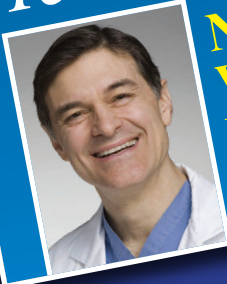


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January 1, 2015

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Charlevoix DDA Director Resigns

By Norma Jean Babcock

CHARLEVOIX: At the last monthly meeting in 2014 of the Downtown Development Authority board members accepted the resignation of DDA Director Bethany Pearson who has led the DDA since early 2013.

The meeting began quietly as a lease involving the owners Bridge Street Taproom was discussed and signed. The owners, who represent Round Lake Group, LLC were pleased to see the lease signed, as it will allow them open a brewery in downtown Charlevoix this summer. The board signed the lease with two contingencies to its execution; first approval must be granted for the treatment of wastewater by the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and second a liquor license must be obtained for the location in question. That location is the building that Beaver Island Boat

Company operates out of, which Round Lake Group LLC plans to take over a portion of to create Lake Charlevoix Brewing Company.

After the lease was approved, Pearson presented her resignation to board members, who proved reluctant to accept the energetic DDA Directors departure.

Pearson explained that she had "such a great time" working with the city and city staff and that she planned to continue doing her utmost to "help the city in re-developing the downtown." She added that although she would be taking a new position, she would make herself available to the DDA in the coming months in order to make the transition to a new person as smooth as possible.

Pearson will take the new post of a Community Development Specialist at the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance (NLEA) where her talents in leading projects



BETHANY PEARSON

that create revenue and open more jobs will be utilized in full. The NLEA serves as a non-profit organization in Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet and Antrim counties that works with area

governments on infrastructure projects, but also help local businesses create and maintain jobs.

In light of her absence, other city employees will step up to take over tasks that Pearson has previously spearheaded. This will include the Main Street Project, which will require a presentation to the Main Street Committee in Lansing on February 11, 2015. This project will be picked up by many staff members, however, Pearson plans to be available for the presentation in February.

Pearson advocated that in the interim between her departure and finding a new DDA director the position be filled on a temporary basis to keep the everyday aspects of the job in motion. Therefore phone calls, emails and questions can still be accepted at the office, but as of January 2nd, Pearson will not be answering them herself.

City Manager Rob Straebel

praised Pearson for taking so much under her wing as the DDA Director, and supported the idea of having the position temporarily filled. The board asked Pearson if she felt that her job had been supported well by members of the city and the DDA board to ascertain whether or not the current arrangement of 25% City and 75% reimbursement made sense for the next person filling the role.

"It's all give and take. It was nice to have that flexibility...not having to sign two different time cards. I personally would have liked to see things spelled out a little more," stated Pearson who followed by saying, "I would caution them not to make the same mistake I did...I did overburden myself."

On that note, the board did accept Pearson's resignation, and made a motion to hire someone on

See DDA Director Resigns-7A

THIS WEEK INSIDE SPORTS

2014 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Part I
January-June

Index

- Weather2A
- Obituaries.....2A
- Health4A
- News Briefs.....7A
- Local Sports1-3B
- Class-Ads/Real Estate4-7B
- Commission on Aging8B

3rd annual Charlevoix New Years Eve Bridge Drop



Crowds cheer as fireworks begin the new year with a remarkable display of sound, light and color over the Pine River Canal after the Bridge Drop at midnight in Charlevoix, as seen in this photo from last year. PHOTO BY WALLT BARKLEY

With New Years Eve around the corner, it is time to make plans to attend the Charlevoix Bridge Drop in Downtown Charlevoix!

On January 31st starting at Noon and ending at Midnight, a variety of family friendly and adult focused events will be hosted throughout Downtown all leading up to the raising of the Bridge and a world class fireworks show at midnight.

This year's event is sure to

please the entire family with many kid friendly activities. Get your creative juices flowing during the Snowman Making Contest, sponsored by Charlevoix Public Library. Just pick up a kit at the library from 10am-2pm, and head down to Bridge Park to create a magnificent snowman. Make s'mores and hot chocolate over the fire pit in Bridge Park! Meet and greet the famous Second Chance Musers - kiddos can even go on a

dog sled ride from 12pm-4pm. Kids crafts and Bingo will be indoors at Charlevoix Circle of Arts from 2pm-6pm. Charlevoix Cinema III will be playing a free movie, Finding Nemo, at 7pm and 9pm.

Try the hottest new winter sport at the fat tire bike demo in Hoffman Park. Revolution Bike will be there to get you started.

Pigs Eatin' Ribs and Pita Cruiser food trucks will be serving up awesome eats on Park Avenue from

History of New Year's Celebrations

By Jessica Boyce

Today we know of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day to consist of parties, special foods, fireworks, and New Year's resolutions. We celebrate all day on December 31st and continue the celebrations until the early hours of January 1st. For centuries people have been celebrating the New Year, even if it's not quite in the ways we do today.

The start of the New Year wasn't always January 1st, and the earliest recorded festivities in honor of a new year was 4,000 years ago in ancient Babylon. Their new year was with the first new moon following the vernal equinox, which was in late March. The celebration lasted 11 days and included a feast called Akitu, which comes from the Sumerian word for barley. Other civilizations celebrated the new year

See History of New Years-6A

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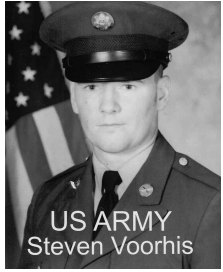
THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
HIGH: Mid 20's LOW: Upper 10's	HIGH: Low 30's LOW: Upper 10's	HIGH: Low 30's LOW: Low 10's	HIGH: Upper 10's LOW: Upper 0's

snowfall records		record temps	
2012-13Amt	2013-14Amt	2014-15Amt	DAYAVG LOWAVG. HIGH.....RECORD LOW.....RECORD HIGH
12/31/2012.....23	12/29/2013.....62.5	12/28/2014.....38.5.....Boyne Falls	JAN 1.....15°.....30°.....9° (1968).....48° (1952)
12/31/2012.....15.8	12/29/2013.....45.2	12/28/2014.....23.4.....Charlevoix	JAN 2.....15°.....30°.....7° (1999).....49° (1998)
12/31/2012.....19	12/29/2013.....54.5	12/28/2014.....33.5.....Cheboygan	JAN 3.....14°.....29°.....16° (1996).....51° (1998)
12/31/2012.....21.1	12/29/2013.....55.3	12/28/2014.....45.3.....East Jordan	JAN 4.....14°.....29°.....36° (1981).....49° (2007)
12/31/2012.....37.2	12/29/2013.....95.5	12/28/2014.....64.7.....Gaylord	JAN 5.....14°.....29°.....2° (1968).....50° (2007)
12/31/2012.....15.2	12/29/2013.....30.2	12/28/2014.....11.2.....Mio	JAN 6.....14°.....29°.....12° (1973).....45° (2007)
12/31/2012.....24.3	12/29/2013.....57.4	12/28/2014.....31.9.....Onaway	JAN 7.....14°.....29°.....12° (1973).....45° (1975)
12/31/2012.....36.1	12/29/2013.....75.5	12/28/2014.....46.2.....Petoskey	JAN 8.....13°.....29°.....17° (1981).....47° (2003)

Steven Wayne Voorhis, 58

(JULY 16, 1956 - DEC. 20, 2014)

Steven Wayne Voorhis of Charlevoix, formerly of West Warwick, Rhode Island, passed away Saturday, December 20, 2014 at his home. He was born July 16, 1956, in West Warwick, RI, to Harry and Barbara (Cloutier) Voorhis.



US ARMY Steven Voorhis

He graduated from Pilgrim High School in Warwick in 1974, then joined the US Army. Stationed at Fort Bliss Tex., he served with the Howitzer Battery, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Regiment.

Steve moved to Charlevoix in 2002. He was employed at Walmart in Petoskey for the past twelve years. Steve loved to fish, especially with his nephew.

He is survived by his sisters, Barbara (Charles) Struthers of Charlevoix, Cheryl (Scott) Samos of East Green, RI, Linda (Donald) Andrews of Coventry, RI; nieces and nephews, Cheryl, Robert, Dawn, and Donnie. Steven was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Barbara Voorhis, and brother, Harry Voorhis.

No local services are planned. Arrangements are being handled by the Winchester Funeral Home in Charlevoix.

Jean M. Falting, 83

(JUNE 15, 1931 - DEC. 22, 2014)

Jean M. Falting of Charlevoix, died Monday, December 22, 2014, at the Charlevoix Area Hospital. She was born June 15, 1931, in Newberry to Lyle and Marian (Sedgman) Sumner.

On April 12, 1956, she married William G. Falting in Lawton, Oklahoma. They moved to Marion Township, Charlevoix County in 1972.

Jean is survived by her children, David (Dawn) Falting of Flint, Peggy (Robert) Chaika of Charlevoix, Ross (Deanna) Falting of East Tawas, Billee (Dave) Pike of Brighton; twelve grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; sisters, Mary (Gary) Lakies of Belaire, Phyllis (Lloyd) Burgener of

Richland, Wisc.

Mrs. Falting's body has been donated to the University of Michigan Medical School. There will be no visitation or funeral service.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Charlevoix Area Hospital, or to Hospice of Northwest Michigan, or to the Georgia House in Charlevoix.

Arrangements are being handled by the Winchester Funeral Home in Charlevoix.

Phyllis Erdine Lilak, 95

(SEPT. 13, 1919 - DEC. 22, 2014)

Phyllis Erdine Lilak of East Jordan, died Monday, December 22, 2014, at Grandvue Medical Facility in East Jordan.

She was born Phyllis Rogers, on September 13, 1919, in East Jordan, the daughter of Alfred G. and Erdine (Crawford) Rogers. She graduated from East Jordan High School in 1936.

On August 1, 1938, in East Jordan, she married James Francis Lilak. They were lifelong residents of East Jordan. Phyllis and Jim had six children, all of whom attended EJHS. Phyllis saw her main occupation as caring for her family, although she was at times employed outside the home, as an aide at EJ schools, and as an office worker at Michigan Snowmobiler's Association, the EJ Co-Operative Co., and the EJ Chamber of Commerce.

Phyllis was an active member of St Joseph's Catholic Church, participating in the Altar Society, and assisting with church activities. She also enjoyed reading, knitting, needlework, Scrabble, crosswords, and bowling.

Preceded in death by her parents, her sister Frances Benson, her brother A. George Rogers, her husband Jim, her son Jim, and her special first cousin Marguerite Rogers Stokes, Phyllis is survived by five of her six children: Judy Trojanek, of Bloomington, Minnesota; Doug (Sally) Lilak, of East Jordan; Marcia (David) Straubel, of Portage; Roger (Julie Urban) Lilak,

of Petoskey; and Nick (Theresa) Lilak, of Bloomington, Illinois; her nephew, Frank (Carol) Benson, of Burbank, California; 9 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, several great-great-grandchildren, and innumerable cousins and friends, especially in the extended Crawford-Rogers clan.

An interesting fact about Phyllis is that when she was working at the EJ Chamber of Commerce, she was often referred to as the font of knowledge of everything about East Jordan. She always took pride in her ability to place people in the great "family tree" of East Jordan (and beyond), and somehow was able to keep all the complicated connections clear in her mind. (When she was introduced to a new young person by first name, she would be sure to ask "And what is your other name?") To a certain degree, she often seemed to consider that task, along with being a wife and a Mom, as her main purpose in life. That, and of course, keeping up her impeccable penmanship and spelling. Many times her children have heard the comment "your mother Phyllis is such a sweet lady".

A funeral mass was held on Saturday, December 27, 2014, at 11 AM, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in East Jordan.

The family received friends on Friday, December 26, 2014 from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. at the Penzien Funeral Homes, Inc. in East Jordan with a Rosary service held at 7:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the "Frances Benson" CMU Scholarship Fund at East Jordan High School.

Donna (Susie) Garlinghouse, 86

(NOV. 2, 1928 - DEC. 25, 2014)

Donna (Susie) Garlinghouse of Independence Village, Petoskey, passed away on December 25, 2014, at Hiland Cottage, Petoskey, MI. Formerly of Boyne City, she was born to Oscar and Edith Hausler on November 5, 1928. She was born the eleventh of twelve children in the Hausler family; a family which was very loving and close.

Susie was a life time member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints. She graduated from Boyne City High School in 1948 and while in high school worked summers at Wimpies Drive-

in Restaurant in Petoskey as a Car-Hop. After graduation she was employed by Timkins Axle and Roller Bearing Company in Detroit for five years as a secretary.

Susie married Ray Garlinghouse on February 7, 1953 and it was a wonderful marriage of sixty-one years. Two years later she became a full time mother and homemaker. They lived in Trenton, Michigan for thirty eight years and after their retirement, they moved to Naples, Florida. They then lived there for eighteen years and spent the summers at El Rancho R.V. Park in Alanson, Michigan each of those same eighteen years.

Susie had four children: Darlene Ficek of Southgate, Michigan, Darwin Garlinghouse of Estro, Florida, Joyce Whitlow who lives in Alpena and Michael Garlinghouse who preceded Donna in death on January 28, 2013. Donna also had three grandchildren: Steven Ficek, Shyla Brown, and Sarah Hotham and five great grandchildren whom she loved very much.

Susie is survived by her husband Ray, daughters, Darlene and Joyce, son, Darwin and sister, Beverly Dyer of Boyne City.

Susie loved cooking, traveling, camping and just being with all of her family and her many friends. Donna will be missed by all. Her laughter will be especially missed, but we know she is in better place with her Lord. We'll miss you, Susie.

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

Many thanks to the people of Hospice from the family during this difficult time.

A funeral service will be held 11:00 AM on Monday, December 29, 2014 at Stackus Funeral Home in Boyne City with Pastor David Tugle officiating. Visitation will be held Monday, December 29, 2014 from 10:00 AM until the time of service at the funeral home.

Mary Louise Erber, 81

(MAY 30, 1933 - DEC. 25, 2014)

Mary Louise Erber of Huffman Lake, Boyne Falls went to live with Lord on Thursday, December 25, 2014.

Mary was born on May 30, 1933 in Chandler Township the daughter of Felix and Catherine (Howard) Spaniak. She grew up and attended school at Boyne Falls Public School and graduated as Valedictorian of her class. On Nov. 3, 1951 she married Gerhart "Gary" L. Erber at St. Augustine Church in Boyne Falls. Mary's passion was baking and cooking. She enjoyed living at the house on Huffman Lake and most of all loved spending time with her family and children.

Mary is survived by her two sons Gary (Debra) Erber and Terry (Sandra) Erber; grandchildren Nick Erber, Dave Erber, Lindsey (Raymond) Ranstadler, Isaac (Shantel) Erber and Logan Erber; great grandchildren Allie and Joey Ranstadler, Caitlin and Jace Erber and Caden Erber; brother Chet Spaniak; sisters Esther Burgess and Virginia Stephenson and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband of fifty four years Gary; sons Dave and Rick Erber and brother Victor Spaniak.

Visitation will be held Monday, December 29, 2014 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at St. Augustine Church in Boyne Falls with a Rosary being recited at 7:00 PM.

Mass will be celebrated 11:00 AM Tuesday, December 30, 2014 at St. Augustine Church followed by a luncheon at the Hudson Township Hall. Burial will take place at St. Augustine Cemetery in Boyne Falls.

Family and friends wishing to share a thought or memory are encouraged to do so online at www.stonefuneralhomeinc.com. Stackus Funeral Home of Boyne City is serving the family.

Lois Ruth Cavaness, 80

Lois Ruth Cavaness of East Jordan died Tuesday, December 23,

2014, at Grandvue Medical Care Facility in East Jordan, Michigan.

She was born on March 14, 1934, in Flint, Michigan, the daughter of Floyd and Evelyn (Sandle) Dickenson. She married Thomas "Bud" Cavaness in October of 1955 and they made their home in Flint. Lois worked for AC and later AC Delco in Flint. She vacationed with her family in East Jordan for many summers. They moved to East Jordan after her retirement.

She loved spending time with her family. She also enjoyed boating and cooking.

Lois is survived by one daughter, Kelly Penell of Texas; three sons, Rick Cavaness of Flint, Tony (Terrie) Cavaness of East Jordan and Thomas (Cheryl) Cavaness of East Jordan; seven grandchildren; several great grandchildren; one sister, Kathy Escue of Flint; as well as several nieces and nephews. Lois was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas "Bud" Cavaness.

No services are scheduled at this time. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Cavaness Family at 2099 Mt. Bliss Road, East Jordan, MI 49727

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

Glenn Ross, 67

Glenn Ross of Boyne City passed away on Monday, Dec. 22, 2014, at his home.

A memorial service for Glenn will take place this spring and a full obituary will follow.

Stackus Funeral Home of Boyne City is serving the family.

Barbara Draper Ryan, 93

Barbara Draper Ryan of Charlevoix, formerly of Milford, N.H., died Thursday, Dec. 18, 2014, at Charlevoix Area Hospital.

She was born in Nashua, N.H., Feb. 27, 1921, to Lee S. and Sara (White) Kendall.

Barbara made her home in Milford for most of her life and spent winters in Sebring, Fla., later moving to Michigan in 1999.

She enjoyed traveling, reading, cooking and playing golf. She was a lifelong member of the First Congregational Church of Milford, UCC; a member of Harley Sanford Post No. 4368 VFW Auxiliary, and the Puritan-Charity-Themis-Atlantic Chapter No. 29 O.E.S. in Milford. A 12-year resident of the Charlevoix Country Club, she regularly played with the Ladies Golf League.

Barbara worked with her husband at Draper Chevrolet in Milford. She was a loving and devoted mother and grandmother and cherished the time spent with her family. She was predeceased by her first husband, Harry K. Draper, in 1982, and her second husband, Joseph H. Ryan, in 1998.

She is survived by her sons, David (Stephanie) Draper of Charlevoix, Richard K. Draper of Hartford, Wis.; grandchildren, Todd L. Draper of Brattleboro, Vt., and Chad Draper of Ellsworth; sister, Marjorie Medlyn of Milford.

A memorial service will take place at the Smith & Heald Funeral Home, 63 Elm St., Milford, N.H., at a date to be determined. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, Milford.

Donations may be made to Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, (breast cancer), P.O. Box 650309 Dallas, Texas 75265-0309, ww5.komen.org or to the ALS Association, www.alsa.org.

Arrangements are in the care of Smith & Heald Funeral Home, Milford; in cooperation with Winchester Funeral Home, Charlevoix. To share a memory or offer a condolence, go to www.smith-heald.com

Charlevoix County News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 28

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EAST JORDAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Pickers Exchange

They were Pickin' before Pickin' was cool

By Tina Sundelius

EAST JORDAN—Marcia and Patrick Gibbard opened Picker's Exchange on Water Street in November of 2013. Since then the shop of unique and antique goodies has picked their way to the top of community awareness and popularity. Picker's Exchange is the East Jordan area Chamber of Commerce's business of the month.

Garage sales, estate sales, thrift shops, storage unit auctions, or digging through treasures in a hoarder's home, the Gibbards have and will do it all. They love picking and they have turned their love of searching through the

rubble to find the prize in the Cracker Jack box into an upscale antique shop. "My husband and I love to "Pick" and in our line of work that means searching for the rarest of the rare, chasing the hot items that everyone wants, finding historical gems that have been hidden for years, and getting them safely to their new home," said Marcia.

The Gibbards have traveled far distances to get the unusual and the sought after items. This is what behind the success of Picker's Exchange. "Pat and I have been pickin' before pickin' was cool," she said. The shop advertises Buy * Sell * Trade. In the past year the shop has seen

a great deal of consigned items filter through and many happy customers. "If we don't have it in our shop now, tell us what you are looking for and we'll find it," she said.

Pickers Exchange does trades, lay-a-ways and they will engage in some old-fashioned dickering. "Dickering is part of the chase. Pat and I have a passion for what we do, and enjoy the smiles of our customers when they feel they have gotten a great deal and we make money to. We like it to be a win-win for everyone," said Marcia.

As part of the East Jordan community and business owners they try to offer entertainment such as "Cruise in" events held throughout the summer months and flea markets in the parking lot. In the coming year, Pickers Exchange plans to continue these events as well as another "mock" antique road show, and perhaps smaller antique workshops such as stamp collecting, coin collecting, specific era of furniture, glasswares and more.

Pickers Exchange is located at 507 Water Street in East Jordan. Phone 231-803-4485.

Business of the Month is sponsored by the East Jordan Chamber of Commerce and the Charlevoix County News

Pickers Exchange owner, Marcia and Patrick Gibbard



Bridge Drop

continued from 1A

12pm to 12am.

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. Music acts featured are The Pistil Whips, Ken Harris and The Jon Archambault Band.

The Bridge Drop will

take place at 11:45pm followed by the best New Year's Eve Firework Show in the Midwest taking place at midnight! View the fireworks from the Bridge, the sidewalks along the channel (weather dependant), or the end of Pine River Lane. Once the fireworks are over, stop into one of the many downtown restaurants and bars to continue the New Year celebration. Most establishments will have live music, special drinks, and late night

menus.

There are still some Bridge Drop Raffle tickets available! Fireworks Raffle Tickets are 1 for \$10 and 3 for \$20. Grand prize is \$1000 and all proceeds help fund the fireworks show! Get your tickets at Randall Chiropractic, Bridge Street Taproom, Charlevoix DDA, or Charlevoix Visitors Bureau.

Check out www.bridgedrop.com for more information.

FOOD . FUN . FIREWORKS

BRIDGE DROP

charlevoix

10a-4p: Snowman Contest
Bring your family and friends down to Bridge Park to make your own snowman. Stop at the Charlevoix Public Library to register and get your snowman making kit. The snowman contest will be judged at 4p, with the winner(s) receiving great prizes!

12p-4p: Sled Dog Rides
Second Chance Mushers, a non profit rescue for huskies and malamutes will be on hand to give children a short ride through downtown. \$5 suggested donation.

12p-8p: S'mores and Hot Cocoa
Need to warm up? No problem, burn barrels will be placed throughout Bridge Park. S'mores and hot chocolate will be also be available.

2p-6p: Crafts & Bingo
The Charlevoix Circle of Arts will be hosting a craft station and rotating games of Bingo at their location on Clinton Street.

2p-6p: Fat Tire Bike Rides
Have you ever wanted to try your skills riding in the snow? Revolution Bikes will have fat tire bikes available to try on our Bridge Drop Bike Course.

Evening: Free Children's Movie
Now that it's dark out, head inside for a free children's movie at Charlevoix Cinema III. Movie will be rated PG.

Special After Christmas Sales: All Day
The perfect chance to find that special item Santa didn't bring.

Food Trucks: 12p-12a
Pigs Eatin' Ribs and The Pita Cruiser will be on hand to help satisfy your craving for some fast and delicious grub.

Dinner and Drink Specials: All Day
Special menus and signature drinks at area restaurants! Check out Facebook for more info.

Bridge Drop Brew Tent: 3p-11:45p
Try more than 15 kinds of Michigan micro-brews and a selection of Michigan wines. 21 and up only. Live Entertainment includes:
The Pistil Whips
Ken Harris
The Jon Archambault Band

Bridge Drop & Fireworks: 11:45p-12:05p
Who needs a ball when you have a bridge? Join us at 11:45 when the bridge will be raised and lowered signaling the countdown to midnight: the firework show that will light up Charlevoix's beautiful lighthouse!

Live Entertainment: 10p-2p
After the fireworks are over, stop in at one of the many bars and restaurants in Downtown Charlevoix that are offering live entertainment.

New Years Eve

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Tropic Cove, 1840 Harbor Petoskey Road! !

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Keep Your New Year's Resolutions

Deb Hagen-Foley

Have you made New Year's Resolutions? 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.

The authors of Book of Odds reported that the top 10 New Year's resolutions for 2014 were: Lose Weight, Get Organized, Spend Less, Save More, Enjoy Life to the Fullest, Stay Fit and Healthy, Learn Something Exciting, Quit Smoking, Help Others Achieve their Dreams, Fall in Love, or to Spend More Time with Family. These are all worthwhile goals, and perhaps some are on your list of resolutions as well.

According to the American Psychological Association (APA), you will be more successful in achieving your resolutions if you work on one behavior at a time. If you have a list of resolutions, focus on one to start, practice that habit until it becomes a regular activity for you before moving on to another resolution. Another recommendation from APA, start small. If it is your goal to maintain a regular exercise schedule, start with three days per week and 30 minutes per session. If you are not a regular exerciser and you commit to exercising seven days per week and 60 minutes each time, you are likely to fail. Choose a goal that is attainable and build on small successes.

If you don't meet your goal, don't beat yourself up over it, according to the APA. You are going to stray from your new behavior from time-to-time. Don't consider yourself a



failure and give up entirely. Just pick up where you left off. Don't wait and commit to making the same resolution next year. Continue to work toward your goals right away.

Also important in keeping your resolutions, share your goals with others. Those who vocalize and record their goals are more likely to achieve them. Telling family and friends about your resolutions for

2015 increases your sense of accountability to meet your goals and makes it possible to reach out to others for support when you encounter challenges. Also, if you feel unprepared to tackle your goals on your own, reach out for support, from family and friends or professionals. May all your resolutions bring you to a happier and healthier 2015!

While spreading holiday cheer is fully appreciated, spreading the flu is not.

As Christmas and the New Year close in and people gather to celebrate the holidays, influenza activity in Northern Michigan is rising. Reported cases of the flu have "increased drastically" throughout the state, according to the Michigan Department of Community Health.

"The flu spreads easily this time of year," said Suzette Daly, Family and Community Health Nurse Supervisor at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. "Not only are people traveling and attending celebrations, but some may be infected but have no symptoms. During this time, those people may unknowingly spread the virus to others."

The key to staying healthy this

season is prevention. The Health Department of Northwest Michigan encourages everyone to receive the influenza vaccine. "Vaccination is the best way to protect against the flu," Daly said. "It can prevent serious illness and save lives, especially among children and the elderly. And it's not too late to vaccinate!"

The vaccine, which offers protection through the entire flu season, is available in two forms: the flu shot or nasal spray. The shot is approved for everyone ages six (6) months and older, whereas the nasal spray is approved for healthy individuals 2-49 years old who are not pregnant. Additional steps to preventing illness include covering

coughs and sneezes, washing hands, and avoiding those that are sick. If one does become ill with flu-like symptoms, he or she should stay at home and rest.

Residents are encouraged to contact their physicians or the Health Department to learn more about flu vaccination and other preventative measures. Cost for seasonal flu vaccination at the Health Department is \$30. Medicaid and Medicare are accepted, as well as private insurance, or clients may pay by cash or check. For more information or to schedule an appointment with the Health Department, call (800) 432-4121 or visit www.nwhealth.org.

Drs. Oz and Roizen

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



MODERN LIFE VERSUS YOUR BACK: WIN THE FIGHT

If you're among the 31 million Americans with an aching back, here's an important message from your spine: Stop hunching! Get that bowling ball out of your purse, backpack or other tote; put out that cigarette; and change positions frequently.

New research confirms that modern life habits are a major trigger for the most common kind of back pain - not the type caused by arthritis or a major disease, but back pain that's linked to stuff you do every day that pushes, pulls, bends and torques your spine.

Do You Have Text Neck?

A brand-new report from the New York Spine Surgery and Rehabilitation Medicine center has identified "text neck" -- bending your head down to check your messages -- as a major source of chronic back pain. That's because your head weighs about 10-12 pounds, a weight your spine and the muscles that support it can manage easily when you stand up straight. Tilt about 15 degrees (the amount you might bend your neck to see if you have a text) and the load on your upper spine more than doubles, to 27 pounds. As you tilt further downward, the weight increases. It hits 40 pounds at a 30-degree tilt (about how far you'd bend your neck to read the tiny print on your screen) and a whopping 60 pounds at 60 degrees (bending your neck down far enough to feel the pull in your shoulders). That's gotta hurt, and it does.

That bend distorts the natural curve of your back, leading to inflammation and "wear, tear, degeneration and possibly surgeries." That's important news for America's 58 million-plus smartphone users, who spend up to four hours a day hunched over their tiny screens. That adds up to over 1,000 hours of extra spinal stress per year!

Protect your back: Hold your phone up higher when reading and sending messages. And avoid other hazards that throw your spine off-kilter, like heavy purses and backpacks, and sitting on a thick wallet in your back pocket. All of these knock your spine to one side. Lighten the purse or backpack, and keep your wallet to a quarter inch thick or less (keep bills in your front pocket and carry fewer credit cards).

Smokin' Spine Pain

A tobacco habit triples your risk for back pain, says a new study from Northwestern University. We already knew that cigarettes boosted odds for backaches, but this report reveals just how much damage they can do -- and how. Brain scans of 160 people with back pain show that smoking strengthens the connection between two parts of the brain that convert temporary pain into chronic pain. Pain relievers dull the ache but don't put a dent in this superhighway to agony. What works: Kicking the butts. For smokers who quit during the study, this connection became less active and more like that of nonsmokers. That's good news, because it means their risk for chronic pain dropped, too.

Protect your back: Quit smoking. It's never too late to try. Don't be discouraged by relapses; just try again. Find out about the best way to become an ex-smoker at sharecare.com.

Sitting, Standing and Spinal Stress

If you're on your feet all day, you probably already know that prolonged standing can do a number on your spine, but so can prolonged sitting at a desk. Doing either one the wrong way puts extra pressure on your spine's stack of discs and surrounding muscles.

Protect your back: Supportive footwear can help if you stand for much of the day. Taking brief breaks to sit or move around works, too. If your job keeps you at your desk, get up every 20-30 minutes, walk around and stretch for 90 seconds. Make sure your desk chair supports your lower back and that you can keep your feet flat on the floor, with your knees at hip level or a little lower. Use a headset instead of tucking your phone between your ear and shoulder, 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.

(c) 2014 Michael Roizen, M.D. and Mehmet Oz, M.D. Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.



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(800) 248-6777
northernhealth.org

Mercy Hospital
1100 Michigan Ave., Grayling
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Charlevoix Area Hospital
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www.gaylordsgym.com

HOME HEALTH CARE

Health Dept. of NW Michigan
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231-547-6092
www.nwhealth.org

Northern Management Services
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989-732-6374
www.northernmanagement.org

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Boyne Rehabilitation Center
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231-582-6365

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www.otsego-county-coa.org

Crawford County COA
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989-348-8342
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

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2572 North US 131
Elmira
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www.MyOMH.org

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

BOYNE CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Student of the Week



Katelyn Skornia

Grade: 12 **Parent(s):** Dave and Lynn Skornia

Future Plans: "Currently, I am planning on attending Michigan State University in the fall to study Biosystems Engineering."

School Activities: Drama, Student Council, Pride Team, Soccer, Robotics, National Honors Society, Yearbook

Hobbies and Interests: 4-H market Livestock raising and showing steers and pigs (Youth President of Emmet-Charlevoix Program), Playing piano, Horseback riding

Additional Comments: "I am so thankful to be able to call myself a Rambler and couldn't be more proud of my Class of 2015! Boyne Tough!"

Staff Comments:

"Katelyn is an outstanding all around student. She does a great job of participating in class discussions and has shown tremendous academic writing ability in College English." – John Hertel

"Katelyn is an invaluable member of the Pride Team. Her ideas, enthusiasm, and just general care for others shines bright at everything she does!" – Cindi Place

"Katelyn is an outstanding lead member of the BC Blaze robotics program. She has been instrumental in the team's success in the Engineering Inspiration and Entrepreneurial Awards during last year's season. She is an exceptional individual in the areas of dedication, commitment, hard-work as well as determination to understand what she is learning. Katelyn represents herself and her school extremely well in everything she does." – Karen Jarema, Principal

"Katelyn is not only an incredibly bright student; she is kind to others and very responsible. The number of extra-curricular activities she has been involved in is impressive: Robotics, National Honor Society, 4-H, Student Council, soccer, cross country, Drama, Equestrian team, Jazz Band and Marching Band, and more! To be able to balance all those activities while earning all A's is a skill that she will carry with her into college. There is no doubt that she will be extremely successful." – Cathy Brown, Guidance Counselor

Leadership Charlevoix County obtains 501c3 non-profit status

Individuals looking to donate toward a non-profit organization enhancing leadership opportunities in Charlevoix County now have a new opportunity – Leadership Charlevoix County.

The Board of Directors of the Leadership Charlevoix County (LCC) program has announced the organization has received its 501c3 non-profit status, allowing the organization to now accept financial gifts.

A special LCC committee led by board member Lori Meeder worked diligently with the CPA firm of Mason, Kammermann & Rohrback to prepare the required documentation and file the application for non-profit status.

LCC Board Chair Dianne Litzenburger is excited about this accomplishment. "Obtaining 501c3 non-profit status not only elevates the credibility of the program, but allows businesses and individuals to support leadership throughout Charlevoix County through financial donations and they

will receive tax benefits for doing so," she said.

Leadership Charlevoix County began in 2011 as a joint effort of the Charlevoix, Boyne City, East Jordan and Beaver Island Chambers of Commerce. The program features nine monthly day-long sessions and has served a total of 55 participants – including this year's class of 16 individuals. With leadership enhancement as part of its strategic plan, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation was also instrumental in providing grant money to help the program get off the ground.

As a result of the new non-profit status, Leadership Charlevoix County is continuing its relationship with the Charlevoix County Community Foundation to develop the "Leadership Charlevoix County Fund" through which donations will be used to sustain the program, enhance offerings, and provide scholarships for future participants.

LCC Program Coordinator Scott Gillespie sees a bright future for the program. "This new opportunity for businesses and individuals to financially support the program will allow us to elevate our offerings to the community. Our next step is to identify areas where LCC can further enhance leadership by considering programs for LCC alumni, as well as services provided directly to businesses and organizations."

If you are interested in donating to the Leadership Charlevoix County Fund, you can mail your tax deductible check made payable to: Leadership Charlevoix County, PO Box 273, East Jordan MI 49727. If you have any questions or would like to be a program sponsor, contact Gillespie via e-mail at leadershipcharlevoixcounty@gmail.com or call him any time at 989-444-1695. For more information about the program, visit www.leadershipcharlevoix-county.com.

Leadership Charlevoix County Board of Directors include (front row, from left) Val Meyerson, Valerie Snyder, Mary Faculak, Alison Hubbard, (back row from left) Program Coordinator Scott Gillespie, Maureen Radke, Corey Bascom, Jim Baumann, Board Chair Dianne Litzenburger and Frank Leonard. Missing from photo are board members Tom Cannon, Lyn Jenks, Lori Meeder, Ann Partridge and Kim Swidorski.

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BOYNE CITY POLICE DEPT.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

- 0453 Private property damage accident in the 300 block of E Division St
- 1109 Report of windows broken out of residence in the 400 block of Boyne Av
- 1314 Harassment complaint reported from the 400 block of Boyne Av
- 1319 Property damage accident in the 200 block of E Water St
- 1547 Noise complaint from the 200 block of W Court St
- 1911 Loud music reported in the 300 block of E Division St
- 1925 Vehicle unlock in the 4000 block of State St
- 1939 Citation issued for running a stop sign
- 2106 Assist EMS in the 700 block of S Park St
- 2220 Report of fraud call in the 1000 block of S Lake St.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 0130 Ferret bite reported in the 300 block of W Morgan.
- 0543 Alarm activation in the 1100 block of M-75 S.
- 0952 Report of found drill on Main St
- 1329 Assist EMS in the 1300 block of Boyne Av
- 1441 Report of a fraud call

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 0938 Suspicious situation in the 100 block of Silver St
- 0953 Alarm in the 800 block of Front St.
- 1310 Report of fraud call from the 500 block of W Michigan
- 1653 Panic alarm in the 100 block of E Water St
- 1734 Assist Sheriff Dept with car deer accident on Boyne City Rd
- 1801 Property damage accident at Boyne Ave and Boyne Summit.
- 1929 Assist Sheriff Dept on M-75 N

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

- 0615 Assist Sheriff Dept with Personal Injury Accident at Boyne City-East Jordan Rd and Pleasant Valley.
- 0800 Citizen on Silver St reporting fraud call regarding back taxes
- 1327 B&E in the 500 block of W. Michigan Ave
- 1377 Arrested 2 subjects for MIP in the 400 block of W Michigan

- 2116 Driving complaint reported in the 300 block of E Main St
- 2247 Assist Emmet County Sheriff Dept in the 700 block of S Lake St

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

- 0918 Prescription fraud in the 100 block of E Water St
- 1200 Report of possible injured deer in the 400 block of N Lake St
- 1233 Disturbance in the 500 block of W Michigan.
- 1559 Private Property Damage Accident in the 400 block of N Lake St
- 2012 Well-being check in the 500 block of N Lake St
- 2301 Assist Sheriff Dept with a roll over on 131 at Boyne Mtn. Rd.
- 2318 Assist MSP on M-75 N. with a trespass and possession of marijuana complaint

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 0858 Unlock at the Farmers Market.
- 1240 Report of 2 dogs RAL on E. Division
- 2109 Attempted suicide in the 600 block of Jay Cee Ln.
- 2230 Assault in the 1000 block of S Lake St.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 0305 Assist County with a domestic dispute in the Villa de Charlevoix.
- 0921 Car deer accident at Marshall and Anderson
- 1059 Citation issued for speed. Written warnings for seatbelt and vision obstruction
- 1304 Assist Sheriff Dept on Pincherry Rd
- 1335 Vehicle unlock in the 500 block of N Lake St

CHX. COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPT.

December 8-14
"CHARLEVOIX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WEEKLY STATISTICS
December 15- December 21 2014

911 Hang Up Call	2
Abandoned Vehicle	0
Abuse	0
Alarm	0
Animal Complaint	17
Annoyance	1
Assault	0
Assist Citizen	7
Assist Motorist	6
Assist Other Agency	14
Attempt to Locate	4
Attempted Suicide	0
Bank Alarm	0
Boating Accident	0
Boating Violation	0

Breaking & Entering	0
Car/Deer Accident	15
Citations Issued	13
Civil Complaint	6
Criminal Sexual Conduct	1
Death	0
Disorderly Person	0
Disturbance	2
DNR Complaint	0
Domestic Dispute	3
Driving Complaint	1
Fireworks Complaint	1
Found Property	0
Fraud	3
Health & Safety	0
Hit & Run	1
Intoxicated Person	1
Juvenile	0
Larceny	1
Lockout	9
Lost Property	0
Malicious Destruction of Property	2
Mental Subject	0
Minor In Possession	0
Miscellaneous Criminal	0
Missing Person	0
Noise Complaint	0
Operating Under the Influence	0
Paper Service	8
Parking Violation	0
Personal Injury Accident	3
Personal Protection Order	1
Private Property Accident	3
Property Check	15
Property Damage Accident	7
Prowler	0
Road Hazard	4
Stalking	0
Suspicious Situation	4
Threat	0
Traffic Stop	28
Trespassing	0
Unknown Accident	0
Unlawful Driving Away of Automobile	0
Vehicle in the Ditch	7
Violation of Controlled Substance Act	3

SHERIFF'S DEPT. K-9 DOG PASSES AWAY.

Sheriff W.D. (Don) Schneider with deepest sympathy reports the Sheriff's K-9 comrade for the past five and a half years, German Shepherd "Brek," was put to rest yesterday, December 22, 2014.

Over the past few weeks, Brek was displaying signs of discomfort of what appeared to be a torn ligament and was not his normal self. After thorough medical

examination, the prognosis was bone cancer in his shoulder.

Yesterday, Brek succumbed to his illness.

Sheriff Schneider gives praise and thanks to Cpl. Fred Hasty for his undivided care for his partner.

MAN EJECTED FROM VEHICLE DURING ROLLOVER ACCIDENT SUFFERS MINOR INJURIES.

On Friday December 19th around 11 p.m. Deputies from the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office, along with Boyne Valley EMS, Boyne Valley Fire, and the Michigan State Police, were called to a one vehicle roll-over accident on US-131 just South of Boyne Mountain in Boyne Valley Township.

19 year old Cameron Rose of Mancelona was traveling South on US 131 when it appears he fell asleep behind the wheel. Rose's 1999 Subaru crossed the centerline and ran off the road, rolling several times.

Rose was ejected from the car through the sunroof and was treated at the scene by First Responders. Rose was transported to McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital where he was kept for observation of his minor injuries. It is believed that Rose was not wearing his seatbelt at the time of the accident.

ROLLOVER ACCIDENT ON M-75 N.

On Tuesday December 23, 2014 at approximately 12:19 a.m., Deputies from the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office and Boyne City Police Department were dispatched to an unknown accident on M-75 N. near Old M-75 Loop in Melrose Township.

The accident occurred just North of Old M-75 Loop and it involved a single vehicle that had rolled over. The vehicle was found unoccupied and the driver was located a short time later.

The driver was identified as 26 year old Cory Toornman of Boyne City. Toornman sustained a minor injury to his wrist as a result of the accident. He was treated and released from the Charlevoix Area Hospital ER that same night.

It is believed that excessive speed and alcohol were contributing factors in the accident, which is still under investigation.



Cpl. Fred Hasty pictured with his K-9 partner Brek.

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

34th Annual Sno-Blast Schedule of Events announced

EAST JORDAN - The 34th Annual Sno-Blast Winter Festival Committee has announced the schedule of events for the February 6-7, 2015 festival.

The popular Rotary Chili Supper will kick off the weekend festivities on Friday night at 4:30 PM at the East Jordan Sno-Mobiler's Clubhouse. At 5:30 PM the Belle of the Blizzard and Winter Knight will be crowned at the Clubhouse. This year's candidates for Belle of the Blizzard are Gretchen Bender, Jessica Porter and Christy Steuer. Winter Knight Candidates include Brandon Marr, Rob Flore and Allan Peterson. Be sure to vote for your favorite candidates with your cash! All money raised for this competition helps to fund festival expenses. The community will be decorated with snow sculptures created to the "Sports" theme. This annual event is sponsored by Darlene's Restaurant. On Saturday, February 7 the East Jordan Sno-Mobiler's Clubhouse will be the site for the Antique/Classic Snowmobiler Show, Snowmobile Radar Runs and Snowmobile Drag Races. The 2nd Annual Blessing of the Sleds will be held at 10:00 AM by Father James Gardner of St. Joseph Catholic Church. Lunch will be available for races and spectators at the Sno-Mobiler's Clubhouse. For more information on the race or



radar run contact Tim Bingham at 231-537-4807 or Kevin Giar at 231-533-8810 - giarexcavating@hotmail.com.

Also on Saturday there will be Roller Skating at Harvest Barn Church, the Annual Softball in the Snow game at the East Jordan Adult Softball field, A Wild Game & Local Food Dinner and Film will take place at Martha Wagbo Farm and Education Center at beginning at 5:30 PM. The popular Sno-Lovers Breakfast kicks off Sunday Morning at 7:00 AM thru Noon at the E.J. Sno-Mobiler's Clubhouse.

The Mid-Winter Classic Fishing

Tournament sponsored by Tom's Bait & Tackle will run from 7:00AM on Feb. 6 thru Feb. 8 at noon. Contact Tom's Bait & Tackle at 231-536-3521. Cash and prizes will be awarded. Be sure to visit the local merchants. Many will be offering Indoor Sidewalk Sales. Enjoy dining in one of our restaurants or bars. Lodging is available. Check the East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce website. www.ejchamber.org phone 231-536-7351. East Jordan is a snowmobile friendly town!

TUESDAY: Buy 1 Entrée get one 1/2 Off
Fine dining just got more affordable!

WEDNESDAY: BURGER & BEER - \$8
\$8 - 1/3 pound burger served with chips and a domestic beer.

THURSDAY: PORTER CREEK RIB NIGHT
\$10 Half Rack/\$20 Full Rack - Served with vegetable, house made cole slaw and garlic mashed potatoes

FRIDAY: ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FISH & CHIPS - \$13.95
Beer-battered cod served with house-made cole slaw and french fries.

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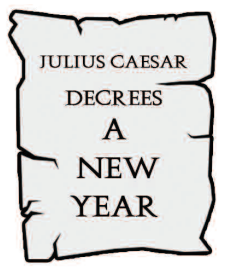
History of New Years

continued from 1A

in conjunction with an agricultural or astrological event. For the Egyptians, it was the annual flooding of the Nile and for the Chinese, it was the second new moon after the winter solstice.

Roman Emperor Julius Caesar was the first to implement January 1st as the first day of the year with the introduction of his Julian calendar, which closely resembles the Gregorian calendar that many countries use today. Romans celebrated the new year with sacrifices, exchanging gifts, decorating their homes, and attending parties. Christian leaders temporarily replaced January 1st as the first day of the year with December 25th and then March 25th, but Pope Gregory XIII reestablished January 1st as New Year's Day in 1582.

Now, there are many New Year's traditions all over the world. Here in the United States, we have celebrated with the Ball Drop in New York City's Times Square since 1907. Other places in the US celebrate their own version of the Ball Drop. In Spain, and other Spanish-speaking countries, people eat a dozen grapes right before midnight to symbolize their hopes for



the new year. Legumes are featured in many New Year's dishes because they resemble coins and are believed to herald future financial success. Lentils are used in Italy, and black-eyed peas are used in the southern US. Pigs represent progress and prosperity, so pork is a part of the menu for New Year's Eve in Cuba, Austria, Hungary, Portugal, and other countries. The Netherlands, Mexico, and Greece include ring-shaped cakes and pastries in their feast to symbolize that the year has come full circle. For Sweden and Norway, it's not pastries, but rice pudding with an almond inside that is tradition. Whoever finds the almond is believed to have 12 months of good fortune ahead of them.

Fireworks and New Year's Resolutions are a big part of New Year's for everyone. Even the resolutions have ancient roots and are thought to have originated with the Babylonians who made promises to win the favor of the gods. Whatever your New Year traditions are, have a safe and Happy New Year!

Why is January 1 date for New Year?

By Mike Dunn

The date of January 1 for the New Year goes back to Julius Caesar, the Roman emperor who ruled a generation before Jesus was born. His calendar, authorized in 46 B.C., used the 365-day solar calendar as its basis and became known as the Julian Calendar.

Janus, a mythical king of early Rome, had been used as the image of the new year more than 100 years before the Julian Calendar came into existence. Janus had two faces and could look back on past events and look forward to the future as well, so his image was associated with new beginnings. The month January is named after Janus for that reason.

At midnight on December 31, Romans pictured Janus looking back at the old year and looking ahead at the new year. The Romans started a tradition of exchanging gifts on New Year's Eve and they also made resolutions for the year ahead.

The idea of making New Year's resolutions was not original with the Romans, however. In fact, it dates all the way back to the early Babylonians (and they celebrated the New Year in the spring, not on January 1). Their most popular resolu-

tion was to return farm equipment.

The Romans, starting around 153 B.C., simply continued the tradition of New Year's resolutions that the Babylonians had started.

The most popular resolution that people make today, not surprisingly, is to lose weight. Other popular resolutions are to spend more time with the kids, quit smoking and save more money.

It would seem strange for us to recognize any other date besides Jan. 1 for the New Year. Another tradition Americans have grown up with - especially those of us who live in the Eastern Standard Time zone - is the dropping of the ball in Times Square. That tradition doesn't date back quite as far back as the Babylonians but it is more than 100 years old.

The first time the ball was dropped in Times Square was 1907. Actually, the idea of dropping the ball as a signal of the passing of time was taken from the English Royal Observatory at Greenwich, which started that particular tradition in 1833.

The first ball that was dropped in New York in 1907 was made of iron and wood and decorated with one hundred 25-watt light

bulbs. It was five feet in diameter and weighed about 700 pounds. The ball has been replaced seven times through the years, most recently in 2008. The new ball weighs nearly 12,000 pounds and is a 12-foot geodesic sphere covered in 2,668 Waterford crystals.

Dick Clark may not have been around for the first dropping of the ball in 1907 but he has been associated with New Year's Eve and the dropping of the ball since 1973. Even though Dick hasn't actually appeared on the show since 2003, it is still called Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve. Before Dick Clark, the name most associated with New Year's Eve in the U.S. was probably Guy Lombardo, whose band ushered in the New Year in New York for many years.

The song most associated with New Year's is "Auld Lang Syne." It was written by the Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1741 and first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Burns put words to a melody that was already popular in Scotland and it has become the standard for bringing in the New Year. "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago" or, in modern English, "the good old days."

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News Briefs

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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 Mushers - kiddos can even go on a dog sled ride! Pigs Eatn 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.

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.

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

Boyne Volunteer Network

Boyne 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 kroondykm@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 Fri-

days at United Methodist Church, Petoskey. Call (231)347-0067 or visit wr-cn-m.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.

DDA Director Resigns

continued from 1A

a temporary basis. An interview committee was also set up, which will have members of the DDA, City Council and city staff on it.

"Working for the city has been an invaluable experience for me. I have learned a great deal from the rest of the City Staff and wish them, and the DDA board, much luck in the future. I look forward to continuing to help the City of Charlevoix on any major community projects that they may take on. I am very proud of the accomplishments that the DDA has been able to complete in the last year and half and will miss working with all of the downtown business owners, community members, City Staff and DDA board," stated Pearson in a follow up interview.

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

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News

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Toys for Tots



The Marine Corps League of Northern Michigan collects and distributes 11,000 toys for tots annually, this rally recently at Fox Motors of Charlevoix shows a lineup of several volunteers happy to take truckloads of gathered toys to distribution centers helping children in need. PHOTO BY M. CHRIS L'EESE



On a mission to give away toys at Christmas, the Horbath siblings (from left) Lily, 2, Noah, 8, Caleb, 10 and Isaac, 11, followed by their mom, Robin Horbath of Petoskey bring in donations from their own allowances to share with children in need through the toys for tots round up recently at Fox Motors of Charlevoix. PHOTO BY M. CHRIS L'EESE

For Auld Lang Syne

The Tale of a New Year's Anthem

By Jim Akans

Forget about Hey Jude, My Way or even Goodnight Irene, one of the best known songs in English speaking countries, particularly as New Year's Eve rolls around, is the hearty refrains of Auld Lang Syne.

It's surfacing is brief, typically just after the stroke of midnight on December 31st and then it is safely tucked away amid the noisemakers and party hats for the next 364 days, 23 hours and 50-odd minutes. But its presence during those celebrated moments as the year changes faces is HUGE...it seems that everyone instinctively knows the words and melody.

Well, some of it anyway. Actually, there are five stanzas to the poem penned by Scotland's Robert Burns back in 1788. Typically, crowds gathering on New Years Eve sing verse one

and the chorus, and while venturesome spirits sing a shortened version of the full song comprised of verse one, five and the chorus. Seldom do the other versus resound with voices.

There is some serious contention to the claim of Mr. Burns having been the originator of the piece. A letter written by Burns to an acquaintance named Mrs. Agnes Dunlop suggests that he restored the piece based on fragments of an old ballad dating back to the 15th or 16th century. It is generally agreed that at least two of the versus, (3 & 4), are directly attributed to Burns writing style.

The melody for Auld Lang Syne (which translates to "old long since") is commonly credited to composer William Shield who originally used it in his 1783 opera; Rosina. The tune, with Burns words, quickly became popular as the last song sung as evening gatherings broke up. A ritual developed where the group stood in a circle, each person crossing his arms in front of his chest and clasping his neighbors' hands, and all arms swung forward and back in time with the music as the song was sung.

Give that a try when the clock strikes twelve this New Year's Eve.

Here are the complete lyrics to Auld Lang Syne. Happy New Year!

Auld Lang Syne

Robert Burns

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and days of auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne

We twa hae run about the braes
And pou'd the gowans fine;
we've wander'd mony a weary foot
Sin' auld lang syne

We two hae paidled i' the burn,
Frae mornin' sun till dine;
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
Sin' auld lang syne

And here's a hand, my trusty friend,
And gie's a hand o' thine;
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and days of auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne

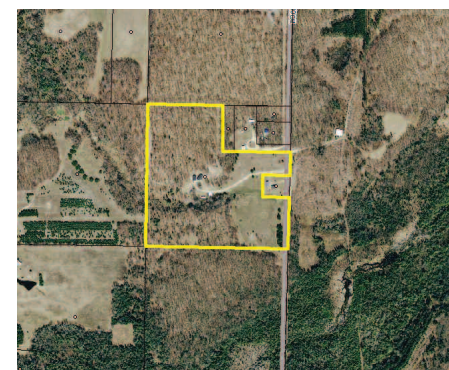
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