have an indeterminate, but likely positive effect on the UCF, as they will make it somewhat more difficult for claimants to remain eligible for unemployment benefits, thereby reducing benefits paid from the UCF.

Under the bill, the Lottery Bureau will have to determine whether the winner of a prize of \$1,000 or more has any liability with the UIA before issuing the prize. If a liability is found, the Bureau will have to use the prize to repay that liability before paying the winner whatever amount might remain. The fiscal impact of this requirement is indeterminate; it will likely lead to the repayment of some individual UI liabilities, but it also will result in a small increase in administrative costs for the Lottery Bureau.

Fiscal Analyst: Josh Sefton

Analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

Compiled by B. J. Conley
Jan. 2, 2012

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

FROM PAGE 1

2012 Myths

first Century A.D., and the Frenchman Nostradamus certainly devoted a lot of his time to the occult sciences and a book called "The Prophecies" heralded by contemporary astrologers for extraordinary accuracy... these "end of the world" predictions don't really hold up well to modern day scrutiny.

Let's take a closer look at our journey toward 2013.

In a National Geographic News article published a few years back, author Brian Handwerk took a look at the prediction that the world would end on December 12, 2012, the terminus of the Mayan calendar. He found that while that date was indeed a momentous

one for the Mayan's, it simply signified the time when their calendar would "roll over" to a new calendar cycle.

Handwerk also looked at five other "doomsday" predictions, including those that served as the basis for the 2011 blockbuster disaster film, "2012." In regards to a predicted "pole shift" which would cause continents to breakaway, oceans to dump into cities, volcanoes to erupt...it turns out the earth does undergo continental re-arrangement - but it is a process that occurs gradually, on a scale of

millions of years. The odds of turning any Kansas cornfield property into an Oceanside retreat don't look very good in the coming year, of even the next several millennia.

Many world-ending predictions conveniently take place in outer space, such as a rare "galactic alignment" that may trigger the before mentioned pole shift, though NASA scientists relate that cyclical "alignments," such as those occurring during the winter solstice, have no impact on life here on Earth. Another theory is that our sun will

trigger mayhem due to solar storms in 2012, and once again NASA experts point out that while high levels of solar activity can indeed play havoc with earthbound electronic devices, the higher intensity activity patterns run in approximately 11 year cycles, and the next isn't due for a couple of years.

A real "biggie" is a prediction that a mysterious planet, often referred to as Planet X or Nibiru, is on a collision course with Earth this coming year. NASA Astrobiologist, David Morrison, who spoke with

Handwerk for his article back in 2009, noted, "If there were a planet or a brown dwarf or whatever that was going to be in the inner solar system three years from now, astronomers would have been studying it for the past decade and it would be visible to the naked eye by now. It's not there."

So what about Nostradamus and 2012?

First of all, Nostradamus was a pretty vague guy. He liked to write in rhymes and symbols, leaving a whole lot of room for interpretation. Many of those interpreting his writings feel that he accurately foresaw the Great Fire in London that occurred in 1666; "The blood of the just will be demanded of London - burnt by the fire in the year 66," of Hitler and World War II; "From the depths of the West of Europe/ A young child will be born of poor people/ He who by his tongue will seduce a great troop/ His fame will increase towards the real of the East," and the atomic bomb; "Near the gates and within two cities/ There will be scourges the like of which was never seen/ Famine within plague, people put out by steel/ Crying to the great immortal God for relief."

For 2012, Nostradamus writes of "In the sky will be seen a great fire dragging a trail of sparks," and "King of terror shall come from the sky. He will bring to life the King of Mongols," and "The Great Star will blaze for Seven days," and so on. Problem is, no one has been able to actually tie these indistinct "predictions" to a specific year. In fact, the dates 21-12-12 or 12-21-12 are not even found in Nostradamus' writings.

Overall, it seems that the ending (or perhaps more accurately, rolling over) of a calendar created by an ancient civilization seems to be the anchor point for those promoting the end of the world this coming December. Of course, there have been and are many types of calendars over human history, including Solar, Lunar, Bahai, Islamic, Hindu, Chinese, Julian, and the most popular in use today; the Gregorian - so why all the excitement surrounding this rather outdated (pun intended) Mayan idea of tracking the passing of time?

Well, keep your eyes and ears open (but pocketbooks closed) to the incredible amount of marketing attention devoted to the "2012" phenomenon this coming year. Much like the "Y2K" media blitz foreshadowing the turn of the Century a decade ago...the coming year promises to bring "world ending" marketing campaign that simply will not be ignored.

That reminds me, I need to purchase a 2013 calendar...my 2012 ran out (yikes!).

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