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County News

December 30, 2015

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Holiday Travelers to save \$1.6 billion at the pump

GasBuddy, the authoritative voice on pump prices, projects that consumers will save \$1.6 billion on gas over their year-end travels compared to last year. Year-end travel is defined as Dec. 23, 2015 - Jan 3, 2016. According to the annual GasBuddy holiday travel survey, 88% of those heading out of town will be doing so by car, with a majority (66%) driving at least 200 miles round trip.

It wasn't that long ago when motorists were paying well over \$3 per gallon during the winter months, a far cry from today's national average of \$2.01, which has risen after hitting \$1.99. Gas prices during the holidays haven't been this cheap since 2008, when few Americans noticed the low prices amidst the Great Recession.

"It's beginning to look a lot like

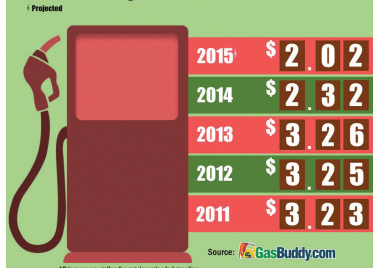
Christmas...in 2008!" said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst at GasBuddy. "The extra savings and cheer will certainly spread as we close out the year. There has not been a better time in years for motorists to extend their trips and travel farther, as sub-\$2 per gallon gas can be found at almost 70% of stations in the country."

The national average is likely to tick slightly higher throughout

the busiest travel period of the year as prices have moved higher in the Great Lakes and continue to climb in California. However, GasBuddy expects this upward trend to be temporary; lower prices will eventually hit pumps into the New Year as oil prices drift lower thanks to weakening demand for petroleum.

See Gas Prices -2A

Christmas Day
National Average Gasoline Prices



It wasn't that long ago when motorists were paying well over \$3 per gallon during the winter months, a far cry from today's national average of \$2.01, which has risen after hitting \$1.99. Courtesy image

**THIS WEEK
INSIDE SPORTS**

**2015
THE
YEAR
IN
REVIEW**

**HIGHLIGHTS
OF CHARLEVOIX
COUNTY AREA
ATHLETIC
ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE
PAST YEAR**

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Limited skiing available at area resorts



Record warm weather made for not such a white Christmas for everyone in northern Michigan this season, but temperatures were cold enough to maintain enough "man-made snow" at area ski resorts, allowing countless visitors to enjoy their favorite winter sports during their annual holiday trek to the north. Above photo: Warm weather keeping things unseasonably green on the green at Boyne Highlands golf course make for a stark contrast against a view of the "man-made" snow-covered hills at Nub's Nob in the distance.

By Michelle Medjesky

While many in northern Michigan lament the fact that this past Christmas was not truly a white one, those who make it their annual plan to enjoy winter sports in this area during the week between Christmas and New Year's should not be disappointed.

Precariously warm temperatures the past couple months have resulted in little natural-fallen snow in most of northern Michigan. However, that hasn't stopped the area's largest ski resorts from firing up their snow guns and shooting out enough "man-made" snow to open numerous ski runs and start the season.

As of early this week, Nub's Nob in Harbor Springs had a base depth up to 18" and eight runs and four ski lifts and a rope tow open, but officials there said they hope this week's falling temperatures will allow them to open up even more.

"The most award winning Snow Crew in the Midwest is back to work as the coldest air of the season so far enabled us to resume snowmaking just before noon today," said Nub's Nob general manager Jim Bartlett in a posted statement on Sunday, December 27, "If the weather forecast holds true we'll be able to add more slopes and lifts by midweek including



A pair of skiers at Nub's Nob in Harbor Springs make their way off the slopes late afternoon on Saturday, December 26, right before a planned 90 minute shut down of the lifts to allow staff time to re-groom the snow for the first night of week-long Holiday Night Skiing. The slopes will be open to the public daily, but lighted night skiing will be featured at Nub's Nob from December 26 through January 2, from 6-10 pm, with the exception of New Year's Eve, when other celebrations, including the Torchlight Parade at 6pm, December 31, are planned there.

a few on Nub's South AND lay down some of our patented silk on the existing slopes overnight! YAHOO!"

Nearby Boyne Highlands resort also has been firing up its snow guns and listed a 20" base depth, four open lifts and six open runs, from beginner to advanced, and several open trails,

as of Sunday, December 27.

They are also making snow to the south at Boyne Mountain ski resort, situated between Boyne Falls and Boyne City. Base depth there is also around 20" and there are five trail

See Skiing -3A



This New Year's Eve, the Charlevoix community will hold the Bridge Drop event, a celebration for those of every age. There is no better time to get out and have fun with friends and family than New Year's Eve.

There will be family-friendly activities from 1 to 6pm including Horse Drawn Carriage Rides, S'mores and a Snowman Contest (weather permitting) in East Park and Arts and Crafts, Face Painting and Games at the Charlevoix Circle of Arts from 1 to 4pm. The Charlevoix Cinema III will have a free kids movie, "Toy Story," from 4:30 to 6pm.

Juggler Tommy Tropic will perform in East Park prior at 8:30pm prior to a fireworks display around 9pm. The fireworks can be easily viewed from both East Park and Bridge Park. Tommy Tropic will perform again at 11:30pm in Bridge Park and at midnight, the dropping of the much beloved Charlevoix draw-bridge will be accompanied by a 21 gun salute. After midnight everyone is welcome to welcome in 2016 by crossing the bridge.

For additional information, please visit www.BridgeDrop.com

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weather

THURSDAY



HIGH: 29
LOW: 23

FRIDAY



HIGH: 25
LOW: 23

SATURDAY



HIGH: 30
LOW: 24

SUNDAY



HIGH: 29
LOW: 20

MONDAY



HIGH: 31
LOW: 23

TUESDAY



HIGH: 33
LOW: 25

WEDNESDAY



HIGH: 32
LOW: 22

record temps

DAY	AVG LOW	AVG HIGH	RECORD LOW	RECORD HIGH
DEC 30	...15°	...30°	...-24° (1976)	...46° (2004)
DEC 31	...15°	...30°	...-14° (1948)	...58° (1965)
JAN 1	...15°	...30°	...-9° (1968)	...48° (1952)
JAN 2	...15°	...30°	...-7° (1999)	...49° (1998)
JAN 3	...14°	...29°	...-16° (1996)	...51° (1998)
JAN 4	...14°	...29°	...-36° (1981)	...49° (2007)
JAN 5	...14°	...29°	...-2° (1968)	...50° (2007)
JAN 6	...14°	...29°	...-12° (1973)	...45° (2007)

Betty Bradley (Mosteller), 91

(JULY 14, 1924 - DEC. 23, 2015)

Betty Bradley of Horton Bay passed away on Wednesday, December 23, 2015 surrounded by her family.



Betty was born on July 14, 1924 in Pierre, South Dakota the daughter of Earl and Mabel (Westover) Mosteller. On June 16, 1946 she married Daniel Bradley. She worked many years as a registered nurse for Little "T" Hospital in Petoskey until she retired. Betty was a member of the Charlevoix Church of the Nazarene where she was an active member. Betty's faith was her life and she loved to share it with others.

Betty is survived by her son Lyle (Paula Beth) Bradley of Champaign, IL, Robert Dan Bradley of Horton Bay and Ed (Sheri) Bradley of Horton Bay; grandchildren Amber Payne, Kristin (Ron, Sr.) Drake, Chad (Ashleigh) Bradley, Keith (Rachel) Bradley, Kelli (Timothy) Wellert, Steven Robinson, Matthew Robinson, Reese, David, Dalton and Cody Bradley; great grandchildren Marissa McClain, Ronald Drake, Jr., Madelynn Drake, Emma, Levi, Lucas, Lila, Nathaniel, Molli, Bradley, Daniel and Jane; siblings Lerta Hopkins, Clayton Mosteller and Cass Youngberg.

She is preceded in death by her

parents; husband Daniel Bradley; and brothers Earl and Lyle Mosteller.

A memorial service will be held 11:00 AM Tuesday, December 29th at the Charlevoix Church of the Nazarene with a gathering of family and friends being held from 10:00 AM until the time of service.

Memorial donations may be directed to the Charlevoix Church of the Nazarene or Hospice of Little Traverse Bay.

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.

Robert E. Webb, 61

(NOV. 28, 1954 - DEC. 21, 2015)

Robert E. Webb of Boyne City passed away on December 21, 2015 at Highland Cottage.

Born on November 28, 1954 in Pontiac, the son of Gerald and Doris (Groff) Webb. He lived much of his life in the Boyne City area.

Surviving are his daughter, Amy (Jason Severns) Elmy Rapid City; grandsons, Dylan and Scott; brothers, Dennis, Jan and Gary, and a sister, Vickie.

Robert's family will remember him privately and no services are planned. Arrangements are by



OBITUARIES

Gaylord Community Funeral Home & Cremation Service. Please share your memories with Robert's family at www.gaylordfuneralhome.com

Jerry Callaway, 51

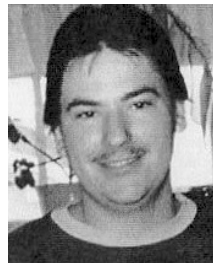
(AUG. 30, 1964 - DEC. 13, 2015)

Jerry Callaway of Ellsworth, passed away Sunday, December 13, 2015 at McLaren Northern Michigan.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

A full obituary will be updated later.

Arrangements are being handled by Gaylord Community Funeral Home. Please share your memories with Robert's family at www.gaylordfuneralhome.com



Leo "Jerry" Allen, 83

(DEC. 21, 1932 - DEC. 21, 2015)

Leo Jerome "Jerry" Allen, 83, of Johannesburg, Michigan passed away in Charlevoix.

He was born on December 21, 1932, in Hiawatha Township, Schoolcraft County, Michigan, the son of Richard and Jessie (DeVroy) Allen. Both of his parents preceded him in death in 1937. Jerry was raised by his grandparents, Mittie and John DeVroy.

Jerry graduated from Manis-



tique High School in 1950 and received his Bachelor of Pharmacy from the Detroit Institute of Technology in 1956.

He married Dorothy Berry in 1954, and she preceded him in death in 1978. In 1995, he married Lois Phillips and she preceded him in death in 2011. He was also preceded in death by a son, Mark Allen and two stepsons, John Paul and Jeff Phillips.

Jerry is survived by three daughters, Linda Yates, Beverly "Bob" Sabin and Diane "Paul" Wood; one stepson, Jamie (Carolyn) Phillips; one stepdaughter, Jeanine Phillips; twelve grandchildren; eighteen great grandchildren; one sister, Susan "Ron" Carefelle; and one brother, Gene "Shirley" Allen.

He was active in volunteer work for the United Way and the RSVP program. Jerry was an active member of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lewiston MI. He enjoyed the Marygrove Retreat Center, fishing, golfing and traveling.

A memorial mass will be held on Friday, January 8, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 4086 Salling Avenue, Lewiston Michigan 49756. Arrangements were handled by the Winchester Funeral Home in Charlevoix.

Phyllis Louise Legato (McCauley), 91

(JUNE 5, 1924 - DEC. 21, 2015)

Phyllis Louise Legato of East Jordan died Monday, December 21, 2015, at Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital.

She was born on June



5, 1924, in Detroit, the daughter of James and Carrie (Thomas) McCauley. On April 7, 1945, in Detroit, she married Albert J. Legato.

They moved to East Jordan in 1958. She was a home maker most of her life and went back to received her high school diploma in 1978. She also cooked for the East Jordan Senior Center.

Albert J. Legato, Sr. preceded her in death on February 8, 1997.

Phyllis was a member of St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church in the Bohemian Settlement in Jordan Township, Antrim County, MI. She enjoyed reading and her family.

She is survived by eleven children, Janet (Peter) Joos of Switzerland, James (Connie) Legato of Traverse City, Debbie (Louie) Peck of East Jordan, Pamela (John) Yell of Petoskey, Albert (Kathy) Legato, Jr. of East Jordan, Jon (Sue) Legato of Katy, Texas, Jeffrey (Lynette) Legato of Petoskey, Steven (Catherine) Legato of Oden, Gerard (Teresa) Legato of Brutus, Eric Legato of Zeeland and Joel (Shanda) Legato of Cheboygan; twenty-four grandchildren; twenty great grandchildren; two sisters, Eleanor DeBruyne of Shelby Township and Jean Anne McMahon of Sidney, Ohio; and several nieces and nephews. Phyllis was preceded in death by one son, Brian Legato in 1960 and a sister, Florence Burkemo.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, December 26, 2015 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, East Jordan. Rev. Father Chet Collins officiated. Burial will be in St. John Nepomucene Praga Cemetery, Jordan Township, Antrim County, Michigan. Memorials may be given to the Gaylord Diocese Fund for Retired Nuns.

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GAS PRICES

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1A

GasBuddy 2015 Travel Survey Key Findings:

- Home for the holidays, no matter the cost. When it comes to holiday travel, money does not always dictate what people decide to do. Only 19% of survey respondents said current fuel prices are changing or altering their holiday travel plans. Of course that's easy to say this year, given we're seeing the lowest prices in over six years.

- What to do with the extra cash? For those who said the drop in gas prices have impacted their travel plans, nearly half (49%) said they will be traveling a greater distance, while 23% said they will be spending more on holiday gifts, and 11% will be spending more on food.

- Traffic: the leading cause of holiday stress. Nearly half of consumers find the holidays to be stressful, with traffic being the biggest reason (80%), followed by the weather (56%), and the extra cost involved (42%).

To find the cheapest gas station near you, download the free GasBuddy app or visit www.gasbuddy.com.

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

BOYNE CITY COMMISSION MEETING, DEC. 23, 2015

Tax Abatements will help fund improvements at Parkview Apartments

By Michelle Medjesky

BOYNE CITY - Boyne City commissioners gathered just before Christmas for a re-scheduled meeting to decide two separate matters that may become more costly or complicated if settled after the New Year.

One issue was whether to move up sale of bonds several weeks in hopes of saving taxpayers interest on the financing of Boyne City's planned \$7 million city facility improvement project.

Commissioners voted unanimously at the December 23 meeting to approve selling \$7 million in general obligation bonds to finance the project, which is set to begin later next year and will bring a new city hall and emergency facilities to the city.

Voters approved borrowing the \$7 million last May.

Boyne City manager Michael Cain said he advised the commission to move ahead with selling the bonds more than a month before bids are expected on the project because there's a possibility of

an interest rate increase after the first of the year.

He noted the Federal Reserve's recent short term interest rates increase of 0.25 percent could signal other possible increases soon to follow. Cain said a 0.25 rate increase would total about \$180,000 over the 21 year life of the city's debt.

Right now, city taxpayers can expect the first millage at a rate of 2.69 mills to be collected to pay for the bonds in July 2016. As a rule, one mill is equal to \$1 in tax for each \$1,000 in taxable property value, which is roughly half of its market value.

For example, if a home is worth \$150,000, its owner will pay about \$201 in property taxes for the new city facility project on their 2016 summer tax bill.

In other business at the December 23 meeting, commissioners also voted unanimously in favor of approving a property tax abatement for a low-income housing development in the city. The measure was approved in the form of what's called a PILOT ordinance.

Earlier this year, owners of Boyne

City's Parkview Apartments, Bob and Pam Brooks, asked the commission to consider the tax agreement/ordinance, which would basically remove their property from the tax rolls and instead allow them to make an annual payment based on percentage of collected rent.

The payment in lieu of tax agreement will now allow the Brooks to move forward with funding badly needed improvements at the Parkview Apartment complex, which has been home for those making lower income wages in Boyne City for the past 25 years.

Commissioners agreed there is a need to take whatever steps available to support low income housing developments, especially in light of what steady growth and development the area is experiencing.

"In some respects, Boyne City is a victim of its own successes," said city manager Michael Cain. "But this is not just a Boyne City issue."

He added that the need for "fair and

See Tax Abatements -5A

THE SEASON OF GIVING

Lights of Love ceremony in Boyne City

It was a perfect evening to enjoy the tree lighting ceremony of the 28th annual Lights of Love of benefit held on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 in Boyne City. The Boyne Eta Nu Charities rose over \$3,300 for The Hospice of Northwest Michigan by people who purchased ninety-eight lights and forty-one "Hearts". The monies raised will be use for patient care in the surrounding communities.

The event started out at the Boyne River Inn where Pati Scott welcomed the attendees. The gathering moved outside for the tree lighting ceremony and a prayer delivered by Marilyn Rhadigan. Amy Wieland, Executive Director of The Hospice of Northwest Michigan, thanked the crowd for their support for the past 28 years of giving totaling over \$110,000. Vi Riley, a member of Boyne Eta Nu, led the group in song during the ceremony, while Bob Greene played Amazing Grace on his trumpet.

Boyne Eta Nu Charities and Hospice of Northwest Michigan would like to thank all the people and families who purchased lights and hearts plus the local merchants who made donations to make this a very special event. Thank you to Karen & Ray Guzniczak proprietors of County Now & Then who is hosting our tree, Dirk Lily of the Boyne River Inn who hosted a buffet dinner,



Lights of Love committee members - Left to Right: Barbara Miller, Pati Scott, Amy Wieland, Candy Greene, Kathy Henricks and Marion Stetson. COURTESY PHOTO

Andre Poineau who made the hearts and Boyne Mountain Resorts who donated the printing. We are grateful to Café Santé and Red Mesa who promoted the event and offered a special "Lights of Love" cocktail with proceeds going to

Hospice.

The "Hearts" may be pick-up by family members after the holidays at Country Now & Then, in Boyne City.



BCHS Robotics program receives trailer donation

Thanks to the generosity of Kelly & April Bellant, the BCHS Robotics Program, BC Blaze FRC Team 4377 received a brand new trailer complete with team logo. The Bellant's son, Kelly, was the first 4-year team member of BC Blaze and a 2015 graduate of Boyne City High School. While Kelly was home from college at Thanksgiving time, the family delivered the trailer to the team during a November 24 work-session. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bellant have been mentors for the program and have had a vision of team having it's own trailer, complete with logo, to transport the robot when traveling to competitions and other events. BC Blaze is extremely grateful to the Bellant family for their support of the program with their generous donation. COURTESY PHOTO



Good Samaritan Food Pantry receives donation.

East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce President / CEO Mary H. Faculak presents checks from the recent Holiday Business After Hours to Good Samaritan Director Mary Peterson and Food Pantry volunteer Kay Spence. The Annual networking event accepts cash donations from Chamber members and their guest to benefit the Good Samaritan and the East Jordan Care and Share Food Pantry as admission to an evening of fellowship, hors d'oeuvres, and refreshments. Sponsors for this year's Holiday Business After Hours, held at the Jordan River Arts Council were EJ and The Jordan River Arts Council. Attendees also were treated to holiday music by two members of the Jordan Valley Community Band, Phyllis Childs and Becky Palmateer. Pictured from Left to Right: Kay Spence - Good Samaritan Food Pantry Volunteer, Mary H. Faculak - President / CEO East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce, Mary Peterson - Director of Good Samaritan Food Pantry. COURTESY PHOTO



Care & Share Food Pantry Receives Donation

East Jordan Care and Share Food Pantry Director Kathy Reid accepts checks from East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce staff members Mary Faculak, Shannon Fender and Board member Heather Jackson. The proceeds from the East Jordan Community Night Soup Cook-Off and half of the proceeds from the Chamber's Annual Holiday Business After Hours were donated to the East Jordan Care and Share Food Pantry to help stock the pantry shelves for the winter. The Soup Cook-Off had eight local Chamber member restaurants competing for best soup as voted by the people. A Matter of Taste at Tapawingo won first place, second place went to East Jordan Public Schools and Porter Creek Fish House took home third place. Over two hundred people attended this popular Community Night event. The Holiday Business After Hours was held at the Jordan River Arts Council. This kick-off to the busy holiday season for Chamber members and their guests was co-sponsored by EJ and the Jordan River Arts Council. Guests were treated to a wonderful evening of fellowship, delicious hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. Music was provided by Phyllis Childs and Becky Palmateer, members of The Jordan Valley Community Band. Pictured from Left to Right: Shannon Fender - East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce Office Manager/Events Coordinator, Mary Faculak - East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce President/CEO, Kathy Reid - Director of East Jordan Care and Share Food Pantry, Heather Jackson - East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce Board Member. COURTESY PHOTO



Over \$3,000 donated to Charlevoix Food Pantry

A very special thank you to all the Charlevoix Rotarians and Charlevoix residents who donated and/or volunteered at our canned food drive. We were able to donate \$3008 and lots of nonperishable items to the Charlevoix Community Food Pantry! COURTESY PHOTO

10 Tips to Stay Safe While Navigating Winter Driving

Winter has arrived a bit earlier this year in Michigan, meaning that drivers need to be prepared earlier than ever. The resulting frigid temperatures and dangerous driving conditions have caught many people off guard causing numerous crashes. Meteorologists are predicting another blustery, snowy and heavy winter season and are cautioning drivers to be extremely cautious in the coming months.

"Winter driving in Michigan can be extremely challenging under normal conditions," said Pamela Harlin, spokesperson for the Meemic Insurance Company. "When you add in any form of extreme weather conditions, like an excess in snow fall, the result can be dangerous driving conditions that require even the most skilled drivers to use the utmost caution."

Meemic Insurance offers these 10 Safety Tips for Winter Driving to help Michigan drivers arrive safely and avoid costly accidents.

1. Start Clean - Be sure to completely clear snow and ice from all windows, lights, hood and roof for maximum visibility and to avoid having ice and snow fly off your vehicle. Law enforcement officials are on the lookout for "peep-hole drivers."

2. Light it Up - Before starting out, turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.

3. Slow it Down - Remember, posted speed limits are for dry pavement. Decrease speed on icy, snow-covered roads and allow extra distance between you and other vehicles.

4. Look Ahead - Watch the traffic well ahead for extra reaction time. Always drive defensively and give yourself a cushion of time to deal with wintery conditions.

5. Stay Away - Stay well back of maintenance vehicles and snowplows - at least 200 feet (it's the law) - and don't pass on the right. Use extreme caution when passing in a passing lane.

6. Pick a Lane - Avoid abrupt lane changes. There may be a snow ridge between lanes. Also, the passing lane may be in worse shape than the driving lane.

7. Take a Brake - Brake early and gently to avoid skidding. It takes more time and distance to stop in adverse conditions. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake. Do not pump anti-lock brakes.

8. Watch for Signs - Watch for signs alerting you to slippery bridge decks and other areas prone to becoming slick, even when the rest of the pavement is in good condition.

9. Stay in Control - Don't use cruise control or overdrive in wintery conditions. Even a slight depression of your brakes to deactivate can cause loss of control on hidden slippery patches.

10. Avoid Assumptions - Do not assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles encounter trouble on winter roads. The false sense of security these vehicles offer can leave you less prepared to deal with emergency situations.

SKIING

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1A

runs and three lifts open as of Sunday, December 27.

They are also ready for skiers and snowboarders at two popular resorts even further to the south in Gaylord at Treetops Resort and the Otsego Club and Resort.

Treetops Resort had one of its four beginner runs open early this week and one of its ten intermediate runs also open along with two terrain runs. Two of five lifts are also running this week at the resort, where snow lovers will find 18" of packed powder on upper slopes and about a 10" pack on lower slopes. Treetops Resort will be open from 10am until 9pm through January 2.

The Otsego Club and Resort in Gaylord had two of its 31 runs open and two of its six lifts open as of Monday, December 28. Snowmaking has also been ongoing at the resort resulting in a base depth between 12-20 inches with packed powder secondary conditions.

The resort will be open the week between Christmas and New Year's Monday through Saturday, 9 am until 8:30pm and on Sunday 9am until 8pm.

While staff at area ski hills are delighted that temperatures have remained cold enough to maintain the snow they have al-

ready made with snow guns, they remain cautiously optimistic that expected snowfall this week will allow them to open even more runs before New Year's Day.

The National Weather Service in Gaylord issued a winter storm warning for much of northern Michigan early on Monday forecasting snow accumulation up to 7" in some parts before mid-week.

But while area ski resorts might rejoice in there being enough snow to attract more winter sports enthusiasts up north during the holidays, those who work in area restaurants, bars, hotels and other service industry jobs typically refer to the week between Christmas and New Year's as "hell week" because it does tend to get overwhelming busy.

"I know we need people to come up here from downstate to keep northern Michigan going, but they call this hell week for a reason," said Melanie from Boyne City, who declined to give her last name so she's not singled out, but who works as a server at a restaurant near Petoskey, "People can really be jerks, but I don't mind, really, because it's only for a week or two and if you just smile and be nice, you can make really good tips, which is awesome, because after this, it's like...crickets."

News Briefs

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

CHARLEVOIX COMMUNITY POOL NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

December 30, 6-8pm, Charlevoix Area Community Pool. Beach Bash 2015! Celebrate with family and friends at the Pool for our annual New Year's kick-off party. It's cold outside, but not on the Pool deck. Grab your swimsuits, lounge at the pool, toss around some beach balls, and soak in the hot tub. Pizza, refreshments and goody bags provided. Children 5 and under are free! All other guests (swimmers and non-swimmers), \$5 advance purchase or \$6 at the door. Reservations are recommended, as we are limited to a maximum occupancy. Call or email the Pool today to ensure your spot at the Beach Bash: 231.547.0982 or info@charlevoixpool.org.

CHARLEVOIX BRIDGE DROP

December 31, starting at 9pm. 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! The best New Years Eve Firework Show in the Midwest will take place at 9pm. The Bridge Drop will take place at midnight.

CHARLEVOIX MODERN DAY MASQUERADE

December 31, 9pm-1am, Castle Farms. Join us at the Castle on New Year's Eve for a masquerade ball as we usher out the Old Year and ring in the New. \$45 per person.

BOYNE CITY BOYNE APPETIT! KICK-OFF

January 6, 5-7pm. On the first Wednesday of each month, local restaurants and wine purveyors will have wine tastings and serve complimentary appetizers. Those currently participating are the Boyne Pub, Café Sante, Northern Table, Porter Creek Fish House, Red Mesa Grill, Boyne River Inn, Lake Street Market and The Wine Emporium. Nate Jason from Café Sante and Mark Warner from Northern Table are coordinating Wine Wednesdays and inviting other area restaurants to participate. For more information contact Janssens at 989-942-7265, cynthia2248@msn.com, or Haley at 231-350-2962, alana.haley@sommer-setpointe.com.

CHARLEVOIX BLOOD DRIVE

January 14, Noon-5:45pm. Community Reformed Church, 100 Oak Street. Simply call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit red-crossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information.

BOYNE CITY POLICE DEPT.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

0100 Larceny reported in the 600 block of W Court St
0419 Assist EMS in the 800 block of E Main St,
0448 Lodged a dog at the shelter
0527 Assisted EJPD with locating a vehicle.
0935 Report of suspicious activity on Groveland St.
1350 Report of a tent camp off the end of Spring St.
1546 Driving complaint at Boyne Ave and Brockway.
1730 Civil complaint from the 400 block of Jefferson St
2149 Assist CXSH at Boyne Mountain.
2302 Assist CXSH with

noise complaint on High Country Drive.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

1118 Civil complaint involving the 400 block of Jefferson St
1248 Threats complaint reported from W Court St
1255 Warrant arrest at the PD
1423 Report of vehicle blocking sidewalk on Groveland St.
1550 Vehicle unlock in the 1300 block of Boyne Av
1648 Report of attempted computer scam in the 400 block of Front St.
1747 Report of missing debit card
1816 Gasoline drive off from the 1300 block of Boyne Av
1955 Vehicle unlock on Jay Cee Lane.
2005 Report of threatening communications. Arrested sub-

ject for Conditional Bond Violations
2026 Lodged a hound at the shelter

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

0150 Assist EMS on Jay Cee Ln
1053 Vehicle unlock in the 300 block of E Division St
1345 Arrested subject for R&O and warrant following foot pursuit. Arrested second subject on Emmet Co. warrant.
1540 Report of Craig's List scam from the 500 block of N Lake St
1639 Property damage accident occurred on Boyne Av
2032 intoxicated subject reported in the 300 block of E Division St
2112 Property damage accident on Lake south of Main.
2355 Alarm in the 100 block of River St.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

0936 Report of computer fraud from the 1000 block of Boyne Av
1100 Witness Intimidation/Obstructing investigated in the 100 block of E Water St
1259 Computer fraud reported in the 400 block of Lewis Ave.
Thursday, December 17, 2015
1728 Report of iphone stolen from the 900 block of Brockway St
0056 911 check in the 1300 block of Boyne Av.
0610 Arrested subject for DWLS at Industrial Park Dr and Lexamar Dr. Also cited for left of center.
0716 Vehicle unlock in the 100 block of S Lake St.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

0911 Vehicle unlock in the 400 block of N Lake St
1023 Assist CXSH and EMS on Pincherry Rd
1126 Civil complaint from the 400 block of Jefferson St
1504 Assist EMS in the 400 block of N East St
1520 Property damage accident reported at Boyne Av and E Main. Canceled prior to arrival.
1557 Report of loud arguing in the 1000 block of Wilson St.
1626 Vehicle unlock in the 100 block of N Lake St.
1823 Driving complaint coming in on M-75N.
2141 Driving complaint on M-75 S.
2241 Report of a road hazard in the 300 block of E Division St

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

0123 Property damage accident at Division and Boyne Av.

Citation for driving too fast for conditions.

1223 Vehicle unlock in the Industrial Park
1318 Vehicle unlock in the 500 block of N Lake St.
1325 Stray cat found in the 300 block of Vogel St.
1707 Report of threatening calls from the 600 block of N East St.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

0227 Arrested subject for OWI on M-75 S past Moll Dr.
0437 Hit and Run accident- Truck versus Power pole on W. Michigan at John St.
1145 Injured cat found in the 711 block of S Lake St
1206 Gasoline drive off in the 1300 block of Boyne Av.
2337 Assist citizen in the 400 block of Pearl St.

Why is January 1 the 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 resolution 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.

The late Dick Clark may not have been around for the first

dropping of the ball in 1907 but he was long associated with New Years through the show that ran for more than two decades 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."

BOYNE CITY ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS CEREMONY

January 21, 5:30-8:30pm at Boyne Mountain. This is a special night for the area's business community, bringing together more than 300 members of the Chamber family for an evening of dining, socializing, special recognition and to present the Chamber's annual awards. The program includes food, beverages, live and silent auctions, entertainment by the Boyne City High School Jazz Band, awards in six categories and the introduction of the Chamber Board members. Tickets: \$40 per

person by January 4 and \$45 after and are available at the Boyne Chamber, (231) 582-6222.

EAST JORDAN ANNUAL DINNER/ MEETING /AUCTION

January 30, Castle Farms. Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner/Meeting/Auction.

BOYNE CITY FREE BALANCE WORKSHOP

Beginning January 4th the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan is offering

a popular eight-session workshop designed to help adults with concerns about falling in Boyne City. This award-winning program, called "A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls," is being held in the Community Room at Litzenger Place located at 829 S Park Street. Classes will be held every Monday from 10 am-12 noon from January 4 through February 22, 2016. The Boston University, evidence-based program emphasizes practical strategies to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels. To register for a class, or to request a workshop in your area, please call 1-800-

442-1713. Visit www.aaanm.org/mob-workshops to learn where and when "A Matter of Balance" workshops are being held throughout northwest Michigan.

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

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News

New Years Resolutions

By Deb Hagen-Foley

“Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.” Oprah Winfrey

“Character is the ability to carry out a good resolution long after the excitement of the moment has passed.” Cavett Robert

New Years Resolutions. Most of us have made them at some time. 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. Of those who attempt, only 8% are successful in achieving their goal and 24% are never successful. Nearly half, 49% are sometimes successful in keeping their resolutions. Overall, making resolutions is better than not, as persons who explicitly make resolutions are ten times more likely to attain

their goals than those who do not make them.

We decide that January 1 is going to be the best time to stop smoking, exercise more or eat better. The top 10 New Years resolutions for 2015, according to the Statistics Brain Research Institute 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 in their dreams, fall in love, and to spend more time with family.

The start of a new year has become a traditional starting point for adopting better habits. Unfortunately, the behavior change is often short-lived. If you are truly committed to making positive and lasting changes, here's what the experts recommend:

1. Decide on a specific, measurable objective rather than an abstract resolution. Instead of, "Exercise more," commit to "Walk 5000 steps a day."

Consider your current level of physical activity and don't make your goal unrealistic. If you are sedentary now, don't set a goal of working out intensely an hour a day as you are unlikely to be able to sustain such a lofty goal.

2. Write down your goal to make it concrete and

3. Review your resolution constantly.

4. Hold yourself accountable. If your goal is to walk 5000 steps a day, keep track of your physical activity. Consider using an inexpensive pedometer to track the number of steps taken.

Keep a chart of your activity. Not only will this keep you accountable, but it may motivate you to take more steps the next day. Also, if you fail to meet your goal one day, don't feel you need to wait until January 1, 2016 to start again!

Hestia Women's Giving Circle announces funding availability

Are you part of an organization in Emmet or Charlevoix County seeking funding for a project that will make a positive difference in the lives of local women or girls? The Hestia Women's Giving Circle is welcoming applications for its ninth grant cycle. Applications are due February 1, 2016. Grants will be announced in May and awarded in mid-June. Organizations applying for grants must have 501(c)3 non-profit status, be a school or government agency, or have a fiscal agent with non-profit status.

The Giving Circle is a donor-advised fund of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (CCCF), which also assists the Giving Circle in grant making and distribution. This year, CCCF is using new on-line software and offering hands-on opportunities for how to use it. Prospective grantees are invited to attend one of two training sessions to assist in writing their grant application. The first will be held January 8, 2016 from 10:30 to noon, and the second on January 12 from 2:30-4:00. Sessions will be held at the Charlevoix Public Library. Please call CCCF 231.536.2440 to register.

A small group of caring, enthusiastic and generous women formed the Hestia Women's Giving Circle in 2005 with the mission to "Promote the economic self-sufficiency and well-being of women and girls in Emmet

and Charlevoix counties." The Circle is named for the Greek goddess Hestia, who expresses her love and concern for others through thoughtful acts. The Giving Circle provides an opportunity for women to pool their donations to make a significant impact and to educate themselves about issues facing women and girls in our community.

Since Hestia's founding, grants totaling more than \$300,000 have been awarded to a variety of projects specifically geared to women and girls. Examples of recent recipient organizations include the Women's Resource Center, Planned Parenthood of West & Northern Michigan, North Country Kids, Raven Hill Discovery Center, Petoskey Area Hockey Association, Petoskey Public Schools Debate Program, and First Tee of Northern Michigan, among many others.

The Hestia Women's Giving Circle is actively seeking new members. The annual membership fee is \$1,000, which can be shared by two women. All of the funds received are distributed directly to local organizations serving women and girls. The Giving Circle is especially interested in supporting smaller organizations that may have limited access to other sources of funding.

For questions and more information, please send an email to INFO@hestiacircle.org.

TAX ABATEMENTS

CONTINUED FROM PG. 3A

equitable housing" for those making lower incomes is prevalent in many growing cities throughout northern Michigan.

During a commission meeting earlier in December, Boyne City Mayor Tom Neidhamer commented on the proposed tax abatement agreement, agreeing that it's important to recognize the public need which lower income housing developments fill. However, he added that it's equally

critical to realize that as more properties are removed from the tax rolls, more serious issues might evolve, particularly since residents of lower income properties are still provided city services and utilities.

Boyne City already has some 120 units removed from its tax rolls, he noted.

"At what point does Boyne City reach a saturation point?" Neidhamer asked.

Charlevoix County Commissioner Chris Christensen, who lives in Boyne City, echoed concerns about taking lower income properties off tax rolls and the cumulative impact that may have on other entities who must help pay for providing utilities and services to all city properties.

"The burden is being narrowly spread," Christensen commented on the matter during a recent county commission meeting.

"The cost of affordable housing is outpacing the people who can afford it," Christensen added, "It's this perplexing problem."

The Boyne City commission had scheduled to vote on the PILOT tax agreement ordinance for the Parkview Apartments during its regular meeting January 12. However, a special meeting was called December 23 after it was discovered that if a decision was not made prior to December 31, 2015, then the tax abatement could not be effected until 2017.

Exciting treasures always on hand at New Beginnings Thrift Store

By Jim Akans

"We are well known for having very high quality items that someone doesn't typically find in a resale shop," observes New Beginnings Thrift Store manager, Carol Grissom. "Our inventory is constantly changing, so there is something new and exciting to discover here each and every day."

Located at 650 W. Conway Road in Harbor Springs, New Beginnings Thrift Store has an incredible selection of top quality, gently used clothing and accessories, furniture, books, jewelry, tons of household items, and much more on display

at their 12,000 square foot facility. The shop was originally located in the basement of the Holy Childhood School when the operation was founded back in the 1980's. Proceeds at that time helped to support the school's day care program.

The Shop began operating under the direction of the Holy Childhood of Jesus Church in 2005, being re-organized to function more like a typical Thrift Shop, featuring donated inventory from local residents and businesses with a level of quality that far exceeded shoppers expectations. Proceeds from sales at the shop are utilized to support tuitions for children from Holy Childhood School

who attend St. Francis in Petoskey, with remaining funds going to assist area individuals in need.

"What truly sets our shop apart is the incredibly high level of quality items that we offer," states Grissom. "The clothing, furniture, and other household items we have to offer are beyond what shoppers will typically find at a resale store."

New Beginnings Thrift Store is open Monday through Friday from 9 am until 6 pm, and on Saturday from 9 am until 5 pm. For additional information call (231) - 348-2980 or visit New Beginnings Thrift Resale on Facebook.



Located at 650 W. Conway Road in Harbor Springs, New Beginnings Thrift Store has an incredible selection of top quality gently used clothing and accessories, furniture, books, jewelry, tons of household items, and much more on display at their 12,000 square foot facility. PHOTO BY DAVE BARAGREY SR.

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Hidden Treasures

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

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News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

For Auld Lang Syne

By Jim Akans

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 it's 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 Year's 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 clapping 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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LOCAL SENIOR CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Beaver Island Center:

Ann Partridge
26215 Main St, BI, 49782
231-448-2022

Boyne Area Senior Center:

Terri Powers
411 E. Division, PO Box 964
Boyne City, MI 49712
Phone: 231-582-6682

Charlevoix Senior Center:

Nona Jadwin
06906 Norwood Road
Charlevoix, MI 49720
Phone 231-547-5361

EJ Community Center

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116 Main Street,
East Jordan, MI 49727,
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CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

"The mission of the Charlevoix County Commission on Aging is to provide the highest quality senior services in partnership with the community. We focus our efforts on advocacy and support for seniors and their caregivers by promoting health, wellness, and education to achieve a dignified and enriched quality of life."

Area January Happenings

12/31 – 1/1, Thursday Evening

Charlevoix Bridge Drop

The Bridge Drop is back and better than ever! Get your creative juices flowing during the Snowman Making Con-test! Make smores over the fire pit in Bridge Park! Fireworks at 9pm! Bridge Drop will take place at midnight!

1/1 – 1/4, 5pm

East Jordan Lighted Christmas Village

Drive thru East Jordan's Tourist Park to view campsites decorated by local clubs, groups, churches, businesses and individuals with one-of-a-kind holiday displays.

1/2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Saturdays, 9am – 1pm

Boyne City Farmers' Market

Indoor winter market held in the Red Barn next to the Boyne City District Library.

1/2, Saturday

Magical Snow Garden @ Charlevoix Library

Help create a colorful and festive winter snow garden. Kits will be available to create your own festive garden stake. Use bright colors, and materials of your own choosing.

1/8, Friday, 5:20pm

Family Dinner & Movie Night @ Harbor Springs Sk8 Park/Ice Rink

Throughout the winter, the park will be showing movies and serving pizza to anyone who wishes to participate. Arrive at the Ice Rink at 5:20pm. Dinner is ordered at 5:30pm. The movie will begin as soon as the pizza arrives. The movie is free; dinner is \$5 per person.

1/10, Sunday, 4pm – 5pm

Monthly Adult Grief Support Group

Support program held at the First Baptist Church in Charlevoix. Call 231-547-7659 to register / more info.

1/10, Sunday, 9am – 4:30pm

Community Appreciation Day

In appreciation of your local patronage and support, Boyne Mountain & Boyne Highlands are offering a full day of FREE skiing/snowboarding and more to residents of An-trim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, and Otsego counties. County residents need to show their driver's license or other form of identification with proof of residency.

www.boyne.com

1/21, Thursday, 5:30pm – 7:00

January Swirl @ Crooked Tree Arts Center

Join us for wine tastings in our galleries! Mingle among beautiful art, listen to local musicians, and sample fine wines and food from local restaurants. Tickets may be purchased online, telephone, or at the door.

1/30, Saturday, 5pm – 9 pm

Torchlight Snowshoe Outing @ Camp Daggett

Experience the solitude of the wilderness as you snowshoe at Camp Daggett. Afterward, come in from the cold for a cup of hot chocolate, freshly baked cookies and to warm-up by the crackling fire in the camp's beautiful main lodge. Admission is free, donations are encouraged, and snow-shoes are available for all ages!

1/30, Saturday, Starting @ 9:00 am

Boyne City Winterfest

Come have a blast in Boyne City! Winterfest features activities the whole family can enjoy. Some of the events include ice sculpture, indoor sidewalk sales, chili cook-off, wine tasting, horse-drawn sleigh rides, and much more.

BOYNE AREA SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, December 30
10:30am Wii Bowl Practice
Various Card Games

Thursday, December 31
10am "Basic" Spanish
11am Arthritis Exercise
Wii Bowling

Friday, January 1
CLOSED...
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Monday, January 4
Pretty-Bag Bingo -
Gift Certificate Prize
Line Dancing
Rummikub

Tuesday, January 5
10:30am Adv Board Mtg
Pretty-Bag Bingo -
Free Lunch Prize
Mexican Train

Wednesday, January 6
10:30am Wii Bowl Practice
Various Card Games

CHARLEVOIX SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, December 30
12:45pm Bingo

Thursday, December 31
11am Chair Yoga Class
11:30 Adolph Cwik Music
1pm Wii Bowling Practice
1pm Mahjong

Friday, January 1
CLOSED...
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Monday, January 4
1pm Bridge
1pm Woodcarving
7pm Bible Study

Tuesday, January 5
11am Chair Yoga Class
1pm Mahjong
1pm Paint Class

Wednesday, January 6
12:45pm Bingo

EAST JORDAN SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, December 30
10:30am Wii Bowling
GAME DAY!

Thursday, December 31
KARAOKE DAY!
1pm Paint Class

Friday, January 1
CLOSED...
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Monday, January 4
Exercise Room
8am-1pm Walking M-F
10:30am Chair Exercise

Tuesday, January 5
10am E.J. Story Time
10:30am Line Dancing
12:30pm Bingo -
Meal Ticket Prize

Wednesday, January 6
GAME DAY!
Pool Table / Ping Pong
1pm Cards

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY SENIOR CENTER MENU

Wednesday, December 30
SALISBURY STEAK

Thursday, December 31
SALISBURY STEAK

Friday, January 1
CLOSED...
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Monday, January 4
GOULASH

Tuesday, January 5
FISH SANDWICH

Wednesday, January 6
PIZZA CALZONE

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News

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Christmas Eve storm leaves thousands without power over Christmas holiday

Power companies work around the clock to save Christmas

By Michelle Medjesky

It wasn't technically the night before Christmas quite yet. But in the early morning hours on Christmas Eve day, Susan Fowler of Harbor Springs said she suddenly felt like she was living out a scene from the beloved poem, "T" was the Night Before Christmas.

"I woke up because out on the roof, I heard such a clatter. So I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter, alright...but it wasn't Santa and his reindeer. It was a tree!" Fowler recalled with a chuckle.

Strong winds from a storm that whipped through northern and western Michigan late Wednesday night, December 23rd through the early morning Thursday, December 24th, left thousands, like Fowler, dealing with downed trees, limbs or power lines just hours before the Christmas holiday was to begin.

Representatives from Great Lakes Energy and Consumer's Energy reported more than 100,000 customers experienced power outages from the onset of the storm, which began around 2pm Wednesday and pummeled the area through Thursday morning. While the majority had their power restored within 24 hours of the initial outage, thousands were still staring at unlit Christmas lights throughout the holiday weekend.

In an outage update issued about 48 hours after the storm on Saturday, David Guzniczak of Great Lakes Energy stated the following:

"The storm that hit the state early Thursday has affected an estimated 78,566 Great Lakes Energy members in all 26 counties served by the cooperative, which includes an estimated 75,152 whose power has been restored since the storm began plus the estimated 3,414 currently without power.

Most of the remaining outages are in parts of Antrim, Charlevoix, Crawford, Emmet, Kalkaska, Lake, Montmorency, Oscoda and Otsego counties."

Guzniczak said local Great Lakes Energy crews were being assisted by more than three dozen crews from other utilities and electric cooperatives and tree trimmers.

He said although crews will work daily until midnight to restore power to all its customers,



Wind damage could also be seen at Boyne Highlands golf course, where winds brought down numerous large tree limbs and a few trees, like this fir tree pictured (far left).



Piles of wood and debris can be seen stacked along roadsides throughout northern and western Michigan as residents clean up after last week's strong wind storm rolled through the area just a day before Christmas. The above pile is what remains of a large tree that fell across Pine Street in Harbor Springs, just blocks from Harbor Springs High School. Homeowners in this neighborhood were awakened in the pre-dawn hours of Christmas Eve Day to find downed limbs and trees littering their properties.

"the damage is so severe and widespread" that some customers may need to be patient.

Representatives at Consumer's Energy said they expect most all their customers to have power restored by Sunday night but possibly Monday for some of the hardest hit areas.

"We are grateful for the positive response so many people are showing our employees and contract crews, especially as they want to celebrate the Christmas holiday with loved ones," said Mary Palkovich, Consumer's Energy vice president of energy delivery, "We are encouraged to be making progress in re-energizing communities that Mother Nature hit and we will continue working through the night and on Christmas Day."

Meteorologist Michael Doguts with the National Weather Service in Gaylord said last week's storm packed significant strength and conditions not ordinarily seen even during summer thunder storms.

He said wind gusts up to 69 miles per hour were recorded in some areas during the storm.

Many homeowners in Fowler's neighborhood near Harbor Springs High School found large limbs, debris and some downed trees on their properties after the storm and Boyne Highlands resort also saw wind damage to trees and some neighborhood homes.

Despite the fact that a large tree fell on her roof just a day before Christmas, Fowler maintained a cheerful, holiday

perspective.

After all, she noted, the damage it caused was not unrepairable or too terrible. Most importantly, she is grateful nobody got hurt.

"So I've got a tree that fell on my house on Christmas. So what? There are people out there every day dealing with much bigger issues-real life issues-and this is nothing compared to what they may be going through," said Fowler, "In fact, I think I might go home and decorate that tree-put a few decorations on it-maybe start a new thing. Most people put up Christmas trees-maybe I'll start putting one down!"

Charlevoix Hospital honored with Stage 6 Recognition

HIMSS Analytics announced that Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital has achieved Stage 6 on the EMR Adoption ModelSM (EMRAM). The hospital has made significant advances by completing this important stage in the electronic medical records system application. As of December, 2015, just 27 percent of the more than 5,400 U.S. hospitals tracked by HIMSS Analytics had reached Stage 6.

HIMSS Analytics developed the EMR Adoption Model in 2005 as a way to evaluate the progress and impact of electronic medical record systems for hospitals. By tracking their progress in completing eight stages (0-7), hospitals can review the implementation and utilization of information technology applications with the intent of reaching Stage 7, which represents an advanced electronic patient record environment.

Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital has made significant executive commitments and investments to reach this stage which impacts patient safety, clinician support, clinician recruitment, and competitive marketing for both consumers and nurse recruitment.

Well-positioned to support electronic health record environments and health information exchanges, Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital has achieved a significant advancement in its information technology capabilities and positioning the hospital to successfully address many of the current industry challenges.

"Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Area Hospital remains committed to ensuring that patients receive the right treatment, at the right time and in the right setting," said Lyn Jenks, the hospital's CEO. "Electronic medical records provide a distinct advantage by allowing staff to effectively utilize information technology to improve patient safety."

"HIMSS Analytics congratulates Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital for leading the way toward health IT adoption," said John Hoyt, FACHE, FHIMSS, Executive Vice President, HIMSS Analytics. "Stage 6 represents a level of sophistication that only 1,476 U.S. hospitals have reached to date."

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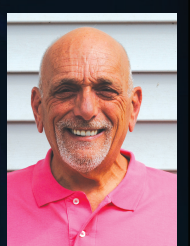
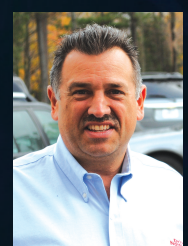
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