

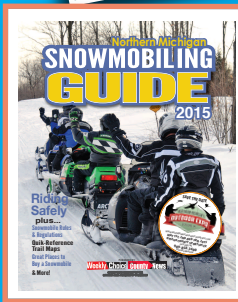
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Charlevoix
County News

December 25, 2014

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Web Site tracks Santa's journey on Christmas Eve

By Jolly Old Jim

Technology can be a wonderful thing. Growing up in the 1960's, the best way I could keep track of Santa's southward journey on Christmas Eve was to tune in to my favorite radio station for regular "flight" reports on St. Nick's progress. Of course, it was also important to make sure my eyes were "sound asleep" while my ears attempted to keep tabs on "strange" noises in the house. Today, excited children have a new and improved resource for monitoring Santa's journey to their chimney or doorstep. Thanks to NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command), children can take a peek at a special website which

updates the progress of Santa and his team of reindeer on Christmas Eve. It's a fascinating adventure watching the Jolly Old Man in the red suite make his way from the North Pole in an airborne sled full of toys led by Rudolph and his eight reindeer pals. Now NORAD's main job is to monitor the airspace and maritime area covering the United States and Canada using some very powerful satellite and radar equipment. It's a big and very important responsibility, and NORAD helps to keep us all safe on a 24/7 basis. But on one special night each year, they also provide a peek at the journey of a very famous, and extremely busy person; Santa Claus.

At first, the radar system lets NORAD know when Santa leaves the North Pole to begin his journey. Then, satellites detect the heat given off by Rudolph's red nose. As every child knows...where Rudolph goes, Santa and the rest of the reindeer are certain to follow. NORAD takes an even closer look at Santa's journey by using ultra-cool high-speed digital cameras that have been located all around the world. Every so often on Christmas Eve these cameras will capture Santa and his team of reindeer making their way around the world. Visit NORAD's web site at www.NoradSanta.org, and be sure to check out the "Count-down to Track Santa" clock. Have a very, merry Christmas!



Thanks to NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command), children can take a peek at a special website which updates the progress of Santa and his team of reindeer on Christmas Eve. FILE IMAGE

Emergency food and shelter grants will be available

Charlevoix County has been awarded \$17,981 and Emmet County has been awarded \$28,109 in Federal funds under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program, up over \$9,000 from phase 31. These funds will be distributed by a Local Board and are used to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in these counties during the federal fiscal year 2014. These funds are administered locally by Char-Em United Way and they invite qualifying agencies to apply.

The award was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from the Salvation Army; American Red Cross; United Jewish Communities; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; and, United Way of America. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country. The Local Board is chaired by United Way and includes representatives from the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Temple B'Nai Israel, Catholic Human Services, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, governmental representatives from both Counties, the Department of Human Services, both Community Foundations, and the Northwest MI Community Action Agency. This board will determine how the funds are will be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in Charlevoix and Emmet

See **Emergency Grants**—4A

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS



Jordan Weber (32) of East Jordan applies pressure on Belaire's Nic Underwood (4) in the Red Devils victory. Full Story on page 2B. (PHOTO BY CHRIS FIEL)

Charlevoix Community Christmas Project



Smiles all around as (from left) Netty Allbritton of Charlevoix is assisted by volunteers, John Coolman, J.J. Wachler and John Peterson, during distribution day of the Charlevoix Community Christmas Project at Bethany Lutheran Church. Approximately 32 Charlevoix Honor Society students and more than 60 volunteers from the community, served 232 families a generous load of groceries, clothing gifts and toys for Christmas. PHOTO BY M. CHRIS LEESE



Scurrying to be selected by random drawing from the Charlevoix Rayders sixth grade class (from left) Reylin Sladics, Lauren Wilks and Rachel Pott help sort boxes of toys for distribution recently, in preparation for the Charlevoix Community Christmas Project. PHOTO BY M. CHRIS LEESE



Cameron Roloff, (from left) Jake Beaudoin and Brandon Schwenke, all of the sixth grade class in Charlevoix, help sort and bag a room full of potatoes to give away Friday during the 14th annual Charlevoix Community Christmas Project. Weeks of efforts from more than 60 volunteers and untold donors from around the Charlevoix school district combine to make distribution day possible for 232 families to receive Christmas groceries and gift bags this year. PHOTO BY M. CHRIS LEESE

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Notice of Early Deadline

For the Christmas and New Year's issues of the Charlevoix County News, the advertising deadlines will be Friday of the week prior. Proof deadlines will be one day earlier on Thursday. Our Christmas Week edition will come out Tuesday December 23rd. Deadline is December 19. Our New Year's Edition on Tuesday, December 30th. Deadline is December 26.



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weather

THURSDAY



HIGH: Mid 30's
LOW: Upper 20's

FRIDAY



HIGH: Mid 30's
LOW: Mid 20's

SATURDAY



HIGH: Low 20's
LOW: Upper 10's

SUNDAY



HIGH: Upper 10's
LOW: Upper 0's

snowfall records

2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Amt
12/24/2012	12/22/2013	12/21/2014	38.5
12/24/2012	12/22/2013	12/21/2014	23.1
12/24/2012	12/22/2013	12/21/2014	33.5
12/24/2012	12/22/2013	12/21/2014	45
12/24/2012	12/22/2013	12/21/2014	61.7
12/24/2012	12/22/2013	12/21/2014	10.2
12/24/2012	12/22/2013	12/21/2014	30.8
12/24/2012	12/22/2013	12/21/2014	45.5

record temps

DAY	AVG	LOW	AVG	HIGH	RECORD LOW	RECORD HIGH
DEC 25	17°	31°	15°	(1958)	58°	(1982)
DEC 26	16°	31°	9°	(1993)	49°	(1982)
DEC 27	16°	31°	18°	(2004)	50°	(1994)
DEC 28	16°	30°	31°	(1976)	57°	(1984)
DEC 29	16°	30°	21°	(1976)	56°	(1984)
DEC 30	15°	30°	24°	(1976)	46°	(2004)
DEC 31	15°	30°	14°	(1948)	58°	(1965)
JAN 1	15°	30°	9°	(1968)	48°	(1952)

OBITUARIES

Kellie Marie Barber, 39

(JAN. 30, 1975 – DEC. 13, 2014)



On a blustery winter day, January 30, 1975, Kellie Marie Barber was welcomed into the world by her loving parents, Geraldine (Geri Roberts) and Terry Barber. She joined her 2 year old sister, Christie, and together they made their parents a happy young family, ready to experience life and love to the fullest. They had a large extended family nearby and more friends than you could count. Family was the most important thing in life to them. They worked together, played together and learned the lessons of life as a family...exploring and enjoying the world of nature, which was all around them.

Kellie grew up on the family cherry farm on Peninsula Road just outside of East Jordan. She attended East Jordan Public Schools and graduated with the Class of 1993, many of whom she stayed in touch with over the years. She loved sports of any kind and was always involved with school activities. Upon her graduation, she made the decision to attend Central Michigan University, and joined her sister on campus. While there, she really found herself and developed her communication skills. Her choices led her to her vocation of helping students find their love of continued education and helping them get into the college or uni-

versity where they would grow and flourish into the adults they were meant to be...all under Kellie's guidance. In her own words, she was "Committed to the belief that all students are capable of success." She graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Interpersonal and Public Communications in 1997. In 2004 she received her Masters of Arts in Counseling from CMU. She was working on her Masters of Higher Education Administration and would have graduated in 2015.

Kellie was always committed to students and their educations. After college she worked for Northern Michigan University as Senior Admissions Counselor. She was High School Guidance Counselor in Haslett, Michigan and Middle School Guidance Counselor in Mason, Michigan. In 2007 Kellie began working for Forest Hills Public School System in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She purchased her beautiful home, got involved in physical fitness, and made many friends in the Grand Rapids area.

In March of this year, Kellie lost her sister, Christie, to cancer after a long valiant battle. At this point, Kellie had started her own fight. On the last day of Kellie's life, December 13, 2014, she was working on plans for a 5K Race to memorialize her sister.

Kellie is survived by her loving parents, Terry and Geri Barber; KT, her furry girl; brother-in-law Mike Galvin; nephew Cooper Galvin and niece Cameron Galvin; her large wonderful extended family and friends, too many to mention by name...you know who you are.

Kellie's sister's children, Cooper, 11, and Cameron, 10, were the lights of her life. Kellie knew a 5K Run would be a lasting legacy to their mother for them to participate in and to help choose the scholarship recipient each year. This Run: The Sweaty Yeti 5K, Make a Memory Mile in her sister's memory will now be doubly meaningful to friends and family, as it will now honor both

sisters. The Memorial Race will be held on July 11, 2015 at the East Jordan High School Track at 8 a.m. Please follow Sweaty Yeti 5K on Facebook: www.facebook.com/sweatyyeti for upcoming information on times and events.

A celebration of Kellie's life will be held on Saturday, December 27th, at the East Jordan High School Auditorium at 2 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the Barber-Galvin Memorial Scholarship Fund at Charlevoix State Bank in East Jordan and Charlevoix.

Kyle Lee Symonds, 30

(MAY 8, 1984 – DEC. 15, 2014)



Kyle Lee Symonds of East Jordan died Monday, December 15, 2014, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City.

He was born on May 8, 1984 in Dearborn, Michigan, the son of Lee A. and Karen L. (Messink) Symonds. He grew up in East Jordan and graduated from East Jordan High School in 2002. He then attended Ferris State University.

Kyle worked in the hospitality industry. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, motorcycling and music. Kyle was proud his friend, Charlie Burkle, and he converted his motorcycle into a trike. Kyle was a very eclectic musician. He played drums, baritone, trom-

bone and tuba.

He is survived by his parents, Lee A. and Karen L. Symonds of East Jordan; his sister, Andrea Symonds of East Jordan; his grandparents, Alan and Lola Symonds of Dearborn Heights and Roy (Pat) Messink of East Jordan; as well as several aunts and uncles. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Anna Marie Messink.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, December 21, 2014 at 4:00 P.M. at the Community Auditorium at the East Jordan High School. Rev. Jonathan David Mays of the Greensky United Methodist Church will officiate.

The family will receive friends at the auditorium on Sunday from 2:00 P.M. until service time.

Memorials may be directed to the Symonds family at 5967 Miles Road, East Jordan, MI 49727. The family was served by the Penzien Funeral Homes, Inc. in East Jordan.

Yvonne I Hocquard, 88

(MARCH 1, 1926 - DECEMBER 18, 2014)

Yvonne Ione Hocquard of Boyne City died Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at Highland Cottage in Petoskey, Michigan.

Yvonne was born March 1st, 1926, in Boyne City, the daughter of Lester and Zola (Barber) Hardy. She grew up in the Deer Lake area with her siblings, Melvin (Shirley) Hardy, Elwood (Phyllis) Hardy, Norma (Hank) Russell, and Harold (Lorraine) Hardy.

She graduated from Boyne City High School in June 1943 and married Richard Hocquard on June 14th, 1947. Yvonne and Dick had three children, Kim (Paula) Hocquard of Cheboygan, Kelly (Scott) Kennedy of Battle Creek, and Kris Earegood of Boyne City. They were blessed to have eight grandchildren: Jessica (Josh) Kennedy, Adam Kennedy, Brian Coon, Emilea (Nick) Rajkovich, Kasey (Ashley) Hocquard, Amanda Hocquard, Doni Sichts, and Stephanie (Dan) Preston. They also have six great grandchildren. She was also blessed, in 2005, to meet Duane Ongstad of Zephyrhills, Florida and they have carried on a loving relationship ever since.

Yvonne retired from Top O' Michigan Rural Electric Company after being employed there for 40 years. After retirement, she and Dick enjoyed their winters in Betmar Acres, Zephyrhills, Florida where they made many dear friends.

Anyone who knew Yvonne would agree that she was a very energetic person who enjoyed many different activities including golf, bowling, sewing, playing cards, dancing, darts and cooking. She was especially known for her delicious pies. Family and friends were the joy of her life. She was also a member of First Presbyterian Church of Boyne City.

The funeral service was held on Saturday, December 20th at the First Presbyterian Church in Boyne City.

The family wishes memorial contributions be made to Hospice of Little Traverse Bay.

Family and friends wishing to share a thought or memory of Yvonne are encouraged to do so online at www.stonefuneral-homeinc.com.

Helen Mary Tresh, 93

JUNE 9, 1921 - DECEMBER 15, 2014

Helen Mary Tresh of Boyne Falls passed away on Monday, December 15, 2014 at Bay Bluffs in Harbor Springs.

Helen was born on June 9, 1921 at the family farm in Boyne Falls the daughter of Joe and Olga Skop. On October 12, 1946 she married Steve Tresh at the

Grange Hall on Thumb Lake. Helen enjoyed gardening, cleaning, square-dancing and listening to Polka. She worked several years at the Country Star Restaurant in Boyne City.

Helen is survived by her three children Ronald Tresh, Judy (Carl) Fiel and Diane Gillespie; ten grandchildren; sixteen great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild; and her sisters Josephine Utley and Jean Matthews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband Steve; brothers Metro Skop and Steve Skop; and son-in-law Thomas Gillespie.

Mass was celebrated Friday, December 19, 2014 at St. Augustine Church in Boyne Falls. Memorials in Helen's name may be directed to a local hospice. Stackus Funeral Home of Boyne City is serving the family.

Rennie Sue Pray, 87

(DEC. 29, 1926 – DEC. 17, 2014)

Rennie Sue Pray of East Jordan passed away at her home December 17, 2014.

Born December 29, 1926, in Onley, Virginia, to George Broadwater Savage and Christine Ellen "Nellie" Burton, Rennie graduated from Radford College in Blacksburg, Virginia in 1947 at the age of 20.

Upon graduation, she accepted a position at East Jordan High School as a business teacher. In her first year teaching, she met her future husband, Dr. David Pray.

David and Rennie were married on June 5, 1948, and lived in East Jordan the rest of their lives. Rennie had three daughters, Ellen Pray Bondy, Anne Pray, and Jinny Pray Heick.

At the age of 36, Rennie went back to teaching business at East Jordan High School for an additional 17 years. Through-out her career, Rennie was known for her warm, joyful nature, ready smile, and great love for her students. A fine pianist, her family will always remember fun times gathered around the piano singing, as well as many wonderful parties with family and friends. She was a fine gardener and cook, and created a loving home for her family. Rennie Sue was a fun-loving southern gal who always had her lipstick on. She dearly loved all of her pets, but especially her 3 cats, Georgia O'Keefe, Twig, and Bruno.

Survivors include her daughter Anne and partner Ralph Kenning of Boyne City, her daughter Ginny and husband Mike Heick, and their sons Mitchell and David, all of Boyne City, her son-in-law Tim Bondy of Petoskey, and her sister Sara Savage Phillips of Memphis. Rennie was preceded in death by her husband David, her daughter Ellen, and her brothers George and Lloyd.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Charlevoix County Humane Society.

Barbara K. Ryan, 93

Barbara K. Ryan of Charlevoix died Dec. 18, 2014, at Charlevoix Area Hospital.

A complete obituary will follow from Winchester Funeral Home in Charlevoix.

Robert V. Colt, 80

Robert V. Colt of Charlevoix, formerly of Lansing, and Lake City, died at his home, Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014.

A Celebration of Life service will take place at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 29, at The Christ Episcopal Church of Charlevoix.

Arrangements were handled by Winchester Funeral Home in Charlevoix.

Charlevoix County News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 27

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News

What are you celebrating this holiday season?

By Jessica Boyce

December is a month when everyone is gearing up for the holidays. Christmas seems to be the main thought on many people's minds, but not everyone celebrates Christmas. Two of the other Holidays in December are Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

Even before Christmas was celebrated, celebrations were held all over the world around the month of December. In Scandinavia, the Norse celebrated Yule from December 21st - January. Large logs were brought home from fathers and sons and then set on fire. Feasts would take place until the log burned out. To the Norse, each spark of the fire represented a new pig or calf what would be born during the coming year. In Germany, Oden, a pagan god, was honored during the mid-winter holiday. The people were not excited to see Oden, but were terrified of him and would stay inside because they thought he would be making flights through the sky at night to observe the people and see who would prosper or perish. Romans celebrated Saturnalia to honor Saturn, the god of agriculture. It started in the week leading up to the winter solstice and continued for a full month. Romans also celebrated Juvenalia, which was a feast to honor the children of Rome, and the Birthday of Mithra, the god of the unconquerable sun on December 25th.

Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa are three traditions that are now celebrated during December. Christmas is always on December 25th and celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish celebration which commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor and chairman of Black Studies at California State University, as a way to bring African-Americans to-



gether as a community.

Christmas is celebrated around the world in both a religious and secular aspect. Many Christians celebrate the holiday for what it is best known for, the birth of Jesus Christ. Others celebrate the holiday for the more secular aspects such as Santa Claus and gift-giving. Christmas trees, going to church, and the exchanging of gifts on December 25th are some of the main Christmas traditions. Christmas was declared a federal holiday in the US on June 26th, 1870.

Hanukkah means "dedication" in Hebrew and is often called the Festival of Lights. It is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, traditional foods, games, and gifts. After Antiochus IV Epiphanes took control of Judea (The Land of Israel) after his father, he forced the Jews to worship Greek Gods and invaded Jerusalem, massacring thousands of people and desecrating the city's holy Second Temple by erecting an altar to Zeus and sacrificing pigs. A rebellion broke out, and in 166 B.C., under Judah Maccabee, the Syrians were driven out of Jerusalem and the Second Temple was cleansed and its altar rebuilt. The menorah was lit and was meant to be kept burning every night. There was only enough oil for the menorah to burn for one night, but it miraculously stayed lit for eight

nights, thus Hanukkah being born. This year, Hanukkah is celebrated Thursday, December 16th - Wednesday, December 24th.

Kwanzaa is the newest holiday out of the three, and is celebrated this year from Friday, December 26th - Thursday, January 1st. The name itself is from "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili. Kwanzaa celebrations include songs and dances, African drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and a large traditional meal. For the seven nights of Kwanzaa, the family will come together and have a child light one of the candles on the Kinara, or candleholder, and one of the seven principles is discussed. These principles, called the Nguzo Saba, are values of African culture which contribute to building and reinforcing community among African-Americans. A feast, Karamu, is held on December 31st. The seven principles of Kwanzaa are Unity, Self-determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith.

Whatever holiday you celebrate, don't forget that all of them have to do with coming together to remember what is important and celebrating family and all of the good things we have. Happy Holidays to all.

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Great Lakes Energy employees help local charities



Great Lakes Energy employees donated \$3,117.50 along with food and toys to the Boyer Area Community Christmas program. The money was raised from a raffle and silent auction that included donations from employees and local businesses. Scott May (second from right) accepts the check from employees who helped organize the event. They are, from left, Mary Smith, Teresa Erwin, Kathy Massey, Holly LaVanway and Justin Chase. Other money raised in the auction and raffle was also donated to The Manna Food Project that serves Antrim, Charlevoix and Emmet counties.

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News

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'You're a man worth saving'

By Mike Dunn

Jim was on his back in the hospital bed in Traverse City, reflecting about the things one reflects upon when it seems that death may be near. Jim's prognosis wasn't very good. He had previously had a stroke and now the doctors were telling Jim there was the possibility his leg would need to be amputated because of diabetes. And to top it off, while he was in the hospital, Jim suffered a heart attack.

The doctors were wary of operating on Jim's heart because they didn't know if he would survive the operation. There was a very real chance he wouldn't leave the hospital alive. Then the man with the white coat came into Jim's room. Jim didn't know who he was but he recognized him as a man of authority. Jim thought at first he was an administrator.

The man in the white coat carefully looked over Jim's chart and talked to him about his circumstances. At the end of the conversation, he looked at Jim and said, "You're a man worth saving."

Not long after that, the man walked out of the room.

The nurses asked Jim if he knew who the man was. When Jim confessed he didn't, the nurses informed him that the man in the white coat was one of the premier heart surgeons in the country.

As Jim was telling me recently about what he experienced at Munson Hospital three years ago, it brought to mind how there was a day when the Son of God said something very similar to stricken mankind and, in a sense, promised



MIKE DUNN

to perform the very same kind of operation as the celebrated heart surgeon.

Jesus looked at the condition of this fallen world and, bad as it was, said, "You're worth saving."

And that's really what Christmas is all about. The Son of God came to the earth as a man, born of a virgin in very humble surroundings in Bethlehem. He came because we needed Him to. He came

because, without Him, we'd have no hope. He came because He loved us and didn't want us to die in an unredeemed state of sin. He came because He saw in each of us matchless value. He came because, to Him, we were worth saving.

The Bible tells us that mankind has been in a sorry state since the infamous episode in the Garden. God created us with a free will to choose Him or reject Him and we collectively have rejected Him. We were born with a sinful nature inherited from Adam and all of us sin, every single one of us. Sin drives us from the presence of God just as it drove Adam and Eve from the presence of God in the Garden.

The Bible reveals not only that all of us have sinned but that the wages of sin is physical and spiritual death. This isn't and never has been what God wants but it is the risk God took when He made us in His image and gave us a free will.

The situation with stricken man is bleak. We all face a death sentence because of sin.

But there is a remedy.

The heart surgeon operated on Jim and did for Jim what very few are gifted to do in this world. Jim not only survived the operation but kept his leg and today is enjoying a qual-

ity of life that no one could have foreseen three short years ago.

The surgeon told Jim he was a man worth saving and then the surgeon did just that. Today Jim thanks the gracious Lord for bringing the skilled man in the white suit to his bedside at just the right time.

Jesus came to us at the right time, too. It says in the book of Galatians that "in the fullness of time, God sent His Son" to us, born of a woman and born under the law to redeem us from the sinfulness that brings spiritual death.

Because of Jesus, His birth and His life and His death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave, we have the one and only remedy for the disease of sin available to us.

When Jesus left heaven and came into this world, He was saying to each of us, "You're someone worth saving." He followed through and provided the cure for our disease by dying on the cross and offering Himself in our place.

All of us who recognize our sinfulness and our need for God's forgiveness may reach out to Jesus and ask Him to be our heart surgeon, to remove our diseased heart and replace it with a redeemed heart that only He can offer.

He not only provides us a better quality of life in this broken and fallen world but He promises a place for us in heaven for all eternity after we die.

Christmas is God's way of showing us just how far He was willing to go in His desire to save us. Easter is the promise of life beyond the grave. Our part is to believe in the Son of God and put our life in the hands of the One who can transform our hearts and truly change us from within.

Drs. Oz and Roizen

Television's Dr. Oz and Cleveland Clinic's Dr. Roizen report on health, wellness and quality of life.



VISION PROTECTION STRATEGIES WITH A SEXY BONUS

Look out for your eyes, and look great doing it. We're not talking about rocking a cool pair of shades, though that's a smart move for year-round eye protection. Smart steps that protect your eyes from leading causes of vision loss -- a risk for 61 million Americans -- also can keep you all-around healthy.

Who should be paying attention? You. Half of the folks at risk for eye trouble haven't seen an eye doc lately, and many others do things that put their vision at risk every day! So here's the latest on guarding against top vision troubles and how looking out for your eyes can help you look and feel great, too.

No. 1. Contact lens wearers: Clean up your act. If you're among the 38 million Americans who wear contact lenses, poor cleaning, wearing them too long or in the wrong places (we mean locales, not somewhere other than the eyes) boost your risk for keratitis, an infection of the cornea caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi or, that's right, an amoeba. Keratitis can cause inflammation, corneal ulcers and vision loss. It sends nearly a million Americans to the doctor or ER annually, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Focus on better eye health: Don't wear your lenses when you shower, swim, go in a hot tub or sleep (unless your doc prescribes overnight wear). Wash your hands before handling your lenses. Always use fresh lens solution, never water, for cleaning and storage. Don't top off the solution in your lens case; replace it with fresh stuff. And use fresh solution, not water, to clean your case. Dry it with a clean tissue, and store upside down with the caps off. Replace lenses as recommended; replace your storage case every three months.

No. 2: Everybody: Eat for healthy eyes. Pile your plate with fruits and veggies. It can lower your risk for major vision-robbing like cataracts and age-related macular degeneration. AMD, an eye problem for two million Americans, damages central vision and can make it difficult to do everyday tasks.

Change how you see veggies: Make sure your food choices include plenty of green leafy veggies like spinach -- a top source of eye-loving lutein and zeaxanthin, also found in almonds and mandarin oranges. Your body stores

lutein and zeaxanthin in high concentrations in the lens of your eyes. There, these compounds work like natural sunglasses to deflect the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. Bonus effect? A produce-packed diet also helps you stay slim, boosts your mood and protects against everything from heart disease and diabetes to some cancers.

No. 3. Again, everybody! Add a vision-protecting supplement. Cut your risk for vision loss and advanced forms of AMD with a multivitamin or supplement.

Boost your eye-lovin' nutrition: Take 900 mg of DHA daily and make sure your multivitamin or supplement contains 500 mg of vitamin C, 400 IU of vitamin E, 15 mg of beta-carotene, 80 mg of zinc and 2 mg copper. This formula helps people at high risk for advanced AMD slash their risk for this eye problem by 25 percent over six years.

No. 4: Put out the fire: Kick those butts. Smoking doubles your risk for cataracts and diabetic vision problems and triples your odds for AMD.

Don't let smoke get in your eyes: Log onto sharecare.com for help quitting. As for the all-around better health benefits, you know the litany, but remember that you'll have a better chance of enjoying intimacy.

No. 5: What's up, Doc? See an ophthalmologist. Regular eye exams -- including eye dilation so the doc can get a good look at the interior of your peepers -- are the best way to spot vision problems early.

Doctor my eyes (with apologies to Jackson Browne): New research shows that many people at high risk for eyesight-dimming problems (like people with diabetes) aren't getting the exams they need. So make an appointment today. You'll feel confident knowing that your eyesight's safe -- a feeling that looks good, too. * * *

Mehmet Oz, M.D. is host of "The Dr. Oz Show," and Mike Roizen, M.D. is Chief Wellness Officer and Chair of Wellness Institute at Cleveland Clinic. To live your healthiest, tune into "The Dr. Oz Show" or visit www.sharecare.com.

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Christmas trees date back many years

Christians first used evergreen trees as a symbol of Christ's birth in Germany in the 1500s

By Mike Dunn

While no one can say with authority just when the tradition of Christmas trees began, there is no question that the origin of decorated evergreens can be traced to the ancient Druids who populated present day England thousands of years ago.

The Celtic Druids saw evergreens as a manifestation of deity because the evergreens did not die as other trees, but remained green and alive through the harshest of winters. The superstitious Druids decorated the trees with fruit, coins and charms, believing that adorning the tree with symbols of prosperity would assure such things as fertile fields and a bountiful harvest in the year ahead.

The practice of decorating trees was not limited to the Druids, however. The citizens of ancient Rome decorated trees during the Saturnalia Festival in late December, believing it would bring good fortune in the New Year. The Saxons, who dwelt in what is present-day Germany, placed lighted candles in evergreen trees. The Saxons, along with other tribes of Nordic descent, brought the lighted trees indoors.

The evergreen is first noted as a Christian symbol of Christ's birth in Germany in the 1500s. The custom of having decorated trees indoors at Christmas was popular in Germany for a few hundred years before spreading much beyond its borders. That began to change in the 1800s when Prince Albert, the German-born husband of Britain's Queen Victoria, brought a Christmas tree to Windsor Castle in 1841. The custom quickly caught on in England after that.

German immigrants to America also brought the custom there as well. The first time a Christmas tree is mentioned in the U.S. is in the diary of Matthew Zehm of Lancaster, Pa. in 1821.

By the 1890s, the tradition of brightly decorated Christmas trees



German immigrants brought the custom of decorated Christmas trees to this country in the 1800s. PHOTO BY 123RF.COM

in U.S. homes was widespread. With the advent of electricity, Christmas trees began to appear in town squares across America and the traditional "lighting of the tree" quickly became the official symbols of the beginning of the holiday season.

Lancaster is among a number of cities that claim to be the first place in the U.S. where a Christmas tree was erected. According to legend, a Hessian soldier erected a tree in Windsor Locks, Conn. in 1777 while he was imprisoned at the Noden-Reed House. It is also reported that German immigrants erected a Christmas tree in Easton, Pa. in 1816.

A man named August Imgard, a German immigrant living in Wooster, Ohio, is the first to popularize the practice of decorating a tree. In 1847, Imgard cut a blue spruce tree from woods outside town, had the Wooster village tinsmith construct a star, and placed the tree in his house, decorating it with paper ornaments and candy canes. Imgard is believed to be the first person to put candy canes on a Christmas tree. (The candy canes of the day were all white with no red stripes.)

Here are some other interesting facts about Christmas traditions, songs and movies:

It takes seven to 10 years of cultivating to produce a saleable Christmas tree.

What is the most popular Christmas movie? "It's a Wonderful Life," the 1946 movie directed by Frank Capra and starring Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed and Lionel Barrymore, is still seen more often by more people on TV than any other holiday movie.

If you received all of the gifts in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," you would have 364 presents.

There is a distinction between a Christmas carol and a Christmas song. A Christmas carol has a fairly rapid, regular beat, which would, therefore, exclude a meandering, crooning song such as "White Christmas."

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska.

The world's most famous Christmas carol is "Silent Night."

What was the first company to capitalize on Santa as a sales representative? Coca-Cola, of course. Many companies quickly followed suit.

The word Christmas comes from Cristes Mæsse in Old English, a contraction of Christ's Mass.

There is a common misconception that the use of X in Xmas is a way of taking Christ out of Christmas. Actually, in the Greek X means Christ and that is how the word Xmas became part of the English lexicon.

"Jingle Bells" was originally entitled "One-Horse Open Sleigh" and was written for Thanksgiving, not for Christmas.

Christmas became a national holiday in America on June, 26, 1870.

Ninety-eight percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms.

More diamonds are sold around Christmas than any other time of the year.

Emergency Grants

continued from 1A

Counties.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) have an accounting system, 3) practice nondiscrimination, 4) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary

board.

Emergency Food and Shelter funds were awarded to the following agencies last year: The Women's Resource Center, the Salvation Army, the Manna Food Project, and St. Francis Church.

Public or private agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Char-Em United Way, P.O. Box 1701, Petoskey MI 49770; phone 231-487-1006; email info@charemunitedway.org for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is 4 p.m. Friday, January 9, 2015.

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

New Year's Eve at the Arts Center

New Year's Eve Featured Artist is area student, Mikayla Sharrow, is the featured artist for New Year's at the Arts Center. Her work was selected from over 30 submissions from the 2015 call for entry. The featured artist's work is used for the admission buttons, t-shirts and promotional materials for the event.

Programming & Event Highlights.

Preparations are underway for Crooked Tree Arts Center's New Year's Eve at the Arts Center. This popular community celebration was established in an effort to create an all-ages, family friendly, alcohol-free, artistic and cultural alternative to ring in the New Year. Programming and workshops are provided by CTAC instructors, area artists and organizations including Blissfest Music Organization and Petoskey District Library. There will be over 30 performances and workshops available this New Year's Eve happening simultaneously during the 4 hour run. "The beauty of this celebration is there is something for everyone. If you want to sit back and enjoy a powerhouse line-up of performances you can, or, if your preference is hands-on, there are many workshops you can try from the visual arts to dancing" said Rebeca Otto NYE coordinator.

There is a special line-up of musical acts for this eighth year, including the return of several crowd favorites, such as: the funkadelic trio, Orange Magic; indie electro group, Sky & Signal; and native flute musician, Aaron Wayne Otto. Newcomers to the event include: singer songwriters, Mary Albertson, Caroline Barlow



Featured artist Mikayla Sharrow. COURTESY PHOTO

and Orion Brill; and Northern Michigan's hottest dance group, The Cookies.

Speed painter, Martina Hahn, is presenting yet again another first-time ever performance for NYE goers. "I always use the arts center as the guinea pig when I want to try something new. It's very comfortable and feels like home. When I am that comfortable, there's no fear and I'm not concerned about making a mistake" said artist, Martina Hahn. Speed painting to live music, her mother-daughter performance and multiple canvases are all previous firsts that she has shared with the NYE audience.

Other highlights include, Blissfest Music Organization's button crafts workshop, a favorite at



Speed Painter, Martina Hahn from last year's celebration. COURTESY PHOTO

their ever-popular Kid's Tent during the summer music festival, in addition to hosting an old time family dance with Harbor Hoedown. The library's staff will be offering an instrument "petting zoo", reading several of their favorite picture books, and Music & Movement time with Mr. Ron. CTAC's potter's wheel, visual arts and dance studios are in full swing among several other offerings. "Be sure to find scenic artist, Jay Maldonado, at the event. There will be a special

community mural project happening" added Otto. The arts center is expecting over 800 participants and 50 volunteers to help ring-in 2015.

New Year's Eve at the Arts Center is Wednesday, December 31, 2014 from 5:00-9:00 PM, concluding with a "Midnight at 9" Times-Square style ball-drop on Division Street. The entertainment on the street begins at 8:30 p.m. with the ball descending at 9:15 p.m. Tom Moran, of Moran Iron Works, constructed the 6 ft.

diameter ball which is home to over 1,000 lights. Admission buttons are on sale now, \$7 for Adults and \$3 for Students and the "Midnight at 9" celebration is open to the public. For further information please contact Crooked Tree Arts Center at 347-4337 or .

New Year's Eve at the Arts Center is sponsored in part by Moran Iron Works and The L'Arbre Croche Fund at Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation.

Curtiss Extension quilts provide comfort to survivors

Curtiss Extension group has donated hundreds of quilts over the years to the Safe Home, including a recent donation of 25 quilts. The quilts grace Safe Home bedrooms and may be gifted to

survivors of domestic abuse and their children upon transitioning from the Safe Home, according to Safe Home Coordinator, Jamie Winters.

"These quilts have provided survivors at the Safe



Safe Home staff are shown receiving the most recent Curtiss Extension quilt donation (from left) Jen Rashleigh-Houser, Amy Strohpaal, Jamie Moore, Lauren Kutzler, Angie Linsenman and Jamie Winters.

Home with warmth and the knowledge that people in the community care," said Winters. "It's really as if these women, who are striving to rebuild their lives, are being wrapped in kindness and comfort." Winters said the Curtiss Extension group has also donated knit hats, mittens and blankets in past years.

The original purpose of Curtiss Extension, chartered in 1938, was to get together to sew, exchange recipes, share household tips and listen to a

variety of speakers. About 14 years ago, group member Ann Weeter suggested the group do something constructive in the community while utilizing their combined skills and experience. They decided to start donating quilts sewn by the group to the Safe Home.

Curtiss Extension and other similar groups in the area are being discontinued because of a lack of new membership; a farewell luncheon will take place in the spring.



Over the past 16 years, the Curtiss Extension group has donated hundreds of quilts to survivors at the Safe Home, the domestic abuse shelter operated 24/7 by the Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan. Pictured at a recent luncheon are members (front from left) Ann Weeter, MarJo Scardino, (back from left) Jeanne Cease and Laura Weingartz. Not pictured, Janet Kennedy.

MVAA programs provide financial assistance to nearly 2,500 veterans in 2014

Grants help eligible veterans weather temporary setbacks

Nearly 2,500 veterans and their families received financial assistance totaling \$4.5 million in 2014 thanks to a pair of grant programs administered by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA).

"Occasionally, Michigan veterans and their families encounter unexpected expenses and need a helping hand to get them back on their feet in meeting their financial obligations," MVAA Director Jeff Barnes said. "In those times, MVAA is there to provide monetary assistance to weather temporary setbacks. By helping veterans overcome financial emergencies, we can give back to those who served our country and defended our freedom."

MVAA administers the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MTVF) as well as the Michigan Veterans Homeowners Assistance Program (MiVHAP), both designed to help veterans stabilize their economic situation and get their finances back on track.

The MVTF awarded nearly \$2.5 million in grants during fiscal year 2014, alleviating short-term financial emergencies for 2,157 combat-era veterans and their families. Total grants of \$4.85 million were distributed to more than 4,000 veterans in FY 2013 and FY 2014. MVTF grants are

available to veterans who have served 180 days of active duty in a wartime era or received an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and have been honorably discharged. Veterans discharged prior to the completion of 180 days of wartime service due to a physical or mental disability incurred in the line of duty are also eligible. Dependents of an eligible veteran can also apply under certain circumstances.

"The holiday season can be particularly stressful when unforeseen financial emergencies arise, but MVTF and MiVHAP can bridge that gap and help ensure veterans and their families have a warm, safe place to call home," Barnes said. "Programs like these are just another way we can say thank you to Michigan veterans for their service."

Since May 2013, MiVHAP has distributed more than \$3.5 million to 579 eligible service members and veterans affected by the foreclosure crisis. In 2014, 303 families were assisted by MiVHAP grants.

The program is open to military service members and honorably discharged veterans seeking to avoid mortgage defaults, foreclosure and property tax foreclosure.

For more information about MVTF or MiVHAP, visit MichiganVeterans.com or call (800) MICH-VET.

Resolutions for the New Year

Deb Hagen-Foley

With the passing of Christmas Day, you may be thinking about the approaching New Year. The end of the calendar year is often a time for reflection. Reflecting on all that has happened, or not happened, in the prior year. Did you achieve your goals for 2014? Did you have New Year's resolutions? How long did they last?

Most of us have made resolutions to change in some way starting January 1. Many of us, as many as 45%, make them every year. Another 17% infrequently make New Year's resolutions. Thirty-eight percent claim that they never make them. It is our chance to start over, to do better next year, to build on the progress of the current year. Of those who attempt resolutions, only 8% are successful in achieving their goal and 24% are never successful. Nearly half, 49% are sometimes successful in keeping their resolutions. Overall, making resolutions is better than not, as persons who explicitly make resolutions

are ten times more likely to attain their goals than those who do not make them.

We decide that January 1 is going to be the best time to stop smoking, exercise more, or eat better. Resolving to get more sleep or reduce stress is also common. Others set goals of starting a new career, writing a book, going back to school or finding a life partner. The start of a new year has become a traditional starting point for life changes. Unfortunately, the change is often short-lived, leading some people to make the same resolution every year. If you have not been successful improving your health-related behaviors, you are not alone. More than 80 percent of adults report they have attempted lifestyle changes without success. A 2010 survey found that fewer than one in five adults (16 percent) report success at losing weight (20 percent), starting a regular exercise program (15 percent), eating a healthier diet (10 percent), or reducing stress (7 percent) in the prior year.

Making a lasting change is more than a one-time resolution. The best inten-

2015

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

tions start to fade in the reality of behavior change. As anyone who has tried to change a habit will tell you, maintaining behavior change is difficult. If you made New Year's resolutions in January, were not successful and want to try again in 2015, this is a good time to reflect on your last attempt. Why were you not successful? In the 2010 study mentioned previously, 78 percent of participants reported their progress was blocked by obstacles such as: willpower (33 percent), making changes by themselves (24 percent), and too much stress (20 percent). Were you unsuccessful for one of these reasons? How will you overcome that problem in your next effort? Next week, I will share guidance on improving your likelihood for success in achieving your goals in 2015.

Health & Wellness

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Celebrating the season by giving back

The employees at Charlevoix Area Hospital recently took a little time out of their normal schedules to celebrate this special season with each other. Whether they were in professional clothes, lab coats or scrubs, the halls soon filled with employees enjoying some holiday festivities. The Hospital's management team honored the employees by not only hosting an open house with all day treats for everyone, but by making a \$10 donation in each employee's name to a local charity.

Employees stopped by the administration offices to partake of a delicious assortment of food and were asked to fill out a brief form, indicating their choice of one of four charities: Charlevoix County Humane Society, Antrim County Animal Shelter, Women's Resource Center and School Kids' Wish List. The forms included a space to write funny stories about pets or what they wore to school or what the worst present they received from a spouse was. For instance, one employee shared that her dog

was a "craiglist chihuahua" that turned out to be a terrier mix and another employee shared that the worst Christmas present he got from his spouse was Ziploc bags!

The creative holiday celebration was in keeping with what the Hospital has become known for – world-class healthcare and hometown caring. So giving back to the community just seemed a natural thing to do this holiday season.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by e-mail to office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com.

Dear Editor:

Tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure kill over 14,400 Michigan residents each year, and tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death in the state. Each year, tobacco use costs Michigan over \$3.4 Billion in health care costs and \$3.9 Billion in lost productivity, yet the state spends only \$1.5 million on tobacco control programming.

The 2014 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, "The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress", calls for a number of specific actions, including: "Fully funding comprehensive statewide tobacco control programs at CDC recommended levels." The report also notes that, "States that have made larger investments in comprehensive tobacco control programs have seen larger declines in cigarettes sales than the nation as a whole, and the prevalence of smoking among adults and youth has declined faster, as spending for tobacco control programs has increased." Importantly, the Report finds that long term investment is critical. It states, "Experience also shows that the longer the states invest in comprehensive tobacco control programs, the

greater and faster the impact."

Tobacco control programming works to help reduce costs and save lives. Michigan takes in nearly \$1.2 billion in revenue from tobacco taxes and the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) annually, but spends only \$1.5 million on tobacco prevention. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends a minimum of \$110 Million (\$11.50/person) be spent on tobacco control programming in Michigan.

The MSA, which settled the states' lawsuits against the major cigarette companies, does not explicitly require states to spend specific amounts of the MSA payments on tobacco control, but it does include language that shows that states and the major cigarette companies intended that the MSA funds be used to prevent and reduce tobacco use, especially among young people. Michigan does not spend any MSA funds on tobacco control.

State leaders should make it a top priority to ensure a portion of the MSA funds are allocated to tobacco control. In this way our leaders will help to prevent kids from smoking and help smokers quit.

Sincerely,
Sheila M McKinney



Cheryl Tallman (right), founder and CEO of Fresh Baby, donated 72 children's dinnerware sets to the Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan (WRCNM) and Safe Home, as well as a contribution of \$1,000. Pictured unpacking the sets are Fresh Baby staff members (from left) Kelsey Crawford; Cindy Hall; Sherry Duntley; Jamie Winters, Safe Home coordinator; Becky Doan; Kim McQuiston, Safe Home child advocate; Chris Krajewski, WRCNM domestic abuse and sexual assault program director; and Tallman.

Fresh Baby gives a gift of healthy eating

As founder and CEO of Fresh Baby, Cheryl Tallman has reached out to parents with simple and practical tips, recipes and products to help raise healthier children and prevent childhood obesity. Tallman's recent donation of 72 dinnerware sets and \$1,000 to the Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan's (WRCNM) Safe Home represents an extension of her daily work over the past 12 years.

"I know the Women's Resource Center wants kids to have a healthy and safe environment which is well-aligned with the goals of Fresh Baby," said Tallman. Last year, the Safe Home provided 2,926 nights of shelter and more than 8,700 meals to 140 women and children seeking refuge

from domestic abuse. An additional 438 individuals not residing at the Safe Home also utilized support, counseling and advocacy services. All domestic abuse services through the WRCNM are provided to survivors at no cost.

Tallman's Petoskey-based company focuses on developing healthy eating habits in young children and combating childhood obesity. The donated six-piece MyPlate Dinnerware sets, designed and developed by Tallman, encourage healthy eating with a plate divided into four sections to represent the proper portion sizes of fruits, vegetables, protein and grains that children ages three to five should eat at mealtimes. The set also includes a

four ounce drinking cup sized for small hands, a three-piece cutlery set and an easy-clean placemat that features engaging activities. Tallman said the MyPlate Dinnerware was modeled after the USDA MyPlate program which encourages building a healthy plate.

To learn more about the Fresh Baby line of products, contact the company at (231) 348-2706 or visit freshbaby.com. For more information about WRCNM programs and services, call the main office at (231) 347-0067 or visit wrcnm.org. The WRCNM's crisis and information lines are available 24-hours a day at (231) 347-0082 or (800) 275-1995.

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www.crawfordcoa.org

Seniors Helping Seniors
221 E. Felshaw St.,
Gaylord
989-448-8323
www.seniorshelpingseniors.com/northernmichigan

**Charlevoix County
Commission on Aging**
218 West Garfield St.
Charlevoix
231-237-0103
www.charlevoixcounty.org/coa.asp

WALK-IN CLINIC

**OMH Medical Group –
Boyne Valley**
2572 North US 131
Elmira
989-731-7700
www.MyOMH.org

News Briefs

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

CHARLEVOIX

Holiday farmers market

Tuesday, December 23rd, 9am - 1pm Charlevoix Public Library Take pictures with Santa and his elves, enjoy cookies and cocoa and make your own ornament to take home for your tree. While you're here stock up on all the fixings for a delicious homemade holiday meal. Garland and Holiday centerpieces will also be available to make a beautiful table display.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Christmas songbooks

If your group or organization would like extra copies of the Christmas Traditions songbooks for Christmas caroling, contact our office. They are free of charge and contain words and music to lots of favorite Christmas carols. Contact the Charlevoix County News office at 989-732-8160 or e-mail us at Office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com.

EAST JORDAN

Christmas Village

Enjoy a drive through our Christmas Village at the East Jordan Tourist Park, 218 N. Lake St. thru Jan 4, 2015. Christmas music will be available on your radio as you drive through the lighted displays which have been created by area businesses and individuals. Children of all ages may visit with Santa, Saturday Dec. 13, 5-7pm while enjoying cookies and hot cocoa. Christmas Village and Santa sponsored by the East Jordan Lions Club.

EAST JORDAN

Christmas Tree Sales

The EJ Lions Club is selling Christmas Trees at the EJ True Value Hardware during normal business hours. Prices range from \$25-\$50 and proceeds go to support local Lions Club Projects. Shop early for the best selection.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Early Deadline

The Weekly Choice and Charlevoix County News will be published two days earlier the week of New Years. Normally published every Thursday, this issue will be distributed on Tuesday December 30. Deadline for this issue will be the preceding Friday at 5pm for Display advertising, Classified advertising, News Releases, News and Sports. Deadline is Dec. 26 for the Dec. 30 issue.

IRONTON

Christmas Eve Service

Come and join us in celebrating the miracle of Christmas at our Christmas Eve service at 7pm. It's at the little Ironton Congregational Church on Washington Street. It's a traditional service with music and message by Reverend Jim Jordan. Cookies and fellowship to follow before you step out again into the holy night.

BOYNE CITY

Community Christmas dinner

The 1st Presbyterian Church of Boyne City will continue its tradition of offering a free Christmas Dinner for anyone and everyone in the community from noon to 2 p.m. The church is located at 401 S. Park St. The church fellowship group is organizing the event and cooking the traditional turkey dinner with all the fixin's. The dinner is

paid for by contributions from the congregation, the public and local grocery stores. Anyone who would like to support the effort may call 582-7983.

EAST JORDAN

Community Christmas dinner

Community Christmas Dinner, East Jordan United Methodist Church - 201 Fourth Street, 536-2161. Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25 from 1PM to 3 PM Enjoy the meal, and fellowship. Come on Come All.

BOYNE CITY

Concert

Freshwater Concerts Presents Rachael Davis with Dominic Davis in concert Saturday Dec. 27, 2014 8:00 P.M. Freshwater Gallery 217 S. Lake St. Tickets & info. 231-582-2588 \$25 adv. \$30 door

BOYNE CITY

Blood drive

A blood drive will be hosted by the Community of Christ Church, 777 Vogel St., Boyne City, from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information.

BOYNE CITY

Boyer Chamber elects new officers for 2015

The Boyne Area Chamber Board of Directors has elected officers for 2015. They are: President Karen Guzniczak of Country Now & Then/Up the Lazy River; Vice President Emily Wilmot of KorthaseFlinn Insurance and Financial Services; Treasurer Greta Zumbaugh of Bay Winds Federal Credit Union, and Secretary Leslie Neilson of inspired living and balanced living yoga studio. New to the board will be Michael Doumainian, director of food and beverage at Boyne Mountain Resort. Doumainian will replace Boyne Mountain General Manager Ed Grice, who has served six years on the Chamber board. Other continuing board members are outgoing president Kristine Brehm of Boyne Country Provisions and The Wine Emporium, Tony Williams of Freshwater Art Gallery, Kelly Woodard of Bella Vita restaurant, Debra Thompson of Sommer-set Pointe Yacht Club, and past president Gary Deters of Re/Max Resort Properties. The new board takes office Jan. 1 and will be officially installed at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 22 at Boyne Mountain.

CHARLEVOIX

Bridge Drop

New Year's Eve, December 31st is right around the corner and the Charlevoix Bridge Drop is back and better than ever! Get your creative juices flowing during the Snowman Making Contest, sponsored by Charlevoix Public Library! Make smores over the fire pit in Bridge Park! Meet and greet the famous Second Chance Musers - kids can even go on a dog sled ride! Pigs Eat in Ribs and Pita Cruiser food trucks will be serving up awesome eats to warm you from the inside out. New to the Bridge Drop this year is the Bridge Drop Brew Tent (21+) which features an all Michigan Brew line up and hosts fantastic live music from 3-11:45pm. (P.S. the tent will be heated) The actual Bridge Drop will take place at

11:55pm and the best New Year's Eve Firework Show in the Midwest will take place at midnight! Fireworks Raffle Tickets are now available! 1 for \$10 and 3 for \$20. Grand prize is \$1000 and all proceeds help fund the fireworks show! The Bridge Drop is sponsored by Charlevoix Downtown Development Authority, Charlevoix Convention & Visitors Bureau, Randall Chiropractic, and Fox Motors. If you are interested in sponsoring this fantastic community event, please contact Amanda at info@visitcharlevoix.com. For more information visit www.bridgedrop.com!

EAST JORDAN

Citizen of the Year

Now is the time to get your nominations in to the Chamber for Citizen of the Year, which will be awarded at the Chamber's Annual Meeting - Saturday, January 31, 2015 at Castle Farms. There are several people in our community worthy of this award. Take a look at the people making a difference in our community. Don't let your choice be left out. Contact the East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce, 100 Main St. or call 231-536-7351.

CHARLEVOIX

Gift of Art Holiday Show

The Gift of Art Holiday Show will run thru January 3rd at the Circle of Arts. This show features the creations of over twenty area fine artists and craftsmen. Offered are a wide range of paintings, prints, photographs, pottery, jewelry, etc. to please all tastes and budgets.

BOYNE CITY

Fruit sale

The Boyne City High School bands are raising funds by selling fresh-from-the-grove Florida oranges and grapefruit in convenient sizes. Please show your support for our organization by purchasing a box of fruit for yourself, a family member, a friend or a co-worker. See any member of the band to place your order.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Junior Achievement volunteers

Junior Achievement's local Board of Directors is looking for volunteers that would like to share their leadership skills to increase the growth of Junior Achievement programs in area schools. For more information on numerous opportunities, contact the area's District Director Mark Pankner at janso@ja.org or call 231-582-4660.

BOYNE CITY

Boyer Volunteer Network

Boyer volunteer network is a joint project of the Boyne District Library, Boyne City Main Street Program and the Boyne Area Chamber of Commerce. It's easy to participate - just go to www.boynevolunteers.org and fill out the application form, which will tell us your skills, interests and contact information. We will contact you later about volunteer opportunities that may interest you. If you have questions or would like to learn more about how to include your organization and volunteer needs in this new network, contact Monica Kroondyk at the Boyne District Library by phone at 231-582-7861 or by email at kroondyk@boynelibrary.org.

EAST JORDAN

Christian coffee house

Open Door Christian coffee house will be held every first and third Saturday at the East Jordan Community Center on Main St. Refreshments are available; free coffee and a small charge for pizza and soda. We have a lot of wonderful talent right here in northern Michigan. Great fellowship, everyone is welcome to come

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Playgroups

Playgroups for children 0-60 months and their preschool aged siblings are offered free through the Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan. Playgroups will help you find out more about your child's

developmental stage; learn new games and activities to play with your child; and share ideas, parenting experiences and concerns with the playgroup facilitator and other parents. This fall/winter, Playgroups are held: 9:30-11am Tuesdays at Jordan Valley District Library Community Room, East Jordan; 9:30-11am Wednesdays at United Methodist Church, Alanson; 9:30-11am Thursdays at Christ Lutheran Church, Boyne City; 9:30-11am Fridays at United Methodist Church, Petoskey. Call (231)347-0067 or visit wrcnm.org for more information.

CHARLEVOIX

Messy church

This is a fun way of doing church for families. There are crafts, Bible stories learning about the God who loves you, songs, and free meal. Children must be accompanied by parent or adult. This is a non-denominational event which takes place on the first Sunday of each month at 4 - 6 pm at the Charlevoix United Methodist Church, 104 State St. Your call is appreciated for meal count at 547-2654.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

Seniors ride free

Residents aged 60 and over will now be able to ride the Charlevoix County Transit free of charge within Charlevoix County. Seniors please contact the Charlevoix County Transit for your ride at 231-582-6900. This program is made possible through the cooperation of the Charlevoix County Commission on Aging and the Charlevoix County Transit.

CHARLEVOIX

Story time

Weekly Story Time is hosted every Thursday at 10:30am 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.

GAYLORD

Hockey registration

Gaylord Area Men's Hockey League (GAMHL) registration. Play is expected to begin the week of January 18th (Sunday). There will be no games scheduled on Sunday February 1st (super bowl). We plan to play a total of approximately 16 games per team. Depending upon the number of teams, each team will have two games per week: one game on Sunday night and a second game during the week. Games will consist of three 20-minute periods. Shortly after the teams are picked, the Team Representatives will contact players to provide a game schedule. For more information on the League Rules of Play, please contact: Stan Pelto, League President, at 231-340-0554 (cell) or srp2nd@hotmail.com. Registration cost is \$275 for the full season. Payment in full must be made by Saturday January 10th (DEADLINE). Bring your check to GAMHL Men's League DROP BOX located inside the Otsego County Sportsplex (1250 Gornick Ave.), on the wall, outside the Pro Shop entrance

BOYNE CITY

Progressive Women host climate speaker

Lisa Del Buono will give a presentation titled Citizens Taking Action on Climate Change to Create a Livable World for our Children. The meeting will take place Tuesday January 27 at the Boyne City Public Library in Boyne City. Members may arrive at noon and the speaker will begin at 12:30 p.m. Members are invited to brown bag their lunch. The program is open to anyone interested in progressive issues, male or female. Please R.S.V.P. by January 26 by emailing progwomenchxcty@yahoo.com or calling 231-582-9005.

Follow the Action

Pick up the Charlevoix County News each week for comprehensive coverage of your Charlevoix County Area High School Teams.

The Charlevoix County News is the local weekly newspaper for all of Charlevoix County. Local News and sports from Boyne City, East Jordan, Charlevoix, Boyne Falls, Walloon Lake, Ellsworth and Atwood. Available on News Stands every Thursday for 75 cents or have the newspaper delivered to your home for as low as \$35 a year.

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News

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North Central MI College partnering with Gaylord High School to offer students a cost-free college degree

Starting this summer, Gaylord High School students will be able to embark on an educational journey that will result in a high school diploma and college degree at no cost to them as part of North Central Michigan College's Early College partnership with Gaylord High School.

The Early College began as a pilot program with Petoskey High School in 2013 and is now operating successfully at Petoskey High School and Boyne City High School. It is open to 2014-2015 high school sophomores and offers these students free North Central tuition and textbooks for three and one-half years and allows

students to receive both their high school diploma and associate degree after their fifth year of high school. Students will complete their course work at their high school and at North Central's University Center campus in Gaylord or the Petoskey campus.

"The goal of the Early College is to provide students and parents an exceptional academic experience that promotes student success through achieving a college credential while reducing the time and expense of college education beyond high school," states Dr. Cameron Brunet-Koch, president of North Central Michigan College. "Increasing the num-

ber of area residents with college degrees is an important regional and national goal."

Students will be selected for admission into the Early College in accordance with North Central and Gaylord High School admission requirements. Students who are accepted into the Early College will work with advisors and counselors from the high school and North Central to develop their educational plan leading to the completion of the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements, as well as an associate degree from North Central upon successful completion of Early College. A major benefit of the pro-

gram is the opportunity it provides students to reduce the cost of a college education. "This agreement will allow Gaylord High School students to complete an associate degree and a high school diploma at the same time," noted President Brunet-Koch. "This will result in substantial savings in time spent earning a bachelor's degree and significantly reduce student debt."

For more information about Early College, contact Wendy Fought, director of student outreach and engagement, at 231-439-6349 or wfought@ncmich.edu or visit www.ncmich.edu/pdfs/early_college.pdf.

Boyne Falls Public School

Student of the Week



Kayla Willson

Grade: 10

Parent(s): Dana Patton

Future Plans: Attend College to become a Marine Biologist

Favorite Book: Behind the Attic Wall by Sylvia Cassidy

School Activities: High School Basketball

Hobbies and Interests: Drawing, Music, Painting, Reading

Staff Comments:

"Kayla attends to her classwork responsibilities daily and is successful as noted by her progress reports. She has shown an incredible amount of growth and success, academically and socially, in the past year." - Michelle Woodard

Bring on the Christmas Spirit

By Jim Akans

When the effortless vocals of Andy Williams ring out the lines of the Edward Pola and George Wyle penned Christmas classic "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," there is no mistaking the heartfelt joy and elation Williams feels embracing the Christmas spirit. It is a testament that even amid the fast-paced, electronic networking era we live in there remains a collective longing for the fellowship, kindness and love the Christmas season brings to light every December. It's okay at least once a year to show the love.

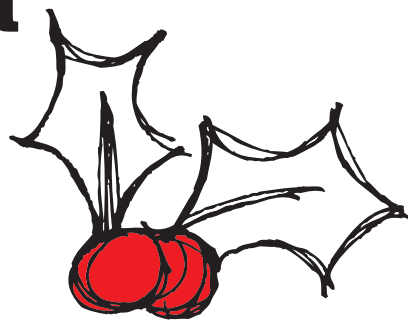
For that's what the spirit of Christmas is about. It is a celebration of the birth and love of Jesus Christ. A

time for reflection, gathering together with friends and loved ones, giving from the heart and reveling in the excitement of seeing others receive. It is about smiles, laughter, long hugs, stories and remembrances, comforting hearts and revealing our dreams.

It is most certainly about the children who sense the Christmas spirit on a whole different level. They see grown-ups regain a sparkle as their own eyes experience a world suddenly focusing on them. School's out and Santa's really on the way? Presents under the tree for ME? There is simply no joy grander than seeing the beaming faces of children on Christmas morning.

It is also about sharing lots of great food - pies, cakes, fudge, cookies, candies, punches, roasts, mashed potatoes, casseroles, chips, nuts, fruits...at least a little fruit. From Thanksgiving until New Year's it's okay to stop counting calories. It's the perfect set-up for making a resolution a week later about making the scales turn counter-clockwise in the early months of the New Year.

The Christmas spirit can also be felt in communities throughout our great nation. People gather together for parades, tree lighting ceremonies, Main Street celebrations, holiday concerts and plays, in churches and at candlelight services. The



message is clear - love and cherish one another despite our faults and often misguided expectations.

So bring on the Christmas spirit. We all share this earthly real estate and at Christmas we are reminded that we are also bound together in the spirit of love, harmony, generosity and forgiveness. Take to heart that this truly is "the happiest season of all."

Merry Christmas!

Kirtland Community College Announces Fall 2014 President's, Dean's Lists Honorees

ROSCOMMON - Officials at Kirtland Community College recently recognized students for their academic achievements during the 2014-15 fall semester which earned them placement on the college's dean's and president's lists.

To qualify for the president's list, candidates must be full-time students who earn a grade-point average between 3.8 and 4.0. Dean's list candidates must have a grade-point average of 3.4 to 3.799. This is not a complete list, but a list of students from the Charlevoix County News coverage area.

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Tara Essenberg, Ellsworth
Ashley Grosberg, Charlevoix
Buddy Lewis, East Jordan
Clarence Randall, Boyne City
Michael Rautio, Charlevoix
James Ross, Boyne City

DEAN'S LIST

Part Time Student Honorees
Craig Lyons, East Jordan
Brittani McCully, East Jordan
James Shull, Charlevoix
Christopher Stringer, Boyne City
Andrew Sutton, Boyne City

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Automobiles | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Homes for Rent | <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous | <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant | <input type="checkbox"/> Vans |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood & Woodstove | <input type="checkbox"/> Homes for Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles & ATV | <input type="checkbox"/> Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted |

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News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

“Doing the Most Good” – Salvation Army Family Store offers shopping and community value

By Jim Akans

The Salvation Army Family Store and Donation Center in Gaylord is a win-win for both area shoppers and for the local community. The shop, one of six being rolled out in the organization's Eastern Michigan division between 2012 and 2014, opened on October 26th of last year, and is operated under the direction of Lori Oldenburg, Store Manager and Timothy Schroeder, Eastern Michigan Division Family Store Consultant.

“The inventory we carry comes from community donations,” Schroeder explains, “and we rotate that inventory consistently to keep it fresh for our customers. Our revenue, after expenses, is utilized to help fund the work the Salvation Army does in this community for those in need. We are up 35% over last year and have also increased our staff. We want to thank the community for all of their donations,



The Salvation Army Family Store is operated under the direction of Store Manager Lori Oldenburg, (at center) and Eastern Michigan Division Family Store Consultant, Timothy Schroeder (at right). Brian Jergenson, (at photo left) is the Business Manager for Salvation Army in Otsego County. PHOTO BY JIM AKANS

Most Good.” The store also provides employment for approximately 20 people. Shoppers are impressed with the stores clean, well lit and organized atmosphere, as well as the outstanding values that can be found among the huge variety of items ranging from men's, women's and children's clothing, books, DVD's, household and kitchen ware, toys, and even large items such as furniture, televisions and appliances.

Schroeder points out, “We also offer a 15-percent discount for Senior shoppers every Wednesday, and a 15-percent discount for those serving or who have served in the military on Thursdays.”

Shoppers will also find half-off specials each week, and the store offers pick-up service for donated items. In keeping with the organization's mission of “Doing the Most Good,” clothing items that aren't sold are baled and sent to 3rd world countries.

“Many people don't realize that the Salvation Army is a church,” states Schroeder. “We are Christian mission and a Christ-center organization. We are about helping others.”

The Salvation Army Family Store is located at 919 S. Otsego Avenue in Gaylord, and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 am until 7 pm. For those wishing to drop off items for donation (this is especially welcome during the slower first few months of the year), they can stop by between 9 am and 7 pm Monday through Saturday – phone (989) 448-2357



for shopping here and for helping others do the most good.”

Brian Jergenson, Business Manager for Salvation Army in Otsego County, notes, “In Otsego County, much of the funding we receive is used to help residents in need of assistance for paying

utility bills. We work in cooperation with First Call for Help and the Otsego Housing & Homeless Coalition and other community service organizations in assisting individuals and families in need. We also provide disaster assistance for shelter and food, and on a more limited basis, we offer help for paying for prescriptions and gas vouchers.”

Revenue from the Gaylord Salvation Army Family Store is critical in supporting the Salvation Army's mission of “Doing the

The Salvation Army Family Store and Donation Center in Gaylord is a win-win for both area shoppers and for the local community. The Salvation Army Family Store is located at 919 S. Otsego Avenue in Gaylord. PHOTO BY JIM AKANS

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Charlevoix
231-547-9624
www.bergmanncenter.org

Kelly's Antiques & Furniture Barn

06176 Old US 31 S., Charlevoix
231-547-0133
www.dkellyantiques.com

EAST JORDAN

Crossroads Resale Shop
205 Water Street., East Jordan
231-536-7606
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ELLSWORTH

Good Samaritan Furniture & More Store
6519 Center St.,
Downtown Ellsworth
231-588-2208
thegoodsam.org

Good Samaritan

9746 Main Street,
Ellsworth
231-588-2208
thegoodsam.org

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989-732-9500

Angels at Work Resale
1523 S Otsego Ave., Gaylord
989.448.8615

Goodwill Retail and Donation Center
1361 Pineview Dr. (near Lowes), Gaylord
989-705-1747. www.goodwillnmi.org

Salvation Army Family Store
919 S. Otsego Ave., Gaylord
989-448-2357

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Goodwill Retail and Donation Center

1600 Anderson Rd., Petoskey
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www.goodwillnmi.org

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Christmas and Christmas Eve Church Services

By Jessica Boyce

There are many churches in the area that have a Christmas or Christmas Eve Service. These are some of those churches and the times for the masses or services. If you don't see your church listed, but would like to attend a Christmas or Christmas Eve Service, don't hesitate to call and find out if and when they will be having one.

St. Matthew's in Boyne City
Christmas Eve: 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm

St. Augustine's in Boyne Falls
Christmas Day: 9:00 am

Mancelona United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve: 7:00 pm

Alba United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve: 9:00 pm

Petoskey United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve: 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm, and 11:00 pm

Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Petoskey
Christmas Eve: 9:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church in Petoskey
Christmas Eve: 7:30 pm

St. Francis Xavier in Petoskey
Christmas Eve: 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm
Christmas Day: 9:00 am and 11:00 am

St. Mary Cathedral in Gaylord
Christmas Eve: 5:00 pm and Midnight
Christmas Day: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and Latin Mass at 3:00 pm

Gaylord Evangelical Free

Church
Christmas Eve: 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Mount Hope Church in Gaylord
Christmas Eve: Candle-light Service at 6:30 pm

Grace Baptist in Gaylord
Christmas Eve: Candle-light Service at 6:30 pm

Holy Redeemer in Vanderbilt
Christmas Eve: 5:30 pm
Christmas Day: 10:00 am

St. Thomas Aquinas in Elmira
Christmas Eve: 7:00 pm

Cross in the Woods in Indian River
Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm and 8:00 pm
Christmas Day: 10:30 am

Grayling Evangelical Free Church
Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm

St. Mary in Grayling
Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm
Christmas Day: 10:00 am

Grayling Free Methodist Church
Christmas Eve: 6:00 pm

St. John Lutheran Church in Grayling
Christmas Eve: Candle-light Service at 7:00 pm

St. Francis in Lewiston
Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm
Christmas Day: 11:00 am

St. John Lutheran in Cheboygan
Christmas Eve: 7:00 pm
Christmas Day: 10:00 am

St. Mary/St. Charles in Cheboygan
Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm and 8:00 pm

St. Thomas Lutheran in Cheboygan
Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm, 7:00 pm, and 10:00 pm



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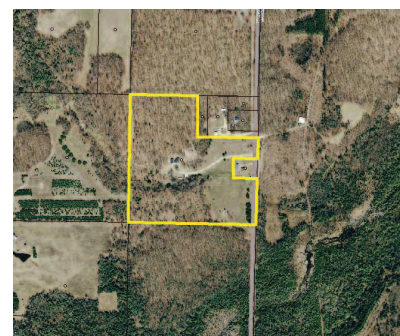
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