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sports



PHOTO BY CINDA SHUMAKER
East Jordan's Grace Howes (34) looks for an open teammate as Boyne City's Tanner McCune (10) defends



PHOTO BY CINDA SHUMAKER
Austen Mellios of East Jordan makes a pass to an open teammate against Boyne City.

Index

- Weather.....2A
- Legislative Update3A
- Obituaries.....6A
- Arts & Dining.....7A
- News Briefs.....8A
- Health11A
- Local Sports1-4B
- Crossword.....3B
- Classifieds/Real Estate5-7B



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Charlevoix Hotel fire an accident by resident

B. J. Conley

CHARLEVOIX — An investigation into the cause of the fire that demolished the Charlevoix Hotel on Antrim Street has determined that it was an accident by one of the residents.

City of Charlevoix Fire Chief Paul Ivan said there is more work to be completed, however any mechanical problems have been ruled out as a cause of the fire.

"We know it was a hotel resident who was responsible, but we don't know how it happened yet," Ivan said. He has contacted the



FILE PHOTO

resident, but has not heard back from him as of Monday, Feb. 13.

The Charlevoix Fire Department was called at 3:50 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28

See **Hotel Fire—3A**

on a report of a fire at the Charlevoix Hotel, 206 Antrim St. Firefighters arrived to find flames visible from the outside of the building. There was one tenant who had to be rescued from a second-story window. All other tenants (approximately 8 to 10) made it out safely on their own. No one was injured. The 10-room hotel was not insured. The building was paid for and the owner, John Connolly, will need to pay for the removal of the debris. Connolly owns two lots at the downtown site.

Commission on Aging to begin charging fees for services

B. J. Conley

CHARLEVOIX — Senior citizens who need services from the Charlevoix County Commission on Aging will be asked to pay for the care according to their income.

"Previously, senior services had been provided on a donation basis," COA Director Jack Messer said in a letter that is being mailed to COA clients and caregivers. Messer says that requests for services continue to rise while revenues to support the services have fallen.

The services listed in the packet being mailed are Personal Care, Homemaker, Respite, Medication Management and Foot Care. The cost to a client to have personal care ranges from \$3.50 per hour to \$23 per hour up to \$22 per hour at the top income level. Medication Management charges begin at \$6 per hour and increase to \$40 per hour, depending on income.

The charges are to bolster funds received from federal and state grants, donations



PHOTO BY B. J. CONLEY

Commission on Aging director Jack Messer received approval from the county board of commissioners on Feb. 8 to begin charging clients for in-home services.

and property tax millages. The new fee structure goes into effect the first of March. Messer presented the information to the Charlevoix County Commissioners at a Feb. 8 meeting to receive commission approval of

the action. On a motion by commissioner Richard Gillespie and supported by commissioner Chris Christensen, the request to begin charging seniors for the services was approved. Commissioners Shirlene Tripp and Joel

Evans also voted to approve. Commissioner Bob Drebenedt voted not to approve and commissioner Ron Reinhardt was on an excused absence from the meeting.

reporterbjh@gmail.com

East Jordan moves on marijuana ordinance

B. J. Conley

EAST JORDAN — The city commission approved a Resolution of Appreciation to Tom Breakey for his volunteer efforts to create an ice skating rink in Community Park, at its Feb. 7 meeting.

Commissioners then discussed amending the city's Zoning Code. The purpose of the amendment is to address the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act. The Act requires municipalities to add an ordinance that allows medical patients to grow and use marijuana.

Some of the regulations state that the use of marijuana occur in the patient's dwelling, that the patient must maintain a valid registry identification card by the Michigan Department of Community Health, and that all marijuana plants or products must be contained within the dwelling in an enclosed, locked facility with access only by the patient.

The commission did not make a decision on the ordinance language as it was up for discussion only.

Commissioners were unable to agree on a candidate to appoint to the seat left open by Ray Fisher. A special election may be necessary if they do not appoint someone.

"It disappoints me that we couldn't come up with someone to replace Ray Fisher," Mayor Russ Peck said. "I don't think it's in the city's best interest to hold a special election."

The city commission passed a resolution to maintain the city's harbor. Dredging will take place because of sedimentation that occurs from low water levels, storms and other natural lake processes.

"We must dredge or we cannot open the marina," city administrator Bob Anderson said.

The resolution requests U.S. Cong. Dan Benishek, M.D., Sen. Carl Levin and Sen. Debbie Stabenow to support House Resolution

See **East Jordan Commission—3A**

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SEE PAGE 7A FOR DETAILS!

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weather	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	snowfall	record temps
	HIGH: Mid 30's LOW: Upper 20's	HIGH: Mid 30's LOW: Low 20's	HIGH: Low 30's LOW: Upper 10's	HIGH: Low 30's LOW: Low 20's		
	2010-11 Amount	2011-12 Amount	2010-11 Amount	2011-12 Amount		

COUNTY RECORDS

DISTRICT COURT

The following cases were recently decided in the 90th District Court for the County of Charlevoix:

William Kaidge Stokes, 20, Boyne City. Driving without a valid license. Sentenced to pay \$250 in fines and costs.

Victoria Anna Beeler, 18, East Jordan. Driving without license on person. Sentenced to pay \$200 in fines and costs.

Robert Charles Adams, 47, Charlevoix. Driving without security. Sentenced to pay \$365 in fines and costs.

Justin Gerard Martin, 24, Beaver Island. Driving while impaired. Sentenced to pay \$905 in fines and costs and to 36 days in jail with credit for one day, 30 days held in abeyance, five days of community service work and six months on probation.

Anthony David Cesaro, 29, Charlevoix. Possession of marijuana – 2nd offense. Sentenced to pay \$1,000 in fines and costs and to serve 365 days in jail with credit for two days, serve 363 days.

Dan Jay Rohrscheib, 54, Garden City. Stalking. Sentenced to pay \$500 in fines and costs and to 365 days in jail with credit for 18 days, 349 days held in abeyance and one year on probation.

Randy Clay Peck, 50, Boyne Falls. Driving while impaired. Sentenced to pay \$855 in fines and costs and to 93 days in jail with credit for one day, 87 days held in abeyance, five days of community service work and one year on probation.

Kevin Charles Sapp, 46, Gaylord. Driving without a license on person. Sentenced to pay \$200 in fines and costs.

Robert Gordon Sims, 54, Charlevoix. Disturbing the peace. Sentenced to pay \$300 in fines and costs.

Jeremy Daniel Fuller, 26, Charlevoix. Malicious destruction of a building. Sentenced to pay \$425 in fines and costs and to 21 days in jail with credit for 21 days.

Chad Jon Hoppe, 25, East Jordan. Use of Adderall. Sentenced to pay \$1,025 in fines

and costs and to 365 days in jail with credit for one day, serve 10 days, 344 days held in abeyance, 10 days of community service work and one year on probation.

Levi Eugene Sanford Jr., 48, Ellsworth. Driving while impaired. Sentenced to pay \$1,510 in fines and costs and to serve 93 days in jail with credit for one day, serve 12 days on work release, 70 days held in abeyance, 10 days of community service work and one year on probation.

Briana Mae Maudrie, 12/91, Beaver Island. Minor in possession of alcohol. Sentenced to pay \$300 in fines and costs and to 40 days of community service work and six months on probation.

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

Foremost Firearms, 02715 Pleasant Valley Road, Boyne City by Jason Jasinski.

J & S Auto Repair & Marine Service, 06807 Marion Center, Charlevoix by Steven Scully and Jeremy Moses.

Knit Knitland and More, 07770 Old U.S. 31 North by Cheri Bogan.

Round Lake Calligraphy, 101 Eagle Dr., Charlevoix by Laura Kelly.

Northern Michigan Scrappers, 14407 Klooster Road, Charlevoix by Robert Harman.

Clear Sky Solutions, 516 Meadowlane, Charlevoix by Dennis M. Priess.

Advanced Septic Systems, 2350 Ericken Road, Boyne City by Eli Hoaglund.

Green Anchor Management, 12938 Pineridge Dr., Charlevoix by Randi Hunter.

Digital Destruction, 103 W. Hurlbut St., Charlevoix by Jason Niswander.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

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

Jeremiah Robert Harman, 32, Jackson and Stacy Rena, 28, East Jordan.

Ronald Alan Winchester, 54, Charlevoix and Jayne Susan Bennett, 55, Charlevoix.

CHX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

February 6-12

911 Hang Up Call.....	1
Abandoned Vehicle.....	0
Abuse.....	0
Alarm.....	2
Animal Complaint.....	13
Annoyance.....	0
Assault.....	0
Assist Citizen.....	4
Assist Motorist.....	3
Assist Other Agency.....	15
Attempt to Locate.....	1
Attempted Suicide.....	0
Bank Alarm.....	0
Boating Accident.....	0
Boating Violation.....	0
Breaking & Entering.....	1
Car/Deer Accident.....	5
Citations Issued.....	32
Civil Complaint.....	3
Criminal Sexual Conduct.....	0
Death.....	0
Disorderly Person.....	0
Disturbance.....	2
DNR Complaint.....	0
Domestic Dispute.....	2
Driving Complaint.....	4
Fire.....	1
Found Property.....	0
Fraud.....	3
Health & Safety.....	1
Hit & Run.....	1
Intoxicated Person.....	0
Juvenile.....	2
Larceny.....	5
Lockout.....	7
Lost Property.....	0
Malicious Destruction of Property.....	0
Mental Subject.....	0

Minor In Possession.....	0
Miscellaneous Criminal.....	1
Missing Person.....	0
Noise Complaint.....	1
Operating Under the Influence.....	0
Paper Service.....	11
Parking Violation.....	0
Personal Injury Accident.....	1
Personal Protection Order.....	0
Private Property Accident.....	0
Property Check.....	1
Property Damage Accident.....	7
Prowler.....	0
Road Hazard.....	2
Stalking.....	0
Suspicious Situation.....	8
Threat.....	0
Traffic Stop.....	109
Trespassing.....	0
Unknown Accident.....	0
Unlawful Driving Away of Automobile.....	0
Vehicle in the Ditch.....	0
Violation of Controlled Substance Act.....	3

BOYNE CITY POLICE DEPT.

Monday, February 6
1:13am Audible alarm in the 200 block of Charlevoix St. All secure
2:59am Report of damage to car in the 1200 block of Boyne Av
4:45am Assist EMS on Roosevelt St
11:12am Report of reckless driver on Franklin St
3:56pm Trespass reported in the 300 block of E Division St
10:51am Request for welfare check in the area of Avalanche Mountain
11:05pm Vehicle unlock on Lexamar Dr

Tuesday, February 7
5:12am Assist Sheriff Department at fight in progress in East Jordan
6:13am Disturbance reported in the 300 block of E Division St
12:29pm 2 dogs reported running at large in the 500 block of N Lake St
1:47pm Pair of prescription glasses found at Post Office.
7:27pm Report of dog in roadway at Lincoln and Boyne Av. Gone on arrival
8:35pm Unlock in the 300 block of E Division
11:11pm Assist EMS in the 300 block of Pine St

Wednesday, February 8
12:53am Suspicious situation reported in the 500 block of Harris St
9:20am Report of suspicious subject hanging around the 500 block of N Lake St
1:46pm Suspicious phone call reported from the 500 block of N Lake St
4:20pm Report of suspicious subject in the 100 block of N Park St

Thursday, February 9
6:09am Report of threatening phone calls being received in the 800 block of S Lake St
12:53pm Driving complaint received on N Lake St
2:00pm Report of missing cat from Glenwood Beach area
2:31pm Scam email dropped off that was received in the 500 block of E Main St
4:19pm Assault reported that had occurred in the 1000 block of Boyne Av

Friday, February 10
10:09am Driving complaint received in the 200 block of

Franklin St
12:22pm Report of traffic light malfunctioning at Lake and Water. Repaired
1:58pm Citation issued for speed
2:03pm Report of missing wallet from the 300 block of E Division St
4:37pm Report of large amount of smoke in the 800 block of Front St
7:14pm 911 hangup from the 400 block of Ann St
7:28pm Threats received in the 400 block of N Lake St
9:47pm Threats complaint received from the 300 block of Silver St

Saturday, February 11
1:51am Disturbance reported at Robinson and Court St
6:25am Located suspicious vehicle in the 500 block of Bay St
10:02am Attempted unlock in the 200 block or E Water St
11:16am 2 vehicle property damage accident at Marshall and Lakeshore Dr
4:30pm Citation issued for speed
11:41pm Arrested subject for OWI. Also cited for Disregarding Flashing Red Signal

Sunday, February 12
1:50am Arrested subject for MIP and Obstruction by Disguise
8:12am Arrest subject for driving while license suspended
9:59pm Assist Sheriff Department with alarm on M-75 S.
1:39pm Assist EMS in the 300 block of E Division St
8:22pm Arrested 2 subjects for possession of marijuana in the 400 block of N Lake St

ACCIDENTS & INVESTIGATIONS

Single vehicle roll-over accident on Ellsworth Road

On February 10, 2012 around 5:49 p.m. the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office responded to a single vehicle roll-over accident on Ellsworth Road in South Arm Township. The driver, Erik Jeffrey Miller age 18 of Central Lake, was traveling East when he lost control of his vehicle. Miller left the roadway to the South, down a small

embankment and rolled the vehicle one complete rotation. Speed and poor road conditions were believed to be a contributing factor in the accident.

Miller was transported to the Charlevoix Area Hospital by East Jordan EMS where he was treated for minor neck pain and a small laceration to his right hand. The Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office was assisted on scene by the East Jordan Police Department.

The Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office would like to remind motorists to use extreme caution while driving during the winter months, as road conditions may deteriorate rapidly.

Car strikes tree on Springvale Road

On February 12, 2012 at approximately 8:15 a.m. the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office responded to a personal injury accident on Springvale Road near Springbrook Rd.

The driver, Rachel Butler age 18 from Boyne City, lost control of her

2000 Mercury Sable and hit a tree. Butler was taken to Northern Michigan Hospital by Boyne City EMS for a suspected broken elbow and possible other injuries that occurred during the accident. Alcohol and speed are believed to be a factor in the

crash. The Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Boyne City EMS and Melrose Fire Department.

Reward offered in vandalism investigation

The Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office and the Boyne City Police Department are offering a reward for information on two incidents.

The first incident occurred sometime in the evening of November 6 and the morning of November 7, 2011. The malicious destruction of property incident occurred at the Wilson Township Hall on Fall Park Road. Someone had spray painted

"Occupy Boyne City" on the side of the building.

The second malicious destruction of property incident occurred at the Boyne City High School on November 11, 2011, around 9:00 pm. Again, someone had spray painted on the side of the building and on windows "Occupy Boyne" and also "Revolution."

A reward of \$500.00 will be given to

an individual who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the suspect or suspects who committed this crime. Any information that can be provided concerning these crimes can call either the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office at (231) 547-4461 or the Boyne City Police Department at (231) 582-6611.

Charlevoix County News

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23	T	E	R	B	I	U	M	A	E	R	I	E		
26	L	A	M	A	R	S	A	L	M	O	N			
31	L	I	F	E	E	N	I	D	S	E	E	T	O	
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News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Ellsworth Council Meets

by Tina Sundelius

ELLSWORTH At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Ellsworth Village Council members discussed that due to this year's inability to depend on Mother Nature the Shiverfest has been structured so that the events of the weekend can go on without a hitch whether she blows (or doesn't blow) some of the white stuff our way.

Events begin Friday, Feb. 17 indoors at the Gold Nugget's locally renowned fish dinner from 5-9p.m., followed by dessert tasting at the Banks Township Hall from 6-8p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18 concession's and a warming fire await those taking advantage of Michigan's free fishing weekend as well as those participating in events at the Community Park. Cardboard Sled Races begin at 10:30a.m., a snowman building contest begins at 11:30a.m. and the Breezeway Snowmobile Ride In takes place from 12-4p.m..

Events move from the park to the House on the Hill Bed and Breakfast with registration for the Shiverfest Snowshoe challenge beginning at 1p.m. and race time at 2p.m.. If there is not enough snow the race will be run as an off-road foot race, your choice of 1 mile fun run or 5K race, there is a \$5 entry fee for the fun run and \$10 for the 5K. Later that evening the Cabin Fever Reliever Euchre Tournament will be held at 7p.m. at the Banks township Hall a \$10 registration fee includes refreshments and prizes. Entertainment will be provided at the Gold Nugget afterward. Sunday, Feb. 19 the free fishing weekend continues and the Snowmobile Poker Run begins at 9a.m. till 4p.m.. If there is not enough snow for the sleds the run can be done using cars. The poker run has four stops, there is a \$15 entry fee, sign up at the East Jordan Snowmobile club or the Gold Nugget Bar and Grill. For more information contact Alana at 231-360-0676.

The board then reviewed and approved the 2012-2013 budget. No significant changes were made to the budget from last year. Tex Drenth was appointed Summer Rec Director for 2012, and Shanna Fender was officially appointed Market Master for the 2012 farm market season.

Eveline Township Hall expands, gets new look

B. J. Conley

A \$150,000 renovation of the Eveline Township Hall is a vast improvement from the former cramped quarters and the township supervisor said there was no increase in property taxes through a millage, but rather, the township put funds away for the improvements.

"We did it the old fashioned way, we saved for it," supervisor John Vrondran said on Feb. 11, at the Hall. "It took five years." Most of the funds came from fees for refuse drop-offs by residents.

Eveline Township Hall was originally a schoolhouse known as the Mountain School and dating back to the early 1900s. The large 600-pound school bell is refinished and has taken its place next to the original stone fireplace. Historical photographs hang on the walls along

Eveline Township supervisor John Vrondran stands next to historic photos of the area's past and an old oil lamp. He is pleased with the renovation of the township hall.

PHOTO BY B. J. CONLEY



Supervisor John Vrondran shows off some of the new look for Eveline Township Hall.

PHOTO BY B. J. CONLEY

with lanterns from a bygone era. The building has all new wiring, plumbing and heating.

The Hall was enlarged. The former interior had a limit of 13 people according to the fire code. That number is now 72 people. A kitchen and a storage room with a fireproof safe for historic township records are part of the renovation.

"We found out we have more land than we knew," Vrondran said. "There's enough land to park about 20 more cars."

Two new handicap accessible bathrooms were designed to allow use by bicyclists, walkers and joggers by having a door to the outside remain unlocked, with another locked door into the Hall. The Hall

is available for community functions as well as local government meetings, Vrondran said.

The contractor on the project was Floyd Wright of Floyd & Todd Wright Builders in Boyne City.

reporterbjh@gmail.com

County Joins Broadband Initiative

County leaders will work to boost area's broadband access, adoption, and use through innovative program

A new plan is in the works to stimulate growth in the area economy and enhance the quality of life for Charlevoix County residents through increased access, adoption, and use of broadband technology. Leaders of Charlevoix County are working to identify technology needs and opportunities by becoming a participant in Connect Michigan's Connected community certification program.

"Representatives from governments, schools, libraries, and chambers of commerce throughout Charlevoix County are teaming up with the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, the Michigan Public

Service Commission and their Connect Michigan program to encourage increased broadband system development and usage in the county," said Michael Cain, city manager for Boyne City. "We have been working to increase broadband availability in our communities and throughout the entire county for several years and are excited by this new approach offered by Connect Michigan."

Charlevoix is a county with lush landscapes and abundant water resources. Many are attracted to the area, but are technologically challenged - particularly in rural areas - because of limited options

for broadband services due to natural topographical barriers and a highly dispersed population base, which makes it difficult for providers to make a business case for expanding their networks.

"Through this program communities across Michigan are aiming to accelerate the access, adoption, and use of technology to foster an environment that is ripe for improving the economic, educational, healthcare, and governmental resources available to residents and businesses," said Eric Frederick, Program Manager for Connect Michigan. "The Connected program will help Charlevoix County build

awareness of broadband's benefits and expedite broadband development."

Connect Michigan's community engagement program will guide Charlevoix County through an assessment of its overall broadband and technology status, using criteria that parent organization Connected Nation has developed as a "community certification" model. The program helps train regional team leaders and supports the formation of community planning teams made up of various sector representatives with the goal of creating an actionable plan for expanding the access, adoption, and use of broadband.

FROM PAGE 1 Hotel Fire

Ivan has contacted Connolly and advised him that he has 30 days to begin clearing the refuse and 60 days to complete the task.

reporterbjh@gmail.com

FROM PAGE 1 East Jordan Commission

104 and Senate bill 412, that call for the full use of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to rehabilitate aging harbors.

Anderson thanked city clerk and elections board supervisor, Cheltzi Wilson for her work that resulted in the city obtaining a grant from the Michigan Department of State. The \$6,128 grant is to improve accessibility to polling places for people with disabilities. The work includes automatic door openers, parking spaces and a cross-walk.

reporterbjh@gmail.com

MDOT updates highway bridge information on the Web

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has once again updated information on the MDOT Web site at www.michigan.gov/highway-bridgereport about the safety of 4,396 state highway bridges.

MDOT has posted bridge safety reports online since August 2007. State bridge information can be downloaded by route number and/or county, and are current as of the end of 2011. Only highway bridges greater than 20 feet in length are included; ratings for pedestrian, railroad and locally owned bridges are not included. MDOT is updating bridge condition information on the Web four times a year.

"We are entering our fifth year of putting highway bridge safety reports online for citizens," said State Transportation Director Kirk T. Steudle. "Monitoring and maintaining the safety of highway bridges and overpasses re-

mains one of our top priorities."

National Bridge Inspection Standards require MDOT to inspect bridges every two years. The Mackinac, International, and Blue Water bridges are inspected annually, exceeding federal requirements. These three bridges are managed by bridge authorities, and their ratings are not included in the list MDOT has posted to the Web.

MDOT employs more than 20 bridge inspectors who have specialized training and work in teams of two. Bridge inspectors use a variety of tools to assess bridge safety and structural integrity. The types of inspection performed include bridge safety inspections, fracture critical inspections, fatigue-sensitive inspections and underwater inspections. Non-destructive evaluation and bridge monitoring also is done as needed. Techniques used include calipers to measure the thickness of steel, ultrasonic testing

to check for defects in steel, sounding to detect concrete separation, and monitoring bridge deflections and response to load.

Of the 4,396 bridges included in the Dec. 29, 2011, report, 299 are classified with the engineering term of "structurally deficient," meaning they may require rehabilitation or replacement at some time in the future; and 977 are classified as "functionally obsolete," meaning their design is outdated and may require modernization at some time in the future. Five bridges were removed and four were added. The last highway bridge report was posted to the Web on Nov. 1, 2011, and covered bridge inspections through Oct. 1, 2011. The new report lists 42 fewer structurally deficient bridges and 78 more functionally obsolete bridges than on Oct. 1, 2011.

MDOT reminds drivers: Snowplows need room to groom.

TRACKING LEGISLATION

A weekly compilation of selected bills, resolutions and actions of the House and Senate in the state Legislature. To see more detail contact www.legislature.mi.gov/

HB 5346: Introduced by Rep. Tom McMillin on Feb. 2, 2012. This bill states that an individual who seeks election or reelection to an elective office shall not have appeared in a state-funded or locally funded commercial within six months before seeking

election or reelection. **STATUS:** Referred to Committee on Redistricting and Elections.

HB 5350: Introduced by Rep. Dillon on February 2, 2012. This bill states that a corporation or joint stock company shall not make an independent expendi-

ture unless it discloses the amount and nature of the independent expenditure to each shareholder or member at least 30 days prior to the independent expenditure and a majority of the shareholders or members affirmatively consent in writing to the independ-

ent expenditure before same is made. **STATUS:** Referred to Committee on Redistricting and Elections.

Compiled by B. J. Conley
02-13-12



STATE OF MICHIGAN CAPITOL BUILDING
PHOTOGRAPHER: BRIAN CHARLES WATSON

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Great Rooms Furniture and Mattresses - your NEW and USED furniture destination

Great Rooms Furniture and Mattresses is a great local destination for all your New and Used furniture and mattress needs.

Great Rooms began buying and selling professionally cleaned and sanitized pre-owned furniture in 2010, when it was opened by husband and wife team Brandon and Jessica Steffel. The business has expanded and now includes mattresses (new, used, and refurbished) as well as a selection of new furniture for all styles.

"We listened to our customers, who felt they paid a lot of money when they shopped for new furniture, and we decided we would try

to provide new furniture as well to save shoppers money," says Steffel. "We have had a fabulous response to our new furniture lines. We find that people are really happy that they have a chance to shop local." New furniture is staged in the store or available by special order.

Perhaps best of all is that Great Rooms now offers mattresses as well. Steffel claims "We are amazed at the level of interest in our mattresses. You sleep on your own mattress every night and want something quality, or you want something more of an entry level for a small child or guest bedroom. We offer all grades of new mattresses and

we also provide great refurbished and sanitized mattresses."

To supplement their auction and estate sale finds, Great Rooms buys used items locally and takes trade-ins. For more details about their buying policy or to view the current store inventory, call Brandon at 989-748-4849 or visit www.greatroomsgaylord.com.

Great Rooms is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday (9:30 am - 5:30 pm), Friday (9:30 am - 6 pm) Saturday (9:30 am - 5 pm) and Sunday (12 - 3). The showroom is located at 148 W. Main Street in Gaylord.



GreatRoomsPhoto1; Come often to see the ever-changing inventory of everyday furniture Great Rooms has available, or "Like" us on facebook to get photo updates weekly: www.facebook.com/greatrooms. PHOTO BY JIM AKANS

OPINION

Local Senior Service Organizations Oppose Exemption of Personal Property Taxes without Replacement Funds

Governor Snyder and some members of the Michigan Legislature are proposing to eliminate business tax on personal property (PPT). The PPT is paid only by Michigan businesses and not by households or individual taxpayers.

All PPT revenues go to Michigan local governments, public schools and community organizations to pay for essential services. Many communities have publicly raised their concerns as this proposal will lower revenues for local tax funded services.

However, little has been said on how this will affect senior citizens. 63 Michigan counties rely on local millage dollars to fund critical services for older Michiganians.

The directors of local senior service organizations endorsed a resolution opposing the exemption of personal property taxes without full replacement of the lost funds. "The Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging wants to draw attention to the terrible consequences for our seniors if these funds are eliminated," says Dona Wishart, president of the statewide association.

"most of our organizations are still struggling to meet basic needs as a result of previous federal and state budget cuts. Over the last few years funding has been reduced by nearly 28%. Decreases in taxable values have also cut deeply into millage revenue."

"Our organizations would have to further reduce home delivered meals, adding to waiting lists that are already too long. There would be less money for home care services and less support for caregivers. These are home and community based programs that keep seniors out of more costly institutional placements," noted Wishart.

"We believe higher costs from additional nursing home placements and reduced public safety will outweigh any gain in revenues received by businesses."

Wishart adds, "We also worry that a decrease in services for senior citizens, other community resources and public safety functions will result in Michigan communities being less desirable destinations for retirement and business relocation. The small gain for our

business community through the elimination of the business tax on personal property will be overshadowed by the poverty of our communities' public services."

"As many opponents of the proposed PPT elimination urge, there must be a proper balance between pro business and quality of life. The proposal to eliminate the PPT without a guaranteed source of replacement revenue does not strike the proper balance."

The MSDA urges Governor Snyder and members of the Michigan Legislature to work with local communities to find stable replacement revenue that is not subject to the annual appropriation process before moving forward with eliminating the PPT. "After all," Wishart concludes, "Michigan voters approved these millages to provide for local priorities. The legislature shouldn't undermine the intent of local voters to fund these services."

Submitted by the Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging

Energy rebate offers for Great Lakes Energy members

Great Lakes Energy offers Energy Optimization programs with new rebates in 2012 to help the electric cooperative's members better manage their home energy use.

Great Lakes Energy members have access to cash-back rebates when they recycle old appliances or upgrade to an energy-efficient heater, boiler or air conditioning unit. In addition, an online home energy audit guides them through a series of questions to identify the specific inefficiencies that may exist in their home.

Individuals must be Michigan residents and Great Lakes Energy members to take advantage of these energy-saving programs.

Co-op Rebates
Current Energy Optimization rebates offered through Great Lakes Energy include:

- Low income services - Appliance recycling - Heating, ventilation and cooling improvements - Farm services - Online energy audit

More Rebates
Qualifying Great Lakes Energy members may also take advantage of ENERGY STAR® rebates. ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy that

began in 1992. In 2010 alone, it saved Americans more than \$18 billion in utility bills.

On average, ENERGY STAR products use 10 to 75 percent less energy compared to standard models. As a result, consumers benefit from ongoing financial savings on their energy bills. ENERGY STAR rebates from \$10-\$50 are available for qualifying Great Lakes Energy members.

ENERGY STAR Rebates:
Clothes washers - Dishwashers - Room Air Conditioners - Light fixtures - Refrigerators - ENERGY STAR qualified light bulbs - Dehumidifiers

Special Retail Offer
Instant markdowns on qualifying energy efficient lighting equipment are also available at participating local retail stores. Visit michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319 for a list of participating retailers and more information about Energy Optimization programs offered by Great Lakes Energy.

Other energy incentives from Great Lakes Energy include rebates for air source and geothermal heat pumps and Marathon electric water heaters. Call 888-485-2537, extension 8957, or visit gtlakes.com for more details.

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HIDDEN TREASURES

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

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News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

STUDENT NEWS

Boyne City Culinary Arts students place first in Region 5 Competition

On Friday February 3, 2012, seven career technical centers and High Schools across Michigan participated in a Region 5 Skills USA Culinary Competition at Ferris State University. There were approximately 75 students competing in Commercial Baking, Culinary Arts, Team Banquet, and Food and Beverage. The top students will go on to the state competition in April.

We would like to recognize Boyne City Students Chase Griffin (Culinary Arts) and Rebekah Bearrs (Commercial Baking) who both placed first in their events and took home the gold Medal. Both students worked extremely hard to accomplish their goals and put in countless hours of practice. Both students also received a \$500 scholarship to Ferris State University.

There were many people involved in making this competition a success and we would like to say thank you to Ferris State University Hospitality Management Program who hosted the event, their staff and students who were extremely helpful and accommodating.

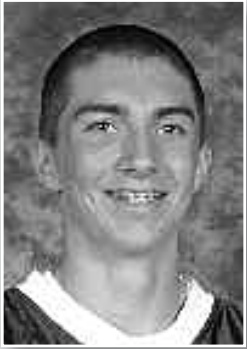


Rebekah Bearrs



Chase Griffin

Boyne City High School STUDENT of the Week Corey Redman



GRADE: 9
PARENTS: Nick and Julie Redman
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Basketball, Football, Run track
HOBBIES AND INTERESTS: Playing basketball, Hanging out with my friends, Weight lifting
FUTURE PLANS/GOALS: "Go to college and get an education."

STAFF COMMENTS

"Corey is a very conscientious student; he cares about his learning and is self-driven to do well. Congratulations Corey."
(Mrs. Clausen, Algebra Teacher)

"Corey is an excellent student and a fine young man."
(Corey is an excellent student and a fine young man.)

"Corey is a great kid – he works hard, is respectful, and participates in class. He is a positive leader and good role model for his peers."
(Mrs. Hertel, Spanish Teacher)

DAVE Says

Take your time with this one ...

what's in a name?



Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,
My boyfriend has a lot of debt. The other day a creditor called, and he wouldn't answer the phone. Then, he told me it would be easier for him to pay off his debts if we were married because I could act as his accountability partner. I don't want to be the money cop, and I wonder if he would truly be more motivated. What do you think?
Janine

Dear Dave,
My son is a sophomore at a local college, and he wants to transfer to a very prestigious university. If he did this he would incur more than \$100,000 in student loan debt, and that's with us picking up half of the cost. What do you think I should tell him?
Will

Dear Janine,
Someone who isn't making any headway in getting out of debt while they're single probably isn't going to do a complete turnaround just because they get married. You can act as his accountability partner if you want, but you don't have to get married to help him. In fact, dating is probably a better way to do this, because you can determine whether he's really changing, or if he's just trying to get you on board to help pay the bills!

Don't misunderstand, Janine. Debt, in itself, doesn't keep someone from being marriage material. But you're definitely not marriage material if you don't work, you're irresponsible, you haven't taken control of your life, have no character or can't manage your own behaviors. These kinds of people are going to stay in debt and not be able to pay their bills for the rest of their lives.

I'd say date this guy a little longer, just to see if he's serious about changing. But don't get engaged yet, and don't pay one penny of his bills for him!
—Dave

Dear Will,
I'd have a hard time telling anybody that one school is \$100,000 more valuable than another one. The fact is unless he has \$100,000 lying around somewhere, he shouldn't go to that other school for one very simple reason – he can't afford it!

We hire people every week at my company, and where they attended college is a very minor deal. There will always be a few corporate types out there who play games and try to turn the office into some kind of snooty country club, but the fact is most employers don't care where you went to college.

It's what you learn and being able to use that knowledge in the marketplace that's really valuable, Will. Knowledge is king, and we live in a knowledge-based economy. If you can't retain and apply what they're teaching, then the only thing more worthless than a college degree is a college pedigree!
—Dave

* For more financial help please visit daveramsey.com.

Charlevoix St. Mary Students collect for the homebound



Students at St. Mary School recently collected items to be delivered to the homebound as their February service project. Pictured are Gio Ferucci, Blaise Snabes, Austin Swidorski, Ben Lentz, Hailey Greimel, Chase Stielglitz, Alex Kwpaisz, Joey Scafi, Maxy Fuchs, and Grace Balasz

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News

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OBITUARIES

Don H. Greyerbiehl, 85 (FEB. 3, 1927 - FEB. 12, 2012)

Don H. Greyerbiehl, 85, of Charlevoix, formerly of East Jordan, passed away Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012, at Georgia House in Charlevoix.

A Rite of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, Feb. 15, at St. Mary's Church in Charlevoix, with the Rev. Matthew Wigton officiating.

Don was born Feb. 3, 1927, in Pontiac, to Harry and Maude (Armstead) Greyerbiehl. He attended Pontiac St. Michael High School, and entered the U.S. Navy at age 15.

Don served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was a "plank owner" of the USS Franklin, having served on its first commissioned voyage.

Following the war, Don earned a G.E.D. and graduated from Detroit Business University. He worked at Wayne Oakland Bank from 1961 until retiring from First of America Bank in 1984, as assistant vice president and comptroller.

Don was a member of St. Mary's Church, the D.A.V., the American Legion and V.F.W.

On Sept. 3, 1949, he married Margaret M. Elliott in Ubyl. Following retirement,

they made their home in several places, settling in East Jordan from 1997 until 2005, and then moving to Charlevoix.

Don is survived by his wife, Margaret M.; sons, Mark (Vicky) of Charlevoix, Scott (Diane) of Birmingham, Paul of Highland; daughters, Donna Greyerbiehl of Ann Arbor, and Erin (Joshua) Leach of Fowlerville; daughter-in-law, Shelly Greyerbiehl of Petoskey; grandchildren, Katie, Troy, Michael, Kevin, Danielle, Kelly, Dalton, Cody, Lacey, and Sara; brother, Richard (Maryanne) Greyerbiehl of Saginaw. Don's son Eric, preceded him in death in 2005.

Don and Margaret also fostered 13 children.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, www.woundedwarriorproject.org; or the Disabled American Veterans, www.dav.org

Please sign Don's guest-book at www.winchesterfuneralhome.com.

John C. Lachman, 88

John C. Lachman of Petoskey, died Saturday, Feb. 11, 2011, at Boulder Park Terrace in Charlevoix.

Arrangements are pending at the Winchester Funeral Home in Charlevoix.

Donald P. Woods, 80

Donald P. Woods of East Jordan, died Monday, Feb. 6, 2012, at Grandvue Medical Care Facility.

A graveside service for Donald took place Friday, Feb. 10, at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens in Novi.

Stackus Funeral Home of Boyne City is serving the family.

Grace E. Spears, 64

Grace E. Spears of East Jordan, passed away at Northern Michigan Regional Hospital in Petoskey on Feb. 7, 2012.

The funeral service was Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Northern Michigan Baptist Bible Church in Burt Lake.

Arrangements are being handled by the Charles G. Parks Funeral Home in Petoskey.

Lois M. Snyder, 93

Lois M. Snyder of East Jordan and Petoskey, died Feb. 1, 2012, at Independence Village in Petoskey.

A memorial service will take place in May in East Jordan.

Celebrate Presidents' Day Weekend at Raven Hill

Raven Hill Discovery Center will be celebrating Presidents' Day all weekend with extended hours from noon to 4:00 pm on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, February 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th. Visitors can participate in a special project by designing their own Personal or Family Seal or Flag. Learn about the history and meaning of the Presidential Seal and Presidential Flag. Admission is \$8 per person, except for babies who stay in backpacks or strollers. Admission includes indoor, hands-on exhibits and exotic animal session, as well as outdoor exhibits. The activity is \$3 per person over and above the admission cost. Can't make it during regular hours? Call to schedule an appointment at your convenience or to schedule a class.

family seal or flag

WHEN

February 17 to 20, 2012
Friday through Monday
Noon to 4 pm daily

WHERE

Raven Hill Discovery Center, 4737 Fuller Road, East Jordan, MI

Between East Jordan and Boyne City, just off C-48 at Pearsall Road

In Mile 15 of the new Breeze-way (C-48) that runs between Atwood and Boyne Falls.

WHY

Learn about the history and meaning of the Presidential seal

Raven Hill Discovery Center is the only place in northern Lower Michigan where children and adults can link science, history & the arts with hands-on activities and explorations both indoors and outdoors. Connections emerge through classes, exhibits and facilities that provide opportunities for all ages to learn, create, grow and play.

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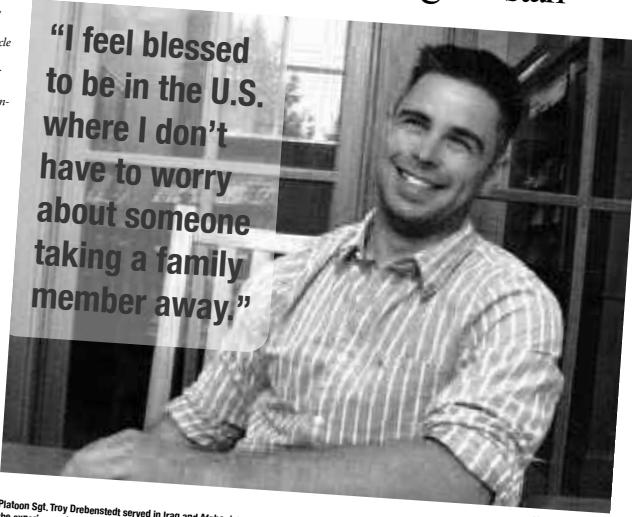
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Young Soldier Home for Now, but Plans future Return to Afghanistan



Platoon Sgt. Troy Drebenstedt served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is home on leave and recently sat down and talked about his experiences and how the experiences led him to appreciate the United States more than ever.

East Jordan Amends Dog Law

By B. J. Conley

EAST JORDAN — When grabbing the leash to take Fido for a walk in the city of East Jordan, dog walkers are advised to grab a disposable bag, as well. An ordinance was introduced at the city commission meeting on Aug. 3, to amend Section 6-36 of the Code of Ordinances. Section 6-36 addresses removal of dog feces if a dog happens to decide a neighbor's lawn is the perfect place to find relief. But the new ordinance adds the language that states, "Anyone walking their dog on property other than their own shall be required to leave a disposable bag..."

Also at the meeting, the city administrator updated the commission on the construction of the Emergency Services Facility. The main part of the building and the EMS wing were under a roof, allowing the electrical and plumbing contractors to begin their portion of the work. There is still some flooring to be poured in the Fire Wing, the concrete walls are in place and the roof trusses on this portion of the building will be up soon. The completion target date is early fall.

Mary Facaluk, president of the East Jordan Chamber of Commerce, gave a presentation to commissioners that informed them of what the Chamber does for the city, and updated them on events the Chamber has sponsored. She said she is excited about the Main Street Program.

Publisher's note: As this story appears in publication, Troy Drebenstedt is riding his bicycle from South St. Marie to the Gulf of Mexico with his father Bob Drebenstedt and his younger brother Rogan Drebenstedt. The adventure is to raise awareness of the plight of disabled veterans.

By B. J. Conley

Sitting across from the 27-year-old soldier at the Charlevoix library on a summer day, observing his quick smile and steady calmness, is surprising to find out that he was nearly killed in Afghanistan when the truck in which he was riding hit an Improvised Explosive Device and blew up. Platoon Sgt. Troy Drebenstedt said he was thrown into the side of the vehicle, hitting his head and suffering other injuries. The next thing he knew he was on his feet heading down the road, intent on finding whomever planted the IED. "I was extremely angry," Troy said. A medic who had noticed signs of a concussion came to get him and his superior officer ordered him back to the truck. The other four men riding with him also sustained injuries, but no one was killed. The explosive device was made with the intention to kill everyone in a large radius anywhere near it. "It was 300 pounds of explosives. Forty to 100 pounds is the usual size," Troy said. "It cut a hole six feet deep across the road."

He is blessed, he says, and he credits his character to his bringing. His anger dissipated and he separates the Afghan people from the terrorists. "Being angry with a whole

"I feel blessed to be in the U.S. where I don't have to worry about someone taking a family member away."

race is buying into their bigotry," he said. Troy's job in Afghanistan was one of the most dangerous. He was part of the Combat Engineering Unit, known as SAPPERS. He performed "route clearance" that is, his job was to find IEDs planted by the terrorists and clear the area of them for safer travel by the military.

"It's one of the toughest jobs, but the number one threat to our troops are the IEDs," Troy said. Troy served in Afghanistan for 10 months and prior to that he served in Iraq for 14 months. He is now home in Marquette, undergoing treatment for his injuries and attending Northern Michigan University. But he sees himself back in Afghanistan within the next two years. Troy is the son of Marlys and Bob Drebenstedt of Charlevoix. Troy's father is a county commissioner who retired from the military and Troy grew up knowing that a career in the military was a

Antique Auto Show & Flea Market

37th Annual Boyne City Event Takes Place This Weekend

By Jim Akans
Boyer City is certain to be a destination location this coming weekend as the 37th Annual Antique Auto Show and Flea Market takes place in Veterans Memorial Park from 9 am to 4 pm Saturday and Sunday. This is a free event for attendees, offering a once a year opportunity to peruse some awesome vintage vehicles and shop fascinating and unique wares on the shores of beautiful Lake Charlevoix.



The 37th Annual Antique Auto Show and Flea Market takes place in Veterans Memorial Park from 9 am to 4 pm Saturday and Sunday. COURTESY PHOTO



Boyer City public marina deck hand, Amber Kotalik assists a kayaker and Bob Ewa who are repeat customers from Pentwater and docked at the Boyne City marina.

Boyer City Public Marina Ranks High

By B. J. Conley
BOYNE CITY — What a summer for boating and Boyne City's E. Grant Moore public marina has drawn the boating crowd and recognition for its "Clean Marina" and, more recently, for "Best of the North West."

PHOTO BY B. J. CONLEY
The Boyne City public marina honors as the E. Grant Moore Municipal Marina is the recipient of several awards. City manager Michael Can (left) and deck hand Amber Kotalik (center) join harbormaster Darb Brooks at the marina on Monday.

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index
Weather.....3
News Briefs.....4,6
Obituaries.....7
Local Sports.....9
Health & Wellness.....8
Classifieds.....12-13
Movie Guide.....14
Real Estate.....15

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Arts & Events

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Downtown Charlevoix Indoor Sidewalk Sales this Weekend

It may be cold outside, but the deals are hot at the Charlevoix Indoor Sidewalk Sales taking place over Presidents' Day weekend. This annual shopping event begins on Friday, February 17th through Monday February 20th. Enjoy countless

bargains and more on a variety of great merchandise at participating stores. Take advantage of substantial reductions on seasonal inventory that must go. Shoppers will find great discounts on gift items, home décor, clothing, books, jew-

elry, and more. Don't delay; shop Charlevoix for spectacular deals today!

For more information, call the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce at 231.547.2101.

The Second Annual Ellsworth Shiverfest on the Breezeway is set to go even without snow!

It's finally here! The second Annual Ellsworth Shiverfest is set to go this weekend, February 17th through the 19th, and there are plenty of indoor and outdoor events on deck for those of every age to enjoy. Event organizers understand that you can't always depend on Mother Nature (especially this winter) to bring lots of snow, so they have structured events to carry on without much of the white stuff. Lack of snow won't mean lack of fun!

The schedule of events for the Second Annual Ellsworth Shiverfest will be:

Friday, February 17 - spend the evening indoors with dinner at the Famous Fish Dinner from 5:00-9:00 pm at the Gold Nugget Bar and Grill followed by dessert at the 4th Annual Ellsworth's Best Dessert Tasting and Raffle from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Banks Township Hall. Enter the Raffle and chances are good you'll win a dessert to take home!

Saturday, February 18 - head outdoors to enjoy all winter has to offer. Take advantage of the Michigan Free Fishing Weekend on one of the many Ellsworth area lakes. All fishing license fees are waived; live bait and ice fishing tackle are available at the Ellsworth Market. Concessions and a warming fire will keep you warm and fueled from 10:00 am-2:00 pm at the events held in the Ellsworth Community Park including Cardboard Sled Races starting at 10:30 am and, if there is enough fresh snow, the Snowman Contest which begins at 11:30.

The Breezeway Snowmo-

bile Ride In takes place from 12:00-4:00 pm, but will be cancelled if lack of snow. Just take the new St. Claire spur off trail #4. Registration for the Shiverfest Snowshoe Challenge begins at 1:00 pm with race time 2:00pm at the House on the Hill Bed & Breakfast. If there is not enough snow, it will be run as an off-road foot race; your choice of 1 Mile Fun Run or 5K Race. \$5 Fun Run, \$10 5K Race entry fee.

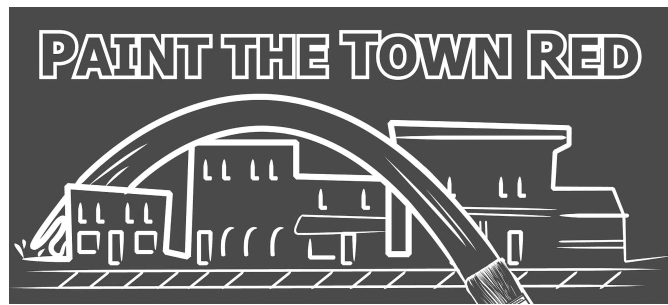
After a day outdoors, head back inside for the Cabin Fever Reliever Euchre Tournament at 7:00 pm at the Banks Township Hall: \$10 registration per person includes refreshment, prizes. BYOB. Then walk over to the Gold Nugget Bar & Grill for Live Music featuring the Paper Plane Pilots from 9:30 pm-1:30 am.

Sunday, February 19 - wind up Shiverfest with another day of Free Fishing or the Snowmobile Poker Run from 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Not enough snow for your sled? Do the run by car, because snow or no - it's still on! Five stops: East Jordan Snowmobile Club (Pancake Breakfast,) Mallard Golf (your choice,) Flight Deck Bar (your choice,) House on the Hill Bed & Breakfast (Hot Dogs and Bonfire 1:00-3:00 pm,) Gold Nugget (4:00 pm appetizers & prizes.) \$15 entry fee. Sign up at the East Jordan Snowmobile Club or Gold Nugget Bar & Grill.

Follow Ellsworth Shiverfest on Facebook @ Ellsworth Shiverfest or call Alana at 231-360-0676 for more information. For information on snowmobile events, contact Jerry 231-675-2828.

"Paint the Town Red"



February 25th event at Boyne Mountain to benefit Boyne Area Schools

It's all about having a whole lot of fun while raising money to support funding for Boyne Area Schools programs and activities in areas of the Arts, Athletics, and Academics. It's "Paint the Town Red," and this second annual fundraiser to be held next Saturday, February 25th at Boyne Mountain promises to draw an even larger group of supporters than last year's highly successful inaugural event.

"Last year we raised well over \$20,000 to support Arts, Athletics and Academic programs for Boyne Schools," states Cathy Wonski of the Paint the Town Red Committee. "The Boyne City Booster Foundation holds several smaller fundraisers throughout the year, such as the pancake breakfast and the arts and crafts fair, but this is largest fundraiser we do each year. We raise money through the support of our event sponsors, which includes about twenty area businesses this year, and through ticket sales for the event."

The funds raised through the Paint the Town Red event are utilized to help fund activities and programs in each of the three designated categories. Examples of the application of these funds includes the purchase of iPad computers for use in the elementary school, support for the recently launched Robotics Program, and in securing author and speaker presentations for student clinics.



Participants enjoy the inaugural 2011 event.

COURTESY PHOTO

Funds are also utilized to assist in the purchase of sports equipment, and in sponsoring the BacPak senior drug-free party at the end of the school year.

Tickets for the Paint the Town Red event, which runs from 6 pm until midnight on February 25th at Boyne Mountain, are \$50 per person, and in-

cludes a light dinner, live and silent auctions and live musical entertainment by the Soul Street Band. Tickets can be purchased at the Boyne Area Chamber of Commerce and at Local Flavors bookstore.

Take your sweetheart to our special candlelight dinner

Featuring:

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full slab Famous bar B Q Spare Ribs
Valentines Special
\$19⁹⁵ reg. \$23.95

Dinners include, home made soup cup or tomato juice, Caesar, Spinach, Greek salad or our famous gourmet table, potato choice, vegetable, hot rolls and butter.

Tuesday, February 14th seating at 5:30 p.m.
Regular menu items also available

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Red Tails - PG-13
Fri: 2pm, 4:30pm, 7pm; Sat. & Sun. 4:30 & 7; Mon, 2pm, 4:30pm, 7pm; Tues. - Thurs. 7pm

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close - PG-13
Fri: 2pm, 7pm; Sat. 4:30pm; Sun. 7; Mon, 4:30pm, Wed. - Thurs. 7pm

Joyful Noise - PG-13
Fri: 4:30pm; Sat. 7pm; Sun. 4:30; Mon, 2pm, 7pm; Tues. 7pm

MATINEE PRICING BEFORE 6:00PM!
231-547-4353- hotline for schedule

Key West Comedy Magician Frank Everhart Jr. will Magically Reappear
Friday, Feb. 17 - 6 p.m.

Mardi Gras Party - 9 p.m.
King Cake, Karaoke, Beads & Masks

Northern Michigan Music Legend
"Sneaky Peat"
Saturday, February 18
8:30 p.m.

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News Briefs

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

Medicare 101

Are you beginning to think about Medicare? Are you getting lots of mail and don't know how to make heads or tails of it? Are you confused about all the "A's" and "B's" and "C's" and "D's" associated with Medicare? If so, this workshop is for you! Sue Graybill, certified Medicare counselor from the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan, and the Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP), will be presenting the workshop Medicare 101.

Wednesday, February 15, 7-9pm, East Jordan United Methodist Church, 201 4th St., East Jordan

Thursday, February 16, 9:30-11:30am, Charlevoix District Library, 220 W. Clinton St., Charlevoix

Thursday, February 16, 2:30-4:30pm, Boyne City District Library, 201 E. Main, Boyne City.

All presentations are open to the public. Reservations are encouraged, but not required. Call to reserve your spot today at 231-947-8920 or 800-442-1713.

EAST JORDAN

Ice skating rink open

The ice skating rink is now open at East Jordan Community Park. With the last few days of cold temperatures, the DPW, Parks and recreation dept. and volunteers have been able to get the ice rink ready for skating. The rink is lit for night skating, so get the kids out after school and enjoy a great family activity.

BOYNE CITY

Business after hours

Hosted by the businesses of the Water Street Center at 5 West Main Street from 5:30 to 7:30 Thursday, Feb. 16. These businesses include

Sunset Grill, Sun for the Soul, the Boyne City Gazette, Upsy-Daisy Floral and Swim to You. There is no charge for admission or hors d'oeuvres. Upcoming Business After Hours include: March 15 at Lynda's Real Estate Service; March 23, the regional BAH at Castle Farms; and April 26 at the former Carter's store for the Chamber annual Business Expo.

CHARLEVOIX

Singles for Christ

Dinner group for all area singles 50 years and older will meet Saturday, February 18, 6pm at Giuseppe's Italian Grille, 757 Petoskey Ave. Reservations required so R.S.V.P. by calling Frieda at 347-5747 or e-mail frieda@compnor.com

ELLSWORTH

Shiverfest

The Second Annual Ellsworth Shiverfest on the Breezeway, Friday, February 17 through Sunday, February 19. Winter? Bring it on! This quaint northern Michigan town knows how to keep the fun alive all winter long. Whether sledding, snowshoeing or ice fishing outside or staying warm and toasty inside while tasting desserts or playing in a Euchre Tournament, Ellsworth's Shiverfest has something for everyone. Friday's events include a Fish Dinner at the Gold Nugget Bar and Grill and the 4th Annual Ellsworth's Best Dessert Tasting and Raffle 6:00-8:00pm at the Banks Township Hall. Saturday brings the Free Fishing Weekend on Ellsworth Area Lakes; Cardboard Sled Races, 11:00am at Ellsworth Community Park; the Breezeway Snowmobile Ride Inn from 12-4pm; the Shiverfest Benefit Snowshoe Challenge 1 mile or 5k, 1:00 at House on the Hill Bed &

Breakfast; and a Cabin Fever Reliever Euchre Tournament, 7:00pm at Banks Township Hall. Sunday winds up the weekend with the Free Fishing Weekend and a Snowmobile "FUN-RUN." For information see Ellsworth Shiverfest on Facebook or Alana Haley 231-360-0676.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

It's Cookie Time

Girl Scouts will be taking cookie orders January 20 - February 17. Cookies cost \$3.50 a package. New this year is the Savannah Smiles cookie, a lemony delight to celebrate 100 years of Girl Scouting. Other varieties are Do-Si-Dos, Dulce de Leche, Samoas, Tagalongs, Thin Mints and Trefoils. Customers also have the option of purchasing cookies and donating them to the Michigan Blood Bank. Through the Girl Scout fundraiser programs, girls learn great life skills such as money management, communication skills, business ethics, goal setting and much more! Plus, girls are able to earn money to fund troop or group activities, programs and training opportunities we provide to all our girl and adult members. All of the proceeds from the cookie sale program stay in northern Michigan to help local girls and troops.

ELLSWORTH

MacMaster joins snowmobile ride

State Representative Greg McMaster will be participating in the Second Annual Ellsworth Shiverfest Breezeway Snowmobile Ride Inn on Saturday, February 18. He will ride in from the East Jordan Snowmobilers Club in East Jordan to the House on the Hill Bed and Breakfast in Ellsworth where he will kick off the Breezeway Benefit Snowshoe Challenge at 2pm.

For information see Ellsworth Shiverfest on Facebook or Alana Haley 231-360-0676.

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; February 19, March 8 and April 12.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

Young Wrestlers

Boys and girls ages 5 - 12 are invited to learn to wrestle. Practice is Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30 - 7pm. Travel squads begin February 20 and go until the end of March. Sign up at 4-H/MSU Extension office, in the Boyne City Hall, 319B North Lake Street

BOYNE CITY

Sunday Celtic Music

Gaeyle Gerrie-Boss hosts a Boyne Celtic Session featuring Irish and Scottish tunes played twice a month on Sundays. The next session is Feb. 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Freshwater Studio, 217 S. Lake St. in the SOBO District of Boyne City. Gerrie-Boss suggests that participants "bring family, friends, a tune or two or three, a stool/chair and early holiday treats to share. It is open to the public and there is no charge.

PETOSKEY

Cooking class

Tuesdays through March 27, Crooked Tree Arts Center will host cooking classes with chefs from around the area. Whitecaps on February 21, Toski Sands on February 28, Café Santé on March 6, the Twisted Olive on March 13, Thai Orchid on March 20, and wrapping up the series on March 27 with Lake Street Market. For more information on these classes or other programs offered at Crooked Tree Art Center go online to www.crookedtree.org or call the arts center at 231-347-4337.

PETOSKEY

Nursing info

North Central Michigan College's nursing faculty will hold informational sessions on March 14, at 4:15 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. to explain the process for admission into the college's highly competitive nursing program and the courses that students must take prior to entry.

TRAVERSE CITY

Student Athlete College Prep workshop

Interested in playing at the college level? We have the blueprint! Learn about the recruiting process & how to prepare academically & athletically. For student athletes & families, grades 7-12. A Free Workshop! Got game? Get prepped Monday, February 20, 6:30pm at Traverse City Central High School. Event will be held in the Cafeteria. Presented by Childress Sports Consulting

PETOSKEY

Winter Blues Festival

The 4th annual Winter Blues Festival will be held Monday through Saturday, February 20-25 in Downtown Petoskey. Celebrate winter

with these wild and wacky events every day and evening throughout the week. There's something for everyone, and lots of fun for visitors to make Petoskey their destination for the President's Day week.

EAST JORDAN

City Commission meetings now at new location

The East Jordan City Commission meetings will be held at the East Jordan Community Center in the Senior Center, 116 Main St, Downtown at 7:00 p.m. starting February 21, 2012.

BOYNE CITY

Paint the Town Red

The annual Boyne City Booster Foundation's Paint the Town Red night will be held on February 25 at the Boyne Mountain Resort's Civic Center from 6:30 to midnight. It will feature live and silent auctions, a light dinner and cash bar, and entertainment by "Soul Street", a five piece Detroit-based Motown band. Proceeds from this community event will provide funding for programs and activities in the Arts, Athletics and Academics for students of Boyne City Public Schools. Tickets for this event are \$50 per person. They can be purchased at Local Flavor and from members of the Paint the Town Red committee.

BOYNE CITY

Go Red for Women

February is American Heart Month and on Fridays this month, local women can get a free blood pressure screening at Boyne Area Medical Center. Those who get screened can then get a card good for a free heart pin at CindiFranco's Cool Stuff, 309 S. Lake St.

ATWOOD

Cherry Recipe Contest

Saturday, February 25th from 10am - 1pm at Friske's Farm Market, US 31. Recipe Categories: Entrees and Sauces / Compotes. Enter your recipe by Feb. 15th and win exciting Prizes! Come for the fun and taste everything Cherry! www.friske.com for a registration packet and event details 231-599-2604

EAST JORDAN

Zentangle

February 25, 12-4 pm. Instructors Cynthia Tschudy and Babs Young. Concentration would be on teaching the basic pattern skills for building patterns for Zentangle with lots of opportunity for creativity. The last part of the session would be to show a wide variety of ways zentangle can be incorporated into different types of artistic creations. Cost: \$25. This includes a materials packet of several types of paper, black, white gray and black micro pen and a white pen. Also a small mat to mat one piece. At sign up time further information will be given. Contact instructors Babs Young, Phone 231-645-2220 or babsy@elkrapidsnet.com or Cynthia Tschudy, Phone 231 544 6167 or mailto:ctschudy@torch-lake.com

Noon to 5:45pm on Feb. 27 at St. Matthew's Parish Hall, 1303 Boyne Ave. To schedule a donation time or get more information about giving blood or platelets, visit redcross-blood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

CHARLEVOIX

Winter carnival exhibit

A juried all media exhibit will run through February 29 at the Charlevoix Circle of Arts at 109 Clinton St. Juror is Nancy Swan Drew, nationally known artist who has been featured on Home and Garden, Television and countless magazines and newspapers. Artists featured in this exciting show: A few of the well known artists in this show include: Sue Bolt, Kathie Briggs, Linda Boss, Chris Leese, Margie Guyot, Jeannie Putman, Karen Kimmel, Mike Schlitt, Beverly White, Lisa Galloway, Rob Maxwell, Jay and Glenna Haney, Jordan Valley Glassworks. For additional information please check CCA website charlevoixcircle.org

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

Looking for Volunteers

Hospice of Northwest Michigan is looking for new volunteers. To qualify as a Hospice volunteer you must undergo a criminal background check, including fingerprinting, pass a drug test, complete a 4 session training course and commit to at least 2 hours a week of volunteer time. If you are interested in being part of the training which will begin on March 1, please contact Cheri Hoffman 547-7659.

PETOSKEY

NCMC Family fun nights

The North Central Michigan College gym and fitness center is offering family fun nights on Wednesdays, February 29 and March 21 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Dinner and activities will be in the Student and Community Resource Center gymnasium on the Petoskey campus. Activities will include soccer, basketball, volleyball and Eclipse Ball. There will be appropriate toys and tumbling mats for toddlers and an obstacle course for children ages 7 to 11. The fitness staff will be available to help parents and their children with all activities. Participants should wear suitable gym clothing and clean, dry shoes. Cost is \$5 per family and includes all activities and a light dinner of chili or soup, crackers and bread, and applesauce. For families who wish to participate in games and activities only, the cost is \$3 per family. Coffee and hot chocolate will also be for sale. For more information, call 231-439-6370.

BOYNE CITY

Winter Farmers Market

Winter hours will be Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. The market will be held in the red building next to the library.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

Ride free to Senior Centers

Don't be a shut in this winter. Good food, good fun daily at any of the county's senior centers. Charlevoix County Transit 231-582-6900 provides free rides to and from any of the County's Senior Centers.

EAST JORDAN

Sno-Lovers Breakfast

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

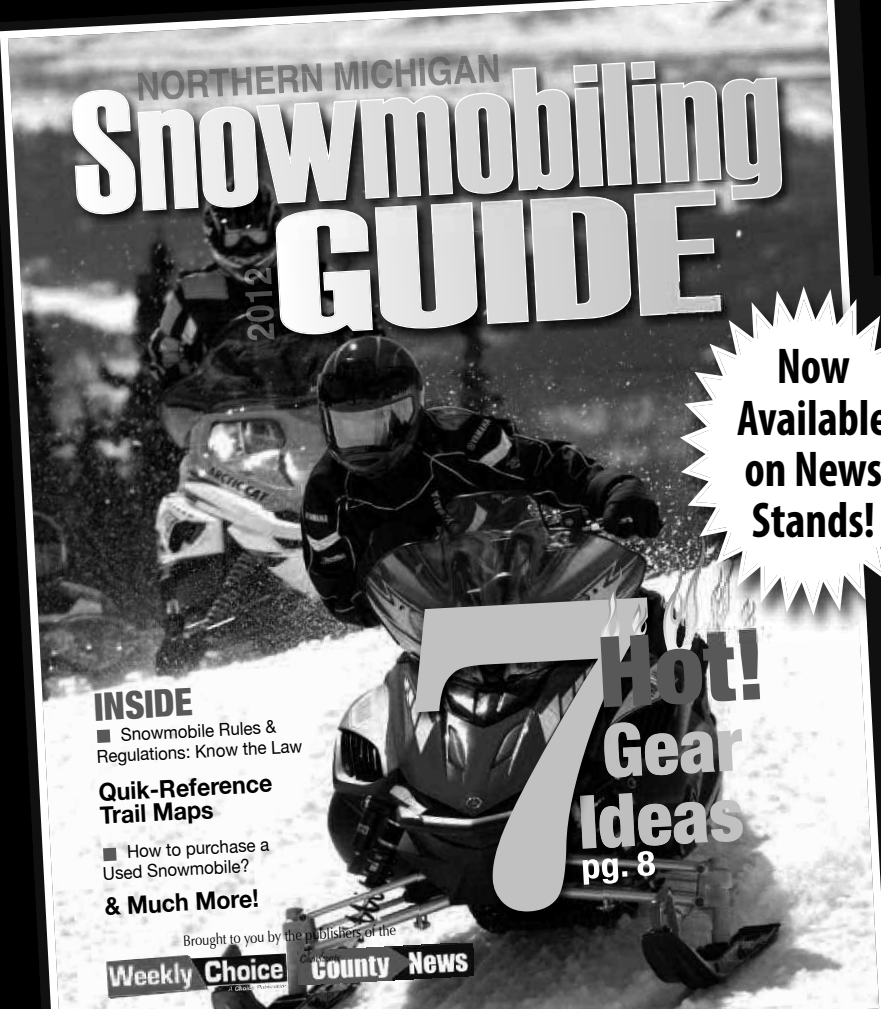
EAST JORDAN

Maple tree tapping

Saturday, March 3rd, Noon. Join the Martha Wagbo Farm and Education Center for our monthly potluck program! Lunch starts at Noon. Bring a dish if you can, but it's not required. Wagbo provides drinks and table service. The program begins at 1pm with an excursion to the Wagbo Sugarbush to tap maples with the Friends of the Wagbo Sugarbush (FWSB). Our sugarbush is a half-mile hike from the farmhouse, so come prepared for the trip and for the weather. No experience necessary. Bring a cordless drill and 5/16" bit if you have one. For more info, call 231-536-0333 or email info@wagbo.org.

ATTENTION SNOWMOBILERS

Pick up your **FREE** copy of the 2011-12 Northern Michigan Snowmobiling Guide.



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Hot! Gear Ideas pg. 8

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- How to purchase a Used Snowmobile?
- & Much More!

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News Briefs

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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

Skinny 501c3 workshop

Think your nonprofit or small business can't afford state-of-the-art technology tools? Think again! In hard economic times, successful organizations learn to do more with less. Our Skinny 501c3 workshop series will show you how you can have up-to-date tech and still spend your money on your mission, not your tools. 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 9:30-11:30am. \$20 To register: 231-838-6460. Attend as many workshops as you like. We supply coffee, tea, and donuts. Bring your laptop if you want a hands-on experience, or just sit back and learn.

CHARLEVOIX

Shootout at the OK Corral

Join the Charlevoix Area Humane Society at 6pm Saturday, March 3 at the Weathervane restaurant for Shootout at the OK Corral. The fund-raiser will be a gun-smoking good time with dinner starting at 7pm. Help us figure out who dunnit and have a great meal with good friends at the same time. Tickets are \$75 per person, available at the Humane Society and the chamber offices in Boyne City and Charlevoix. For more information, call Jodie Adams at 231-582-6774

BOYNE CITY

Parking restricted

The Boyne City Police Department and Department of Public Works would like to remind vehicle owners that parking on the streets is restricted during the winter months. There is no parking on the city streets between 2am and 6am. This is to allow the street crews to plow and get all the snow removed from the streets. Parking is available in the municipal lots through town. Vehicles left parked on the streets overnight, can be ticketed and/or towed at the vehicle owner's expense. If you have any questions about where you can park, please call the Police Department at (231)582-6611.

EAST JORDAN

Free health workshop

The East Jordan Family Health Center is hosting a free health workshop in East Jordan from March 7 to April 11 to help individuals manage chronic or long-term health conditions. The Personal Action Toward Health (PATH) class will meet on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. until Noon in the Community Room at the East Jordan Family Health Center, 601 Bridge Street, East Jordan, MI. It is a six week workshop conducted in 2 ½ hour sessions each week. Registration for the PATH workshop is necessary and enrollment is limited. To register or for more information, contact the East Jordan Family Health Center at 231-536-2206 and

ask for Pam Walsh or Connie Roland.

ELMIRA

Donation sale & bake sale

Have gently used unwanted stuff? Please donate items to the Elmira-Warner Firefighters, all proceeds will go to the firefighters to help raise money for special items. (dress uniforms, ID Cards, Badges, Halloween Candy, food for Community Christmas party, and many other things) March 10 at Elmira Twp. Hall, 9am - 6pm. Donated items can be dropped off at the Fire Hall on Tuesday, March 6th between 6 and 9pm. Arrangements call be made if not able to make this time. Please contact Leigh-Anne Marsh at 989-370-2271

BOYNE CITY

Ice Out contest

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

Artist Gathering

Artist Gathering will continue during the winter each Wednesday thru March 14. They will meet at the Jordan River Art Center in the lower gallery. Fresh flowers will be provided each week. All artist wishing to be together to participate art are welcome. There is no fee or pre-registration. On occasion mini-lessons may be presented by someone attending. Some videos may be shared. The JRAC art library is available for use. When the East Jordan School is closed so is the art center. It should be noted that the summer plein aire scheduled has already been planned. For further information contact Karen Kimmell, 2 3 1 - 5 8 2 - 0 6 8 3 , kakimmell@gmail.com or Nancy Carey 231-536-7912, ncarey@charter.net.

BOYNE CITY

BAC Moves (temporarily)

Boyne Arts Collective

(BAC) Gallery at 210 S Lake Street in Boyne City has been temporarily relocated to the Boyne Mountain's "Made in Michigan" Shop for January, February, and March. The Shop is located on the second level of the building across from the Lift Ticket Counter on Village Lane. Made in Michigan Shop is open Sunday - Tuesday 12 - 5pm and Wednesday - Saturday 12 - 8 PM. Every Friday and Saturday from 5 - 7pm there is Beer and Wine Tasting at the shop. BAC artists will demonstrate a variety of art techniques every weekend at the Made in Michigan Shop on Friday and Saturday from 2 - 6pm and on Sundays from Noon - 4PM.

GAYLORD

Men's conference

Get your tickets now for the Higher Call Men's Conference at the Evangelical Free Church April 21. The day long event features guests Fred Stoeker, the Stand Strength Team and David Dean. To order tickets go to www.highercall.com or phone the church at 989-732-2647. Purchase tickets before March 15 and save! \$25 if purchased by 3/15; \$30 if purchased by 4/10. After 4/10 price is \$35.

CHARLEVOIX & EMMET COUNTY

Planning begins for Project Connect

Your help is needed. Local human service agencies are once again joining forces. Planning for the fifth annual Charlevoix-Emmet Project Connect has begun. This year the event will be held on March 21 from 10am to 5:30pm at the Community Building at the Emmet County Fairgrounds in Petoskey. Project Connect connects people in need with a range of health and human services needed to improve their lives. The planning team anticipates an event both bigger and better this year. Last year the event reached over 800 individuals. All received

a wide range of supportive services. Assistance with housing, food, tax preparation, health services, and much more were provided throughout the day. Free haircuts and chair massages were available. Guests received a meal and gifts of food, personal care and household items. Individuals or businesses interested in donating items might consider conducting a drive at their business, school, or faith community. Lists of specific food, personal care, household, or other items that are most needed are listed on the United Way website www.charemunited-way.org, under Find a Donation Drive.



Jim Daly

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

with Jim Daly & Juli Slattery



Dr. Juli Slattery

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS DON'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT

Q: It's February and I've already blown my New Year's resolution to lose weight. I was really motivated but can't seem to stick with it. Any advice?

Juli: Truth be told, few of us have been diligent to keep the promises we made to ourselves on Jan. 1. Whether it was to lose weight, stop smoking or to be a better parent, real change is difficult to consistently stay committed to.

One of the greatest barriers to keeping your New Year's resolution is all-or-nothing thinking. In other words, since I ate a pint of ice cream yesterday, I guess the diet will have to wait until next year, or at least next week. Let's face it ... we all fail to perfectly measure up to our greatest aspirations. The difference between success and failure is really based on whether or not you keep trying, even after you fail. Change doesn't happen overnight. Research suggests that it takes an average of 66 days to form a new habit.

As you work toward losing weight, keep a couple of things in mind. Set goals

that will change your lifestyle, like a healthy eating and exercise plan instead of targeting a number on the scale. Create a form of accountability, whether a friend to work out with or a formal weight loss program. It is much easier to stay committed to your goal when someone is cheering you on. Also, remember that medical or emotional issues can impact weight. You may want to consult your physician or perhaps a counselor if you continue to struggle.

Finally, consider this quote by GK Chesterton: "Anything worth doing is worth doing badly." In other words, don't give up just because you haven't succeeded one hundred percent. Even a little progress this year is better than no progress!

Q: My husband and I are at our wit's end with our 6-year-old daughter. She's determined to challenge our authority and have things her own way. We'd like to think it's just a stage, but our son wasn't anywhere near this difficult when he

was 6. What's going on?

Jim: I think all parents have those times when they feel like they're fighting a losing battle. No matter how many times we discipline our kids and try to help them make the right choices, the message just doesn't seem to get through.

My wife, Jean, and I have faced this kind of frustration with our oldest son. He's your typical strong-willed child. He sees things in black and white, which is not a bad quality in itself. But he often has trouble respecting authority. Time and again, we have tried to teach him the importance of being respectful. And time and again, he's had us tearing our hair out! He never seemed to learn his lesson — until, that is, just recently.

Something has changed in our firstborn son. It's like he's had a burst of maturity. He's getting perspective, and it's clear that he's beginning to understand that his actions have consequences, both for himself and for those around him. He's more respectful of his mom and dad, not to mention his little brother.

Did Jean and I discover some magic formula to bring about this change?

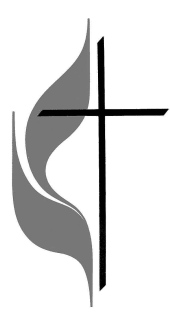
No — we've just been doing what we've always done. But I think that's the point. If we're *consistent* and *persistent* with our kids when it comes to discipline and boundaries, the message is going to get through eventually. There may be conflict along the way, as you've discovered with your daughter. But by God's grace, one day she'll thank you for your efforts to develop character in her when she was younger. The important thing is that you don't give up. And above all, make sure she knows you love her.

**

Jim Daly is president of Focus on the Family, host of the Focus on the Family radio program, and a husband and father of two.

Dr. Juli Slattery is a licensed psychologist, co-host of Focus on the Family, author of several books, and a wife and mother of three.

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News

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Community awards presented at 53rd Annual Charlevoix Area Chamber Gala last Wednesday

By Jim Akans

Over 200 community members and business professionals gathered at Castle Farms last Wednesday evening, February 8th, at the 53rd Annual Charlevoix Area Chamber Awards Gala event. The evening festivities began at 5 pm with a social gathering and opportunity to view the multitude of wonderful auction items donated by area businesses, organizations and individuals, and a "most excellent" dinner was served at 7 pm prior to the awards presentations.

This year's award winners were:

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

Charlevoix State Bank accepted by Tammi LaFave

NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Peacock Salon & Boutique accepted by owners Zac and Kimberly Sanger.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Stafford's Weathervane accepted by General Manager Jeff Sprecksell.

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

Mark Greyerbiehl of Ace Hardware.

OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Bev Boss, whose many volunteer efforts include working with the Senior Citizen Center and Community Reformed Church

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Charlevoix Insurance Agency accepted by Don Jess.

Congratulations to this year's award recipients and to another fabulous Awards Gala event held by the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce.



Community members and business professionals peruse the fantastic selection of auction items presented at Castle Farms last Wednesday evening at the 53rd Annual Charlevoix Area Chamber Awards Gala event.

PHOTO BY CINDY CLARKE

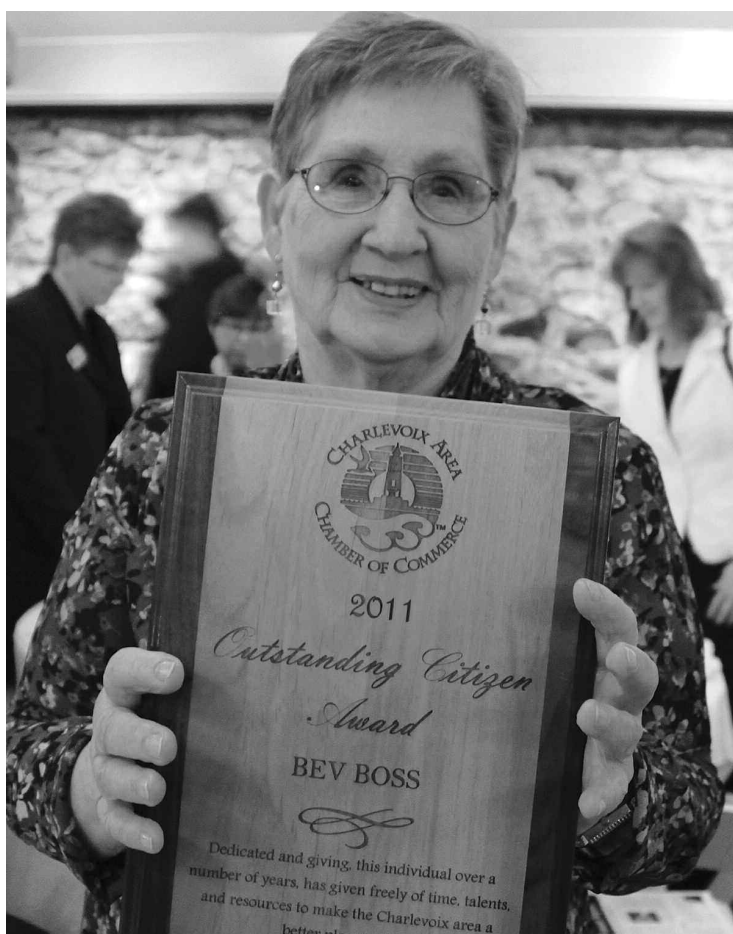


PHOTO BY CINDY CLARKE

Bev Boss, whose many volunteer efforts include working with the Senior Citizen Center and Community Reformed Church, was named the 2011 Outstanding Citizen of the Year at last Wednesday night's Awards Gala.



PHOTO BY CINDY CLARKE

Bob Thomas, of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce presented the 2011 Outstanding Chamber of Commerce Award to Erin Bemis of the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce.

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Charlevoix County Community Foundation Helps Feed Children in Need

The Manna Food Project is so blessed to have organizations such as the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (CCCF) willing to help make life easier for others. Serving as the food bank for pantries in Emmet, Charlevoix, and Antrim counties, the mission of Manna is to make sure that no one in this area is going without food. It was brought to Manna's attention that there were children in the schools in Northern Michigan that weren't getting enough to eat over the weekend. A recent grant from the CCCF Youth Fund, recommended by the Youth Advisory Committee, helps support the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program delivering weekend food to those children who are in need.

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation is one of several local organizations who were there with the financing for the pilot program for Food 4 Kids beginning in January 2011, and continue to lend

their support. What started in 6 Elementary schools has grown to 21 schools and Head Start programs from Mackinaw City to Mancelona to Bellaire. Over 1,700 bags are distributed weekly by an army of volunteer packers and delivery people. Recently, Jen Booher and students from the CCCF Youth Advisory Committee met Kathy Hart, Executive Director for The Manna Food Project, at one of the Charlevoix Head Start locations to help make the delivery. "It is so heartwarming to go into these schools and hear the comments from the staff and students regarding these bags of food" said Hart. "It really makes you understand that you are doing the right thing when you see how much it is appreciated. Without the support of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, and others, this program would not exist. We are truly grateful."

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation is a local charitable

organization dedicated to improving and enriching life for all who live, work, or vacation in Charlevoix County. CCCF works to enhance the quality of life in Charlevoix County, now and for generations to come, by building permanent charitable endowment from a wide range of donors, addressing needs through grant making, and providing leadership on matters of community concern.

If you are a local business, religious organization, civic organization, or individual who might like to "adopt" the Food 4Kids Backpack Program, or a portion of the program, in your community, contact the Manna Food Project at 231-347-8852 or manna@mannafoodproject.org to find out how.

More information about the Charlevoix County Community Foundation may be found at www.c3f.org or by calling 231-536-2440.



Helping make a delivery at Charlevoix Head Start are members of the CCCF YAC - J.J. Wachler, Freshman Charlevoix High School; Jennifer Booher, CCCF Program Associate; Brandon Arp, Junior Charlevoix High School; Kathy Hart, The Manna Food Project; and Mallory Murray, Sophomore Charlevoix High School.

How to Quit Smoking in 2012: 5 Proven Steps

You have this certain habit. You know its bad but you do not know how to quit. You feel like you can't quit.

Well, here is something for you. We understand you. It is completely normal to feel that way. This is because nicotine causes pleasant feelings and distracts the smoker from unpleasant feelings. This makes the smoker want to smoke again. Over time, the smoker develops a tolerance to the drug. At some point, the smoker reaches a certain nicotine level and then keeps smoking to keep the level of nicotine within a comfortable range. If smoking is postponed, the smoker may start to feel irritated and edgy.

Here is the good news: you can! But how, you may ask. You can stop smoking by following these simple steps:

STEP ONE: Make a Decision to Quit

You should decide to quit. The real commitment must come from you. You should think of the health risks of smoking. Think that smoking harms nearly every organ of the body. Half of all smokers who keep smoking will end up dying from a smoking-related illness. Smoking makes you acquire cancers of the lung, mouth, nose, sinuses, voice box (larynx), throat (pharynx), esophagus, bladder, kidney, pancreas, ovary, cervix, stomach, colon, rectum, and acute myeloid leukemia. Smoking greatly increases your risk of getting long-term lung diseases like emphysema and chronic bronchitis. Smokers are twice as likely to die from heart attacks as non-smokers. Smoking can cause blindness.

If you are thinking about

quitting, setting a date and deciding on a plan will help move you to the next step.

STEP TWO: Set a Quit Date and Make a Plan

Once you've decided to quit, pick a quit date. This is a very important step.

Pick a day within the next month as your Quit Day. Picking a date too far away can allow you time to rationalize and change your mind. You may also choose a date with a special meaning like a birthday or anniversary, or the World No Tobacco Day (May 31). Or you might want to just pick a random date. Circle the date on your calendar. Make a strong, personal commitment to quit on that day.

If you are planning to use a prescription drug, you will need to talk with your doctor about getting it in time for your Quit Day. Talk with your doctor about exactly when to start, and how to use the medicine, and find out what side effects to watch for and report.

STEP THREE: Prepare for Your Quit Day

Maybe you may want to smoke fewer cigarettes for 1 or 2 weeks before your Quit Day. Or you can cut down on the number of cigarettes you smoke a little bit each day. This way, you slowly reduce the amount of nicotine in your body. You might cut out cigarettes smoked with a cup of coffee, or you might decide to smoke only at certain times of the day. It makes sense to cut down in order to reduce withdrawal symptoms, but this can be hard to do.

Here are the things you can do next. Pick the date and mark it on your calendar. Then, tell friends and family about your Quit Day. Next, you should get rid of all the cigarettes and ashtrays in your home, car, and

at work. You can stock smoke substitutes such as sugarless gum, carrot sticks, hard candy, cinnamon sticks, coffee stirrers, straws, and/or toothpicks.

Another thing you can do is practice saying, "No thank you, I don't smoke."

Set up a support system. This could be a group program or a friend or family member who has successfully quit and is willing to help you. Ask family and friends who still smoke not to smoke around you, and not to leave cigarettes out where you can see them.

Think back to your past attempts to quit. Try to figure out what worked and what did not work for you.

On your Quit Day, do not smoke. This means none at all — not even one puff! Also, be active: try walking, exercising, or doing other activities or hobbies. Drink lots of water and juices. Begin using nicotine replacement if that is your choice. Start attending stop-smoking class or follow your self-help plan. Avoid situations where the urge to smoke is strong and people who smoke. You should also drink less alcohol or avoid it completely.

You should also think about how you can change your routine. Use a different route to go to work, drink tea instead of coffee. Eat breakfast in a different place or eat different foods.

STEP FOUR: Deal With Withdrawal

Withdrawal from nicotine has 2 parts — the physical and the mental. Nicotine replacement and other medicines can help reduce many of the physical symptoms.

One way to overcome these urges or cravings is to notice and identify ra-

tionalizations as they come up. A rationalization is a mistake thought that seems to make sense to you at the time, but the thought is bad. One way to avoid rationalization is to stay away from people and places that tempt you to smoke.

Choose foods that don't make you want to smoke. Switch to juices or water instead of alcohol or coffee. Take a different route to work. Take a brisk walk instead of a coffee break.

Use substitutes you can put in your mouth such as sugarless gum or hard candy, raw vegetables such as carrot sticks, or sunflower seeds. Some people chew on a coffee stirrer or a straw.

Do something to reduce your stress. Exercise or do something that keeps your

hands busy, such as needlework or woodworking, which can help distract you from the urge to smoke. Take a hot bath, exercise, or read a book.

When you were smoking, you breathed deeply as you inhaled the smoke. When the urge strikes now, breathe deeply and picture your lungs filling with fresh, clean air. Remind yourself of your reasons for quitting and the benefits you'll gain as an ex-smoker.

If you feel that you are about to light up, hold off. Tell yourself you must wait at least 10 minutes. Often this simple trick will allow you to move beyond the strong urge to smoke.

STEP FIVE: Reward Yourself

What you're doing is not easy, so you deserve a re-

ward. Put the money you would have spent on tobacco in a jar every day and then buy yourself a weekly treat. Buy a book or some new music, go out to eat, start a new hobby, or join a gym. Or save the money for a major purchase.

You can also reward yourself in ways that don't cost money: visit a park or go to the library. Check local news listings for museums, community centers, and colleges that have free classes, exhibits, films, and other things to do.

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



The Charlevoix Chamber of Commerce has selected the Bergman Center, Inc. as the February Business of the Month. COURTESY PHOTO

Bergmann Center

selected as the Charlevoix Chamber Business of the Month

By Jim Akans

The Charlevoix Chamber of Commerce has selected the Bergman Center, Inc. as the February Business of the Month, recognizing the organizations longstanding commitment in helping to make Charlevoix an outstanding community in which to live, work and play.

The organization that evolved into the Bergmann Center was established in 1965 by a group of five Charlevoix County parents of children with developmental disabilities who were looking to create an opportunity for those children to go to school and learn life skills. The newly founded organization was named the Bergman Center in 1972, honoring Lillian and Bob Bergmann, who helped to create the first work opportunities in this area for those with developmental disabilities.

Today, the Bergmann Center offers a wide variety of employment, community and day programs that, as the organization's mission statement reflects, are "dedicated to making a difference in the lives of those we serve." Among those many programs are

on-site job training and employment opportunities through local businesses and through the Center's in-house projects and recently launched Resale Shop. They also offer many community focused programs including those through the Aktion Club, which is a volunteer group of developmentally disabled individuals sponsored by the Kiwanis Club that the Bergmann Center helped to establish in 1999 and continues to support. The Bergmann Center also provides ongoing classes that promote life enrichment, daily living and survival skills, senior citizen activities, and more.

Suzanne A. Muma, Bergmann Center Executive Director, states, "We are very fortunate to be in a community that is so supportive of the work that we do. We continue to expand our services with a focus on helping individuals find work within our community, at our facility and at our resale shop. When I started here in 1986 we had 32 clients and over the years that number has grown to as many as 65 clients. We now have 13 people on staff, two ongoing volunteers, and approximately 15 additional volunteers

who help us on a consistent basis."

Muma notes that she and those who work with the Bergman Center thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of those facing physical and mental challenges.

"It is very rewarding to see those individuals grow in so many ways," she relates, "taking another step toward independence. That may be getting a job in the community, getting their own apartment, or learning a task that they have been challenged to grasp previously."

Muma adds, "The Charlevoix Chamber of Commerce has been wonderful in working with our organization and we have built a strong relationship with the Chamber and with the community as a whole. We look forward to continuing to increase community involvement in creating opportunities for adults with mental and physical challenges, and in focusing on employment, volunteering and memberships in clubs and organizations."

For additional information, visit www.bergmanncenter.org or call (231) 547-2979.

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VIBRATION EXERCISE & FITNESS CENTER

1447 S. Otsego Ave., Gaylord, MI 49735

989-732-7000

www.sakswellnesscenter.com

If your bone density does not improve we will refund your money. See us for details.

OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY - 7 DAYS A WEEK AT WWW.FEENY.COM

*prices plus tax, title, registration & doc. fees.