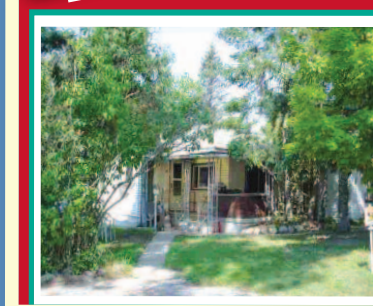


CHARLEVOIX COUNTY NEWS NAMES 2012 ALL-AREA BOYS BASKETBALL "DREAM TEAM"... PHOTOS & STORY IN SECTION B

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Charlevoix
County News
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ON PAGE 2B

sports

Charlevoix County News names 2012 **ALL-AREA BOYS BASKETBALL "DREAM TEAM"**



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Coach of the Year
Tim Smith

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Hayden arraigned on Embezzlement Charge

A former Boyne City Fire Department officer, with over ten years of service with the department, has been discharged from the department and charged with embezzlement of over \$20,000.

During the preparation of this year's City budget Fire Chief Dennis Amesbury and Assistant Chief Jack Bush discovered excessive expenditures in the

Fire Department's gas and oil account. They requested that the Boyne City Police Department investigate the matter. The investigation quickly pointed to Derby Arly (Buddy) Hayden IV using a department gas card to fuel private vehicles and containers not associated with the Fire Department. When confronted with the findings of the investiga-

tion Mr. Hayden admitted what he had done. The matter was turned over to the Charlevoix County Prosecutors office and on February 13, 2012 he was terminated from the Boyne City Fire Department. The investigation found no other persons involved. The embezzlement took place in increasing amounts over several years. The City anti-

pates, and will insist upon, full recovery of the amount stolen, either by the suspect or the City's insurance company.

Upon discovery of the situation the City presented it to its auditors, insurance company, attorney, City Commission, department heads, employees and

See Embezzlement—2A



Derby Arly (Buddy) Hayden IV

Story Time



COURTESY PHOTO

Readings aloud to pre-school children has proven success in preparing children for school. The Charlevoix Public Library provides a wonderful outlet for your child to listen to stories with other young children. Story Time is hosted every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and all children and their parents or care givers are invited to attend. Story Time at the Charlevoix Library is geared towards children

birth to five years old. Ms. Laura, story teller extraordinaire, reads stories, sings songs, interacts with finger plays, and sometimes even dances with the kids. For those families who are not able to attend during the week, Saturday Family Story Time is offered once per month at 10:30. The next session of Saturday Stories will be March 31. For more information about activities in the youth department, contact the library at 231-237-7350 or visit them at www.charlevoixlibrary.org.



Miss Laura sharing a story with Ellie Sullivan. COURTESY PHOTO

Presidential election postponed!

Jim Scoopit

Washington; In an unprecedented move, Legislators on Capital Hill voted 401 (for) and 34 (against) in support of postponing the upcoming Presidential election until 2013 because as a House member observed, "we just aren't ready." The general lack of consensus regarding the clear selection of a candidate to challenge the current administration is said to have served as the anchor for this never-before, and truly momentous decision. The vote to move the Presidential election date to sometime in 2013 received 231 Republican ayes and approval from 170 House Democrats.

"We really don't care when the election is held," read a note left scribbled on the blackboard inside the House Chambers. "Every new day in the White House is a good day!"

Regardless, the proposal to delay the election by up to six months came as a surprise to many House Democrats. An exit survey after last Monday's landmark decision revealed over three-

See Election—3A

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| Weather | 2A |
| Obituaries | 4A |
| News Briefs | 5A |
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| Dining, Arts & Events..... | 9A |
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| | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| weather | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | snowfall | record temps |
| | | | | | | |
| | HIGH: Upper 40's LOW: Low 30's | HIGH: Mid 40's LOW: Low 30's | HIGH: Low 50's LOW: Upper 30's | HIGH: Upper 50's LOW: Low 40's | | |
| | 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:

Derek Charles Turbull, 35, Boyne City. Driving while impaired. Sentenced to pay \$775 in fines and costs and to 36 days in jail with credit for one day for credit, 30 days held in abeyance with credit for one day, 30 days held in abeyance, five days of community service work.

Morganne Rene Moody, 19, Boyne City. Minor in possession of alcohol. Sentenced to pay \$250 in fines and costs and to 30 days hours of community service work.

Douglas James Campbell, 14, Beaver Island. Minor purchasing alcohol. Sentenced to pay \$250 in fines and costs and to 30 hours of community service work.

Cassey Dale Sirmons, 31, Boyne City. Domestic violence. Sentenced to pay \$500 in fines and costs and to 93 days in jail with credit for two days, serve 91 days.

Robert Edward Lee, 58, Vanderbilt. Assault and battery. Sentenced to pay \$800 in fines and costs and to 93 days in jail with credit for three days, serve seven days, 83 days held in abeyance and to one year on probation.

Michael Jay Smith, 58, Boyne City. Possession of marijuana. Sentenced to pay \$700 in fines and costs and to 180 days in jail, serve 10 days on work release, 160 days on a monitor, 10 days of community service work and nine months on probation.

Colter Cody Onnela, 53, Berkley. Driving while license suspended. Sentenced to pay \$550 in fines and costs, and to 30 days in jail with credit for 11 days, serve 19 days.

Katherine Marlene Magill, 53, Englewood, FL. Use of marijuana. Sentenced to pay \$400 in fines and costs.

Rachel Marie Butler, 18, Boyne City. Driving while impaired. Sentenced to pay \$805 in fines and costs and to 41 days in jail with credit for one

day served, serve 41 days in jail with credit for one day, 10 days of community service work and nine months on probation.

Forrest Gray Dunson, East Jordan. Disorderly person. Sentenced to pay \$450 in fines and costs, serve 90 days in jail, 85 days held in abeyance, five days of community service work and six months on probation.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

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

Ryan Christopher Hendricks, 22, Charlevoix and Amber Lynn Lutz, 22, Charlevoix.

David Glen Hilberg, 38, East Jordan and Wendy Gayle Vanderstel, 46, East Jordan.

Craig Allen Stutzky, 52, Boyne City and Kristen Cherie Spears, 29, Boyne City.

Norman Dale Gardner, 73, Boyne City and Judith Katherine Judkins, 68, Boyne City.

ASSUMED NAMES:

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

Simply North 1597Lalonde Road, East Jordan by Marilyn Sinclair.

Buy Local 231, 209 Elm St. Charlevoix, 209 Elm St., Charlevoix by Laurie Lesser Hodgson.

Artistic Creation 1207 Bridge St., by Robert Harmon.

Totally Todd, 2757 Vance Road, East Jordan by Todd Hart V.

Wright Services, 2505 Sequota, East Jordan by Kyle Wright.

K & L Marine of Machine, 01855 Jenkins Road by Kyle Robert Lockman.

BOYNE CITY POLICE DEPT.

Monday, March 19

12:45am Open door found in the 100 block of S Park St

2:10am Intoxicated subject sleeping near the river mouth

5:36am Citation issued speed

9:35am Parking complaint

received in the 1000 block of Boyne Av

9:54am Car key dropped off at PD that was found at Av-alanche Mountain

10:26am Intoxicated male in the 400 block of N Lake St

3:22pm Report of disturbance that occurred the night before in the 500 block of Groveland St

5:50pm Arrested intoxicated male for trespassing and possession of marijuana in the 400 block of N East St

6:41pm Harassment complaint received from the 500 block of N Lake St

9:10pm Assist Sheriff Department on Tomkins Rd

Tuesday, March 20
3:26am Assist Sheriff Department with alarm on Lakeshore Dr

3:48am Report of B&E in the 300 block of Silver St

10:58am Chainsaw dropped off at PD that was left at North Boyne. Was returned to owner.

2:03pm Driving complaint received on Charlevoix St

3:11pm Cell phone found near Beardsley St

5:05pm Parking complaint received at park and Lincoln Streets

5:27pm Report of skateboarders in road at Wildwood Harbor and Park Streets

6:05pm Vehicle unlock in the 300 block of E Division St

6:15pm Issued warning to skateboarder in the Central Business District

6:35pm Retail fraud complaint in the 400 block of N Lake St

7:31pm Vehicle unlock on Ray St

Wednesday, March 21

10:10am Dog found running at large on Pleasant near Elm Streets

10:31am Suspicious situation reported in the 1000 block of Boyne Av

11:14am VIN Inspection on Vogel St

12:01pm VIN Inspection on Air Industrial Park Dr

3:50pm Citizen in to file harassment charges against subject in the 300 block of E Division St

9:19pm Report of kids skateboarding on deck of business in the 200 block of S Lake St and using profanity at customers

Thursday, March 22

12:27am Hit and run accident in the 300 block of E Division St

1:58am 911 hang up from the 300 Block of E Division St

2:20am Arrested subject for OWI

11:47am Juvenile complaint in the 1000 block of Boyne Av

2:25pm Hit and run property damage accident at State and Call Streets

4:25pm Assist to Girl Scouts for Scavenger Hunt

8:44pm Assist EMS in the 300 block of Taylor St

Friday, March 23

8:13am Report of mailbox hit in the 900 block of Boyne Av

9:53am Motorist assist to subject at Little League Field

10:17am Met subject at shelter to lodge cat

11:50am 911 hang up call from the 300 block of E Division St

1:11pm Parking complaint received in the 100 block of E Water St

11:10pm Request for assistance with civil custody issues.

Saturday, March 24

7:30am Residence toilet papered and forked in the 600 block of JayCee Ln

10:50am Citation issued for speed

1:22pm MDOP received in the 200 block of S Lake St

4:27pm Civil standby in the 300 block of N Lake St

5:40pm Private property damage accident on W Water St

7:42pm Animal complaint

in Veteran's Park

Sunday, March 25

2:49pm Arrested subject for DWLS at Court and Robinson

3:53pm Private property damage accident in the 500 block of Lewis Av

CHX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

March 12-18, 2012

911 Hang Up Call.....3

Abandoned Vehicle.....3

Abuse.....0

Alarm.....5

Animal Complaint.....15

Annoyance.....0

Assault.....2

Assist Citizen.....3

Assist Motorist.....3

Assist Other Agency.....15

Attempt to Locate.....3

Attempted Suicide.....1

Bank Alarm.....0

Boating Accident.....0

Boating Violation.....0

Breaking & Entering.....1

Car/Deer Accident.....11

Citations Issued.....38

Civil Complaint.....5

Criminal Sexual Conduct.....0

Death.....1

Disorderly Person.....0

Disturbance.....4

DNR Complaint.....2

Domestic Dispute.....1

Driving Complaint.....4

Fireworks Complaint.....0

Found Property.....2

Fraud.....2

Health & Safety.....3

Hit & Run.....1

Intoxicated Person.....2

Juvenile.....2

Larceny.....3

Lockout.....4

Lost Property.....0

Malicious Destruction of Property.....4

Mental Subject.....0

Minor In Possession.....1

Miscellaneous Criminal.....1

Missing Person.....0

Noise Complaint.....1

Operating Under the Influence.....0

Paper Service.....8

Parking Violation.....1

Personal Injury Accident.....1

Personal Protection Order.....1

Private Property Accident.....0

Property Check.....7

Property Damage Accident.....4

Prowler.....0

Road Hazard.....5

Stalking.....0

Suspicious Situation.....8

Threat.....1

Traffic Stop.....91

Trespassing.....2

Unknown Accident.....1

Unlawful Driving Away of Automobile.....0

Vehicle in the Ditch.....0

Violation of Controlled Substance Act.....2

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters and opinions may be submitted by e-mail to Office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com.

Northern Michigan is waiting to hear who Mitchell Jon MacKay is and what he's trying to say. A little bio background would be valuable and would add some legitimacy to his info-comercials in the 3/22/12 edition

Bill Supernaw

Editor's Note
Mitch MacKay is an artist, writer and musician and lives in East Jordan.

FROM PAGE 1 Embezzlement

gas vendor to make all aware of the matter and find ways to prevent something like this from happening again. "The City is shocked and greatly disappointed that an individual hired to

work for and protect the public would end up stealing from it. We as an organization do not tolerate anything that betrays the public trust, especially for personal gain" said City Manager Michael Cain. "Despite all our safeguards this individual found a weakness in our systems that he exploited for his own benefit. His actions are completely contrary to the spirit of

public service that the members of our Fire Department and all City employees demonstrate daily. As devastating as this betrayal is we will learn from this incident and work to maintain the trust of our citizens, taxpayers and all those we interact with."

Mr. Hayden has been booked, arraigned and is currently out on bail awaiting trial.

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County News

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 41

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News

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MDOT makes it easier to share Mi Drive traffic info

Just in time for construction season, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has introduced a new feature on Mi Drive, the department's popular traffic data Web site. Now it is easy for users of the site to share updates of lane closures, traffic incidents, camera and map images, and other information that appears on Mi Drive at www.michigan.gov/drive by clicking on the Facebook, Twitter and e-mail buttons on the upper right-hand side. Local agencies also benefit by having a quick way to share construction and traffic incident information with affected area residents. The new buttons appear on both the Web-based and mobile versions of the site.

A new option also has been added to both versions to generate a link to whatever content you are viewing on Mi Drive. You can use the link to share information on personal Web sites and other social media sites or you can bookmark it on your browser for quick reference.

"MDOT is pleased to provide yet another free tool to help motorists plan their routes," said State Transportation Director Kirk T. Steudle. "For example, if you are meeting someone at a specific carpool lot, you can view that carpool lot on the Mi Drive map, zoom in on it, and send a link to the people you are planning to meet. It's so much easier than trying to describe where a lot is located. As always, we encourage motorists to drive safe and 'Know Before You Go,' which means checking Mi Drive before you get behind the wheel."

The Mi Drive site provides real-time information for motorists traveling on I, M and US routes in Michigan. Improvements to the site are being funded with \$250,000 in federal seat belt funding from the National Traffic Safety Administration. First launched in 2007, the Mi Drive site has been revamped several times, including the introduction of the mobile version in May 2011.

The site is maintained by MDOT, the Department of Technology, Management and Budget, the state's Center for Shared Solutions & Technology Partnerships, and the Intelligent Transportation Systems program office within the MDOT Division of Operations.

MDOT reminds drivers: Snowplows need room to groom.

www.michigan.gov/drive | www.twitter.com/MichiganDOT | www.facebook.com/MichiganDOT

Walker's efforts pay off as House restores funding to welcome centers

LANSING—Thanks to the persistent efforts of Sen. Howard Walker, the Michigan House of Representatives has reversed course and decided to restore funding to keep welcome centers open every day in three northern Michigan cities.

Last December, Walker authored a budget amendment to House Bill 5014 that ensured funding to keep the welcome cen-

ters open seven days a week, but the House stripped Walker's amendment from that measure.

After weeks of negotiations with House leaders and the governor's office, Walker convinced the House to restore the money in a separate supplemental budget bill.

"It was important that funding was included for these centers," said Walker, R-Traverse City. "I,

along with others, worked hard last fall to ensure that our northern Michigan welcome centers would remain open to serve the public. They are integral to the region's economy, and I am happy to now hear that the House will be restoring this funding."

With Walker's push, House Bill 4289 allocates \$200,000 to keep the welcome centers in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace and Mackinaw

City open seven days a week.

Since the early fall of 2011, the Michigan Department of Transportation has closed the welcome centers two days a week.

Walker's change will enable the centers to stay open at least eight hours a day, every day of the week.

Northern Michigan's newest cash crop; cotton?

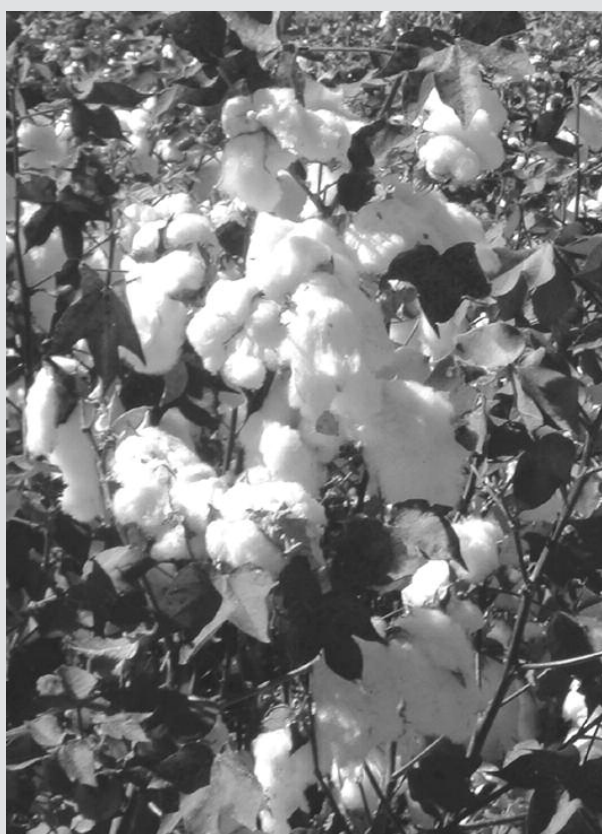
By Luke Warme

Things may be warming up in Northern Michigan's agricultural economy. With the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) recently released revision of the Plant Hardiness Zone Map, it appears the climate here in the "tip of the mitt" may be just about ready to support a new cash crop; cotton.

"This could be very big news for our area," relates horticulturist Bud Vaise, "A good part of our growing climate has gone from a Zone 4 to a Zone 5, and some areas from a Zone 3 to a Zone 5. Now technically, we should be rated as a Zone 7 or 8 to be ideally suited to grow a crop like cotton, but we have some fairly innovative farmers up here...I think they just may be able to make this happen."

The USDA's Plant Hardiness Zone Map divides the U.S. and Canada into 11 different zones, each based on a 10 degree Fahrenheit difference in the average annual minimum temperature each zone experiences during the year. So the jump in one or two zone classifications represents between a 10 and 20 degree rise in the average minimum temperature dip these designated areas will experience.

"Cotton may be a bit of stretch right now," observes Hardy Sole, a third-generation farmer located in Charlevoix County, "but we are going to give it a go by starting in the greenhouse around April Fools Day and transplanting to the fields sometime in May. Cotton typically takes about five months to grow from seed to harvestable plant...so we may be pushing the envelope a bit, but if it works...we could very well be sitting in tall cotton here in



the north!"

Weather or not cotton may join cherries, apples and potatoes as staples of the Northern Michigan agricultural economy remains to be seen. Such a move may prove highly profitable to those farmers daring enough to "take the heat," or it may turn out to be a fool's errand indeed.

FROM PAGE 1 Election

quarters of Democratic Representatives hadn't even realize this was an election year, though the majority favored placing President Obama's name on the ballot whenever those ballots are printed.

On the Republican side of the table, the rescheduling of the election offers some much sought after time for party members to sort through the divided support behind the two leading Presidential race challengers; Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum. Rumors of back room dis-

cussions preceding the election postponement vote have even pointed toward re-running the entire state primary process, however, since the candidates have already burned through millions of dollars getting this far, such a move seems unlikely.

"We would have to figure out how to pursue a campaign strategy on a very limited budget," an undisclosed campaign spokesman keenly observed. "I just can't see how we could go out on the road and talk to the voters for less than several hundred thousand dollars a day. I mean, this isn't the 1950's where we can just jump on a train and stop in every little burg across America to talk about the issues. Today, we have huge motor

homes, massive support staff, expensive hotels and meals...even a substantial amount of first-class air travel. That's not to mention the cost of buying ads to make sure everyone knows how bad the other guy is. Campaigns are no longer cheap!"

A recent Gallop poll found that a vast majority of Americans felt the election process has lost touch with the voters, indicating that some good old fashioned "election stumping" might very well be an effective way to utilize this extended preparation time.

"I'm not surprised they decided to delay the election," noted Cher Dee Welth, a young, Kansas City independent registered voter. "Despite all this talk about change, the whole political

arena still seems like it's all about protecting the big money and corporations. It would be such a breath of fresh air if a Presidential candidate would simply reach out to the American public with an open mind...hear what we are concerned about rather than promote their or their party's agenda. Now that's someone I could vote for... whenever that vote is held!"

While the Presidential Election extension bill must be signed by the...er, President, before it takes effect, President Obama is expected to endorse the bill on Sunday, April 1st... April Fool's Day.

Dairy Producers Reminded of MILC Program

The Michigan Farm Service Agency would like to remind dairy producers of some important program eligibility requirements for payment under the Milk Income Loss Contract program (MILC). FSA Michigan State Executive Director, Christine White says dairy prices may authorize potential MILC payments, but all dairy producers need to be aware of the program requirements should those conditions arise.

Dairy operators currently enrolled in MILC, need to notify the local county office if there have been any changes to their dairy operation.

If a payment rate is announced, dairy producers enrolled in the MILC program will need to provide the local county office with documentation showing the eligible milk production and commercial milk marketing for the months with a MILC payment rate in effect.

When producers enroll in MILC, a payment start month is selected. This month remains the same through all program years, unless a

change is requested by the dairy. Dairy producers are allowed to change their start month an unlimited number of times throughout their enrollment in MILC provided that the changes are requested timely.

MILC program participants are also required to comply with FSA's Adjusted Gross Income requirements each fiscal year. This certification, on a CCC-931, must be completed prior to a payment being disbursed.

New dairies that have not previously participated in the MILC program will need to fill out the CCC-580, Milk Income Loss Contract.

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How to Build a Community

- Turn off your TV.
- Leave your house.
- Know your neighbors.
- Look up when you are walking.
- Greet people.
- Sit on your stoop.
- Plant flowers.
- Use your library.
- Play together.
- Buy from local merchants.
- Share what you have.
- Help a lost dog.
- Take children to the park.
- Garden together.
- Support neighborhood schools.
- Fix it even if you didn't break it.
- Have pot lucks.
- Honor elders.
- Pick up litter.
- Read store is aloud.
- Dance in the street.
- Talk to the mail carrier.
- Listen to the birds.
- Put up a swing.
- Help carry something heavy.
- Barter for your goods.
- Start a tradition.
- Ask a question.
- Hire young people for odd jobs.
- Organize a block party.
- Bake extra and share.
- Ask for help when you need it.
- Open your shades.
- Sing together.
- Share your skills.
- Take back the night.
- Turn up the music.
- Turn down the music.
- Listen before you react to anger.
- Mediate a conflict.
- Seek to understand.
- Learn from new and uncomfortable angles.
- Know that no one is silent although many are not heard.
- Work to change this.

This was sent to us in an e-mail. We are not sure of the source, but agree that they make us think about how to make the community we like in a better place to live.

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Deborah Ann (Harris) Danforth

(DEC. 6, 1961 - MARCH 24, 2012)

Deborah Ann Danforth, 50, of Charlevoix, passed away Saturday, March 24, 2012.

Debbie was born Dec. 6, 1961, in Traverse City, to Patricia (Kennedy) Harris and James F. Harris. She grew up in Petoskey and graduated from Petoskey High School in 1980. She graduated from Lake State Superior University with a bachelor of science degree in nursing and was awarded the Tempie Dubow award in April of 1997.

While growing up, she was active in 4-H and showing horses. She was a board member of the Blissfest Organization and volunteered many years in the recycling department.

Debbie married Kurt Danforth on Sept. 3, 1998.

Debbie is survived by her husband, Kurt; her son, Kwinn Danforth; daughters, Heather (Brian) Cornett, Kennedy Danforth and Kiera Danforth, all of Charlevoix; her mother, Patricia Harris; and her sisters, Melissa Harris, Sheila Burke and Brenda (Steve) Clark of Charlevoix; grandchildren, Isaiah, Isabella and Gideon Cornett; her nephew, Tyler Burke; and niece, Kassie Burke. Her four legged companion, "Aiko" the dog, will miss her dearly. She was preceded in death by her father, James Harris.

A memorial service will take place at 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, at Family of Christ Church on Resort Pike Road in Petoskey with pastor Robb Burkee officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed toward the family to help with funeral expenses.

Patrick H. Symons

(JULY 16, 1977 - MARCH 25, 2012)

Patrick H. Symons, 34, of East Jordan, died Sunday, March 25, 2012, in East Jordan.

He was born on July 16, 1977, in West Branch, the son of William Harold and Nina Marie (Gensman) Symons.

On March 19, 1994, in Ellsworth, he married Melissa Spence.

Patrick received his associate degree in law enforcement in May of 2009 from Northwestern Michigan College.

He was a deputy for the Tribal Police of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in Harbor Springs. He also served as auxiliary deputy for the East Jordan Police Department.

Patrick loved spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Melissa Symons, of East Jordan; two sons, Patrick Henry Symons II and Christopher James Symons, both of East Jordan; his mother, Nina Marie Symons, of East Jordan; two brothers, Daniel Symons of East Jordan and Joseph (Laura) Lyons of Bridgeport, Conn.; one sister, Kimberly (Frankie) Lyons, of Bridgeport, Conn.; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Kay and James Spence, of East Jordan; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by one son, Raymond Patrick Symons, on March 20, 1994; his father, William Harold Symons, on June 26, 2002; and his stepmother, Kathy Symons, on Dec. 30, 2010.

A funeral service will take place at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 29,

at the Lighthouse Missionary Church in East Jordan. The Rev. James L. Jordan of the Lighthouse Missionary Church and the Rev. Christopher D. Wallace of the Ellsworth Wesleyan Church will officiate. Interment will follow at Sunset Hill Cemetery in East Jordan.

The family will receive friends 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28, at the Lighthouse Missionary Church.

Memorials may be directed to the Symons' family college fund.

The family was served by the Penzien Funeral Homes, Inc. in East Jordan.

Genevieve 'Jennie' Richards, 94

Genevieve "Jennie" Richards of East Jordan, Mich., and formerly of Drayton Plains, Mich., died on Thursday, March 22, 2012, in Johnstown, Colo.

A celebration of Jennie's life will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 31, at the Penzien Funeral Homes, Inc. in East Jordan. The Rev. Kenneth H. Lein of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in East Jordan will officiate with interment following in Sunset Hill Cemetery in East Jordan. The family will receive friends from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, March 30, at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be sent to www.penzienfh.com.

Thora Helen Brown Kotowich

(MAY 21, 1919 - MARCH 24, 2012)

Thora Helen Brown Kotowich, 92, of East Jordan died Saturday, March 24, 2012, in Petoskey.

Thora was of French Canadian descent, born in the town of Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada, on May 21, 1919. As a child she moved with her mother Carmen and sister Loma to Detroit, along with several aunts, uncles and cousins. Her grandfather, George Albert Michie, was an artist whose paintings were on display at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

She graduated from Cooley High School in Detroit and shortly thereafter became a naturalized American citizen. She married Howard E. Myers in 1937 and had two daughters, Terry Ann and Nicholynn. During World War II she worked as one of the "Rosie the Riveters" at Diesel, Inc., which manufactured large generators that provided lighting on captured islands. After the war she moved, with her parents and two children, to East Jordan and met Teddy Kotowich, whom she married in 1946. They became the parents of two boys, Teddy Jr. and Timothy Jordan.

Teddy owned a boating and fly-fishing guide service on the Jordan River which he maintained for 50 years. Thora became an expert fly fisherwoman, tying her own flies, which were soon in high demand by fly fishermen all over the country. She also worked in accounting for Mount Clemens Manufacturing and Boyne Mountain Ski Lodge.

Always active in local and regional politics, Thora served on the East Jordan City Council and was

appointed to the Charlevoix County Supervisors. While there, she was assigned to form a Commission on Aging for Charlevoix County. She became a board member and served on the 10-county Area Agency on Aging. Thora was then appointed to the Community Mental Health Board, where she served for 25 years until retiring.

Among her many community activities, Thora belonged to the American Legion Ladies' Auxiliary, Post 227, the East Jordan Sno-Mobile Club, the Jordan River Arts Council and was a member of the Presbyterian Church. She was a founding member of the Jordan River Watershed Commission. As a member of the board led by Dr. David Pray, she served with Ed Rebman and John Hodge, and along with other commission members and the State DNR, helped to ensure the designation of the Jordan River as "a Wild Scenic River."

Teddy and Thora's trout-fishing guide business offered a unique Northern Michigan natural experience. They hosted many well-known individuals from the world of arts, sports, military and business; including, among many others, General Mark Clark, Edwin J. Anderson, President of Goebel Brewing Company, Stan Weel of Sealtest Ice Cream, and Sarkis Sarkisian and Walter and Peggy Midener of Detroit's Society of Arts and Crafts College. Many of these people returned again and again to fish the Jordan and became lifelong friends of Thora and Teddy's family. Mort Neff presented a profile of their guide business on his television program, "Michigan Outdoors."

Thora was preceded in death by husband Teddy, sister Loma, her parents Carmen and Gary Garrison, and grandson Andy Kenny.

She is survived by daughters, Terry (Veto) Pernicairo of Monterey, Tennessee, Niki (James) Kenny of Petoskey, and sons, Ted Jr. of East Jordan and Timothy (Patrizia) of Munich, Germany.

She left five grandchildren, Ted, Theresa, Kimberly, Nick and Rachael Pia, and four great-grandchildren, Michael, Jennifer, Alison and Jack.

A memorial visitation was held Tuesday, March 27, 2012, at the Penzien Funeral Home in East Jordan. Interment will be in Sunset Hill Cemetery in East Jordan. Memorials contributions may be directed to the Friends of the Jordan Watershed, Inc. or Jordan River Arts Council.

Kenneth H. Brill

(MARCH 5, 1927 - MARCH 14, 2012)

Kenneth H. "Coach" Brill, 85, of Charlevoix, passed away on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, at Hiland Cottage - Hospice of Little Traverse Bay in Petoskey.

Ken was born on March 5, 1927, at home in Greene County, Ohio, the son of John H. and Bertha (Koogler) Brill. He grew up in Beavercreek, Ohio, graduating from high school in 1945. Fifteen days later, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he proudly served his country during WWII. After leaving the service, he attended the University of Dayton where he graduated with a bachelor of science in education in 1951.

While in college, he married Sue A. Griffith in 1949. Ken and Sue

had four children and were married for 42 years. On Dec. 11, 2011, Ken married Suzanne A. (Petersen) Muma, his best friend for more than 20 years.

Ken was a beloved high school teacher and coach for 21 years, teaching earth science and biology and coaching varsity basketball, baseball and track. On May 28, 2006, he was inducted into the Preble County Athletic Hall of Fame, Lewisburg, Ohio. After retiring from teaching in 1975, he moved to Northern Michigan, where he ran the Price Brothers Lodge and served as a morel mushroom and fishing guide. From 1979-1998, he served as executive director of the Bergmann Center, a life skills building center for individuals with disabilities, and continued to be an integral part of the Center for the rest of his life.

He was a member and former president of the Charlevoix Kiwanis Club for 30 years. He was an advisor for the Charlevoix Kiwanis "Aktion" Club and worked with troubled youth as a volunteer with the Charlevoix County Probate Court.

In retirement, his hobbies were many: hunting mushrooms, agates and Petoskey stones, carving walking sticks, gardening, fishing, camping, painting and writing. He wrote 16 books called "Just Stuff" and an unpublished novel called "Yellow Bird."

As a teacher, coach, mentor and friend, Ken touched many lives, and he felt that the greatest accomplishment of his life was making a difference in others' lives. Family and friends wishing to share a thought or memory of Ken are encouraged to do so at www.facebook.com/InMemoryofKennethHowardBrill.

Ken is survived by his wife, Suzanne; his children, Becky (Steven) Voice of Boyne City, Robert (Debbie) Brill of Petoskey, Bonnie (Jerry) Saylor of Indian River, and Beth (Barry) Gilmer of Evart; stepchildren, Joshua (Allie) Muma of Traverse City and Kristy (Mike) Evjen; his sister, Thelma Bahns of Waynesville, Ohio; grandchildren; Josh, Samantha, Jordan and Taylor Voice, Robert and Lucas Brill, Alisa Winslow, John Taylor, Cassie Levely, Kelly Taylor, Jake, Zach, Kendra Ryan, Adam Shimmions, Haley and Caleb Evjen, Kaitlyn and Thomas Pettinato; 11 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father; his stepfather, Fred Deger; stepbrother, Elwood Deger; and his loyal four-legged companion of 14 years — his dog Cricket.

A celebration and remembrance of Ken's life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 31, at First Congregational Church in Charlevoix, with pastor David Tuggle officiating. Military honors will be presented by the Charlevoix Area Veterans. In lieu of flowers, the family is suggesting memorial contributions be made to the Bergmann Center in Charlevoix, or Hospice of Little Traverse Bay in Petoskey.

Thomas Edward Meads

(JAN. 28, 1935 - MARCH 20, 2012)

Thomas Edward Meads, 77, from Boyne City, passed away peacefully on March 20, 2012, at Hiland Cottage Hospice in Petoskey.

Thomas was born Jan. 28, 1935, to Vern and Ruth (Webster) Meads in Elmira, Mich.

Thomas was raised in Boyne City and on June 18, 1955, he married Carol Marie Bewell. The love of his life, Carol, passed away on Oct. 4, 2008, after 53 years of marriage.

Thomas worked as a journeyman lineman for R.E.A. and as an electrician before retiring. He enjoyed playing poker, fishing, reading mystery suspense novels and wine making. He was a member of the Boyne City Eagles for more than 50 years and became a member of the St. Matthew Catholic Church in Boyne City during the mid-80s.

He is survived by his children; sons, Jeffrey and (Kay) Meads of Joshua Tree, Calif., and Christopher (Karen) Meads of Boyne City; daughters, Kim Fiel of Boyne City, Kelly (Tim) Miller of Clio and Wolverine, and Monica Meads of Levering; 13 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sister, Maxine (Burton) Willson of East Jordan; and brother, Raymond (Sally) Meads also of East Jordan.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Carol; brothers, Carl and Jack Meads; and sisters, Lucille Moore and Margaret Sorenson.

A graveside memorial will be set at a later time this summer. Final arrangements were made by Penzien Funeral Home in East Jordan.

The family wishes to extend a grateful thank you to all of the employees at Hiland Cottage. You are God's angels.

Jeanette Aitken Smith, 79

Jeanette Aitken Smith died Monday, March 19, 2012, at home in East Jordan.

A private graveside service will be held at Brookside Cemetery in Charlevoix.

The family was served by the Penzien Funeral Homes, Inc. in East Jordan.

Joan Elizabeth 'Hon' Potts, 99

Our beloved "Hon," Joan Elizabeth (Sytsma) Potts, age 99, was transported to glory on Saturday, March 10, 2012, having lived the past two years as a resident of the Christian Rest Home in Grand Rapids.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Gerald, Ralph and Fred Sytsma, and her sister, Jane Sytsma Haveman.

Born in Moline, Mich., Joan spent the majority of her adult and retirement years living with her late husband, Arnold, in Charlevoix. She was a self-taught musician and played the organ for the Ellsworth Christian Reformed Church for many years.

With no children of her own, her nieces and nephews were her loving children and provided comfort and care for her - especially during her senior years.

A memorial service for Hon will take place at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 31, at the Moline Christian Reformed Church. At 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 5, she will be buried next to the grave of her husband, Arnold, in Norwood Township Cemetery. Her nephew, Peter Vermaat, will officiate at the graveside service.

Burial services provided by Hastings Funeral Home, Ellsworth.

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News Briefs

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EAST JORDAN

City Administrator Search - Input Session

Area residents will have an opportunity to help East Jordan City Commission members identify the characteristics they want in an administrator during a community forum to be held at 6pm on Wednesday, March 28, in the East Jordan Civic Center.

CHARLEVOIX

St. Mary's Fish Fry

Date for the final Lenten Fish Fry is March 30 from 5:30-7:30. \$9 for adults and \$4 for children.

BOYNE CITY

Young Professionals group begins

Ryan Moskal & the Boyne Area Chamber is holding an organizational event to see if there is local interest in starting a Young Professionals group. The first meeting will be a no-host social mixer starting at 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 29, at Sunset Grill, 5 West Main Street. Sunset Grill will provide complimentary hors d'oeuvres. The main purpose of the group is to provide informal fun social events and business networking for professionals under age 35. No reservations are needed for the March 29 event. If you can't make it but would like to be notified of future YP events, contact Moskal at 517-937-2428 or ryanmoskal@gmail.com.

BOYNE CITY

Great Lake Charlevoix Ice Out contest winners

The Great Lake Charlevoix Ice Out contest is over and there are six winners. Each year the winner is whoever accurately guesses when a 100-pound rock with an atomic clock attached will fall through the ice on Lake Charlevoix near Boyne City. The annual event is sponsored by the Alano clubs of Boyne City and Charlevoix. The winners are Suzanne Bacinski, Sue Wangeman, Don and Joanne Ziegler, John Looze and Greg Shepard. They will receive an equal share of the \$1,000 prize, meaning a \$166.66 payout to each. The annual contest didn't wrap without a hiccup, though. There was

trouble on the water this year. Unseasonably warm temperatures broke up the ice on Lake Charlevoix early and the rock drifted toward the shoreline on an ice floe. When it finally crashed through the ice, an equipment failure failed to stop the atomic clock. It's a good thing contest organizers kept a close eye on the rock and knew from observations that it plunged into about three feet of water between 5 and 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14.

BOYNE CITY

Easter Egg Hunt

The First Presbyterian Church of Boyne City is inviting the public to Easter activities on Saturday, March 31, the weekend before Easter. The Easter Express community event will be held at the church, 401 S. Park St., from 9 to 11 a.m. This includes a pancake breakfast, crafts, Bible stories and games for children ages 4 to 12. RSVP's are appreciated; call 231-582-7983. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 11:30 a.m. March 31 at Veterans Memorial Park. No reservations are required for the egg hunt. Separate locations will be reserved for various age groups. If there is inclement weather, the egg hunt will be held at the church on Park Street.

BOYNE CITY

Best dessert

Water Street Cafe honored for Best Desserts. The Northern Express profiled Water Street Cafe, winner of their "Best Desserts" category: Opened in July of 2004, the Water Street Cafe in Boyne City was founded by Val and Larry Glasgow, native Michiganders with an extensive history in food service, including a popular downstate bakery. The Glasgows originally intended to move Up North and, as Larry Glasgow puts it, "shift into low gear" - but their Realtor persuaded them to fill what he called a restaurant void. It was at first intended to be a small, low-key sandwich and coffee shop. "But we quickly grew a loyal customer base who wanted more," Larry Glasgow says. "Before we knew it, we were serving breakfasts, dinner specials, pastries, pizzas, and catering. Due to their annual Spring Cleaning/Vacation, Water Street Cafe will be closed from Sunday, March 26 thru April 9, reopening Tuesday, April 10.

BOYNE FALLS

2012 summer concert schedule

Bill and Maxine Aten have released the Aten Place Summer 2012 Concert Schedule, which is available on their website, www.atenplace.com. Season passes and advanced sale tickets are also available for the non-profit concert venue. They also announced that they have added a new park-

ing area for the coming season. Aten Place seats 175 for concerts and is located in a 90-year-old renovated barn, a half mile south of Cherry Hill Road on Old Mackinaw Trail in Boyne Falls.

EAST JORDAN

Blood Drive

Red Cross Blood Drive, Tuesday, April 3 from Noon - 5:45pm at the East Jordan Civic Center. Sponsored by St. Joseph Catholic Church.

CHARLEVOIX

Easter egg hunt

Here comes Peter Cottontail hopping down the Charlevoix trail! That's right; the Easter bunny is coming Saturday, April 7th to help celebrate the 21st Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place at 2:00 p.m. at East Park in downtown Charlevoix and is free for children up to 10 years old. Energize for the Easter Egg Hunt with the Bunny Luncheon being offered from 11am to 1:30pm at Stafford's Weathervane Restaurant. Enjoy a delicious meal with your family, then get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny, compliments of Picture This. Please call 231-547-4311 for reservations. The Easter Egg Hunt divides children into four age groups including, 2 years old and under; 3-4 years, 5-6 years and 7-10 years. The hunt is sponsored by Northwestern Bank and will include 4000 eggs filled with Kilwin's candy and various other prizes. So bring your Easter egg basket and be sure to arrive ready at 2:00 p.m. sharp so you don't miss out!

EAST JORDAN

Easter Fun and Games

Sponsored by the East Jordan Lions Club. Saturday, April 7 at the East Jordan High School. Starting at 10am and the cost is free. There will be Fun, Games, Candy and Door Prizes. For more information call Bill Dunson at 231-536-2848

WORLDWIDE

Easter

Easter is April 8. Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

EAST JORDAN

Golf

The Mallard Golf Course is open for golf! Open every day, 8am - 6pm

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Donations for Cancer

Northern Michigan Cancer Crusaders provide help to cancer patients. To donate contact Gail Farley, 231-582-2424

BOYNE CITY

Free tax preparation

The Boyne District Library is hosting a free tax preparation service from 10am to 3pm Mondays and Thursdays. The service is

provided by volunteers and the Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency. To be eligible for this service, income guidelines are \$22,340 for one person, \$30,260 for two and \$46,100 for four. Call the library at 231-582-7861 for an appointment.

CHARLEVOIX

Free tax preparation

Free tax preparation and e-filing is now available for low income households at the Charlevoix Public Library. The service is available by appointment on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Sunday afternoons. Please call 231-237-7340 for your appointment. The service is brought to the library through a partnership with the North West Community Action Agency.

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.

BOYNE CITY

New nature area

The Friends of the Boyne River have another idea to ensure that Boyne City and its surrounding area protect the environment while providing recreational activities. Nancy Cunningham of Friends of the Boyne River spoke to the city commission at a recent meeting and was granted city approval to use the site, which is on city land. The land is located on a slope and an adjacent wetland along the river at the east end of the Industrial Park. This project will consist of constructing boardwalks and steps around the wetland and establishing a rain garden that helps to prevent soil erosion. The path will be approximately 900 feet long. Grant funding is now being sought to finance construction.

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.

BOYNE CITY

Boat launch permit stickers now available for 2012

Annual boat launch permit stickers are now available for 2012 at Boyne City Hall. These stickers are good for launching at either the small launch at the marina or the north launch near Glen's Market (attainment of a sticker does not include the overnight parking fee). To obtain your annual permit, you will need to present your current boat

registration and driver's license. For your convenience, once the marina office is open for the season in May, they will carry stickers and will be open evenings and weekends. Annual stickers can also be obtained by mail; contact City Hall for information, 231.582.6597.

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.

CHARLEVOIX

BookTalkers

Charlevoix Public Library BookTalkers is a group of readers who love to read different books each month and then gather to discuss them. The BookTalkers meet 6pm on the third Monday of each month. New members are always welcome.

EAST JORDAN

Financial Education Workshop

Money Smart: To Your Credit. Charge it Right Wednesday, April 18 from 6:30 - 8pm at the Library Community Room. The cost is free. Registration is required by calling 231-536-7131 ext 222. Topics will include: Importance of building and maintaining a good credit history, How to address credit deficiencies, How to get and review your credit report, How to shop for and use credit cards responsibly. Presenter: Wanda Repke, Michigan State University Extension Educator, Greening Michigan Institute & Financial Education Programs.

BOYNE CITY

Kindergarten Round-up

Concord Academy will host a kindergarten round-up April 19, 9am - Noon and

1-3pm at the school, 00401 E. Dietz Rd. Take the opportunity to have your child individually tested and meet with the teacher. Young 5's class is also available. Call for an appointment, 231-582-0194.

CHARLEVOIX

Scholarship to local graduates

The Charlevoix Chamber of Commerce raises funds every year from the silent auction at the Annual Gala and Awards Ceremony to award local graduates scholarships for future education. Requirements include:

1. Must be a graduating high school senior who is planning to attend an accredited vocational school, community college or university.
2. Must be accepted to an accredited two or four year institution of higher learning (college or vocational school).
3. Must have a 3.0 or better Grade Point Average (GPA)
4. Must be either an employee of a company which is a member of the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce or the child of an employee.
5. Immediate family members of the Chamber's Selection Committee members are ineligible to apply for the Chamber Scholarship.

Applications are due on April 16th at 5pm and can be downloaded here: <http://www.charlevoix.org/General/scholarship.htm>

CHARLEVOIX

Cash Raffle Party

The Charlevoix Knights of Columbus are sponsoring the 36th annual Cash Raffle Party at Castle Farms. The event is April 21 from 6pm - 11:30pm. Tickets for two are \$150 and includes food, entertainment and a beverage allowance. \$14,750 will be awarded in prizes this year including a grand prize of \$5,000. This is a community fundraiser! All cash party proceeds stay in our community and fund charitable good works and youth programs for all! Please help them help others! In 2011 the Knights supported over 22 area programs with cash proceeds from this party. For tickets contact Steve Seely: 231-499-3674, Ed Linse: 231-547-4526, Gabe Campbell: 231-547-9739, John Haggard: 231-547-4046, Roger Nesburg: 231-547-5111, Paul Hoelderle: 231-547-6127

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News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM



Ruby, Doris and Donna are among the volunteers who dedicate their time to assisting customers at the Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale Shop. COURTESY PHOTO

Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale Shop is a win-win organization

By Jim Akans

It's truly a win-win organization. The Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale Shop is both an excellent spot to find quality, used items of virtually any kind, and the proceeds from sales at the Resale Shop help to support the ongoing mission of the Mancelona Food Pantry in providing food for area families in need.

"The Food Pantry serves families throughout Antrim County," states Edith Plumb, a volunteer at the establishment and Secretary of the Board. "It was founded about 10 years ago and is ran by a very dedicated group of volunteers. We serve approximately 200 families in assisting with the food needs each month, which translates into approximately 700 individuals."

Proceeds from sales at the Resale Shop greatly assist in serving those family's needs. Highlights of the donated items available include just about every type of household article; including furniture, nick knacks, dishes and tools. Shoppers will also find a wide selection of toys, yard equipment such as lawn mowers, grills and even snow shovels. These goods are donated by local individuals, businesses and those from downstate who have summer residences in the area.

The facility is a large three-story building that was once a church. Inside, customers will find two levels devoted to resale displays, and



The Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale Shop is located at 201 N. Maple Street in Mancelona. COURTESY PHOTO.

one floor level for the food pantry and fellowship hall.

"It is a very nice environment," relates Edith Plumb. "Our mission is getting more and more important all the time as more people are in need of assistance with the food needs. We are part of the Northwest Michigan Action Agency Food Coalition, with is a group of about 40 food pantry's in the area that cooperate with each other in staying informed about

the issues affecting us."

The Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale Shop is located at 201 N. Maple Street in Mancelona. The Resale Shop is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 am until 4 pm, and Saturday from 9 am until 2 pm. The Food Pantry is open Tuesday through Thursday from 9 am until 4 pm. For additional information, please call (231) 587-9606.

DAVE Says



Dave Ramsey

Asking for trouble

Dear Dave,
I want to keep one of our credit cards open and use the bill-pay option for utilities and other monthly bills. I want to do this so we can continue earning rewards points, and the way I look at it, we'd just be re-routing the money and paying it off every month. My husband doesn't like this idea and thinks we should get rid of them all. Am I just asking for trouble by wanting to keep the rewards card open?
Cheryl

Dear Cheryl,

Yes, you are. Life never works out exactly the way you think it will. You can make all the well-reasoned and best-intentioned plans you want, but sooner or later that snake is going to bite you.

The only thing I'd consider in a situation like this is a debit card that has a rewards system attached. Lots of debit card programs offer the same kinds of rewards programs offered by credit card companies, with one big exception—you don't have to go into debt!

You need to stop chasing these stupid brownie points, Cheryl. According to Consumer Reports, 78 percent of credit card airline miles are never redeemed. Studies also show that people spend more when using credit cards as opposed to cash. That extra money you spend on things you don't need is money you could have been saving and investing. So, where's the reward?

Cut up the card and close the account, Cheryl. You don't build wealth by using credit cards!

—Dave

Pension? Invest anyway!

Dear Dave,
My wife and I are both active duty Marines. She's planning to get out in a few months, but I'm staying in for the long haul. You recommend saving 15 percent for retirement, but how does that apply in my case when I'll be getting a good pension after 20 years?
James

Dear James,

I'd like to see you do both. Just imagine the money you guys would have for retirement with your military pension and a big pile of cash from having saved 15 percent of your income over the years.

Having options is a great thing. Think about all the things you could do down the road if you save for retirement and have your pension in place. You could pay cash for a home, or even open a business when you retire from the military. And these are things you probably wouldn't be able to do working with just your service pension.

You've got a great future if you'll just keep plugging along and saving, James. Let the military do its thing, and you guys keep pumping 15 percent of your income into Roth IRAs and other pre-tax retirement plans. It's going to be pretty cool!

—Dave

* For more financial help please visit daveramsey.com.



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

Health & Wellness

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Free home test kits for colorectal cancer available at Health Department

March is Colorectal Awareness Month and public health officials are speaking out with advice for consumers on this potentially life-threatening disease. "Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, with over 56,000 people expected to die from this disease each year," Joshua Meyerson, MD, Medical Director for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan explained. "However, it

is a preventable and very curable disease if caught early."

The Health Department offers free home test kits for men and women age 50 and over from Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties who meet certain income guidelines.

Because there are often no symptoms when it is first developing, colorectal cancer can only be caught early through regular screening.

"The benefits of early detection and treatment are dramatic," Meyerson said. "The possibility of curing patients after symptoms develop is only 50%, but if colorectal cancer is found and treated at an early stage before symptoms develop, the opportunity to cure it is 80% or better."

Meyerson notes that in addition to getting screened regularly for colorectal cancer, people can lower their risk of getting the dis-

ease by:

- Avoiding red meat and bacon
- Eating plenty of vegetables, fruits, and other high-fiber foods
- Exercising regularly and maintaining a normal body weight
- Not smoking and drinking alcohol only in moderation

The Health Department is offering free test kits to eligible individuals ages 50-64. For more information or to receive your

free test kit call 1-800-432-4121.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties.

SAFE Youth in Northern Michigan join National Kick Butts Day Initiative

Local kids produced public service announcement

Young people from SAFE in Northern Michigan are joined thousands of kids across the country who are took part in Kick Butts Day, a nationwide initiative that helps kids become leaders in the effort to stop youth tobacco use. As part of the Kick Butts Day celebration, local high school students launched a public service announcement (PSA) that will be shown throughout Charlevoix and Emmet counties.

"The tobacco companies make smoking look cool in their ads, but that's nothing but a lie," said Lexie Harding, a senior at Boyne City High School who helped write and produce the PSA. "There's nothing cool about bad breath, smelly clothes, and tobacco-stained teeth."

Students from Boyne City, Charlevoix, East Jordan, Harbor Springs, Pellston, and Petoskey worked together to create the PSA. Boyne City High School students recruited their chemistry teacher, Andy Bryant, to help them create the message about the harmful chemicals that are found in cigarettes. Their message is clear: "Is this really what you want to put in your body?"

"Kids are a powerful part of the solution to reducing youth tobacco use," said Lynne DeMoor, who coordinates the Tobacco Reduction Coalition of Northwest Michigan and assisted SAFE Youth with the Kick Butts Day project. "For Kick Butts Day 2012, kids are sending two important messages: they want the tobacco industry to stop targeting them with advertising and they want elected leaders at all levels to do more to protect them from tobacco."

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, killing more than 400,000 people every year. Every day, more than 4,000 kids try their first cigarette; another 1,000 kids become addicted smokers, one-third of whom will die prematurely as a result.

"Strong tobacco-free policies, adequate funding for tobacco prevention programming, raising tobacco taxes, and providing resources to those who want to quit are proven methods for reducing the health and economic burden of tobacco use," said DeMoor. "Kick Butts Day is an opportunity for our elected leaders to hear directly from young people on the support in place for these important opportunities to do more to protect kids."

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information about the Kick Butts Day event and tobacco prevention in the community, contact DeMoor at the Health Department at 347-4640. For help in quitting tobacco use, talk with your healthcare provider or contact the Michigan Tobacco Quitline at 800-784-8669. For information on the national initiative, visit the Kick Butts Day website at www.kickbuttsday.org.

It's time to start talking about sexual assault prevention

By Dena Sydow

Why are we hearing so many reports of sexual violence in the news lately? Hopefully it is because victims of these crimes are starting to get needed support instead of condemnation. For too long victims have been silenced by the fear they will be blamed, humiliated and disbelieved. A step in the right direction would be that no survivor is ever asked what she was wearing or how much she had to drink the night she was raped. The next step is working to end the violence which will require us to be more proactive.

Rape, battering, sexual abuse and sexual harassment impacts millions of individuals and families in the U.S. In our small neck of the woods the Women's Re-

source Center of Northern Michigan handled 881 domestic abuse and sexual assault crisis calls last year, and provided direct services and counseling to 312 survivors of sexual assault (in addition to 664 survivors of domestic abuse, which often includes sexual abuse and assault). A 2011 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that one in six women in the U.S. has been the victim of an attempted or completed sexual assault in her lifetime. So if you think of six women you know—your daughter, sister, mother, partner, friend or coworker—one of them represents a possible survivor. Speaking of our daughters, a report by the American Medical Association reveals 20 percent of adolescent girls have been physically or sexually assaulted by someone

they are dating. The CDC study also reveals nearly 1.6 million men in the United States reported having been raped in his lifetime, many when they were younger than 11. Why are we not doing more to put an end to this violence?

Those who commit rape and sexual assault are not aliens who have been dropped on earth from another planet. They are typically people the victim knows and trusts. They are in our homes, schools, places of worship, locker rooms, even in the workplace.

What are we doing as a society of well-meaning men and women to openly and earnestly examine the root causes of these crimes? How is our culture helping to perpetuate this violence in men and boys through the music we hear, the video

games we play, the advertisement we see, the magazines we read and the movies and TV shows we watch? Is the manner in which our culture defines "manhood" linked to the endless stream of news reports about sexual violence? How do we make it the norm to call-out a buddy if his comments toward women are demeaning, or his behavior abusive?

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This year's theme is "It's time...to talk about it." If we start the conversation today and continue to scrutinize the ways in which our society is breeding a culture of violence against women and girls; our understanding may lead us to proactive solutions that will end this type of violence.

It's time...let's start talking about it.



Free Varicose Vein Screening April 19th

A free screening for those interested in finding out more about venous disease will take place Thursday, April 19 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the new medical office complex on Charlevoix Area Hospital's campus. Hosted by Charlevoix surgeon, Marc Lame MD, the event will give patients an opportunity to learn about risk factors, prevention, spider and varicose veins, and treatment options including the new VNUS Closure procedure. Everyone is welcome to participate, and there is no charge or obligation. Those wishing to attend should make an appointment by calling Monica at the Charlevoix Surgeons Office, (231) 547-2812.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters and opinions may be submitted by e-mail to Office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com.

Dear Editor,

America is making progress in the fight against colorectal cancer. However, it still remains the second leading cause of cancer death. According to the Michigan Cancer Consortium, during 2010, 5,170 Michigan men and women were diagnosed with colorectal cancer and 1,740 people died from colorectal cancer. The good news is that colorectal cancer is one of only a few cancers that can actually be prevented

through the use of regular screening tests.

Screening saves lives. During National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month this March, I urge our community to become more aware of the need to get screened for colorectal cancer. Unfortunately, nearly half of Americans are not getting the recommended screenings they need. Many deaths expected from colorectal cancer this year could be avoided with wider use of proven screening tests. In an effort to

help this situation, the Health Department is offering free colorectal cancer home screening kits to men and women age 50-64 who meet certain income requirements. To learn more about free screening test kits available to eligible individuals, call the Health Department at 1-800-432-4121.

Joy Klooster, RN, BSN, MBA
Colorectal Cancer Control Coordinator

Health SERVICES

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News

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Senator Walker Addresses Senate Floor on Unfunded Legacy Costs

Sen. Howard Walker, R-Traaverse City, gave a floor statement during Senate session on Thursday, March 8 regarding the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System.

“Michigan, We Have a Problem”

By Sen. Howard Walker

When we think about the problems our state is facing today, we often think about unemployment and our economy, the condition of our roads, the amount of crime in our towns and the level of taxes we assess our job providers and citizens. While all those are vitally important issues that certainly need to be addressed, we also need to look at the tremendous amount of unfunded legacy

costs the state and its subdivisions (cities, villages, townships, counties and school districts) are staring at, and the numbers are huge.

While the state recently took action to address one of its largest legacy costs, namely retiree healthcare for state employees, up to this point, there has been little movement to address the costs of the other systems that are in existence, and perhaps the largest of those is the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System (aka MPERS). When one looks at the completely staggering unfunded liabilities in the MPERS system, it's hard not to think of the phrase "Houston, we have a problem". Current numbers provided to the Legislature by the Office of Retirement Services (ORS) show that MPERS is underfunded to the tune of \$45 billion-yes billion!!! Of that number, approximately \$18 billion is for pension costs and the other nearly \$28

billion is for retiree healthcare.

Perhaps a little background is in order to describe how we got here. MPERS is the state's "Defined Benefit" retirement plan mainly for retirees of our local school districts and community colleges. A defined benefit plan provides a guaranteed level of benefits upon retirement based on the highest three years of compensation for a school employee, and the number of years they were employed. Besides pension benefits, MPERS also provides school retirees with healthcare benefits. Most school employees hired before 1990 pay nothing towards these benefits. Those hired between 1990 and 2008 only pay 4% of their gross salary while the rest of their liability is paid for by the taxpayers through local school district budgets.

This Fiscal Year, the "MPERS rate", the rate school districts are charged, will be nearly 25%; 8.5% to pay for re-

tiree health care, 12% to pay for the unfunded liabilities in the system and 4% for normal pension costs. This 25% is calculated on the salaries of current school district employees, so in other words, for every dollar that a school district pays for an employee's salary, it is paying an additional 25 cents to cover pension and retiree healthcare costs. According to the Senate Fiscal Agency, during our last Fiscal Year, school districts spent \$1.85 billion to pay for pension and retiree health benefits-this equates to \$1200 per pupil. Without any changes, this number will be even higher in the years to come.

This problem cannot be ignored and significant reform needs to be implemented. Reform will accomplish a healthier MPERS ensuring it is around for current and future retirees and also provide school districts with needed savings so additional dollars will get into

the classroom. Doing nothing would be irresponsible and abdicate our fiduciary duty to the taxpayers, which we all swore to uphold. There is little doubt that reform will not be easy or without controversy, but there is also little doubt that it is completely necessary. The reforms that will be announced soon are not being proposed to penalize anyone, quite the contrary. We want a healthy and sound retirement system for future generations of educators and school employees, and without reform, school districts will continue to struggle to pay the inordinate costs of a system that is on very shaky ground. These reforms are well thought out, fair, provide savings for school districts and help to ensure the health of the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System, and they deserve to be implemented.



Jim Daly

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

with Jim Daly & Juli Slattery



Dr. Juli Slattery

EMBARRASSING DISCOVERY PUTS GRANDPARENTS IN AWKWARD SPOT

QUESTION: Our 14-year-old granddaughter was recently staying with us. After she left, I looked at the history on our Internet browser and realized that she had been visiting porn sites and sexually explicit chat rooms. What do I do with this information?

JULI: I'm so sorry to hear about your discovery! Unfortunately, we hear stories like yours on a daily basis. Young teens, both male and female, are falling prey to Internet pornography. It represents a lethal combination of excitement and sexual curiosity that can quickly become addictive.

As difficult as it may be, I recommend that you talk to your granddaughter about what you discovered, ideally in person. It is really important that you approach her with a spirit of love and concern, wanting to help without judgment. She probably already feels a lot of shame about what she is doing. She is in over her head and doesn't know

how to stop. Offer to help her in any way that you can. Encourage her to share her struggle with her parents. If she is unwilling to tell her parents, tell her that, out of love, you will share the information with them.

Some might argue that viewing porn has become an accepted norm for teens in our culture, so why make a big deal about it? Remember, just because so many teens view pornography doesn't make it any less dangerous to your granddaughter. It poses a serious threat to her mental health, emerging identity and future relationships. Her parents need to be involved in installing home Internet filters and helping her process what she has seen, perhaps through counseling.

QUESTION: Should my husband and I talk to our kids about drugs? We have a third-grader and a sixth-grader, and we're not sure

whether their schools' drug education programs will be sufficient. But we don't even know how to begin to broach the subject at home.

JIM: For many parents, this is a topic that's almost as scary as the dreaded discussion about "the birds and the bees." Nevertheless, you need to have this talk with your kids. No school program or curriculum will carry the weight of your wise counsel and example. Joseph A. Califano Jr., a former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, put it best when he said, "The severe problem of substance abuse in this country will not be solved in courtrooms or government chambers, but in living rooms and across kitchen tables."

And yes, this ongoing dialogue should begin before your children reach adolescence. My friend Glenn Williams, who co-authored "How to Drug-Proof Your Kids" curriculum, says: "Would you wait until your

child is past puberty to discuss with him the realities and responsibilities of sex? Would you wait until your child turns 16 and drives the family car onto the highway to teach him how to drive? No, of course not. And neither should you let your child get to the point of greatest vulnerability to drugs and alcohol before presenting the topic in the way you want your child to learn it."

Our boys are both under the age of 10, so drug abuse might not be an issue in their school yet. But that day is coming sooner than my wife and I would like to think. That's why we are seeking out resources that will help us tackle this important subject proactively. I believe it's critical that every parent do the same. You might start by visiting focusonthefamily.com, which offers a range of helpful articles and other materials on this issue.

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STUDENT NEWS

The following students graduated from **Western Michigan University** in the Fall Term of 2011.

Marissa Wibel, Harbor Springs, Bachelor of Business Administration-Human Resource Management

Kaleb M. Brown, East Jordan, Bachelor of Science-Engineering Management

Tristin A. Caswell, Carp Lake, Bachelor of Science Interdisciplinary Health Services: Occupational Therapy, SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Claire K. Leestma, Petoskey, Bachelor of Science-Early Childhood Professional Education

Gregory V. Syth, Cheboygan, Bachelor of Business Administration Management, SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Rojill E. Skiba, Petoskey, Bachelor of Arts-Political Science

Jennifer R. Sisson, Boyne City, Bachelor of Arts-Spanish, CUM LAUDE

STUDENT of the Week

Boyne Falls Public Schools
Nicoma Sayles



PARENT(S): Tait Sayles

GRADE: 4

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Loves dodgeball

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS: art, reading, writing, and babysitting

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?: "A pediatrician"

STAFF COMMENTS

Nicoma comes to school every day with a smile on her face and a willing spirit to learn. She cheerfully helps students and staff alike and is a friend to everyone. Nicoma is a hard worker and takes pride in what she does. Congratulations, Nicoma! (Mrs. Dianna Brown, teacher)

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Across

1- Turkish titles; 5- Glaze; 10- Arguing; 14- Deep cut; 15- Oscar de la ___; 16- "The Joy of Cooking" author Rombauer; 17- "___ sprach Zarathustra"; 18- Slippery as ___; 19- "Jurassic Park" actress; 20- Pealed; 21- Mattress of straw; 23- Diamond authority; 25- Eternity; 26- Bobbins; 31- Windlass; 35- Prince Valiant's son; 36- Organization; 38- Chief island of the Philippines; 40- LP player; 42- Block; 44- Actress Garr; 45- Coniferous tree; 47- Claw; 49- Taxi; 50- Taj ___; 52- Proves beyond doubt; 54- VCR button; 56- "Fancy that!"; 57- Characteristic of mammals; 62- Church area; 66- I did it!; 67- Bellini opera; 68- Follow; 69- Banned apple spray; 70- Two; 71- Gaelic language of Ireland or Scotland; 72- Dagger; 73- Beginning; 74- Quantity of paper;

Down

1- Culture medium; 2- Big bash; 3- Org.; 4- Military commander of Japan; 5- Wrestled; 6- Actress Olin; 7- Dedicated to the ___ Love; 8- Inscribed pillar; 9- Yellowish color; 10- Helps; 11- Very, in Versailles; 12- Hungary's Nagy; 13- Convert into leather; 22- Deep blue; 24- Rx writers; 26- Satirist Mort; 27- King of Troy; 28- Below: prefix; 29- Coup d'___; 30- Shrub of the cashew family; 32- Crackpot; 33- Prague native; 34- Goddesses of the seasons; 37- Haul; 39- Penpoints; 41- German pronoun; 43- Affecting the emotions; 46- Injury; 48- Vane dir.; 51- Simple shed; 53- Pivot; 55- Jester; 57- Former French colony of north-western Africa; 58- Hebrew month; 59- Imprint; 60- Some nest eggs; 61- French friend; 63- Bern's river; 64- Passport endorsement; 65- K-6; 66- Bit;

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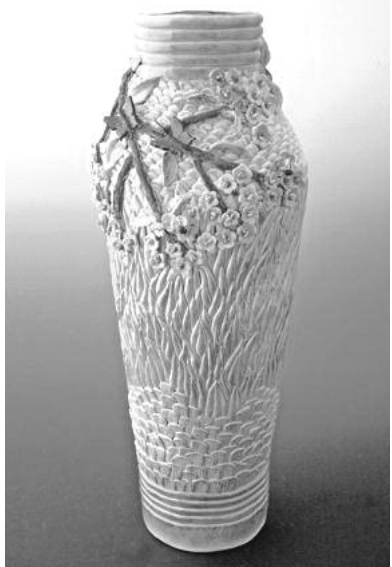
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Jordan River Art Center Florescence Show and Workshops

"The Jordan River Art Center has a head start on the blooming season. Florescence is a visually exciting show, presenting a gallery garden of fine art and craft." stated Babs Young. Over fifty artists have submitted works for exhibition from the exotic to the lush, small studies to large-scale, in paintings, sculptures, ceramics, fibers— clothing



"Petal Pot" Vessel, hand Built Porcelain by Rosita

and wall hangings, prints, photographs, and drawings. There will even be artistic flowers outside. The exhibit opens Sunday April 1, 2012 At the center, 301 Main St. with a reception for artists and art patrons. Some works will be for sale. The show runs through May 4. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 1—4 pm. The exhibit has been planned by co-curators Babs Young and Kathleen Glynn. There is something for everyone!

In relation to the exhibit three spring workshops are scheduled with registration now in progress. Workshops offered are:

'Found Object Flower Arranging' by professional florist, Judy Wagner-Worgress with 30 years experience. She will demonstrate basic flower arranging skills to assemble a vase of fresh flowers in a found object. All students will take home a fresh floral arrangement in a found object brought by the student. Price: \$30. The workshop will be Saturday April 21, 2012, 1-3 pm at the Backdoor Floral Studio, 112 Spring St., East Jordan. 'Ice Dyes and Eco Bundles with



"Tulips and Blizzard," Oil, by Margie Guyot, Eastport.

Flowers" by Shanna Robinson, professor North Central Michigan College and teaches courses including design, textiles, ceram-

ics and at history. She will lead students on a floral journey to make color on cloth using materials from our natural environ-

ment — leaves, petals, and frozen flowers. Supplies furnished. Student must bring rubber gloves, an apron, and scissors. Price: \$50. The workshop will be Saturday, April 28 from 10 am — 4 pm, at the Jordan River Art Center, Lower Level, 301 Main St., East Jordan.

"Silk Ribbon Flower Embroidery" by Kathleen Glynn, who has practiced the art of silk ribbon embroidery for 17 years. Using a "free hand" techniques, silk ribbon will be used to create exquisite large-scale embroidery stitches and floral designs. Silk ribbon ruching as well as creating flowers from basic embroidery stitches. A kit will be offered. Each student should bring embroidery scissors, and a notebook and pencil. Price \$30. plus \$5. for Kit. The workshop will be Sunday, April 29, at 1—4 pm at the lower level at Jordan River Art Center, 301 Main St. East Jordan. Class size is limited. Interested persons can obtain further information by contacting, Babs Young by mail: babsy@elkrapid-snet.com or phone 1 232 645 2220. Further for prices, and to register for workshops.

Charlevoix Public Library April 2012 Schedule of Upcoming Events

All events are at the Charlevoix Public Library, 220 W Clinton St., 231-237-7340. (unless otherwise noted)

EXHIBIT: Mostly Michigan: The Photographic works of D. James Galbraith, Mostly Michigan presents vintage black and white photographs by D. James Galbraith that capture the everyday lives of people in Michigan during 1970's and 80's. Exhibit in the Community Room foyer through April.

QUICKBOOKS BASICS, 6:30 p.m., April 10: Rick Malamed, from Tip of the Mitt IT will be teaching the basic functions of the business accounting software.

GENEALOGY INTEREST GROUP, 6:00 p.m., April 12: Come learn about new technologies and the 1940 census to be released April 2012.

BOOKTALKERS DISCUSSION, 6:00 p.m., April 16: Join the

Charlevoix Library BookTalkers for a discussion of The Blind Assassin, by Margaret Atwood.

GENEALOGY IN AN INTERNET WORLD: Traditional Methods, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m., April 16: Traditional genealogy methods will be introduced and how to utilize the Internet to ease the way. Use of four generation charts, group charts, and home search will be introduced.

YOUR RETIREMENT: Boom or Bust, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., April 17: Call to register, 237-7340. For this presentation that will provide direction on how to control the management and oversight of your retirement assets.

LOOSE THREADS: Northern Michigan Textile Artists, 1:00 p.m., April 18: Join local fiber artist, Kathie Briggs, for this informal group to discuss art and help each other with ideas and projects.

QUILTERS AND FRIENDS, 10:00 a.m., April 19: Join quilters and other fiber art enthusiasts for a morning work group. Bring your project and equipment.

ARTISTS IN ACTION: Rug Hooking, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., April 19: Stop by the lobby for a quick demonstration on how to hook wool rugs with Cynthia Postmus.

SATURDAY STORY TIME, 10:30 a.m., April 21: Play "Ms. Laura Says," listen to stories and music, learn finger plays, and spend time with friends and family. Call for information: 231-237-7350.

PAPER AIRPLANE RACES, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., April 21: Join your friends (grades 4-8) and make a variety of paper airplanes and race with other competitors.

SHOW AND TELL STORY TIME, 4:00 p.m., April 23: Birth to five and their caregivers - bring something special to show and tell

with others.

WINTERFOLK: Ryan Luce, 6:30 p.m., April 23: Join this fun folk concert series in celebration of northern Michigan's local talent and after the concert join in the fun during the open mic session.

GENEALOGY IN AN INTERNET WORLD: Finding your Ancestors, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m., April 23: The use of major genealogy websites will be the focus of this class.

ENERGY: From Carbon to Thorium, 6:30 p.m., April 24: This program combines clips from the documentary Thorium Remix with commentary and research by David Robinson.

GENEALOGY IN AN INTERNET WORLD: Finding the Major Records, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m., April 30: Learn how to locate vital records, census records, cemetery

records, court records and more.

SWEET SPOT: Basic Diabetes Education Classes, 6:30 p.m., April 26: Come learn about diabetes.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

MUG: MAC USERS GROUP, 5:00 p.m., every Monday: This group will gather to share tips and problem solving using Macs.

STORY HOUR W/ MS. LAURA, 10:30 a.m., Every Thursday: Play "Ms. Laura Says," listen to stories and music, learn finger plays, and spend time with friends and family. Call for information: 231-237-7350.

WRITERS GROUP, 6:00 p.m., Thursdays: All writers welcome – published, unpublished and novices – for support and gather new ideas with other writers.

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 Sun 4:30, 7:00; Mon – Thur 7:00
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Warning: Bearsquatch is back in area!

Legendary Big Foot-like creature, part black bear and part Sasquatch, is being spotted again around these parts

By Mike Dunn

CHARLEVOIX—Northern Michigan residents are becoming more concerned as reports involving the return of the infamous “Bearsquatch of the North” occur with greater frequency. Some experts are saying the creature, suspected to be part black bear and part Sasquatch, has finally returned to old haunts after not being seen in these parts for decades.

“We believe the Squatch has definitely come back,” Glen B. Dawg of the Bigfoot Observatory of Michigan (B.O. of M) and world renowned Big Catt Hunter, said in a rare interview this week, “There are just too many indications to be ignored.”

The fabled Bearsquatch creature, known for its hairy frame and long arms, its ability to walk on two legs, and a piercing scream that has been described as sounding like a RAP music artist with a bladder infection, is apparently back in northern Michigan. Sightings of the nocturnal creature have been reported in

Norwood Township, South Arm Township and on Beaver Island. Others claim they can smell the creature, which emits a distinctively unpleasant odor not unlike a RAP artist who hasn’t bathed in a long time.

In addition to the sightings and smellings, alleged footprints of the beast have been found in several locations, including Veteran’s Park near downtown Boyne.

Dawg, sometimes referred to as “Big Catt Dawg,” owns a doctorate in Squatchology from the prestigious Institute of Big Foot Research in Broken Toe, North Dakota. He said that when he and other B.O. of Michigan team members got wind of the reports of the recent sightings and smellings, they decided to come north and go “in the field” and do some digging of their own.

Their expedition, known by the codename Project B.O., officially kicks off this Sunday, APRIL 1.

Noted Big Foot biologist Slim Jim White, whose B.O. exploits are known far and wide and even beyond the



This size-12 shoe is completely engulfed in the footprint left by the alleged Sasquatch creature north of Norwood Township. (PHOTO BY BILL JOHNSON)

borders of the state, believes the concerted search for the Squatch of the North will be successful this time.

“All of us are here because we believe big time in B.O.,” Slim Jim said emphatically while slowly sipping a strong brew from his pot of organically grown Choleric Coffee Beans. “The work we do in the Big-foot Observatory is essential to the continuation of the human race as we know it. This research might just

provide the missing link we’ve all been looking for between humans and RAP artists. That’s the hope that keeps us going.”

One person who is certainly a believer in the Bearsquatch creature is Dr. Dawn Sprinkle of East Jordan. The doctor was in the woods not far from her house north of town near dusk on a recent evening searching for mushrooms when she encountered an enormous odor.

“The first thought I had was there must be a RAP concert somewhere around here,” Sprinkle reported. “But then I realized that couldn’t be the case because

my eardrums weren’t bleeding. And that’s when I happened to see a flash of movement in the woods ahead of me.”

Sprinkle trained her flashlight on the spot where she saw the movement of leaves and was shocked when she realized a set of red, steely eyes were looking back at her. The description of the creature she witnessed matches the description others have given of the grisly Bearsquatch.

“It was pretty scary,” Sprinkle admitted. “We stared at each other for what seemed like a long time and then for some reason I tossed a jerky in its direction. Then I left. I don’t know for sure if the beast ate the jerky but when I went back there the next day the jerky was gone. The only thing that remained was a giant footprint.”

Project B.O. is actively recruiting folks from the area to help the team spot a Bearsquatch this Sunday, APRIL 1. Those who would like to participate are asked to take some spicy jerky with them and leave it on a trail in the woods where there has been suspected Bearsquatch traffic. Move about 20 yards away and wait. If you’re fortunate, you might get a photo of the

Bearsquatch that will appear in the famed Bigfoot Sentinel publication.

The Bigfoot Sentinel, known in Squatch circles simply by its initials, is always searching for authentic photos of the creature.

“Last week a verified photo of a Bearsquatch could clearly be seen at a RAP concert,” said Dave Greybear of the Sentinel staff. “The creature had apparently stubbed a toe and was screeching and moaning very loudly but everybody thought the sound was coming from the stage. It was pretty remarkable.”

Internally acclaimed B.S. photographer Vic Struggles is also planning to be out and about in our area on Sunday, APRIL 1, lens loaded and looking for Squatch.

“We like to believe wherever there’s a Squatch in the picture, B.S. is part of it,” Struggles is famously quoted as saying.

The Bearsquatch of the North are likely to be out and about on Sunday, APRIL 1, because of all the people who will be searching for them, so be on the lookout.

April Fool’s Day might be the best day of the year to spot a Squatch.

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