



Raegan Pedigo, BOYNE FALLS

Raegan helped the Lady Loggers remain unbeaten in Northern Lakes Conference play with wins over Mackinaw City and Ellsworth. Pedigo combined to score 27 points, grab 20 rebounds and eight steals in the victories.

athletes of the week

Ryan Carson BOYNE CITY

The Rambler senior dropped 30 points against Traverse City St. Francis in leading Boyne to an overtime victory. Carson nailed 14-of-18 free throws in the contest, including 4-of-4 in OT.



Sports

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Charlevoix **County News**

Section B

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Ramblers down Gladiators in OT

Boyne City Handles Vikings for big road win

By Chris Fiel

**Boyne City 85,
T.C.St. Francis 80 OT**

BOYNE CITY — The Boyne City Ramblers and St. Francis Gladiators waged war once again on the hardwood and like many times before, the two teams did not disappoint. When it was all said and done, the spectators were treated to an overtime classic that featured a back and forth contest and big shot after big shot before Boyne finally came away with a hardfought 85-80 thriller on January 10.

Very proud of our focus and effort, that was a battle, Rambler coach Nick Redman said. St. Francis played very hard and (Byron) Bullough and (Noah) Phillips played great.

The victory lifted the Ramblers to 6-0 overall, 4-0 conference on the season and earned them the No. 7 spot in the AP Class C boys basketball poll.

Gladiator guard, Byron Bullough did not make it easy for Boyne as he dropped a career-high 37 points on a combination of deep three's (4) and drives to the basket, while Phillips worked the paint for a solid 22 points.

Boyne however received a couple of big games from senior Ryan Carson (30 points) and Corey Redman (19 points) to lead four Ramblers in double figures.

Really happy with how well we are playing together, coach Redman noted. Four games in a row with four guys in double figures.

Boyne took a 22-16 lead following the opening quarter as Ryan Carson (nine points) and Cole Butler led the way, Butler nailed a couple of triples on back to back possessions for the Ramblers.

In the second, St. Francis would take advantage of some Rambler miscues and closed the

gap to 34-33 Boyne at the half.

The third quarter saw both teams go back and forth before settling for a 50-50 knot headed into the final eight minutes of regulation.

In the fourth, both teams once again took turns trying to pull away from each other, but were unsuccessful in doing so, but as the quarter neared the end of regulation and with time running out, St. Francis took a three point lead 74-71 with just about 30 seconds remaining.

Boyne came down and worked the ball around looking for a lane to drive and when they were cut off, they moved the ball around the perimeter multiple times before the ball finally fell into the hands of junior Corey Redman who launched a triple from the right corner hitting nothing but the bottom of the net, tying the game with 6.8 seconds remaining and sending the home crowd into a frenzy.

St. Francis was unable to convert on the other end as time expired, sending the game into overtime.

In the extra session, the Glads reeled off the first six points, but that's all they would get as the Ramblers responded with an 11-0 run of their own, behind five points from Maceo Vroman and Carson, who went 4-of-4 in OT (14-of-18 for the game) to seal the deal and shut the door on any hope of a St. Francis comeback.

In addition to Carson and Redman, the Ramblers also got 16 points from Vroman and 11 from Butler. Redman added eight boards and Vroman six assists.

St. Francis dropped to 1-4, 0-3 with the loss.

Boyne City 63, Grayling 54

GRAYLING — The Ramblers got 19 points from Corey Redman as he lead four Boyne City players in double figures in defeating a previously unbeaten Grayling team 63-54 on January 8.

Grayling held a 15-9 advantage after one quarter, only to bounce back in the second and take a 27-26 lead at intermission. Both team played evenly in the third

before settling into a 41-all tie headed into the fourth, where the Ramblers outscored the Vikings 22-13 to pick up the win.

Really proud of how hard we played, Rambler coach Nick Redman said. Big win on the road

against an undefeated team.

Also for BC, 5-0 overall, 3-0 LMC, Cole Butler netted 14 points and hauled in eight boards, while Maceo Vroman and Bradley Fouchia added 12 and 10 points respectfully.

Junior guard, Zach Napont grabbed seven rebounds and dished out four assists for Boyne. Grayling fell to 4-1, 2-1 with the loss.

Ryan Carson (10) of Boyne City throws down his second dunk of the game as St. Francis senior Byron Bullough gets a front row view. (PHOTO BY CINDA SHUMAKER)



The Boyne City visual imaging class taught by Randy Calcaterra, which produces the schools Rambler Sports Network (RSN) host Tony Cutler (front), gets the crowd pumped up during a break in the action against TCSF. (PHOTO BY CINDA SHUMAKER)

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Sports

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Rayders snap losing streak, face tough stretch

Traditional powers, state-ranked opponents on the docket

By Andy Sneddon

CHARLEVOIX – The picture for the Charlevoix High School boys basketball team is about to come into a much sharper focus. The Rayders entered the week coming off a 74-54 Lake Michigan Conference victory at Kalkaska, a win that snapped a three-game losing streak and im-

proved Charlevoix's record to 2-5 overall, 1-2 in the league. But there is little time to celebrate as Charlevoix opened the week against resurgent East Jordan, then faces a gauntlet – all on the road – comprising Grayling, Traverse City St. Francis, Boyne City and Cedarville. All of those games are conference contests except Cedarville,

and the Trojans are ranked in the top 10 in Class D in every state poll, while Boyne City is ranked in Class C. Grayling and St. Francis are among the traditionally strong teams in the conference. It's brutal for the next two weeks, first-year Rayder coach Brett Erskine said. The Rayders may get some long-anticipated help if Zak Hankins returns from a broken foot which has cost the 6-foot-7 senior the first one-third of the season. Hankins, who has signed with Ferris State, was scheduled to visit the doctor earlier this week, Erskine said.

We don't know (when he will return) and if he does it's going to take him a long time to get back into shape, Erskine said. There's only so much he can do on the (stationary) bike to keep himself in shape. Hopefully he'll be back. We've got other guys who are really starting to step up and play in his absence. If we get him back, it'll be a bonus, but if we don't, we've got to keep plugging along, and try to play our best basketball at the end of the year. That's our goal.

One of those players who is beginning to emerge is Austin Putman, a 6-foot-1 sophomore who scored a career-best 17 points a week ago in a 50-43 loss to Harbor Springs. Putman bettered that mark three nights later with 18 points in the win at Kalkaska. Nick Plude and Matt MacKenzie added 10 points apiece in the win over the Blazers. Twelve of the 13 Rayders who dressed for the game notched the scoring column.

Shane Sutherland added 10 for the Rayders in their loss to Har-



Charlevoix sophomore Austin Putman (43) looks for an escape route as he is surrounded by Kalkaska defenders Friday in the Rayders' 74-54 Lake Michigan Conference win. Putman scored a career-high 18 points in leading Charlevoix to the win. PHOTO BY DENNIS MANSFIELD.



Charlevoix's Jackson Buday (right) guards a Kalkaska player on the press during the Rayders' win over the Blazers last week. PHOTO BY DENNIS MANSFIELD.

bor. Sophomore Jack Carter scored 16 points to lead the Rams.

The way the Rayders played against Harbor was somewhat emblematic of how the season has unfolded through the first one-third: Charlevoix played very well in spurts, but struggled to maintain for four consecutive quarters.

Charlevoix seized a 25-14 lead over the Rams after one quarter, but by halftime, was behind 27-26. It was still a one-point game, 40-39, entering the fourth, but the Rams outscored the Rayders 11-5 over the final eight minutes.

We played so well against Harbor in the first quarter, Erskine said. It was like watching Rayder basketball. We were up 25-14 after the first quarter, and then the wheels just fell off the bus.

I told the kids, 'If you can play like that for three quarters, we've got a chance.'

And they really played well (against Kalkaska). They just seem to be getting more confident with each other, (they're) starting to trust one another a little bit. ... I think they're starting to realize that they can do it.



The Loggers and Lancers squared off in a Northern Lakes showdown last week on the Loggers home court. (PHOTO BY RACHEL LANGE)

Loggers continue to take care of business in the NLC

By Chris Fiel

Boyne Falls 57, Ellsworth 32

BOYNE FALLS — The Boyne Falls Loggers keep on rolling in the Northern Lakes Conference as they downed the visiting Ellsworth Lancers 57-32 on January 9.

With the win, the Loggers improved to 2-1 overall, 1-0 conference.

Having not played in nearly a month, the Loggers looked rusty at times, but still managed to put together a solid 32 minutes of basketball.

Andrew Stevens played a great game, Boyne Falls coach Tim Smith said. Brendan scored early when we were struggling, its a win

and we will move on.

The Loggers led 8-4 after one quarter of play, but seemed to hit stride in the second quarter with a 15-0 run to take a 23-7 advantage into the break. By the end of the third, BF was in control 37-14.

Brendan Matelski had a game-high 17 points to go along with four steals, while Stevens added 14 points (shooting 4-of-6 from beyond the three point arc), eight rebounds and six assists and Marcus Matelski finished with 14 points, five rebounds and five steals.

Ellsworth was led by Nate Veldboom with 13 points.

The Loggers won the JV contest.

Jason Hanson coming to Boyne City

Former Detroit Lions great Jason Hanson will be speaking at Boyne City High School on Saturday, January 18th at 8:00am in the Boyne City performing arts center. Jason will be sharing his personal experiences and provide advice for student athletes. There will also be a question and answer session, along with a signed jersey giveaway.

Jason's 21-year professional career was spent entirely with the Detroit Lions. Drafted in 1992, Jason retired in 2013 having played in an NFL record 327 games with one team. Shortly after his retirement, Hanson was inducted into the Detroit Lions Ring of Honor.

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Red Devils pick up pair of Conference wins

Huge win over St. Francis carries over against Rams

By Chris Fiel

East Jordan 55, Harbor Springs 43

HARBOR SPRINGS — The Red Devils, fresh off a huge victory over Traverse City St. Francis a few days earlier, didn't let that take their minds off the task at hand as they picked up another Lake Michigan Conference victory over the Harbor Springs Rams 55-43 on January 10.

East Jordan improved to 4-1 overall, 2-1 conference, led at the quarter breaks, 15-9, 34-18 at halftime and 41-29 after three quarters of play.

We ran the floor well in the first half, but slowed down a bit in the second, Red Devils coach Darrin Weber said. Harbor has some big strong kids, we battled through, so its a good team win.

Noah Bacchus led the Red Devils with 22 points and five assists, while Jordan Weber and Donnie Cutler added 13 apiece. Cutler also had six steals and six assists.

Also for EJ, Isaiah Sladick grabbed nine rebounds.

Peter Kelbel finished with 17 to lead Harbor Springs.

East Jordan 71, T.C. St. Francis 56

EAST JORDAN — They

don't get much bigger than this.

For the first time in what coach Weber said about 15 years the East Jordan Red Devils defeated the Traverse City St. Francis Gladiators in Lake Michigan Conference play on January 8 in front of the home crowd.

The Red Devils showed no signs of rust, just coming off the holiday break as they took a 14-7 first quarter lead and extended that to a 38-19 margin at the half.

We played a great first half, EJ coach Darrin Weber said. We were up 19 and with only nine turnovers against their pressure, we moved the ball well and it created a lot of open shots for us, which were able to knock down.

St. Francis made a small run in the third quarter, closing the gap to 51-39 headed into the final eight minutes, but the Red Devils were able to outscore them 20-17 to seal the victory.

They made a run at us in the second half, the coach noted. But we were able to respond and then knock down free throws (27-of-35 in the game) to secure the win. This is a big win for us.

With the victory East Jordan improves to 3-1, 1-1 conference.

Jordan Weber led the Red Devils with 25 points, including five triples in the first half.

Noah Bacchus chipped in with 18 points, nailing 9-of-10 free throws and Dustin Hejka finished with eight points and 10 boards.

Byron Bullough and Noah Phillips led the Gladiators with 17 points each, while Damian Sheehy added 15.

JV results

Harbor Springs 59, East Jordan 41

EAST JORDAN — The visiting JV Rams downed the host Red Devils 59-41 on January 9.

Ted Nachazel paced EJ with 11 points, while Devon Tyler added 10 and Ryan Graham finished with nine.

Tyler and Graham each added seven boards.

The JV Red Devils stand at 2-4 on the season.

TCSF 48, East Jordan 29

TRAVERSE CITY — The JV Red Devils boys basketball team fell to the JV Gladiators 48-29 on January 8.

Rylee Kibler led the way with eight points, while Jordan Cartwright, Ted Nachazel, Matt Berish and Ryan Graham each had four.

Graham also grabbed seven rebounds, while Simon Sladick, Nachazel and Kibler had two assists each.



East Jordan sophomore Donny Cutler powers up this shot attempt as Harbor's Mitch Wallin defends. (PHOTO BY SCOTT RICHARDS)

Softball pioneer Lynda Christensen to enter Hall of Fame

Boyer City woman to join game's greats on Saturday

By Andy Sneddon

BOYNE CITY — There are talkers and there are doers.

Talk is cheap. Doing it, getting it done, seeing it through? Doers? Worth their weight in gold.

Lynda Christensen has always talked the talk, but she's also walked the walk. And done the organizing, done the dirty, behind-the-scenes, often unappreciated work of building the foundation. Taking it from concept to reality.

Wipe your hands, Lynda, stand up, and take a much-deserved bow.

The Petoskey native and longtime resident of Boyne City will get that opportunity Saturday when she is inducted into the Michigan Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame during a ceremony at The H Hotel in Midland.

Christensen, who will go in under the Meritorious Service category, will take her rightful place alongside the biggest names in state amateur softball history, including more than a dozen who called Charlevoix, Emmet and Cheboygan counties home.

"First and foremost it's just a very humbling feeling," Christensen said. "Of all the people in the world, they picked me and you really don't feel like you did all that much."

"I did it because I loved it and it was just a thrill to see the kids have an opportunity to play. On one hand it's kind of embarrassing because I'm not one to tout



LYNDA CHRISTENSEN

my own horn normally. ... It's just a distinct honor to be chosen out of all the people that they could have chosen. There's lots of deserving people out there."

One who won't be out there after Saturday is Lynda Christensen.

Whether she believes she is worthy of it or not.

Christensen was the driving force behind starting slowpitch softball for girls in the area, giving them an opportunity girls of her generation never had.

That was the spark that turned into a flame that continues to burn brightly.

Christensen graduated from St. Francis Xavier High School in Petoskey in 1965 and, like a lot of young women at the time, took up fastpitch softball at the waterfront.

"I never played any kind

of sports at all in school because there wasn't anything available for the girls," Christensen said.

With that in mind, she set to work organizing slowpitch softball for girls and young women in the early 1970s when she moved to Boyne City with her husband, Bill.

Starting in Boyne, she reached out to other area communities such as East Jordan, Petoskey and Charlevoix, planting the seeds that would grow into organized ball in each community.

By the mid 1970s, she approached the Boyne City City Commission with the idea to build a softball diamond so that the Boyne players would not have to drive all the way to Petoskey to play.

"We had ball players and no place to play ball," Christensen recalled. "We

said, 'You give us a spot and we'll make a field.'

"They said, 'You guys show us that you're committed to this thing, and we'll do anything we can to help you.'"

The commission offered up some space in Rotary Park off State Street in Boyne City. By 1977, there were two softball fields, two tennis courts and a small playground where once only trees stood. Much of the labor was performed by Christensen herself, along with many others.

"It was kind of like a dream that came true," she said.

Today, there are seven fields on the site along with tennis courts and soccer fields.

It wasn't long after the original fields were carved out that one of them was named in Christensen's honor.

Her reaction to that turn of events was much like that when she learned she was to be inducted into the MASA Hall of Fame.

Then-Boyer City city manager Tom Clifton approached her and said, "How would you like to see your name on the ballfield," Christensen recalled. "I just said, 'Yeah, right.' He said, 'No, I'm serious.' I didn't even take him seriously."

Christensen may not have taken Clifton's words seriously, but she took the business of creating a permanent place to play with the utmost stringency.

It's simply the way she operates.

"When I make up my mind that I want to do something, I'm going to do it and I'll work my brains off to do it because I want to give somebody the opportunity I didn't have," she said. "My kids were raised on the ballfield in the summer. They went

with me everywhere."

As did countless other kids as Christensen's fields of dreams became the epicenter of softball in Boyne City.

With leagues beginning to thrive not only at Rotary Park but in other area communities as well, Christensen spotted another need, another challenge.

She set about organizing the group of umpires who worked games throughout the area.

Naturally, her brainchild became a reality, and a highly successful one at that. By the early 1980s, Christensen had formed the Northern Michigan Umpires Association, a group that comprised 25 arbiters at its peak.

Christensen hung up her glove at age 40 in the late 1980s. She started her own business, Lynda's Real Estate Service, in Boyne in 2000, and today she still lends a hand when needed, sponsors a team, and even ventures up to Ed White Field in Petoskey to take in an occasional fastpitch game.

Her thoughts frequently float back to those long summer days spent in and around the softball diamond.

"We had so much fun over the years," she said, "and there was a lot of camaraderie. And if anybody needed any help, somebody was always there to help them. It was satisfying to see so many people enjoy something that was so much fun."

Christensen's contributions to athletics in Boyne didn't stop at the fence surrounding the fields at Rotary Park. She was instrumental in helping to build Earl Brotherston Field, Boyne City High School's football field and track and field complex, in the mid 1990s.

"Boyer is a different town," she said. "They come together. If there is a need, they're going to do it. That's been a Boyne City thing. It's a good community."

"A lot of times one person gets a lot of credit ... and I appreciate it, but you know they need a bulldog in every organization."

"I'm not (going into the Hall of Fame) because of my own doing. I'm there because I've surrounded myself with a lot of people who had a similar dream. The credit needs to be spread around."

True, but it's people like Christensen that make things happen: Identifying a need, hatching a plan and, most importantly, executing it.

"I think part of it was because I never got the opportunity to play it when I was a kid," she said. "I was raised on a farm and we worked all summer long. I wasn't a great ballplayer. I played first base and I loved it. It was the only position I ever played. For me, when we formed the leagues, it was a chance to see all these girls have the chance to play ball."

"The satisfaction is seeing these kids have a place to go. Some of these kids went on to be very good ball players. And they've all developed into nice young adults and they're watching their own kids play ball. It's hard to believe that you were a part of all that at one time."

And to think it all may have never happened if not for Christensen.

"Softball was my game," she said. "I truly enjoyed it. Win or lose, it didn't make any difference to me."

Maybe not. But Lynda Christensen made a difference. A really big difference.

Sports

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Rayder girls look to rebound with busy week

Monday loss to Cheboygan starts week on sour note

CHARLEVOIX – It was not the start to a busy week that Charlevoix girls basketball coach Liz Shaw had hoped for.

The Rayders could not overcome foul trouble to top threat Madeline Boss on Monday as they fell to Cheboygan, 53-35, in a non-league game.

The Rayders were scheduled to face East Jordan on Tuesday and will go to Grayling on Friday. On Monday, Jan. 20, they are scheduled to visit Traverse City St. Francis.

All three are Lake Michigan Conference games.

Boss picked up two early

fouls and eventually fouled out with just six points in Monday's loss to the Chiefs, who improved to 3-4. Boss entered the game averaging double figures in both points and rebounds.

Olivia Storm scored eight points to lead the Rayders, 3-4, while Alexis Tribfelner and Kourtney Putman added seven each.

The loss to the Chiefs came three nights after the Rayders dropped a 63-48 decision at league-leading Kalkaska. The Blazers entered the week 6-1 overall, 3-0 in the conference.

Boss finished with 18 points, 13 rebounds and six

steals, while Kelsey Engstrom added 15 points and five steals.

That loss came on the heels of a 49-46 Charlevoix win over Harbor Springs in which Boss finished with 21 points and 12 rebounds.

It was tight all the way, and the Rayders entered the fourth quarter clinging to a 38-37 lead.

Engstrom added seven points, while Gabby Gray and Ellie Way finished with four assists apiece.

Shallon Grawey scored 14 points to pace Harbor.

The Harbor Springs win was a huge win for us even though it wasn't exactly pretty, Shaw said. I thought we played a great half against Kalkaska and then we didn't take care of the ball in the second half.

And while Boss fouled out on Monday against Cheboygan, she appears to finally be over a nagging ankle injury that kept her from practicing over the entire Christmas break, Shaw said.

Her presence on the floor makes a big difference, Shaw added, and not just in the numbers she puts up.

I think she sets a positive tone on defense and offense, Shaw said. She gets a lot of her points, just hustle points, and she sets that tone. She's just a great leader by example when she's on the floor. That's one thing that all great teams have, that floor leader. It's very important to have her back and healthy.



Charlevoix's Alexis Tribfelner (left) reaches in an attempt to knock the ball away from a Kalkaska player last week during the Blazers' 63-48 win. PHOTO BY DENNIS MANSFIELD.

Alexis Tribfelner (22) of Charlevoix races the ball up the court during the Rayders' loss to Kalkaska. PHOTO BY DENNIS MANSFIELD.



Lady Red Devils pick up Overtime victory over Harbor Springs

Fall to league leading Gladiators

By Chris Fiel

East Jordan 42,
Harbor Springs 41 - OT

HARBOR SPRINGS — Bonus basketball.

That's just what the Lady Red Devils and Rams delivered on January 10, as East Jordan was able to nip Harbor 42-41 in overtime to pick up a Lake Michigan Conference contest.

Harbor took a 10-4 lead after the opening quarter, and led 19-12 at the break and 28-22 headed into the fourth quarter before the Red Devil offense started clicking.

EJ trailed the entire contest, including by seven with just about two and a half minutes remaining in regulation, until Paige Poindexter took a nice feed from Tori Goodrich and knocked down an eight footer to knot the game at 37-37 with two seconds remaining, sending the game into overtime.

We hit 9-of-10 free throws in the fourth quarter which was the difference, Red Devil coach Steve Hines said. This was a good team effort on a night when we didn't play our best.

In the extra session, Lindsay Schroeder scored, while Kayla Keane and Paige Poindexter combined for three free throws to outscore the Lady Rams 5-4 in the overtime period.

Schroeder and Miranda Burks led East Jordan, 2-4 overall, 1-2 conference, with 11 points each, while Colette Tuck added eight.

Schroeder also finished with 10 boards and two steals, while Poindexter added five boards and Keane had a pair of steals.

Harbor was led by Shallon Grawey with 11 points.

TCSF 54, East Jordan 21

TRAVERSE CITY — St. Francis got 23 points from Sarah Carney as the Gladiators defeated



East Jordan's Miranda Burks (30) battles hard for this rebound against Harbor Springs. (PHOTO BY SCOTT RICHARDS)

the Lady Red Devils 54-21 on January 8 in a Lake Michigan Conference basketball contest.

St. Francis led at the quarter breaks 16-8, 26-12 and 42-15.

(Sarah) Carney played a great game tonight, we just couldn't contain her on the inside, East Jordan coach Steve Hines said. Our shooting was as cold as the weather outside as we didn't

make a single free throw and only 10 field goals, he added. Rough way to open after a long break but we will get better.

Paige Poindexter and Lindsay Schroeder led the Red Devils with six points each, and both finished with five boards as well.

Julianna Phillips added seven points for the Lady Gladiators.

Lady Loggers lead NLC Earn big win over Ellsworth, nip Mackinaw City at buzzer

By Chris Fiel

Boyne Falls 48, Ellsworth 10

ELLSWORTH — The Lady Loggers picked up another Northern Lakes Conference win with a convincing 48-10 win over Ellsworth on January 10.

Boyne Falls, 6-2 overall, 5-0 conference, held a 11-5 advantage after one quarter, 26-8 at halftime, 38-8 after the third quarter.

Raegan Pedigo led the Loggers with 14 points, 11 rebounds and eight steal, nearly missing a triple-double.

Raegan played a really well rounded game, Logger coach Lyndel Sage said. Ellsworth is huge (5' 10 across the board)

Emily Matelski added 12 points, nine assists and eight rebounds and Katherine Miller had 10 points on 5-of-7 shooting from the outside.

Katherine's shooting was a nice compliment to our inside game tonight, coach Sage added.

The Lancers, 3-3, 3-2, got six points from Taryn Rosma.

Boyne Falls 37, Mackinaw City 35

BOYNE FALLS — Logger senior forward Calsey Matelski grabbed a missed last second shot attempt as the clocked ticked down and put back the rebound to lift Boyne Falls to a 37-35 Northern Lakes Conference victory over the Mackinaw City Comets on January 8.

The win improves the Loggers to 5-2 overall, 4-0 conference.

Mackinaw City led 10-9 at the end of the first, BF took a 19-15 lead into the intermission before the Comets reclaimed the lead in the third for a 27-26 advantage.

This was our first game back in 28 days, Boyne Falls coach Lyndel Sage said. We were a little rusty, only shooting 34 percent from the floor. They pressed us, but we handled it, just not converting on shots we normally make.



Ellsworth's Taryn Rozema pushes the ball upcourt as the Loggers Emily Matelski (15) defends. (PHOTO BY DEB VEENSTRA)

Raegan Pedigo led the Loggers with 13 points and nine rebounds, while Calsey Matelski finished with seven points and nine boards and Emily Matelski finished with nine assists.

For Mackinaw City, Katherine Watchorn and Brooke Yoder each scored nine points while Lauren Bell had eight points. The Comets fall to 6-2, 4-1 with the loss.

Mackinaw City won the JV game, 32-18, over Boyne Falls.

Ellsworth 39, Alba 34

ELLSWORTH — The Lady Lancers earned another NLC win, downing Alba 39-34 on January 8.

The win improves Ellsworth to 3-2 overall, 3-1 conference.

Amanda Veenstra paced the Lancers with 13 points and Katelyn Sowers added 12.

The Lancers led at the quarter breaks, 10-4, 20-12 and 31-20.

Sydney Hoogerheide led Alba with 15 points.

Sports

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Ramblers split pair of Conference contests

By Chris Fiel

TC St. Francis 56, Boyne City 33

BOYNE CITY — The host Ramblers welcomed the Traverse City St. Francis Gladiators to town on January 10, but the Glads weren't as nice to Boyne as they took a 56-33 Lake Michigan Conference victory with them following a hard-fought contest.

Although we played quite hard, TCSF did a better job of executing, Boyne City coach Kevin Fitzpatrick said. It was a fast paced full court game, and they were better at than we were.

St. Francis led at the quarter breaks 15-7, 28-15 and 48-22.

They will be the first opponent this year that we see for the second time, the coach added. When we play them again in three weeks, it will be a good gauge of our ability to continue improve as the season goes on.

The Ramblers got nine points from senior Taylor Baker, while Rainy McCune added seven and Heather Nichols five.

Ali Johnson was Boyne's lead-

ing rebounder with seven.

Traverse City was led the freshman duo of Juliana Phillips and Sarah Carney with 17 and 12 points respectfully.

Boyne slips to 3-5 overall, 2-2 conference, while St. Francis improved to 7-2, 4-0.

Boyne City 52, Grayling 45

BOYNE CITY — The Lady Ramblers put together a solid effort and it payed off as they earned a LMC win over Grayling 52-45 on January 8.

Rainy McCune netted 24 points in leading Boyne, while sophomore Celena Brzezinski chipped in with nine.

The Ramblers led 16-11 after the first quarter, and upped that to 24-18 at the half, only to see the Vikings pull to within 34-31 headed into the final eight minutes of play. Boyne then used a 18-14 fourth quarter to pull out the win.

We had a lot of girls contribute in a lot of different ways, coach Kevin Fitzpatrick said. We also played a pretty consistant 32 minutes.

Boyne improved to 3-4 overall,

2-1 conference with the win.

JV results

Boyne City JV 42, TCSF JV 39

TRAVERSE CITY — The JV Ramblers used a 8-0 with just about 3:30 remaining in the game to go from five points down to pull ahead and beat the JV Gladiators 42-39 to remain unbeaten at 8-0 on January 9.

The team was led by Keyrsten Girlinghouse with 16 points, while Hannah Hoth finished with 15.

Coach Nate Dzwik credited Lexee Baker, Hoth and Sarah Longcore with great pressure defense and the team with the win.

Boyne City JV 46, Grayling JV 30

BOYNE CITY — The JV Ramblers picked up another victory, downing Grayling 46-30 on January 8 as Keyrsten Girlinghouse scored 12 points, while Hannah Hoth and Sarah Longcore finished with 10 and nine respectively.



Boyne City guard, Rainy McCune (3) drives around the TCSF defense, McCune scored seven points in the loss. (PHOTO BY CINDA SHUMAKER)

The 50K is Back!

White Pine Stampede Gears Up for 38th Annual Race

MANCELONA – Skiers get ready, Michigan's longest-running point-to-point cross

country ski race, the White Pine Stampede, will take place on Saturday, February 1 in Mancelona.

Thanks to Shanty Creek acquiring an additional 200 acres of pristine countryside and the new owner of The Chief golf course; the 50K race returns to the 38th annual race, in addition to the 20K and 10K. All races will start at the Mancelona High School. The 10K will end at Schuss Village, the 50K and the 20K conclude at the Summit at Shanty Creek. All races feature both classic and freestyle classifications. High-performance long-sleeved shirts are included for all racers, as well as medals for all finishers.

Entry Fee is \$75 prior to January 31, and \$80 on race day for the 50K and 20K races while the 10K tour costs \$40. \$5 from each skier's registration is donated to the Children's Hospital of Michigan Ophthalmology Department. Over \$95,790 has been generated by this race to date.

The White Pine Committee is pleased to once again have Shanty Creek Resorts and Short's Brewing of Bellaire, Mi. as major contributors. Other sponsors include Mancelona Chamber of Commerce, the Mancelona Rotary Club, Fitzpatrick Mfg., WTCM Radio, Moosejaw and Family Fare.

Skiers are required to pick up their ski packets prior to the event, either Friday at Shanty Creek Resorts, or Saturday early morning at Mancelona High School. Registration may be completed on-line at www.whitepinestampede.org or by calling (231) 587-8812.

The White Pine Stampede is a Michigan Cup Race. For more information please contact race headquarters at (231) 587-8351.

Rayder wrestlers capture Onaway tournament

Charlevoix takes 14-4 record into dual at Boyne City

CHARLEVOIX – Jake Novotny and Sam Hovie won their respective weight classes, leading Charlevoix to a first place finish in the Dick Dunn Memorial Tournament on Saturday at Onaway High School.

Novotny won at 152 pounds, improving his season record to 27-2. Hovie captured the title at 160, upping his season-long mark to 28-1.

Manton placed second in the 11-team field, while Onaway was third.

Also for Charlevoix, Mick

Charlevoix's Lucas Blickley (front) tries to work away from his Kalkaska opponent. Blickley won on a pin at 3 minutes, 45 seconds. PHOTO BY DENNIS MANSFIELD.



Hinkle (189), Camden Alden (112) and Tyler McCallum (119) each placed second, while Lucas VonLau (130), Austin Cesaro (135), Malcolm Williams (145) and Andrew Mitchell (285) each finished third.

Alden, a freshman, improved to 25-3 on the year, while Hinkle, a sophomore, upped his record to 21-9. Cesaro improved to 19-12.

Boyne City's Zach Wandrie (285) and Jordan Wilmot (145) each finished second in their respective weight classes, while teammate Carter Wilmot (140) placed third.

Wandrie finished 4-1 on the day, with all four of his wins coming on pins. Jordan Wilmot went 3-1 with two pins, and Carter Wilmot was 3-2 with all three of his wins coming via pin.

Saturday's result marked the second time the Rayders have captured tournament hardware this season. They won the Lower Peninsula trophy earlier this season at the Rudyard Bridge Brawl before falling to Sault Ste. Marie in the championship of the dual-meet format tournament.

The Rayders recorded a pair of Lake Michigan Conference dual-meet wins last week, topping Kalkaska, 60-24; and Traverse City St. Francis, 40-33. The Rayders are 3-0 in league duals, and 14-4 overall. They were scheduled to wrestle at Boyne City in a conference dual on Wednesday, and on Saturday will partake in the Mio Invitational. Kalkaska was also scheduled to partake in the Lake Michigan Conference meet on Wednesday at Boyne.

Against Kalkaska, Alden, McCallum, Cesaro, Lucas Blickley (14), Hovie, Sam Fusee (171), Hinkle, Devin Largent (215) and

Mitchell each won by pin. Alden's pin came in 10 seconds, while Mitchell pinned his opponent in 16 seconds, Hovie in 43, and Blickley in 52. The pins by Cesaro, Fusee and Largent also came in the first period.

Blickley recorded a pin in 52 seconds against St. Francis, while Alden, Novotny and Fusee also won by pin. McCallum posted an 8-0 major decision victory.



Charlevoix's Devin Largetn looks to the referee as he is about to complete the pin during his 215-pound match against Kalkaska. PHOTO BY DENNIS MANSFIELD.



Lucas Von Lau (right) of Charlevoix attempts to take down his opponent from Kalkaska during the 130-pound match in the teams' dual meet at Kalkaska High School. PHOTO BY DENNIS MANSFIELD

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Real Estate Corner

Question & Answers About Selling Real Estate

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Figuring out whether you're ready to buy a house — whether you're a renter or are aiming to move up or size down — can be a daunting task. But there are signs that will indicate whether you're ready to take the buying plunge.

If you are thinking about buying, you're not alone. So are you ready to make the move? You might be if you:

1. Are familiar with the market. If you've been paying attention to how much houses are listed for in the neighborhoods you're eyeing and have a realistic view of how much a house will cost you, you're in good shape. But if you're dreaming about that big corner house with no clue about its asking price, you may want to spend some

more time becoming familiar with the market and how much houses are going for.

2. Have the money for a down payment and closing costs. The down payment is a percentage of the value of the property. Freddie Mac says the percentage will be determined by the type of mortgage you select. Down payments usually range from 3 to 20 percent of the property value. Also, you may be required to have Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI or MI) if your down payment is less than 20 percent. Closing costs include points, taxes, title insurance, financing costs and items that must be prepaid or escrowed and other settlement costs. You can expect to pay between from 2 to 7 percent of the property value. Generally, buy-

ers will receive an estimate of these costs from your lender after you apply for a mortgage.

3. Know how much you can afford. Freddie Mac says that as a general guide, your monthly mortgage payment should be less than or equal to a percentage of your income, usually about a quarter of your gross monthly income. Also, your income, debt and credit history go into determining how much you can borrow. As a general rule, your debt - credit card bills, car loans, housing expenses, alimony and child support — should not be more than about 30 to 40 percent of your gross income.

4. Know what additional expenses will come with owning a home. This includes homeowners insurance, utility bills,

maintenance costs — roofing, plumbing, heating and cooling.

5. Have your credit in good shape and make sure your credit report is accurate. Potential lenders will view your credit history — how much debt you've accrued, how many accounts you have open, whether your payments are made on time, etc. — to determine whether they'll give you a loan. You should get a report from each of the three credit reporting companies: Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union.

6. You haven't made any recent major purchases, particularly a vehicle. If you do, you may have a harder time getting a loan — or it could potentially lower the amount you'll be approved for.

Featured Property



Enjoy privacy, seclusion and nature with this East Jordan area home

By Jim Akans

Tucked away on ten gorgeous acres of land, this approximately 1,680 square foot three-bedroom, two-bath home offers the ultimate in privacy, seclusion and natural beauty.

Featuring a spacious and well designed floorplan that offers both main level living and a walkout basement that is waiting to be finished (it is plumbed for an additional bath), there is plenty of room both inside and out. Indoor highlights include a wood burning fireplace in the main living room, jetted tub, two-person shower plus a walk-in closet in the master bath and much more. The home also features a new furnace that was installed in 2012.

Outdoors, a private deck overlooks the wooded property that includes a convenient storage shed. The property is also near snowmobile trails, as well as great hunting for both deer and mushrooms.

Located at 3701 Aunt Fern's Drive near East Jordan, this wonderfully private home and property is listed at just \$112,900.

For additional information or to arrange for a tour of this home, please call Holly Nierman at Stark Realty at 231-536-7700 or email hollynierman@gmail.com.



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PROCEEDINGS OF THE EAST JORDAN CITY COMMISSION

The East Jordan City Commission met December 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.; Mayor Peck presiding with all members of Commission present. Minutes were approved and acknowledgement was given to paid bills in the amount of \$208,231.11.

Further Commission Action: Acknowledged Receipt of Zoning Activity Report for November 2013; approved proceeding with LIAA for professional services for Master Plan; approved 2013 audit report; approved Tourist Park and Harbor rates for 2014 season; approved Administrative Policy #143: East Jordan Tourist Park Reservation Policy; approved Resolution #117-2013; accepted resignation of Audrie Kirk from Planning Commission and made annual appointments for terms expiring on Boards and Commissions.

Copies of the minutes of the above meeting are posted in City Hall for review during normal office hours.

Cheltzi M. Wilson, CMC
City Clerk



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Automotive Review



Autobytel.com has named the 2014 Jeep® Grand Cherokee SUV of the Year, while the 2014 Ram 1500 won the Pickup Truck of the Year award. PHOTO COPYRIGHT CHRYSLER GROUP LLC.

2014 Jeep® Grand Cherokee and 2014 Ram 1500 Earn SUV and Pickup Truck Of The Year awards from Autobytel.com

Autobytel.com has named the 2014 Jeep® Grand Cherokee SUV of the Year, while the 2014 Ram 1500 won the Pickup Truck of the Year award.

For 2014, the Jeep Grand Cherokee embodies a readiness to head off into the hills as an affordable family hauler wrapped around class-leading interiors chockfull of the safety, technology and comfort features that set the Grand Cherokee at the top of the heap, said Michelle Naranjo, editor-in-chief, Autobytel. For the second year in a row, the award winning Ram 1500 continues to bring fuel efficiency and tech in a bold package to the value shoppers and accomplishment seekers who want to get the job done right.

The Jeep Grand Cherokee was praised for its extensive model lineup, refinement and legendary off-road capability, while the Ram 1500 was praised for its new EcoDiesel V-6 engine, new eight-speed automatic transmission and standard rear coil suspension.

Receiving these two awards from Autobytel for the Jeep Grand Cherokee and Ram 1500 is a great honor, said Doug Betts, Senior Vice President - Quality, Chrysler Group LLC. Our extensive efforts to build world-class vehicles are resonating in the marketplace, and these awards from Autobytel validate this to our customers.

The editorial group at Autobytel.com has more than 80 years of experience and has driven hundreds of vehicles. This year's Car and Truck of the Year winners were chosen based on innovation, design and



Ram 1500 was praised for its new EcoDiesel V-6 engine, new eight-speed automatic transmission and standard rear coil suspension. PHOTO COPYRIGHT CHRYSLER GROUP LLC.

features. Autobytel is dedicated to helping consumers research and find the information they need to purchase new and used cars and connect to dealers online.

Jeep Grand Cherokee completely redefines the premium SUV, delivering an unprecedented combination of best-in-class fuel economy and driving range, available clean-diesel technology, legendary benchmark capability, world-class craftsmanship, and a host of advanced user-friendly technology and safety features. For 2014, Grand Cherokee offers a new EcoDiesel engine with best-in-class 30 mpg highway and an unmatched driving range of more than 730 miles. A new eight-speed transmission drives all Grand Cherokee engines, including the 3.6-liter Pentastar V-6 - achieving up to 25 mpg and more than 600 miles driving range - and the 5.7-liter V-8, now

achieving up to 22 mpg.

Ram 1500 Ram 1500 - the most recognizable pickup on the road - delivers best-in-class fuel economy of 18 MPG city and 25 MPG highway with a truckload of pioneering, fuel-saving systems including a fuel efficient and powerful 3.6-liter V-6 engine and first-in-segment technologies: TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic transmission, stop-start system, thermal management system, pulse-width modulation and active aerodynamics, including grille shutters and air suspension. For 2014, the Ram 1500 offers a new, 3.0-liter EcoDiesel engine that delivers an outstanding combination of best-in-class fuel efficiency - greater than 25 mile per gallon (mpg) - unsurpassed torque and up to 9,200 pounds of towing capability.

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