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Charlevoix County News

December 03, 2015

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100 year-old City Clock will be refurbished

By Michelle Medjesky

BOYNE CITY - As they're set to begin a \$7 million project to upgrade their city facilities, officials here agree it's about time to also look into restoring their more than 100 year-old City Clock, which they hope will emerge as a focal point of the project.

Boyne City commissioners voted last week unanimously in

favor of authorizing city staff to spend \$4,010 to bring consultants from the nation's only clock works company of its kind to Boyne City to inspect the City Clock, report on whether it can be re-used and prepare an estimate for its possible restoration.

Commissioners agreed the funds would be used to allow staff from Balzer Family Clockworks in Freeport, Maine to travel to Boyne City to inspect the clock

and report on whether pursuing its restoration should be included as part of the major upgrade planned for the city's offices, police, fire and EMS facilities.

While it has not been in working order for decades, Boyne City Manager Michael Cain said city officials ordered the clock in 1903 and it arrived in Boyne City in 1904. It was manufactured by the legendary E. Howard Watch & Clock Company based in Boston,



The original clock tower back in the early 1900s. (l). An artist rendition of the proposed new clock tower (r). PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BOYNE CITY OFFICES.



Massachusetts, a well-regarded clock making company that originated in 1842 and continues to operate today.

Cain said the original clock

tower was situated northeast of the intersection of South Park and Ray Streets, site of the current

See **Clock Tower**—3A

SPORTS REPORT

2015 Charlevoix County News All-Area Football Team Named



Boyne City's Malik Smith is the Charlevoix County News' 2015 All-Area Football Offensive Player of the Year. PHOTO BY CINDA SHUMAKER



Boyne City's Luke Sage is the Charlevoix County News' 2015 All-Area Football Defensive Player of the Year. PHOTO BY CINDA SHUMAKER

See the full team this week in Sports!

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East Jordan Community Night – Thursday, December 3rd from 5:30-8pm

East Jordan's Annual Community Night Celebration is scheduled for Thursday, December 3rd from 5:30 to 8pm downtown on Main Street. The popular Soup Cook-off will feature homemade soups from area restaurants at the East Jordan Community Center (former Senior Center) from 5:30 to 7:30pm. A donation of \$2 per person will benefit the Care & Share Food Pantry and a chance to vote for your favorite soup. The top three choices will be presented with plaques at the end of the event.

The Community Night will feature the fast growing – "Holiday Light Pa-

rade" which will come down Main Street at 6pm. Entries are being accepted at the Chamber Office 231-536-7351 or www.info@ejchamber.org. The parade will be followed by the lighting of the Community Tree at the corner of Spring and Hammond Streets. Everyone is welcome to join the fun of singing Christmas Carols around the tree led by Citizens of the Year Bill and Linda Chase. Citizens of the Year will also flip the switch on the Christmas Tree at 6:15pm. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will visit with children at 126 Main Street,

See **EJ Community Night** –3A



COURTESY PHOTO



Matt Radulski, Construction Engineer with the MDOT North Region Service Center in Gaylord, was at the Charlevoix Public Library last week answering questions from area residents about a major upgrade planned for the bascule bridge in downtown Charlevoix.

MDOT hosts forum on Bridge construction

By Michelle Medjesky

CHARLEVOIX - This time next year, right around Christmas, residents in Charlevoix can expect to see the usual downtown holiday lights and decorations, but they'll also likely notice work beginning on a major project to upgrade the city's bascule bridge, widely known as the gateway to the city's downtown district.

A team of engineers from the Michigan Department of Transportation's north region center in Gaylord were at the Charlevoix Public Library last week to explain the \$1.3 million project and answer questions from the public.

Matt Radulski, MDOT Construction Engineer, detailed the project and its timeline to a crowd of about two dozen area residents at the informational session.

Radulski said the first phase of the upgrade process will begin with MDOT soliciting contractor bids, which it intends to do in May, 2016. Next, work is set to begin on the bridge sometime around December 20, 2016. If all goes according to plan, the final step, project completion, is tentatively slated for May 25, 2017, he said.

Most all of the work throughout the project duration will be done on half of the bridge at a time, leaving one lane of

See **Bridge** –4A

Charlevoix Merchant Open House & Cocoa Contest – Saturday, December 5th

'Tis' the season for the holiday festivities to begin! On Saturday, December 5th, merchants will be armed with entertainment, samples, refreshments, special sales, raffles and more during the Charlevoix Merchant Open House. Make sure to go into the season well prepared by taking advantage of this special event; it's the perfect place for inspiration and acquisition of all your holiday needs. Whether you're shopping for that must have gift or those little, but necessary stocking stuffers, you can find it all in Charlevoix this holiday season.

In addition to the great sales, Santa will arrive downtown by City Fire Truck at 9:30am to spread some holiday cheer for the children. Santa will be at Charlevoix Cinema III from 9:30am to 1:30pm. There is no fee for your child to visit with Santa, but after he departs, children are invited to stay and watch a free full-length holiday movie sponsored by Charlevoix State Bank. This year's movie is The Polar Express. For entry, please bring a canned-good to benefit the Charlevoix Food



Charlevoix Hot Cocoa Contest



Pantry. While children enjoy the movie, parents are able to relax, sample and shop at the Open House without interruption!

Don't miss the 3rd Annual Charlevoix Hot Cocoa Contest taking place from Noon to 5pm. Follow the "Cocoa Trail" to sample and vote for your favorite recipe. Participating restaurants will set up cocoa stations in downtown stores for your sampling convenience. Just look for the "Cocoa Trail" posters in the store-front windows to stop in, sample and vote for your favorite cocoa creation. The Cocoa Trail is available online at www.charlevoix.org.

The Merchant Open House is also a great opportunity to Shop Small and support your local businesses during the holidays. With this in mind, the Charlevoix Main Street Program is offering a great holiday promotion this year! Spend \$50 in downtown stores (receipts may be combined) from November 27 to December 24 for a chance to win \$500 in Chamber Checks. For details visit www.charlevoixmainstreet.org or call 231-547-3257. This initiative is part of the Small Business Saturday shop local campaign started by American Express in 2010.

So make a list, check it twice and head to the Charlevoix Merchant Open House! For additional information visit www.charlevoix.org or call 231-547-2101.

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News

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weather

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HIGH: 38 LOW: 31	HIGH: 42 LOW: 30	HIGH: 48 LOW: 36	HIGH: 43 LOW: 30	HIGH: 43 LOW: 30	HIGH: 41 LOW: 32	HIGH: 44 LOW: 33

record temps

DAY	AVG LOW	AVG HIGH	RECORD LOW	RECORD HIGH
DEC 3	.....25°	.....38°	.....-1° (1976)	...64° (1982)
DEC 4	.....25°	.....38°	.....-2° (1966)	...60° (1951)
DEC 5	.....25°	.....37°	.....-10° (1964)	...62° (2001)
DEC 6	.....24°	.....37°	.....-14° (1964)	...64° (2001)
DEC 7	.....24°	.....37°	.....-4° (1954)	...51° (1988)
DEC 8	.....24°	.....36°	.....-2° (1977)	...53° (1990)
DEC 9	.....23°	.....36°	.....-3° (1962)	...52° (1952)
DEC 10	.....23°	.....36°	.....-2° (1977)	...51° (1971)

OBITUARIES

Mary B Colston (Sutts), 55

(FEB. 20, 1960 - NOV. 28, 2015)

Mary Colston of Boyne City Michigan (formally of Fowlerville MI), passed away Saturday November 28th, 2015 at her home surrounded by family.

Mary was born February 20th 1960 to Donald and Phyllis (Eby) Sutts. She married her husband Craig Colston on May 4th, 1979 in Temperance MI. Mary enjoyed gardening, scrapbooking, traveling, and spending time with her family.

Mary is survived by her children Christopher (April), Matthew, and Emily, two grandsons Brayden and Carter, her father Donald (Novella) Sutts; four sisters; two brothers; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded by death by her husband Craig and mother Phyllis.

Graveside services were held at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Boyne City on Tuesday Dec 1st, 2015.

Memorial donations may be made in her name to Hospice of Little Traverse Bay.

Family and friends wishing to share a thought or memory of Mary are encouraged to do so online at www.stonefuneralhome-inc.com.

Stackus Funeral Home of Boyne City is serving the family.

Virginia G. Biehl, 93

(AUG. 6, 1922 - NOV. 27, 2015)

Virginia G. Biehl of Mancelona passed away on November 27, 2015 at the Heritage Haus in Bellaire.

Virginia was born on August 6, 1922, in East Jordan, the daughter of William and Iva (Bingham) Archer.

Virginia was raised in East Jordan and married Arthur Biehl on Christmas Eve in 1938. She resided in Mancelona for many years. She



was the driving force behind her husband and family running "Arts Turkey Farm" in Mancelona for many years. She did seasonal work in the canning factory in Central Lake and Ellsworth as well.

She and her husband, Art, spent 35 years wintering in Florida following their retirement. She spent the last year and a half residing at the Heritage Haus in Bellaire, where she received exceptional care from Chyrle and her outstanding staff and also received that same care from Amy with Hospice.

She is survived by her husband, Arthur Lynn Biehl, as well as 3 children, Shirley (Glen) Near of Saginaw, Jerry (Karen) Biehl of Rapid City, Kathy (Mikel) Schultz of Eagle River, AK, a loving daughter-in-law Wanda Biehl (VanZile) of Three Rivers, sister, Margaret Drost of Charlevoix, 11 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, 15 great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a son, Arthur (Artie) James Biehl, and grandson, Jerry Ronald Biehl,

as well as her parents and five brothers and one sister.

Funeral services were held on Monday, November 30, 2015 at the Mancelona Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes with Pastor Todd Shafer officiating.

Interment followed in Fairview Cemetery, Mancelona.

Please sign her online guest-book at www.mortensenfuneral-homes.com.

John Alan Shafranski, 59

(SEPT. 20, 1956 - NOV. 24, 2015)

John Alan Shafranski of Banks Township, Antrim County, died Tuesday, November 24, 2015, in Charlevoix. He was born September 20, 1956, in Mount Clemens to Paul P. and Esther (Bindek) Shafranski. John grew up in Mem-



phis, Michigan and graduated from Memphis High School in 1974.

He worked as a finish carpenter, and most recently as caretaker for a private residence.

John was an avid hunter and fisherman. He enjoyed boating. He was a member of the Fort Detroit German Wirehaired Pointer Club of Michigan.

John is survived by his sister, Claudia M. (Pete) Matesowicz of Memphis; partner, Julie Mervin of Antrim County; former wife, Debbie (Marshall) Campbell of Lexington; nieces, Jaclyn (Bobby) Stockoski of Clarkston, Caroline (Michael) Hax of Richmond; great nephew Leo Stockoski.

Service was held Saturday, November 28, at the Winchester Funeral Home in Charlevoix officiated by Paul Bradley.

Memorial contributions may be made to Good Samaritan Family Services, PO Box 206, Ellsworth, MI 49729.

Charlevoix
County News
VOLUME 7, ISSUE 24

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Publisher

DAVE BARAGREY I

Office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com

Editor

JIM AKANS

News@CharlevoixCountyNews.com

Sports Reporters

CHRIS FIEL

sports@charlevoixcountynews.com

MIKE DUNN

Mike@WeeklyChoice.com

BEN MURPHY

BenMurphySports@WeeklyChoice.com

ANDY SNEDDON

andysneddon36@yahoo.com

Distribution

JEFF BARAGREY

Jeff@WeeklyChoice.com

Photography

SCOTT RICHARDS

Scott@CharlevoixCountyNews.com

CINDA SHUMAKER

RACHEL LANGE

M. CHRIS LEESE

Office

CATHY BARAGREY

CB@WeeklyChoice.com

Website Administrator

CHAD BARAGREY

Advertising Sales

CHARLEVOIX & EMMET COUNTY

MICHELLE MEDJESKY

mm@WeeklyChoice.com

Cell - 231-330-6274

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tina@charlevoixcountynews.com

JEFF JOHNSON

JJohnson@WeeklyChoice.com

Cell - 989-370-7685

OTSEGO COUNTY

MICHELLE NOIROT

Michelle@WeeklyChoice.com

EMMET COUNTY

ANDY BACKUS

Back@WeeklyChoice.com

231-881-6225

News Reporters

TINA SUNDELIUS

tina@charlevoixcountynews.com

KRYSTAL JOHNSON

krystalbirgy@gmail.com

NORMA JEAN BABCOCK

NJ@CharlevoixCountyNews.com

MICHELLE MEDJESKY

mm@WeeklyChoice.com

Comfort Keepers announces Golden Wish recipients

Comfort Keepers of Northern Lower Michigan has announced the first three winners of their Golden Wishes program, giving each of these area seniors the opportunity to have a wish come true. Wish fulfillment events are starting this week and will continue through the rest of the year.

"Golden Wishes was established to celebrate local, deserving seniors and offer them a chance at receiving the wish of a lifetime," said Leslie Knopp, Comfort Keepers owner. "With this year being our 10-year anniversary, it felt like the perfect time to do something special. It has been our honor finding ways to make dreams come true for these wonderful people!"

The first wish was granted on November 23 to Sanford Sweet of East Jordan. Mr. Sweet is a 74-year-old Veteran, retired pilot and local mechanic. He was nominated by caregiver Belinda Shawl to go for a plane ride. Belinda felt that taking Mr. Sweet up in a plane again would remind him of his past flights and give him the opportunity to enjoy

some time outside of his home. To thank Mr. Sweet for his past service and honor this wish of a lifetime, Comfort Keepers arranged for him to leave the Charlevoix Airport to fly to Beaver Island and back on Island Airways with pilot Jim Slough.

On Friday, November 27 at 1:30 pm, 94-year-old Carmen Miller of Traverse City will receive the Golden Wish of music, as requested by her daughters, Charlotte Miller and Martha Cornell. Comfort Keepers has arranged a special piano and violin recital by Ivan and Nicholas Suminski to honor Mrs. Miller. As she loves sharing the gift of music, the residents of Traverse Manor have also been invited to attend. Mrs. Miller has been passionate about music her entire life. Graduating with a music education degree, she fueled this passion as a music teacher, playing for church services, at women's teas, teaching family, and as a Detroit Symphony Orchestra member. Mrs. Miller and her husband enjoyed attending Interlochen Center for the Arts concerts, but she is no longer able to do so due to

her health. **Coverage of this wish will need to be done outside of the event—either at Traverse Manor or at the Comfort Keepers office.**

Over the years, 90-year-old Donna Watkins of Carp Lake has made hundreds of quilts to generously give to others. Ms. Watkins' love of quilting is why friend Verna Fay nominated her for the Golden Wish of attending a large quilting show. Comfort Keepers is providing her with an all expenses paid trip for two to a show in Sault St. Marie. Mrs. Watkins also volunteers as an usher at the Cheboygan Opera House, started a Bliss Bunch extension group, is a member of the Carp Lake Women's Group, a volunteer baker for church activities and has taught quilting classes.

Comfort Keepers will announce additional Golden Wishes winners next month.

For more information or questions about Comfort Keepers, call (231) 929-9044, visit www.comfort-keeperstc.com or facebook, "Comfort Keepers Northern Lower Michigan."

Safety Tips to help keep safe and warm this winter

As colder weather moves in and furnaces heat up around Michigan, Consumers Energy is offering simple tips to help ensure warmth and safety.

"At Consumers Energy safety is our most important priority, for our customers, our communities and our employees. We want to help ensure everyone stays warm and remains safe, no matter what kind of weather Mother Nature brings this winter," said Mary Palkovich, vice president of energy delivery.

The first tip Palkovich shared is how to identify a possible natural gas leak. Signs can include a distinctive "rotten egg" smell, a blowing or hissing sound, bubbling in wet areas, dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area, or flames if a leak has ignited.

If you suspect a natural gas leak:

- Leave the area immediately, go to a safe location and call Consumers Energy at 800-477-5050 or dial 9-1-1. Consumers Energy will respond at no charge, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Do not try to locate the source

of the leak. Do not use anything that could cause a spark including electrical devices, light switches, cell phones or garage door openers.

- Do not use an open flame, matches or lighters. Do not start vehicles parked near the area.
- Do not re-enter the building until a Consumers Energy employee says it is safe.

Other winter safety tips include:

- Have furnaces or boilers inspected once a year using a qualified service/heating and cooling professional.
- Change furnace air filters at least once every other month (more often with pets in the home) during the heating season.
- Weather permitting, visually inspect the chimney and vent pipes to make sure they are free of obstructions such as leaves and nests.
- Do not leave supplemental heaters or a fireplace unattended. Keep clothing, papers and other flammable items away from furnaces, appliances and supplemental heaters.
- Never use gas stoves or char-

coal grills to heat homes. These appliances can produce dangerous amounts of carbon monoxide (CO) when used improperly.

- Install an audible carbon monoxide alarm that will sound if dangerous levels of carbon monoxide are present in a home or building. CO is an odorless, tasteless, colorless gas caused by incomplete combustion of fuels including natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood, oil, gasoline, diesel fuel and charcoal.

- Operate generators with adequate ventilation. Never use a generator in a basement, enclosed garage or near air intakes.
- Keep gas and electric meters clear of snow and ice. A build up can become compacted and freeze, causing damage that interferes with proper operation of meters. Remove snow and ice by hand, never with power equipment.

- To help keep meter readers and other field employees safe, customers are asked to keep a path free of snow and ice to their meter. This also helps reduce the need for estimating energy use.

Learn about natural gas and electric safety: www.ConsumersEnergy.com/safety

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

5th Annual Turkey Trot a Success!



Mild weather conditions allowed a crowd to gather outside the Charlevoix Area Hospital while waiting for the signal to line up for the 5th annual Thanksgiving Turkey Trot. After the race many of the participants headed over to Michigan Beach for the Douglas Meredith McNabb Veteran's Memorial Charity Swim.

Charlevoix Montessori Academy for the Arts students getting in the spirit of Christmas



The Charlevoix Montessori Music Box entry in the Charlevoix Holiday Parade. COURTESY PHOTO



Sophomore Lauren Kwapisz hands a candy cane to the man in the box, freshman Shawn Nalavayko. COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth grader Johanna Zinke holds kindergarten Haleigh Kondrat on the CMA float for the Holiday Parade while seventh grader Grace Ward makes sure that the presents don't fall off. COURTESY PHOTO



LEFT: Preschooler Lily Chulick-Sirmons and Kindergarteners Aleigha Sievertson, Hayden Belfy, and Irish Chulick-Sirmons wonder what's in the box. COURTESY PHOTO



Beware walking presents! Eighth grader Thomas Landrie attempts to steal some candy canes from classmate Emily Torres. COURTESY PHOTO

TOGETHER, YOUR CARING HEART AND GOOD SAMARITAN WILL HELP LIGHTEN THEIR LOAD



Will You Help Make a Difference?

- 1 in 3 Charlevoix County families are not able to make ends meet.
- 1 in 5 kids don't get enough to eat.
- It is possible some of your friends and neighbors are visiting our food pantry. We serve more than 700 families every month.
- These are real people with real needs. They may live in the house next door. These struggling families are across from us at the gas station, sitting in front of us in church, their kids are in the classrooms with our kids.
- They are doing their best working marginal or multiple jobs; jobs with few hours and low pay.
- The choices are tough; heating fuel, food, reliable transportation, and on and on. These basic needs have to be met. For many stressed families, a major car repair or medical bill is all it takes to send them to our pantry for help.
- Many families live just above the poverty line and cannot receive state aid.
- Good Samaritan has been the resource of last resort since 1990. With few options for a desperate family in Charlevoix County, we help with the seemingly impossible unmet needs.
- Our resources are eventually overwhelmed as we try to keep families together in their homes; children and elderly warm and fed, living as normal lives as possible.
- **We must keep hope alive.**
- **When you give thanks for your many blessings this Christmas season, please reach out and help those less fortunate.**

We are ready to help, but we can't do it without you. Please send your generous gift today.

Please help us provide food, clothing and heating fuel for those who come to us.

\$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 \$500.00 \$_____

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Good Samaritan Family Services

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The End of an Era

by Tina Sundelius

EAST JORDAN--A constant presence in East Jordan for over one hundred years, the stockholder owned East Jordan Co-op has closed its doors for good.

At one time the East Jordan Co-op consisted of a feed mill, hardware store, parts and repair shop and fuel delivery service. They had a fleet of trucks and was one of the main employers in the area. It was a booming business that served not only East Jordan and the surrounding area but it was the main fuel supplier for service stations from West Branch to the Bridge. "A person can't grasp what this business used to be," said Thomas Breakey, East Jordan City Commissioner who was at the station on its final day open.

Originally called the East Jordan Association they were governed by a board of local farmers. It reorganized into the East Jordan Co-op at the turn of the 20th century and signed an agreement to sell fuel with Sun Oil Company in 1926. As the times marched on, the co-op's functions changed. In the beginning it was a place for farmers to sell their produce. "The bins that were later used for hardware were originally assigned to individual farmers to store their apples or potatoes in," said Bill Thompson, General Manager of the Co-op since 2001. They first sold and delivered coal and wood but as times changed they began to deliver fuel oil throughout the 60's and 70's. "We never sold propane, Ellsworth did that," said Thompson. In 1985 the Marathon station was built and the co-op stopped delivering but



An old picture of the Co-op's fuel delivery business in its prime.

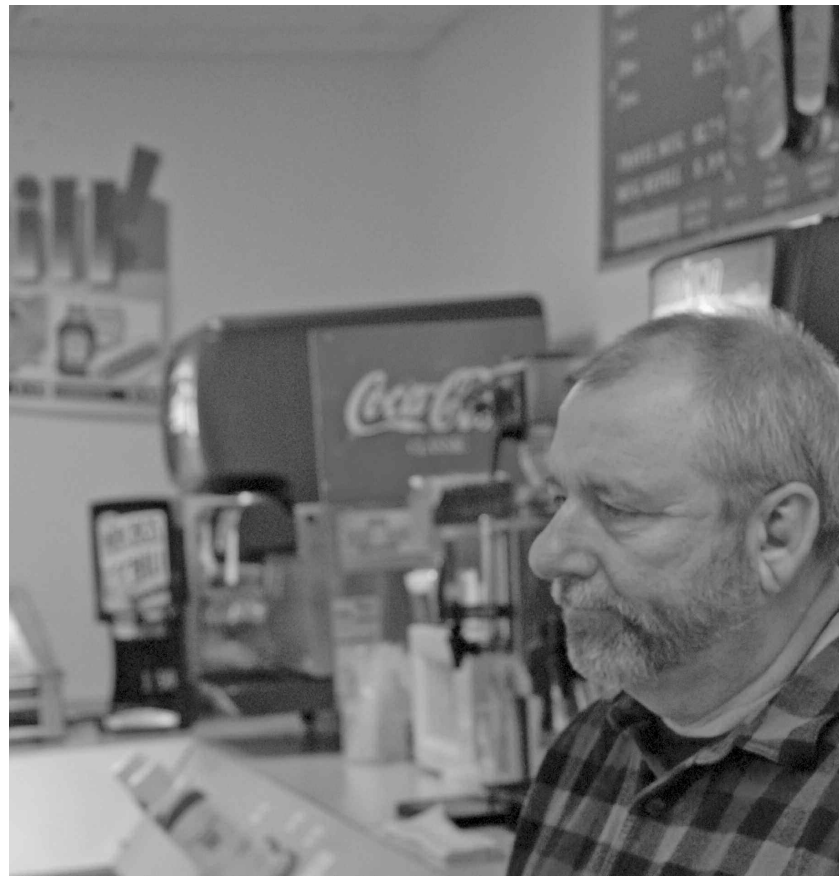


A view of all three buildings that were once known as the East Jordan Co-op.

East Jordan Co-op General Manager stands in the near empty Marathon Station. "Just waiting until we run out of gas."

continued to sell fuel there. As the area became less agricultural and more resort orientated, the mill closed and eventually the hardware. "If the leathers wore out in the pitcher pump in your barn you came to the co-op to get new ones, but after a while there wasn't a need and the hardware closed," said Breakey. The Sunoco station across the street burned twice over the years and sits unused now. The large brick co-op building closed in 2005.

In the city of East Jordan there are now 4 gas stations selling the same things that are sold by the co-op and 7 places selling beer and cigarettes. The closing can be attributed to the fact that the region no longer has an Agriculturally driven economy. "When you run out of money, you can't feed a dead horse and that's what happened," said Thompson. "That's evolution but what a shame," added Breakey.



Boyer Falls Student of the Week



Dakota Jakeway

Grade: Kindergarten

Parent's Name(s):
Brittany Foster, Cam Jakeway

What do you want to be when you grow up?:
I want to be a mechanic.

Favorite Book:
I enjoy reading books about dogs.

Hobbies and Interests:
I like riding my bike and playing with my remote control car.

School Activities:
My favorite subject in school is Science.

Staff Comments
"Dakota is a hard worker and always tries his best. He is kind to his peers and is always willing to help. I am proud of Dakota's hard work and happy to have him in my Kindergarten class."
— Ms. W

BRIDGE

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1A

traffic open in each direction, with pedestrian traffic beneath the bridge being detoured due to safety concerns.

However, Radulski said towards the end of the project completion in April, 2017, the bridge, which carries U.S. 31, will need to remain in an open position and closed to all vehicle traffic for 12 consecutive nights from 11pm until 5am, a closure that evoked concern from the audience.

One concern expressed was that the total night time bridge closure might create an issue with emergency responders who need to cross the Pine River Channel, which the bridge spans, to access the Charlevoix Hospital that's located on the opposite side.

Radulski assured that MDOT has already alerted area hospitals and emergency responders about the planned night time bridge closure in spring, 2017 and as the time draws nearer, will take added steps to coordinate with local EMS to assure urgent medical care can be accessed at either the Charlevoix or Petoskey hospitals.

MDOT Traffic and Safety Engi-

neer Jason Bodell further noted that extensive plans are also in place in terms of signage warning motorists well in advance about the night-time closures.

"We don't want to encourage traffic not to come to Charlevoix," Bodell said, "But we also don't want people to drive all the way here and then get stuck during a nightly bridge closure. We want to give them plenty of advance notice."

Signage will not only warn motorists about the nightly bridge closures during those 12 days, but also will detail when the bridge will be open to one lane traffic. They will also list available de-

tours during that time with primary routes including U.S. 31, U.S. 131, M-66 and M-32.

Bodell said signage is going be placed regionally in areas surrounding the bridge, including Ironton, Elmira, East Jordan and Petoskey. Much of it will be portable, electronic signage that MDOT officials can update quickly and remotely, he said.

When asked how quickly the bridge could be put back in place to allow traffic to cross should "a worst case scenario" or major disaster occur during the 12 nights it is in the open position, Radulski said the U.S. Coast Guard would need to be involved and it would

not be a quick or simple process. "They're going to need about four hours to put that thing down," he said.

If project contractors fail to open the bridge by 5am as scheduled during the 12 night stretch, Radulski said they stand to face "heavy penalties," up to \$15,000 per violation.

Overall, however, Radulski said MDOT anticipates the project will be completed seamlessly and on schedule, allowing area residents and tourists alike to enjoy Charlevoix and its historic bridge before summer 2017 gets into full swing.

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

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Health

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Health Department of Northwest Michigan awarded Youth Mental Health First Aid grant

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan has been awarded a three-year Project AWARE grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support the training of a diverse group of adults in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHA). This training will help adults detect and respond to mental health needs in youth in Charlevoix, Emmet, and northern Antrim counties.

YMHA is a public education program that introduces participants to the risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems and builds an understanding of the importance of early intervention. Participants are familiarized with local mental health resources, national organizations, support groups, and online tools for mental health and addictions treatment and support.

“When a youth is struggling with depression, anxiety, trauma,

or other mental conditions, sometimes adults are not sure what to do or how to respond,” said project coordinator Natalie Kasi-borski, PhD, LMSW, MPH. “This program will give trusted adults like parents, teachers, coaches, business and community members the skills to respond to youth in crisis.”

By implementing YMHA, the Health Department expects to see an increase in the mental health literacy of adults who interact with youth and to increase awareness of mental health issues among school-age youth. Kasi-borski also notes these skills can be applied anytime, anywhere, and to anyone in distress.

Additionally, the grant will help fund the Char-Em Youth Behavioral Health Collaborative, of which the Health Department is a member. The Collaborative’s goal is to build a strong community system that supports the overall social, emotional and mental health needs of youth. With the



Members of the Char-Em Youth Collaborative include (back row from left) Shelby Richardson, Tory Thrush, Ben Hicks, Gail Kloss, Cynthia Statler, MD, Natalie Kasi-borski, Diane Heinzelman, (front row from left) Jonathon Wilcox, Christine Gebhard, Megan Cole, and Maureen Hollocker. PHOTO BY CHRIS LEESE

grant, the Health Department will coordinate this group of community partners and add a dedicated staff member.

“The Char-Em Youth Behavioral Health Collaborative is an invaluable resource for our communities,” said Diane Heinz-

man, Collaborative member and Director of Special Education for Char-Em Intermediate School District. “While the Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings are increasing the ability of adults to respond directly to youth in need, at the Collaborative level we’re also working to identify and eliminate system and policy issues that may be barriers to connecting youth with appropriate resources.”

The overall goal of SAMHSA’s Project AWARE (which stands for “Advancing Wellness and Resilience Education”) is to improve behavioral health awareness among school-age youth and their communities.

For more information on the Health Department’s Project AWARE grant, programs, and services, contact Natalie Kasi-borski at (231) 347-5144. The Health Department of

Former Charlevoix Area Hospital now under Munson Healthcare umbrella

A new name will go on the hospital sign outside, but the same smiling faces and health care expertise will continue to meet any community needs. As of December 1, Charlevoix Area Hospital has officially become Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital following an agreement signed earlier this fall to fully integrate the institution into Munson Healthcare.

“This is an exciting day for the hospital and the community because it ensures access to great local care will continue well into the future,” said Ruth Hoppe, M.D., chair of the Charlevoix hospital board. As part of the agreement between the hospital and Munson Healthcare, she will now sit on the Munson Healthcare Board of Directors.

Over the past few months, teams from both organizations have worked hard to ensure a smooth transition and have obtained the necessary governmental approvals.

Patients will see little change in the day-to-day operation of the hospital. Care will be delivered by the same caring staff and physicians. The closer integration with Munson Healthcare is expected to expand the range of clinical services available to the hospital and improve the coordination of care locally.

Munson Healthcare Pres-



As of December 1, Charlevoix Area Hospital has officially become Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital following an agreement signed earlier this fall to fully integrate the institution into Munson Healthcare. COURTESY PHOTO

ident and CEO Ed Ness said Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital joins four other fully integrated hospitals as part of the health care system.

“This is a historic day for Munson Healthcare as together we strengthen the network of services available close to home in northern Michigan,” Ness said. “The staff, physicians, volunteers, and board members at Charlevoix have laid a foundation of quality care in this community that we plan to continue to build on together.”

The hospital joins Munson Healthcare Cadillac Hospital, Munson Healthcare Grayling Hospital, Munson Medical Center, and Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital as fully integrated hospitals in the health care system.

In addition to the hospital name change, physician practices and clinics associated with the hospital will see name changes as well over the next few months. As an example, Boyne Area Medical Center will become Munson Healthcare Boyne Area Health Center.

A new website for the hospital has launched at munsonhealthcare.org/charlevoixhospital.

Other hospitals in the Munson Healthcare system include a managed hospital, Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, in Kalkaska, and three affiliated hospitals: Mackinac Straits Health System, St. Ignace; Otsego Memorial Hospital, Gaylord; and West Shore Medical Center, Manistee.

For more information on Munson Healthcare, go to munsonhealthcare.org/AboutMHC.

Red Cross encourages donors to give this holiday season

This holiday season, the American Red Cross urges individuals to give something that means something – a blood or platelet donation. This simple, potentially lifesaving act can give patients in need another holiday season with loved ones.

“During the winter months and especially around the holidays, blood donations tend to decline,” said Todd Kulman of the Red Cross Great Lakes Blood Services Region. “Long holiday weekends, like Thanksgiving, pose an extra challenge when many donors are traveling to be with family and friends. The Red Cross encourages people to make an appointment to donate blood or platelets and give a meaningful gift to a patient this holiday season – the gift of life.”

Blood donors with all types, especially O negative, B negative and A negative, are urged to give. Platelet donors and those with type AB blood are also continually needed. To encourage donations around Thanksgiving, those who come to give blood or platelets from Nov. 25-29 will receive a limited-edition Red Cross mixing spoon with recipes from celebrity chefs John Besh, Richard Blais, Rocco DiSpirito, Mike Isabella, Ellie Krieger and Ali Larter, while supplies last.

To make an appointment, download the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Donors can use RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, from a computer or laptop. Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass to get started.

A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

This time of year, there are also fewer blood drives on the calendar. Many sponsoring groups postpone blood drives while people are busy with holiday activities, and severe weather may cause scheduled blood drives to be canceled. With fewer opportunities for donors to give, the Red Cross typically experiences a seasonal decline in blood donations.

Because more than 80 percent of blood donations are made at blood drives, organizations are needed to host blood drives this winter to help ensure a sufficient blood supply for patients in need. More information on hosting a blood drive is available at redcrossblood.org.

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News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

CLOCK TOWER

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1A

rent Boyne Co-op, but was torn down in the early 1950s because it became unsafe and too expensive for the city to fix.

Then, around 1976, Cain said the clock was purchased and rebuilt by a man named William Porter, who had it installed in a much shorter, stainless steel tower at the old Northwest State Bank at the corner of North Lake and River Streets. The clock eventually stopped working regularly again sometime in the 1980s and was also removed from that site, he explained.

At that point, in the late 1990s, Cain said there was talk of installing the clock in the new tower at the Kilwin's Chocolates' building at the corner of South Lake and Water Streets, however, that plan didn't work out and an electric clock was installed instead at that site.

"Since then, the dormant clock has been lovingly cared for in the garage of former Police Chief John Talboys, until this summer when it was returned to the City and is now safely in its possession, along with all its parts and the bell," said Cain, noting the last time the clock's bell was seen in public was on a Fourth of July float in 2006 in celebration of Boyne City's 150th Birthday.

Balzer Family Clockworks, according to their website, has been in operation making and restoring watches and clocks since 1970 but began specializing in the restoration of tower clocks in 1985. Then in 1994, the company refined its specialty to manufacturing tower clocks and mechanical, electro-mechanical chime systems.

"We are the only manufacturers of the weight driven, pendulum regulated tower clocks in the United States," the website states, adding, "Our manufactured timepieces and systems require no monthly oiling."

The Balzer Company has manufactured or restored clocks for dozens of public institutions, cities, churches and private entities around the world, including clocks at Harvard and Yale Universities, the National Science Museum in Augusta, Georgia, Hokkaido University of Science Museum in Saporro, Japan and the Van Andel Museum in Grand Rapids.

Boyne City Commissioner Laura Samson said she's hopeful the Balzer consultants will find the City Clock can indeed be restored as part of the city facility upgrade project, which is set to begin next year. "It's the centerpiece for our new city facilities and an important piece," Samson said.

City Clerk Cindy Grice said on Monday, November 30, that a public meeting to discuss the findings of the Balzer consultants that was slated for December 2 has now been re-scheduled for 7pm December 9, 2015 at the Boyne City Wastewater Treatment Plant, 1261 Lagoon Drive, next to the Boyne City Airport.

Cain noted that anyone who has stories or photos of the old clock or its clock tower are encouraged to share those. "We would love to hear from them," he said.

EJ COMMUNITY NIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1A

next to Sunnyside Up Tanning from 6:30 to 8pm. Children will receive handmade stockings courtesy of the East Jordan Lioness and Lions. Face painting and cookies will be available after a visit with Santa.

Participating merchants and businesses will be having open houses with special sales and refreshments. The Jordan River Arts Council will be holding their popular "Make and Take Craft" event as well as their Gift Market from 5 to 8pm at the Arts Council building on Main Street.

After the downtown festivities, be sure to take a drive thru the East Jordan Lions Club Lighted Christmas Village at the East Jordan Tourist Park. The Christmas Village will be lit from December 3 thru January 3. Drive thru the park to view one of a kind holiday scenes created by local businesses, churches, organizations and individuals. Santa will visit the park on Dec. 12, from 6 to 8pm. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served in the Log Building.

Celebrate an Up North holiday tradition - Community Night in East Jordan, December 3rd. For more information contact the East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce at 231-536-7351 or www.ejchamber.org

Boyne Thunder hands out almost \$67,000 to local charities

By Michelle Medjesky

BOYNE CITY - The deafening roar of more than 100 high performance boat engines racing through Lake Charlevoix and Lake Michigan is now but a silent memory of the Boyne Thunder event that brought thousands of boat lovers and landlubbers alike to Boyne City last summer.

But along with all the excitement and tourism dollars that Boyne Thunder annually generates, it also leaves in its wake thousands of dollars in donations earmarked for local non-profit groups.

Organizers of the yearly boat race decided at its inception twelve years ago that they wanted not only to create another reason for people to come and have fun in Boyne City, but that they wanted to do so for a good cause. It was agreed to name the event "Boyne Thunder" and combine the thrill of racing these turbo-charged, behemoth boats with raising funds for two area charities in particular: Camp Quality Michigan and Challenge Mountain.

Camp Quality Michigan is a Boyne City based non-profit organization devoted to "allow children with cancer to be children again" by providing them support and facilitating friendships through special experiences-like spending a week at a summer camp. Boyne Thunder



Lori Meeder (left), executive director of Boyne City's Main Street Program and Bob Alger (center) of Char-Em ISD, presented checks totaling nearly \$60,000 from funds raised during last summer's Boyne Thunder Boat race to benefit two local charities. Kristyn Balog, (second from left) executive director of Camp Quality Michigan, accepted a check for \$56,652 on behalf of her organization and Elizabeth Looze (far right), executive director of Challenge Mountain, accepted a check for \$10,300 on behalf of hers.

has raised more than \$300,000 for Camp Quality in the past twelve years, playing an integral role in the camp's continued success.

The annual boat race has also raised thousands more for Challenge Mountain, a non-profit organization situated in nearby Boyne Falls that's geared to using outdoor recreational activities like skiing, biking, canoeing, kayaking and sailing as means to build confidence and improve the lives of those who are mentally and/or physically challenged.

Both charities were presented

checks during a Boyne City Commission meeting last week totalling nearly \$70,000 in donations from the Summer 2015 Boyne Thunder event.

The checks were presented by Lori Meeder, executive director of Boyne City's Downtown Program, and Bob Alger, director of instructional services at Char-Em Intermediate School district, who also works to promote the Boyne Thunder program.

Camp Quality Michigan Executive Director Kristyn Balog accepted a check for \$56,652 and Challenge Mountain Executive

Director Elizabeth Looze accepted a check for \$10,300 on behalf of her organization.

Both women were quick to acknowledge how grateful their groups are for the generous donations provided through Boyne Thunder and also for the overall continued support of the Boyne City community.

Alger, who has been involved with Boyne Thunder since 2006, said he gets more excited each year as the event becomes more and more popular, both state-wide and nation-wide.

"It's a unique event," Alger said, "And it's been a wonderful experience, watching it grow and being part of it."

Meeder said 108 high-powered boats participated in last summer's Boyne Thunder race and dozens of boaters have already secured a spot for the coming summer's event. She said Boyne City area hotels and motels, not including housing options offered at the nearby Boyne Mountain resort, are already booked for the next Boyne Thunder Poker Run, which is scheduled for July 8-9, 2016.

Checks handed out each year to Camp Quality and Challenge Mountain are tallied from a combined percentage of participating boater registration fees and private donations, Meeder noted, adding, "We have some very generous donors."

East Jordan Juggling Club established

The East Jordan Juggling Club met for the first time on Tuesday, November 24 at the East Jordan High School. The club, which officially has 17 members, was co-founded by Emanuele Carella and Tommy Tropic.

17-year-old Emanuele is a foreign exchange student from Torino, Italy, and a senior at East Jordan this year. Emanuele has attended a summer circus camp in Italy each year since the age of 8. He can juggle 5 balls, does acrobatics and rides unicycles. Emanuele, who also participated in cross-country this year, is a track athlete and the #12 javelin thrower



The East Jordan Juggling Club met for the first time on Tuesday, November 24 at the East Jordan High School. COURTESY PHOTO

in Italy at a high school level.

Tommy Tropic, or Tom Petrie as he is known in his hometown of East Jordan, has performed his juggling act all over the US

and the Caribbean. Tommy is the producer of "Buskermania!" which is a regular feature in downtown Traverse City, the Blissfest, and Saturday Night Live in St. Ignace each summer ahead of their weekly fireworks display. Tommy and his wife Lisa are Emanuele's host parents here in America.

The juggling club meets each Tuesday and Thursday in the East Jordan High School cafeteria at 3 pm. They also offer free juggling lessons to anyone. Learning to juggle can increase eye hand coordination, nimbleness, and self-esteem!

You can contact Tommy with any questions at (231) 342-7134.

10th Annual Wooden Shoe Festival

December 9. Banks Township Hall. Under Construction, but still open. Banks Township Citizen of the Year, Shirley Tornga, lights our Community Tree following caroling accompanied by Pine Lake Winds. Visit with friends and neighbors over a free dinner then treat yourself to Christmas cookies and a trip to the Hot Chocolate Bar. Kids decorate a free picture frame or mug, and Twister Joe makes unique holiday themed balloon creations for everyone.

Community Foundation releases annual report

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation recently released its 2015 annual report, "Doing good. Every day." The report recognizes the fact that community foundation-supported grants have an impact on programs, projects, people and places every single day of the year. Since its start in 1992, the foundation has distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants each year.

This year is no different, as the foundation distributed 392 grants and 134 scholarships, totaling over \$1.6 million. Grants are awarded to local, national and international nonprofit organizations and support worthwhile causes in a variety of areas including woman and child welfare, health and human services, arts and cultural programming, education, recreation, and environmental conservation, among others.

"When we look at the variety of grants that we support, we find that the funding we provide really does make a difference every hour of every day, every day of every week, and every week of the year." Chip Hansen, foundation president, said. "The impact is consistent and far-reaching, and something of which we are incredibly proud. Thanks to our donors, we are able to support amazing programs."

The annual report presents stories of several of the grants the foundation was able to support in the past year, including a county-wide anti-bullying program for middle and high schools, a capacity building



The Charlevoix County Community Foundation recently released its 2015 Annual Report. COURTESY PHOTO

grant to publicize a local conservation organization, and a science equipment grant that gave elementary students portable

microscopes. Also in the report is a complete list of the foundation's 277 funds, all of which are established by local donors.

Some funds are earmarked for specific causes; others are open-ended to meet changing needs. The funds are held in permanent endowment so they can continue to grow and generate income to enhance the quality of life in Charlevoix County now and for generations to come.

"Our donors are the lifeblood of the organization," said Hansen. "This year, donors contributed nearly \$2.5 million and started 15 new funds. That kind of generosity is inspiring, and it is what makes Charlevoix County such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family."

The foundation also maintained its accreditation with the Council on Foundations (COF) National Standards, a designation that signifies that the Charlevoix County Community Foundation meets or exceeds all of the requirements of the COF accreditation process.

To get your own copy of the "Doing good. Every day." annual report, contact the foundation office at 231-536-2440 or access it online at www.c3f.org.

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation is a charitable organization that is dedicated to improving and enriching life for all who live in our area. Founded by a group of local citizens in 1992, the organization has grown to be a valuable resource for our county, distributing millions of dollars in grants over the past twenty-plus years. For more information, please contact the foundation at (231) 536-2440, www.c3f.org.

News Briefs

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

EAST JORDAN HOLIDAY COMMUNITY NIGHT

December 3, 5:30-8pm. Downtown businesses open house, Soup Cook-off, Bake Sale, "Make and Take" crafts for kids, Lighted Parade, Tree Lighting and Caroling, Face Painting, Raffle and Gift Basket Drawings, Visits with Santa. Lighting of the Christmas Village.

CHARLEVOIX FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS BREAKFAST

December 4, 7:30-8:30am, FirstMerit Bank. Make sure to join us for this great networking opportunity. Enjoy a hot, tasty breakfast, catered by Scovies Gourmet.

Catch up with other Chamber Members and find out what's going on with their business, organization, or club.

CHARLEVOIX SANTA TRAIN WONDERLAND AT CASTLE FARMS

December 5 & 6, 10am-3pm. Unlimited access to model and interactive train displays, including the Polar Express and riding trains for toddlers under 40 lbs. Photo booth, face painting, snacks, special Santa appearances. \$5 per person (ages 2 & up). V.I.P. Santa Pass: spend time with Santa in an exclusive visit, plus story time, cookie craft, and gift. \$20 per child (ages 2 & up) includes Train Wonderland admission.

CHARLEVOIX ALL YOU CAN EAT SOUP & CHRISTMAS SALE

December 5, 9am-2pm, The Charlevoix United Methodist Church is hosting an "All You Can Eat Soup" and Christmas Sale. Come in and warm up with many tasty soups and then shop for "gently used" Christmas décor at bargain prices, crafts and yummy baked goodies. Soup is \$6.50 for "all you can eat". Proceeds go to local outreach projects and missions. Church is located at 104 State St., Charlevoix.

CHARLEVOIX HOLIDAY MERCHANT OPEN HOUSE

December 5. Enjoy special sales and discounts, prize drawings, refreshments, samples and more. 9am-1:30pm - Visit Santa at Charlevoix Cinema III, 2pm - Free Holiday Movie, "The Polar Express" at Charlevoix Cinema III. Please bring a canned good to benefit the Charlevoix Food Pantry. 12-5pm - Hot Cocoa Contest - Follow the Cocoa Train in the downtown businesses and vote for Charlevoix's best hot cocoa.

ATWOOD CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

December 5, 10am-2pm Work n'Play Shop Visit with Santa, enjoy Hot Cocoa & Cookies

11am-3pm Friske's Farm Market Wagon or Sleigh rides to Tree Plantation, Hot Cider and Donuts.

BOYNE CITY VISIT WITH SANTA

December 5, 10:30am-1:30pm, Boyne District Library Community Room. Every child who visits with Santa will receive a free book. The Friends of the Library will also be holding their book sale from 10am to 2pm that day.

BOYNE CITY HOLIDAY HOBBY CRAFT SHOW

December 5, 9am - 3pm, Boyne City High School. The Holiday Hobby Craft Show will again have a record number of arts and crafts vendors.

BOYNE CITY COMMISSION MEETING NOVEMBER 24, 2015

City to vacate alley

By Tina Sundelius

BOYNE CITY - In a brief first meeting of the new Boyne City Commission the restoration of the old city clock was set in motion, a city alley was vacated and funds generated at this year's Boyne Thunder were distributed.

After researching several firms for the repair and restoration of the old city clock, a proposal from Balzer Family Clock Works of Freeport, Maine was approved in the amount of \$4,010. The proposal is to bring representatives of the company to Boyne City to inspect, report on and prepare estimates after analyzing the clock's condition and feasibility for repair. "I think it's the centerpiece for the new city facilities and a very impor-

tant piece," said Commissioner Laura Sansom.

Commissioners approved the city's vacating of a 120 foot long alley located between Lincoln Street and undeveloped Spruce Street. A request for the vacating of the alley was submitted by a property owner who owns lots on both sides of it. The application was reviewed by both city department heads and the planning commission before the request came before the city commission. After reviewing the topography and city structure it was recommended that there would be no future use for the north end portion of the alley. The south end provides access to adjacent parcels and is maintained by the city. When a portion of an alley is vacated by the city all adjacent

parcels receive the piece of land that butts against it, in this case both adjacent pieces of property are owned by the same person. "It's a steep hill so it just doesn't work, it's not a developable alley," said Mayor Thomas Neidhamer.

Boyne Thunder spokesperson Bob Alger presented checks to Camp Quality in the amount of \$56,652 and Challenge Mountain in the amount of \$10,342. The funds were raised at this year's Boyne Thunder event. Alger praised the over 40 volunteers that make the poker run possible. "One of the things I think is important to recognize is that it wouldn't happen without the cooperation of the city. It just wouldn't happen without your cooperation," he added.

Admission is \$2 for adults and no charge for students. Refreshments are also available for this 37th annual event that raises funds for the Boyne City Booster Foundation. Hourly drawings will be held for \$20 Boyne Bucks giveaways.

BOYNE CITY THE ART OF HEALTHY ARGUMENTS

December 6, 6:30pm, Life-tree Café, 401 South Park Street. The program titled, "I Disagree! How to Have a Healthy Argument," explores common causes of disagreements and offers practical tips for preventing arguments from damaging relationships. Admission to the 60-minute event is free.

EAST JORDAN COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

December 6, 3pm, East Jordan High School. Jordan Valley Community Band Holiday Concert includes music by Mannheim Steamroller, Tscakowsky, Sousa and Dvorak. Join in for a Christmas Sing-A-Long followed by refreshments after the concert. Admission is free.

BOYNE CITY CERTIFICATION EVENT

December 7, 1pm, Boyne City Hall auditorium. Join Michigan Economic Development

Corporation (MEDC) in acknowledging Boyne City's accomplishment as the fifth community to be certified under the statewide Redevelopment Ready Communities® (RRC) program. After a year and a half of working toward RRC certification, Boyne

City has succeeded in accomplishing the requirements as laid out in the RRC Best Practices. Join us to recognize the hard work of a city dedicated to having a vision for the future and the fundamental practices in place to get there.

BOYNE CITY SOBO ARTS FESTIVAL PLANNING MEETING

December 8, 10am, Boyne District Library. Organizers are looking for people interested in sitting on the committee and shaping the future of the SOBO Arts Festival, which will take place next June 24-25. Having input from a lot of people will help make the festival even bigger and better than ever. We have some new ideas but would welcome more. If you are interested in joining and want to learn more, contact Boyne City Main Street Executive Director Lori Meeder at 231.582.9009 or mainstreet@boynecity.com. Website: www.soboartsfestival.com

ELLSWORTH 10TH ANNUAL WOODEN SHOE FESTIVAL

December 9. Banks Township Hall. Under Construction, but still open. Banks Township Citizen of the Year, Shirley Tornaga, lights our Community Tree following caroling accompanied by Pine Lake Winds. Visit with friends and neighbors over a free dinner then treat yourself to Christmas cookies and a trip to the Hot Chocolate Bar. Kids decorate a free picture frame or mug, and Twister Joe makes unique holiday themed balloon creations for everyone.

CHARLEVOIX DINNER WITH SANTA

December 10, 5-8pm, The Bistro at Charlevoix Country Club, 9600 Clubhouse Drive. Join Santa for a Dinner Buffet and Cookie decorating. \$15 adults, kids 12 and under free. Reservations 231-547-9796.

CHARLEVOIX HOLLY DAZE

December 11, Castle Farms. Charlevoix Area Hospital's annual holiday fundraiser. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit the Hospital's upcoming Surgical Suite and Laboratory Renovation. Kick off the holiday season and get in the spirit of giving. Space is limited; please contact Faye Parrish at 231-547-8501 or go to www.cah.org/hollydaze to purchase your tickets. Tickets are \$100 per person, a portion of which is tax deductible.

CHARLEVOIX HUMANE SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE

December 12, 1-4pm, Charlevoix Humane Society, 614 Beardsley Street, Boyne City. Adoption Specials, Punch and Cookies. Bring your friendly pets for a photo with Santa. For more information call 231.582.6774.

EAST JORDAN VISIT WITH SANTA

December 12, 6-8pm, Enjoy hot cocoa and cookies and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Log Building at the EJ Tourist Park. Organized by the East Jordan Lions Club.

ELLSWORTH BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

December 12, 9-11:30am. Banks Township Hall. Under construction but still open.

Indulge in breakfast featuring pancakes, eggs donated by Eastport Market, Sausage, Juice, Milk and Coffee. Choose a stuffed toy and take a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus compliments of Charlevoix State Bank.

EAST JORDAN BLOOD DRIVE

December 15, 8:30am-1:15pm. East Jordan High School, 101 Maple Street. Simply call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information.

CHARLEVOIX HOLIDAY CONCERT

December 16, 7pm, First Congregational Church. Charlevoix Wind Ensemble Holiday Concert directed by Dr. Timothy Topolewski and featuring euphonium soloist Edward Bahr performing Morceau de Concert by Camille Saint-Saens. Other music includes pieces by Gordon Jacob, Karl L. King and Johann Sebastian Bach. Please join the band members after the concert for light refreshments. Admission is free.

BOYNE CITY BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

December 17, 5:30pm. Business After Hours will be hosted by Porter Creek Fish House at Sommerset Pointe and co-sponsored by Charlevoix State Bank.

CHARLEVOIX BLOOD DRIVE

December 17, 10am-3:45pm. Charlevoix Area Hospital, 14700 Lakeshore Drive. Simply call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information.

PETOSKEY GLCO "MESSIAH"

December 17 and 18 at 7pm, St. Francis Xavier Church. Once again the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra brings the Messiah to northern Michigan with three soloists performing. Tickets are available at Boyne, Charlevoix, Harbor Springs, and Petoskey Chambers, the Orchestra office at 231 487-0010 or www.glcorchestra.org. Reserved tickets are \$75, \$50, and \$35. General admission is \$25.

BOYNE CITY BLOOD DRIVE

December 28, 11am-4:45pm. Community of Christ Church, 777 Vogel. Simply call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information.

CHARLEVOIX BRIDGE DROP

December 31, starting at 9pm. The Charlevoix Bridge Drop is back and better than

CHARLEVOIX IRONTON FERRY SERVICE SUSPENDED

The Charlevoix County Transportation Authority has determined it will be necessary for the Ironton Ferry to remain closed for the remainder of the 2015 season, due to the extensive damage caused by an October 2nd private vehicle fire while aboard the ferry. The Transportation Authority anticipates no fire-related delay in the annual reopening on April 15, 2016 as scheduled.

BOYNE CITY FARMERS MARKET

The Boyne City Winter Farmers Market begins November 7 at the Red Barn on Saturday's from 9am-1pm through April.

EAST JORDAN FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays, 9am-1pm at Sportsman's Park (Bridge Street). Winter Farmers Market begins November 14 at the Civic Center. Takes place on the second Thursday of the month from 10am-2pm through April. On Facebook at EastJordanFarmer'sMarket

CHARLEVOIX

Hospice of Northwest Michigan invites you to join our Monthly adult grief, loss & bereavement support group, which takes place the 2nd Sunday of each month from 4-5pm at the First Baptist Church, 6781 M66 North. This program is open to anyone in our community looking for assistance in their grief process and is facilitated by Rev. David Behling. There is NO CHARGE to attend. Please feel free to call Hospice at 231-547-7659 to register or for more information.

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

CHARLEVOIX STORY TIME

Weekly Story Time is hosted every Thursday at 10:30am and all children and their parents or caregivers are invited to attend. Story Time at the Charlevoix Library is geared towards children birth to five years old. Ms. Laura, storyteller extraordinaire, reads stories, sings songs, interacts with finger plays, and sometimes even dances with the kids.

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