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Route Match will make County Transit more convenient

By Michelle Medjesky

CHARLEVOIX - Area residents who depend upon the Charlevoix County Transit System to get them around take note: a new system will go into effect on Monday, March 28 that will change how you utilize this well-used mode of public transportation.

Charlevoix County Transit Service manager Jill Drury said starting first thing next week, a new, automated and computerized dispatch system called Route Match will go into effect with the intent of streamlining the county's only public transit system and making it more convenient, efficient and reliable for its customers.

As it stands, those who want to take advantage of



the Charlevoix County Transit service generally call dispatchers ahead to schedule pick up times and drivers had to hand-write and map out their daily routes accordingly. If a person happened to call on the same day as desired pick up, drivers had to take time to figure out how to fit that requested address into their scheduled route.

But with the new system, Drury said drivers will be equipped with computer tablets that dispatchers can update and map out any recent requests for pick-ups remotely. And dispatchers will be able to utilize GPS technology to define the most efficient routes and have the capacity to troubleshoot trips that may be scheduled too tightly, creat-

ing delays in the overall route. Drury added the new dispatch system will eventually allow riders to schedule-or cancel- their requests for pick-up online.

She said the improved dispatch technology will also let riders who call ahead to schedule pick-ups days, or weeks, in advance get a "day ahead" reminder of their scheduled ride time, either

by phone, fax, text or email. And blanket notifications will go out if the transit system ever has issues causing its closure.

While the system is just now being implemented, certain glitches are expected, but staff at the Charlevoix County Transit Service say they are confident any mix-ups or delays will be hammered out in time, ultimately making the county's system more easily accessible and efficient for its users.

To contact the Charlevoix County Transit Service for more information or to schedule a ride, call: (231) 582-6900 or visit their website at: www.charlevoix-county.org/transit.asp



Kids love to hunt for Easter Eggs, and several communities in the area will be offering Egg Hunts this coming Easter weekend. FILE PHOTO

Community Easter Egg Hunts for the kids

By Jim Akans

While it's certainly fun searching for Easter eggs at home, kids can also join their friends in making gathering eggs a group activity during several community Easter egg hunts being held this Saturday. Here is a listing of where and when some of those events will be taking place:

Boyne City: Young State Park hosts children from ages one to 10 for an egg hunt at 11 am on Saturday in the beach parking area. Parents and friends can enjoy a bonfire, hot cocoa and cookies while the kids hunt for eggs. This event is free, but vehicles must have a recreation passport, which can be obtained at the park for \$11. Info: 231-582-7523.

Charlevoix: Charlevoix State Bank and the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce team up to host the 24th Annual Easter Egg Hunt downtown in East Park. Start your day at the Easter Bunny Luncheon taking place from 11am to 1:30pm at Stafford's Weathervane Restaurant. Enjoy a delicious meal with your family, then get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny, compliments of Picture This. Please call 547-4311 for reservations. Charlevoix State Bank and the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce team up to host the 24th Annual Easter Egg Hunt downtown in East Park at 2:00 p.m.

See Egg Hunts -3A

SPORTS REPORT



Rayder senior midfielder, Kylee Scholten moves the ball upfield during a scrimmage at Grand Valley State University. (PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN DOSKOCH)

story on page 2B



Boyne City senior, Tanner Kruzal (12) finished with seven points and 10 rebounds against Norway in the regional semifinals. (CC-NEWS FILE PHOTO)

story on page 1B

US 131 road construction will be completed in October

By Michelle Medjesky

BOYNE FALLS - A months-long road re-construction project along U.S. 131 from M-32 north to Boyne Falls through Charlevoix and Antrim counties is set to begin next week and will be ongoing through October.

Staff from the Michigan Department of Gaylord Transportation Service Center were on hand earlier this week at the Boyne Valley Township Hall to explain to area residents and business owners how the lengthy project might affect them in coming months.

The \$5.8 million project entails reconstruction and resurfacing of a 6.4 mile-long stretch of U.S. 31 from north of M-32 north to Boyne Falls and will include installation of full paved shoulders, new guard rails, ditches, gutter replacements and repairing of roadway joints, said MDOT Transportation Service Center manager Jay Gailitis.

Gailitis said the project is scheduled to start March 28 and be completed by October 21, however, he said some of the work already began this week.

He explained the project will take a little longer than similar road projects because MDOT is taking extra measures to ensure that traffic along the high profile U.S. 131 corridor won't be too slowed during the busy summer tourism season.

The work will require intermittent lane shifts and closures that will be controlled by a flagger, he said, noting the contractor, Rieth-Reilly Construction, is being limited to construction of one mile-long stretches at a time.

Gailitis said the lane closures will be lifted at 3pm every Friday and construction suspended on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays to accommodate the anticipated heavier traffic during those times.

Electronic signage has been set up to alert motorists as the project progresses.

"By and large, we are optimistic we will be able to maintain traffic flow in that area," Gailitis said.

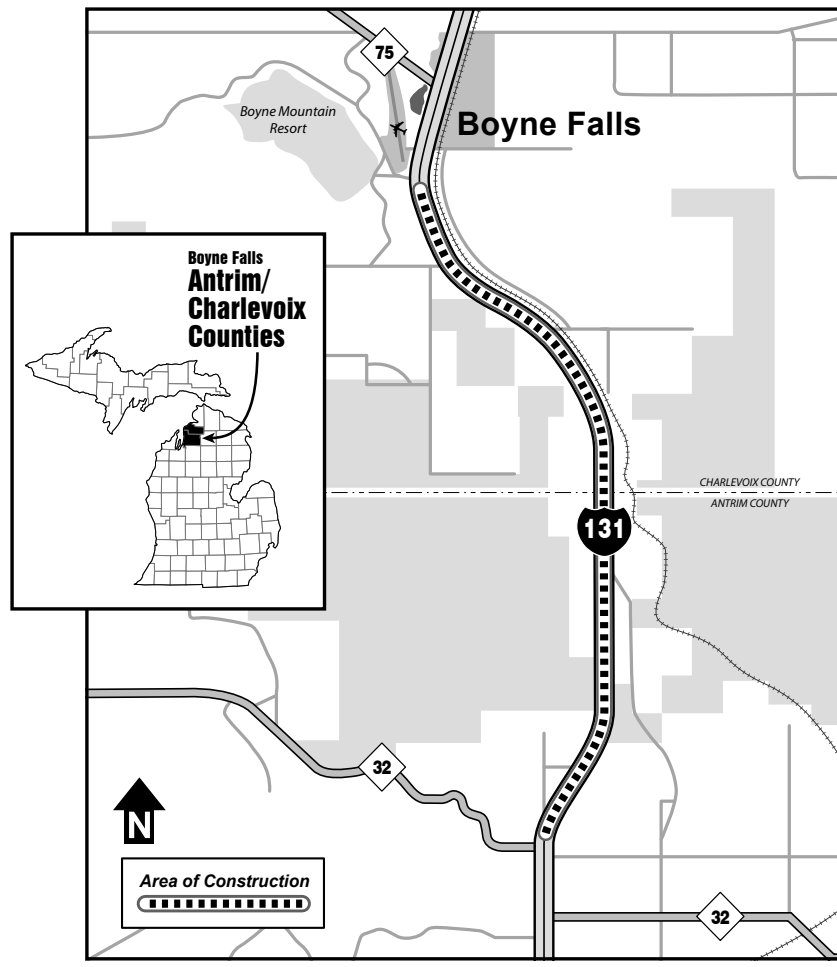


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Inside the Petoskey Meijer & 1004 W Main Street • Gaylord

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	HIGH: 29 LOW: 20	HIGH: 37 LOW: 27	HIGH: 44 LOW: 31	HIGH: 38 LOW: 27	HIGH: 41 LOW: 29		
	DATE.....2014-15	DATE.....2015-16					
	3/23/2015 ...48.5	3/21/2016 ...52.6	ATLANTA	3/21/2016 ...74.5	MAR 24 ...22°45°0° (1965) ...70° (1987)		
	3/23/2015 ...88	3/21/2016 ...74.5	BOYNE FALLS	3/21/2016 ...60.1	MAR 25 ...23°45°-6° (1965) ...70° (1987)		

Rex Alan Vallance, 53

(APRIL 14, 1962 - MARCH 15, 2016)

Rex Alan Vallance of Bradenton, Florida and formerly of East Jordan, died Wednesday, March 15, 2016, at Manatee Memorial Hospital in Bradenton, Florida.



He was born on April 14, 1962, in Muskegon, Michigan, the son of John E. and Ruth A. (Nemecek) Vallance. He grew up in

Muskegon and East Jordan. He graduated from East Jordan High School in 1980.

Rex had worked as a grocery store manager. He loved working with people. Rex enjoyed camping, canoeing and kayaking. He had lived in Bradenton for the last 10 years.

He is survived by his mother, Ruth Ann Vallance of East Jordan; three sisters, Vallerie Ann Johnston of Ruskin, Florida, Monica Rose (Tim) Spencer of Ellsworth, and Roxanne Marie (Larry) Fritz of Kingsley; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. Rex was preceded in death by his fa-

ther, John E. Vallance on July 12, 2015; brother, Tom E. Vallance; sister, Candice Mary Vallance; nephew, Jimmy Johnston; and great nephews, Austin Sheldon.

Memorial services will be announced in the spring and are tentatively scheduled for June. Interment will be at St. John Nepomucene Praga Cemetery, Jordan Township, Antrim County, MI. The family was served by the Penzien Funeral Homes, Inc. in East Jordan, MI.

Joseph Oelfke, 48

(JULY 3, 1967 - MARCH 18, 2016)

Joseph Allen Oelfke of Boyne City passed away in the early hours of Friday, March 18 2016.

He was born July 3rd 1967 to Carl and Leona Oelfke of Boyne City and attended Boyne Falls Public School. Joe enjoyed hunting, fishing, walking his dogs around town and spending time with his children. Joe worked at various restaurants in Boyne City and also did handy man work on Walloon Lake. He could also be seen shoveling snow for various businesses down town. He was known as a very hard worker and a gentle soul with a generous heart.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Mike and Dwight and sister JoAnn Bettis and nephew Orion Austin.

Joe is survived by his daughter Claudia of Petoskey; son Corey of Petoskey and son Corey Pette. Joe spent the last two years with the love of his life, Debbie McDonald of Boyne City. He is also survived by brothers Fred Oelfke of Holmen Wisconsin, Ted (Linda) Oelfke of Fayetteville North Carolina, Mary (Norm) Hausler of Boyne Falls, Sue (Vern) Walden of Alden, Lori (John) Pember-ton of Boyne City and Kathy (Gary) Balster of St. Paul Minnesota. Also surviving are many nieces and nephews and close friends.

A memorial service was held at the Boyne City Episcopal Church on Tuesday March 22nd. Memorials may be made to the family at 00485 Warner Creek Trail, Boyne City, Michigan, 49712.

Stackus Funeral Home of Boyne City is serving the family.

Family and friends wishing to share a thought or memory of Joe are encouraged to do so at www.stonefuneralhomeinc.com

1965, she went to work for Hoskins Wire Manufacturing retiring in 1985. She was a member of the First Congregational Church in Charlevoix, its Pilgrim Circle and Women's Fellowship, VFW Post 1153 Ladies Auxiliary, and the quilting club. Albert preceded Pauline in death on August 15, 1993. She is survived by her daughters, Judy A. Russell of Charlevoix, and Sharon L. Snyder of Charlevoix; grandchildren, Alva L. Noirot, Gilbert L. (Kathy) Noirot, Tami L. Tom) Rost, Teresa M. Noirot, Bridget S. Dohm, Timothy L. Noirot, Bryan (Barb) Noirot, Melinda J. (Joe) Poon, Michael (Kelli Acha) Zednick, Jeffrey F. (Dee) Zednick, Kit Carson, III, Kelly Carson, John Phoenix Rann, Thomas D. (Lisa) Burzyck; twenty-four great-grandchildren; sister, Jean (John) Hyde of Reed City; brother, Robert E. (Sally) Zitka of Grandville; sister-in-law, Corrine Russell; son-in-law, Alva "Sonny" Noirot; niece, Marilyn (Ed) Bradley. Pauline was preceded in death by her daughters, Eveleyn Noirot and Wanda Rann; brothers, James and Richard Zitka; and sister, Winifred Parks. The funeral was held Monday, March 21, 2016 at the First Congregational Church in Charlevoix. The Reverend Neil Wilson officiated. Burial in Brookside Cemetery in Charlevoix. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church in Charlevoix, or to VFW Post 1153, Charlevoix.

his father Jack closely watches over them. He is survived by his daughter, Stephanie Fels; grandchildren, Brayden and Paisley all of Charlevoix; sister, Kimberly (Jim) Atkinson; nieces and nephew, Katelyn, Trey, and Courtney of Bloomfield Hills; treasured family friend, Birdie Whitley of Charlevoix, loving Aunts, Theresa, Annie, Ruthie, Jean and Linda, caring cousins, great friends who all provided unconditional love to Denny.

Denny was preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Katie Curtis in 2008, and his grandmother, Ruby Curtis in 2011.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alano Club of Charlevoix - Serenity House, 106 Mason Street, Charlevoix, MI 49720.

Please visit Denny's guestbook at www.winchesterfuneralhome.com

ber of the Charlevoix Yacht Club. Jack and Joane spent many years enjoying their boating trips and also drove many miles around the U.S. in their motor home.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Ervadene Walter. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice of Northwest Michigan, 220 W. Garfield Ave., Charlevoix, MI 49720. A graveside service in Charlevoix will be announced in the late spring.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Ervadene Walter. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice of Northwest Michigan, 220 W. Garfield Ave., Charlevoix, MI 49720. A graveside service in Charlevoix will be announced in the late spring.

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Rose Elzinga (Dodd), 97

(OCT. 14, 1918 - MARCH 19, 2016)

Rose Elzinga of East Jordan died on Saturday, March 19, 2016, at Grandvue Medical Care Facility in East Jordan.

She was born on October 14, 1918, in Marion Township, the daughter of W. Earl and Esther (Beattie) Dodd. She graduated from St. Clair Shores High School in 1936.

On October 8, 1936, in Detroit, Rose married Joseph René Gerald Collins. He preceded her in death in 1940.

On October 4, 1941, in Charlevoix, she married Julius Elzinga. He preceded her in death in 1988.

Rose worked for 27.5 years for American Mold Engineering, making steel ejector pins used in the plastics industry. She retired in 1980.

She was a member of the Eastern Stars, Peninsula Grange, V.F.W. Auxiliary and the Farmers Union.

She enjoyed bowling, camping, dancing (especially square dancing), bingo, bird watching and music.

Rose is survived by son, Michael (Connie) Elzinga of Kalamazoo; daughter, Virginia "Jean" (Duwayne, Sr.) Dougherty; step daughter, Julie Martin of Woodhaven; six grandchildren, Duwayne Dougherty, Jr. of Traverse City, Al Dougherty of East Jordan, Michelle Hanson of Boyne Falls, Kevin Elzinga of Ypsilanti, Robert Elzinga of Ypsilanti, and Cheryl Elzinga of Culver City, California; six step-grandchildren, Elaine O'Neill, Robert Martin, Jr., Michael Martin, James Martin, Kelly Osborne and Julie Renée Martin; eight great grandchildren, Dallas Dougherty, Michael Dougherty, Josh Dougherty, Nicole Dougherty, Zakk Dougherty, Alexis Dougherty, Trey Dougherty and Trevor Dougherty; two great great grandsons, Ethan Michael Vincent and Jace Michael Dougherty, both of East Jordan; and three brothers, Harrison (Shirley) Elzinga, Gerrit Elzinga, and Charles (Bonnie) Elzinga, all of Charlevoix. She was also preceded in death by her daughter, June McCullough in 1989; two brothers; and two sisters.

A memorial gathering was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at V.F.W. Hall, 6710 M-32, East Jordan, Michigan 49727. Condolences to www.penzienfh.com.

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Dennis E. Curtis, 48

(AUG. 22, 1967 - MARCH 16, 2016)

Dennis Eugene "Denny" Curtis, 48, of Charlevoix, died Wednesday, March 16, 2016. He was born August 22, 1967, in Charlevoix to John W. "Jack" and Katherine F. "Katie" Curtis. Denny attended Saint Mary's School, and graduated from Charlevoix High School in 1986. He studied at Ferris State University, then at Michigan State University where in 1991, he received a Bachelor of Science in Turf Management.

Denny loved the earth and put his degree to work for him at his true love, Golf Courses. Denny cadied at the Belvedere Golf Course in Charlevoix, won a college scholarship there and went on to be a Superintendent of several area golf courses before serving currently as a greenskeeper at the Charlevoix Municipal Golf Course. All who played on courses kept by Denny, would rave about the conditions and the pace of the greens.

Denny was an avid hunter and fisherman who loved to share his skills with his adopted nephews, and his grandson, Brayden, and he loved spending time with his granddaughter, Paisley. He and his sister Kim had a love for ice fishing together, especially on Torch Lake where they happily brought bounties home to share fish dinners with their parents.

Denny had a bright smile that made you feel welcome and easily showed others he met, his great sense of humor and gentle soul. Denny was generous with his time and never failed a friend proving that he who would do anything for anybody. Denny will eternally rest at the right hand of his beloved mother Katie while

Pauline E. Russell, 94

(FEB. 23, 1922 - MARCH 17, 2016)

Pauline E. Russell, 94, of Charlevoix, passed away Thursday, March 17, 2016, at Boulder Park Terrace Nursing Home in Charlevoix. She was born February 23, 1922, in Petoskey, to James F. and Myrtle M. (Bennett) Zitka. Pauline grew up in East Jordan, attending County School in Eveline Township, and graduating from East Jordan High School in 1939. On September 11, 1939, she married Albert L. "Buster" Russell in Ellsworth and they made their home in Charlevoix. Pauline worked in house-keeping at Belvedere Club homes and in private residences in Charlevoix. In

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

"Trains & Things" at Raven Hill



"Trains & Things" invites visitors to explore railroad memorabilia and get involved with some engineering challenges. COURTESY PHOTO

For those local residents who are not traveling over spring break and for visitors to beautiful Northern Michigan, the anticipation is building at Raven Hill Discovery Center. This year, the excitement is all about trains. "Trains & Things" invites visitors to explore railroad memorabilia and get involved with some engineering challenges.

Kevin McGinty of Boyne City will have a model train up and running, complete with a working circus. The Center will have train artifacts from its collection on display and invites others in the community to share their love of trains as part of the Center's "Trains & Things" Exhibit. Whether you have old photos and postcards or old railroad spikes that you found as a kid, we would love to include your historical memorabilia in this exciting exhibit.

Hands-on activities include building your own engine or caboose out of household materials; designing and testing a section of track to keep a train (marble) from derailing and/or creating a ramp system to slow the train (golf ball) down. This is the second year that the Center is collaborating to bring in a special display and hands-on activities for visitors over spring break.

The "Trains & Things"

Exhibit is sponsored in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) through Raven Hill's 2016 Operational Grant award. The exhibit runs daily from 10 am to 4 pm starting Saturday, March 28 through Wednesday, April 20. The exhibit is open to the public.

The hands-on museum and animals will also be available for visitors to explore and the outdoor exhibits will be open. General admission is \$10 per person. No appointment is needed during regularly scheduled hours.

Please note that this special exhibit will not be open during FREE Second Saturday on April 9. The hands-on museum, animals and outdoor exhibits are available on FREE Second Saturday, which runs from noon to 4 pm. The FREE in FREE Second Saturday stands for "Families Reaching for Educational Excellence". Local donors have sponsored these "no cost" days for families since 2010.

Can't make it during regular hours? Have other questions? To schedule a visit during off hours and for more information on "Trains & Things" or FREE Second Saturdays, call 231.536.3369 or email info@ravenhilldiscoverycenter.org

Boyne City man wins Pizza Olympics

Fastest pizza box folder in the world

By Michelle Medjesky

BOYNE CITY - Boyne City is known for many things, for its lovely location on a lake, for its vibrant downtown; for its ever-growing art scene. But earlier this month, Boyne City became known as something else: for being home to a man who can fold pizza boxes faster than anyone else in the world.

David Whisker, a franchise support representative with B.C. Pizza in Boyne City, snagged a gold medal earlier this month for being the fastest pizza box folder at the "Pizza Olympics," also known as the 2016 International Pizza Expo & World Games in Las Vegas.

Whisker, 34, said folding pizza boxes isn't necessarily a skill he ever set out to hone, but one that sort of came with the territory when he was first hired to work at the B.C. Pizza store in Petoskey back in 1994 when he was just 13-years-old.

"My first day at work, they sent me into the store room and told me to fold some pizza boxes," Whisker recalled, "They didn't tell me how to do it or anything, they just said go do it, so I did."

And the rest, as they say, is history.

Whisker quickly discovered he had a talent for folding boxes faster than his co-workers and he was glad to display that during company Christmas parties when they held races for doing pizza-related tasks



David Whisker of B.C. Pizza in Boyne City won a gold medal for folding pizza boxes faster than any of his competitors at the International Pizza Expo & World Pizza Games in Las Vegas earlier this month.

like folding boxes and stretching dough. Whisker always came out on top, both in box folding and dough stretching competitions.

But what to do with a talent like that?

Whisker said some years later he was reading a copy of Pizza Today magazine that was always delivered to the B.C. Pizza shop where he worked and he learned about pizza competitions where he could actually win something for being able to fold a pizza box faster than anyone else.

He and his then girlfriend-and now wife-Michelle, saved up to travel to the International Pizza Expo in Las Vegas for David's first competition, but he didn't win gold at those games.

Fast forward five years later to this month and

Whisker was back in Las Vegas, but this time taking the gold medal for folding five pizza boxes in just 20.30 seconds, beating a field of 30 competitors from all over the world.

It was the closest time to the world record of 18.65 seconds that was set in 2011. "It was really exciting," he said.

Whisker was awarded the gold medal, a custom-made jacket marking him a World Pizza Champ and \$1,000 cash.

The medal and the cash of course were nice, said Whisker. "But really all I wanted was the jacket," he laughed.

More than anything, though, Whisker said he appreciates the support and acknowledgement he's gotten from family, friends and colleagues in the pizza industry.

Whisker said he's proud of how his 12-year-old son, Keegan and daughter 8-year-old Morgan take time to think of dad and wish him luck when he's at competitions or brag about him at school. "My son especially thinks it's pretty cool. He'll text me good luck or whatever. My daughter thinks it's cool, too," said Whisker, "It's pretty neat they think about me."

Whisker said he's further more humbled at how many of his colleagues in the pizza industry have rallied to congratulate him, either in person or via social media by sharing his Facebook posts. It amazes him how so many took time to acknowledge his gold medal win, particularly since some of his supporters are "pizza moguls" who operate multi-million dollar pizza chains in large markets. "These guys are busy, so for them to take time to share my posts really means a lot to me," said Whisker.

During the awards ceremony in Las Vegas, Tony Gemignani, founder of the World Pizza Champions, announced that Whisker is being named newest member of his team of 25 "dedicated professionals in the pizza industry."

Whisker is set to travel with the team to Italy in 2017 to compete in the World Pizza Games. Those games won't include folding pizza boxes, however, only dough-stretching, he explained.

But Whisker's not worried. He won a Bronze Medal for dough-stretching in the Pizza Triathlon earlier this year, so it's no stretch of the imagination to predict he will win another medal in Italy.

"It's going to be great," he said, "I can't wait to go."

Ellsworth Robotics class begins in May



By Tina Sundelius

In preparation for this year's Lancer Leap Robotics elective, the Ellsworth Middle School Lego Robotics Club has been meeting to build,

program, race and fight their robots throughout the month of March. Lancer Leap, the small school district's answer to adding more electives to its programs, begins on May 16. PICTURED ABOVE: Seventh graders Troy Harmon, Landon

Clarke, Garrett McCallum, Teacher Sue Goslee, Tyler Schultz, Robert Groenink, Ben Penfold, Evan Wallace, Jaeger Griswald, Jurgen Griswald, and Madison Kott display their robots.

Front Porch Cafe Dessert Tasting Event Winner

Evan Rapin was this year's winner at the Front Porch's Dessert Tasting event. The annual fundraiser for the 501c3 restaurant had lower than usual entries which resulted in a mere \$287 raised. "\$287 is \$287," said restaurant manager Jan Rassmussen who also thanked everyone involved and vowed not to hold the event during Lent next year.



EGG HUNTS

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1A

sharp. Bring your Easter Basket to hold your share of the 3500 prize filled eggs. From 2 to 3pm come out for some extra fun this year because in addition to the Egg Hunt, Charlevoix State Bank will offer face painting and balloon animals by Twister Joe. There will also be complimentary hot cocoa and cookies provided by Stafford's Weathervane Restaurant and Subway.

The event is free for children up to 10 years old. Age groups are 2 years old and under, 3-4 years, 5-6 years and 7-10 years. The hunt will include 3500 prize filled eggs. So bring your Easter basket and be ready at 2:00 p.m. sharp so you don't miss out!

At 10am on Saturday the American House will hold

an Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt. Bring the little ones but don't forget your camera to capture pictures with the Easter Bunny. Have fun with family and friends searching for Easter eggs filled with goodies and prizes. There will also be an opportunity to tour the facility. Please RSVP for this event by March 24, 231.237.5572.

East Jordan; The E.J. Lions Club will host an Easter Party at the East Jordan High School Gym starting from 10am until noon on Saturday. While there won't be an actual egg hunt at the event, the Easter Bunny will be there along with lots of exciting Easter games, prizes, drawings, and a whole lot of fun for the kids. The free event is for children ages 5-11 and bring your camera to take their picture with the Easter Bunny.

Boyne Falls Public Schools STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Sydney Bess

Grade: 9th Grade

Parent's Name(s): Dawn Ebrsole and Brian Bess

Future Plans?

Further education at Michigan State

Favorite Book: The Dog Tag Series

Hobbies and Interests: Sports and Outdoors

School Activities: Cross Country, Basketball, and Softball

Staff Comments: "Sydney is finishing her freshman year at Boyne Falls High School. She has continued to grow academically throughout the year. The effort Sydney has put in this school year reflects her success in the classroom. She is respectful and a positive member of the class. Sydney also represents Boyne Falls School well by participating in cross country, basketball, and softball. Great job and keep up the good work!" - Jason Stolarski



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MAPLE EQUIPMENT

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March 26, 10am - 4pm
Details online at www.michiganmapleweekend.com

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

CHARLEVOIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING, MARCH 21, 2016

City Council accepts donations following public input

By Tina Sundelius

CHARLEVOIX - Commissioners accepted 2 donated maritime artifacts and a bike rack, passed an ordinance and approved the purchase of 2 new trucks at the March 21 City Council meeting.

In an attempt to get the public's opinion on the acceptance and placement of a propeller from the St. Mary's Challenger that was offered to the city this past December, a public hearing was held and a poll was posted on the city Facebook page. The Planning Commission which must review all donations prior to the commission, suggested that the propeller could be placed along the Pine River near the DNR hatchery. The Facebook poll recorded that 71 people were in favor of accepting the donation while 8 responded with a no. Out of the 79 responses 69 approved of the Pine River location and 10 said no. A second donation from the USCG, the last service buoy from the Acacia which was stationed at Charlevoix until it was retired, was also on the agenda with a similar recommendation from the Planning Commission. "They felt the buoy along with a plaque describing the history of the Acacia and the Coast Guard in Charlevoix would help visitors and residents alike understand the important relationship between Charlevoix and the Coast Guard," said City Manager Mark Heydlauff. Both donations were accepted after



discussion on how they would be a nice way to recognize the nautical history of the city.

An 18-bike bike rack donation was also accepted. A recommendation to place the rack at the Robert Bridge Memorial Park was discussed. "This is a location where you have a lot of bikes that park," said Heydlauff.

A payment in lieu of tax incentive known as a PILOT ordinance was approved by the Commission for the Lake Charlevoix Apartments. A PILOT is a commonly used way to encourage the improvement and development of low income housing. The PILOT requires that improvements be made within a specified time span. "With these improvements we're



planning to make, it'll look like a brand new project," said Lake Charlevoix Apartments owner Tom Lapka.

After searching for 2 used one-ton trucks within a \$60,000 price limit set by the Commission, DPW supervisor Pat Elliott informed the Commission that there was nothing available. "We cannot find 2 used that are in decent shape that will fit within the budget," he said. However, Elliott found 2 new trucks for a slightly higher price. Under a program called MIDEAL the city can get the new Chevrolet dump trucks for \$63,572. The additional \$3,572 was approved.

The next City Commission meeting is scheduled for April 4 at 7p.m. at City Hall.

Commissioner Comments

All of the Charlevoix City Commissioners have been invited to share their thoughts about each meeting and the issues discussed. Any who submit a comment will be printed without editing after each biweekly meeting.

Commissioner Luther Kurtz - "This is a great idea, allowing each council member to share with the community his or her thoughts about what is happening on Charlevoix City Council. Last night seemed to be a fantastic example of a council that is making an effort to get along. We did discuss the new playground that is about to be installed in the grass circle area at Michigan Beach. I personally feel it will be a positive addition to Michigan Beach Park. I encourage residents to contact me at lutherk@cityofcharlevoix.org to comment about the new playground or anything other city topic. Positive Charlevoix."

Commissioner Shirley Gibson - "Last night's meeting was unbelievable that a council member would attempt to stop a project that was over one year in the making (the handicapped playground at Michigan Beach) because one person in the audience did not want to spend money (which was primarily grant money) on handicapped children. I think some on this council are abusing the "Miscellaneous Business" portion of our agenda by making "flip flop" decisions to keep the public from knowing what they are doing."

Peter Moss voted in as BC Schools interim superintendent

At the March 14th regular meeting of the Board of Education, the Board voted to bring back Peter Moss as the Interim Superintendent. Peter Moss retired on February 1, 2016 and Tom Ross was hired as the interim superintendent. The Board stated that Tom Ross did a spectacular job and his performance exceeded their expectations. This decision had no reflection on Mr. Ross' capabilities to perform the job, but their determination was based on Peter's past experience with Boyne City Public Schools. Mr. Moss verbally accepted the assignment (pending contract signatures) and is expected to be back in the District on March 22, 2016.

Mr. Ross wants the staff and community to know it was his honor to serve such an exceptional District as Boyne City Public Schools. He agrees with the Board's decision and understands the importance of continuity for the students, staff and community. He extends his gratitude on such a warm Rambler Welcome from the staff and community! Boyne Pride!

News Briefs

BOYNE CITY 60 WAYS TO GROW YOUR MAILING LIST

March 24, 8-9:30am, Boyne District Library Community Room. Presenter for this seminar is Kim Schott, a social media expert who has been featured at several popular Chamber seminars in the past. Coffee and pastries will be served. Admission is free for members of any Northern Michigan chamber and \$10 for non-members. Registration is required. Co-sponsored by East Jordan and Boyne City Chambers.

BOYNE CITY EASTER EGG HUNT

March 26, 11am, Beach Parking Area of Young State Park
Children ages 1-10 are welcome to join the hunt while parents can enjoy a bonfire, hot cocoa and cookies. This event is free but all vehicles are required to have a recreation passport which can be obtained at the park for \$11. For more information, please contact the Park Staff at 231.582.7523.

BOYNE CITY FREE MOVIE

March 26, 6:30pm, The Friends of the Boyne District Library are presenting a free movie series in the Community Room. Snacks will be available for a donation. Movie shown will be: Flash of Genius (PG-13) 2008.

BOYNE CITY PATTY LARKIN IN CONCERT

March 26, 8pm, Freshwater Art Gallery, 217 South Lake Street. Tickets are \$25 in advance. Seating is limited. Call (231) 582-2588 for information

and reservations.

CHARLEVOIX EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

March 26, Downtown Charlevoix. 11am - 1:30pm; Easter Bunny Luncheon at Stafford's Weathervane Restaurant. Enjoy a delicious meal with your family, then get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny, compliments of Picture This. Please call 547-4311 for reservations. 2pm; Charlevoix State Bank and the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce team up to host the 24th Annual Easter Egg Hunt downtown in East Park. Bring your Easter Basket to hold your share of the 3500 prize filled eggs. 2 - 3pm; Charlevoix State Bank will offer face painting and balloon animals by Twister Joe. There will also be complimentary hot cocoa and cookies provided by Stafford's Weathervane Restaurant and Subway. The event is free for children up to 10 years old. Age groups are 2 years old and under, 3-4 years, 5-6 years and 7-10 years.

CHARLEVOIX EASTER EGG HUNT

March 26, 10am, American House. Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt. Bring the little ones but don't forget your camera to capture pictures with the Easter Bunny. Have fun with family and friends searching for Easter eggs filled with goodies and prizes. If you're not familiar with us, while you are here, we will introduce you to our caring staff and friendly residents. We'll even take you on a tour of our charming community so Hop On By. Please RSVP for this event by March 24, 231.237.5572.

EAST JORDAN EASTER FUN AND GAMES

March 26, 10am-Noon, East Jordan High School Gymnasium. The free event is for children ages 5-11 and features lots of games, candy, and door prizes. The Easter Bunny will be there so bring your camera to take his picture. Sponsored by the EJ Lions Club

EAST JORDAN MAPLE SUGARING OPEN HOUSE

March 26, 10am-2pm, Martha Wagbo Farm & Education Center. This annual festivity includes syrup tastings, Maple treats, Sugar Shack tours, livestock "petting zoo," kids activities, nature hikes to the Sugarbush, music and more. This year will feature mini-workshops and a traditional Easter Egg Hunt with Maple prizes! (FYI no plastic Easter Eggs filled with candy here.) This event is free but you can support the all-volunteer-run Friends of the Wagbo Sugar Bush program by purchasing a raffle ticket for a Maple-themed gift basket, a tasty treat in our bake sale, or a bottle of the sweet stuff itself. Call 231-536-0333, email info@wagbo.org or find us on facebook to RSVP or for more information.

BOYNE CITY IDENTITY OF JESUS LIFE EXAMINED

March 27, 6:30pm, Lifetree Café, 401 South Park Street. The program, titled "Who Was Jesus—Really?" features an filmed interview with Greg Stier, author of Outbreak, and Rick Lawrence, author of The Jesus-Centered Life. Both men share their insights about the historical Jesus and what influenced their conclusions

about the identity of Jesus. Polls indicate a large majority of Americans believe Jesus walked the earth. But a smaller percentage say he should be considered the Son of God. Participants will have the opportunity to share their own thoughts concerning the identity of Jesus. Admission to the 60-minute event is free.

EAST JORDAN TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES BENEFIT

March 29, 6pm, Charlevoix Cinema III - admission by donation - proceeds to benefit Jr/St. Washington DC field trip.

BOYNE FALLS BLOOD DRIVE

March 29, Noon-5:45pm. Boyne Falls School, 01662 M-75 South. Simply call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information.

EAST JORDAN BLOOD DRIVE

April 5, Noon-5:45pm. East Jordan Civic Center, 101 Civic Center Lane. Simply call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information.

EAST JORDAN CHAMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

April 14, 5-7pm. Raven Hill Discovery Center, Co-Sponsors: Raven Hill Discovery Center & East Jordan Public School Catering.

EAST JORDAN BLOOD DRIVE

April 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 ENHANCED CHAMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

April 20, 5-7pm, The Bistro at Charlevoix Country Club. This event will include an elevated selection of hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, displays from member businesses, multiple door prizes, games and much more. We are taking it to the next level with the April Business After Hours and hoping to make it the standard for the future. Cost for the event is \$5/members (and YES, you can use your First Friday Business Breakfast punch cards) and \$15/non-members. The event is Co- Hosted by the Bistro at the Charlevoix Country Club and Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices.

BOYNE CITY 50'S PARTY

April 23, 6pm-12am, Eagles Hall. Northern Michigan Cancer Crusaders Rock Around the Clock. Twist Contest, Celebrity Performers, Prizes, Cash Bar, Silent and Ticket Auction, Food available. Music by TNT & Tim's DJ Service. Come dressed as a 50's/60's personality for a chance to win a prize. \$6 donation. For more info call Gail Farley at (231) 582-2424.

EAST JORDAN FIDDLERS JAMBOREE

April 30. East Jordan Civic Center. Registration at 11:30am, Jamboree Noon-5pm, Dance 7-10pm. Everyone is welcome. Musicians

and callers please register at front desk and will perform in order of sign in. Instruments must be non-electrified. No admission fee, donation box at door.

BOYNE CITY FARMERS MARKET

The Boyne City Winter Farmers Market is being held at the Red Barn on Saturday's from 9am-12:30pm through April.

BOYNE CITY FREE COFFEE, DOUGHNUTS & LUNCH FOR VETERANS

The community of Boyne City will be hosting a free social gathering for all veterans from 9 to 11 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Boyne Area Senior Center. Coffee and doughnuts will be donated by supportive area businesses. The senior center will also offer free lunches to all veterans on the fourth Tuesday of the month, starting in January. The senior center is located at 411 E. Division St.

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.

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POSTSCRIPT

Easter and the triumph of eternal life

by Mike Dunn



Mike Dunn

When Rachel went to school that warm April day, she had no idea the way her faith would be tested. Rachel was a typical

teenager in many ways. She was far from perfect, as she herself would acknowledge, but she was also a recent convert to Christianity and her lively faith in Jesus impacted her young life every day. She aspired to live the kind of life she felt God wanted her to live and she openly shared her newfound faith with friends at school. She also shared her faith with others at school who weren't so enamored with her testimony. They remembered those days before Rachel turned to the Lord. They viewed her as a hypocrite and they didn't want to hear anything about her religious fanaticism.

Rachel wasn't daunted, though. In fact, she wrote in her journal: "I am not going to apologize for speaking the name of Jesus ... If I have to sacrifice everything, I will."

Two of Rachel's classmates, Eric and Dylan, were particularly disdainful of Rachel's open profession of faith in Jesus. In fact, they hated her for it. In homemade videos that were later uncovered, both Eric and Dylan mocked Rachel's Christian faith in a chilling manner.

On April 20, 1999, these two very troubled young men, Eric Harris and Dylan Kiebold, brought more than their books to Columbine High School. They brought an arsenal of steel firepower



The cross, the symbol of the terrible death that Jesus suffered on behalf of mankind, is the symbol of life for all who come under the long shadow of its protection.

with them and they brought an inner rage that prompted them to do the unthinkable.

We're all sadly familiar with the story of Columbine. We're all familiar with the shooting rampage of Eric and Dylan. After their high-powered homemade bomb failed to detonate in the cafeteria, the boys took matters into their own hands in a much more personal way, removing their weapons from their gym bags and going on a shooting spree, killing 12 fellow students and a teacher and wounding 24 others.

Rachel faced the ultimate test of her faith that day. Eric Harris pointed a sawed-off shotgun at her head and asked if she truly believed in Jesus. Rachel's last words were, "You know I do." Then she went into eternity.

There was another Christian, a classmate of Rachel's named Cassie Bernall, who was in the school library when Eric and Dylan came

barging in. The 17-year-old Cassie, who was also a well-known recent convert to Jesus after coming through a turbulent time in her life, was hiding under a table and praying silently. Eric Harris approached the table and noticed Cassie. He asked Cassie the same question about Jesus and Cassie bravely said, "Yes." Then she was shot to death.

CHRISTIANS around the world celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ this Sunday. Christians believe that Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth as a man. Christians believe, as the Apostle's Creed asserts, that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin named Mary, lived a sinless life, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and buried and on the third day rose again. Christians believe that Jesus ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Christians also believe that Jesus grants eternal life to all who follow after Him. The cross, the symbol of the terrible death that Jesus suffered on behalf of mankind, is the symbol of life for all who come under the long shadow of its protection.

The Bible says that God became man so that He could fulfill a mission that was only possible for Him to do. He not only lived a sinless life but He willingly offered Himself as a sacrifice on behalf of all of us who haven't lived a sinless life. He willingly yielded to the arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, to the scourging and the mockery and the trials and the crown of thorns and the agonizing death of Good Friday, to pay the price of justice for the sins of all people of all time.

When He rose from the dead on the first Easter morning, He rose on behalf of all who would ultimately put their trust and faith in Him. And He promises that we who come to the cross in true contrition in this life will also be resurrected to be with Him in heaven when we die.

EASTER took on a special significance to Rachel Scott and Cassie Bernall nearly 20 years ago when they turned to the cross of the Son of God and they embraced Jesus as their Savior. The young ladies celebrated their final Easter in this life on April 4 of 1999, not knowing that in just a few weeks they would pass into eternity at the hands of two of their own classmates at Columbine High School.

Rachel and Cassie were prepared for that moment, though, because they had made a commitment to Jesus, as many Christians have done before them and many continue to do. They put their eternal future in the hands of the One whom they believed died in their place. They made the decision to turn away from the ways of the world and turn to the only One who promises to redeem our sinful nature and transform our hearts from within.

And when it came to choices, Rachel and Cassie were not only willing to live for Jesus in this imperfect world, they were also willing to die for Him.

I don't believe those young ladies regret their decision. I believe today they are in the presence of the very One they put their faith in. They are with Him today, tomorrow and always.

And that's really what Easter is all about.

Easter Fun Facts

White lily is symbol of resurrection

For Christians around the world, the two great symbols of Easter are the cross and the white lily. The cross represents the suffering of Jesus on behalf of mankind and the white lily is the symbol of His resurrection from the dead on the first Easter morning.

Other symbols of Easter as a holiday are the bunny and the egg, but these have their roots in the celebration of Christ's resurrection as well. The idea of the bunny stemmed from the German tradition of growing eggs each Easter as a reminder of the resurrection and the new life offered to believers. From the very early times, the egg has been considered the most important symbol of rebirth.

The tradition of coloring eggs and hiding them at Easter is an American custom, however. The Easter bunny tradition made its way across the Atlantic from Germany some years ago and grew in popularity after that.

Here are some other interesting facts about Easter:

Easter is now celebrated (in the words of the Book of Common Prayer) on the first Sunday after the full moon, which happens on, or after March 21, the Spring Equinox. The earliest possible date for Easter is March 22 and the latest date is April 25.

Easter marks the final day of the liturgical period in the Christian calendar. It marks the end of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayers and the repentance for one's sins.

During the Easter season, Americans buy more than 700 million Peeps -- making Peeps the most

popular non-chocolate Easter candy.

Each year, 16 billion jellybeans are made for the Easter season (that's enough candy to complete a 60-foot wide Easter egg that stands as tall as a nine-story building).

In addition, 5 million marshmallow chicks and bunnies are produced daily in anticipation of the Easter season, and 90 million chocolate bunnies.

When taking a bite into a chocolate bunny, 76 percent of Americans prefer to bite off the ears first while 5 percent eat the feet first and 4 percent eat the tail first.

The tradition of having an Easter egg hunt on the South Lawn of the White House started in 1878 when Rutherford B. Hayes was in office. He and his wife Lucy officially opened the White House grounds to the children of the area for egg rolling on Easter Monday. It became an annual event.

According to one survey, 63 percent of Americans prefer a chocolate bunny on Easter morning, by far the highest response. Next in line, with just 10 percent, was a marshmallow bunny.

Can you believe this? The world's largest jar of jellybeans weighed more than 6,000 pounds!

According to The Guinness Book of Records, the largest Easter egg ever made came from the ovens of Guylian, the famous Belgian chocolate maker. The egg measured a whopping 8.32 meters high! It took 26 craftsmen a total of 525 hours to build the egg and required 1,950 kilograms of chocolate.

After Halloween, Easter is the biggest candy-consuming holiday.

Kelly's Antiques & Furniture Barn offer quality vintage and custom furniture

By Jim Akans

When looking to refurnish, redecorate or simply revitalize the furniture and accessory items in your home or cottage, don't miss the opportunity to check out the amazing selection of vintage and custom furniture at Kelly's Antiques & Furniture Barn located in Charlevoix. The fascinating facility encompasses over 7,000 square

feet of ever changing vintage furniture and accessories, plus another 1,500 square feet of custom furniture items. From antique wicker to Early American and European imports, the vast selection is sure to tantalize the imagination of virtually every furniture shopper.

Don Kelly founded his business back in 1985, as he recalls, "it was in a small room off my garage. I

loved working with furniture, and while attending a furniture show I discovered a new type of finish stripper that worked extremely well. I went home, tried it out, and started my new business. It kept expanding and I moved into my current location in 1990."

Kelly adds, "Something we specialize in is wicker furniture items. People love old wicker furniture, and we also sell lots of old

pine, oak and items made from other woods as well. Vintage furniture is generally made with solid wood or very good veneers. The workmanship and craftsmanship is excellent."

The services offered at Kelly's Antiques & Furniture Barn also include customizing the size of furniture to match the customer's needs, and they will paint, stain and refinish items to match the

customer's décor if they desire.

Kelly's Antiques and Furniture Barn is located at 6176 Old US 31 South in Charlevoix. They are open Monday through Saturday from 9 am until 3 pm, and Sunday by appointment. For additional information, please call (231) 547-0133 or visit

www.dkellyantiques.com.

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

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Kelly's Antiques & Furniture Barn 06176 Old US 31 S., Charlevoix 231-547-0133 www.dkellyantiques.com	EAST JORDAN Crossroads Resale Shop 205 Water Street., East Jordan 231-536-7606 Open Tuesday thru Saturday	FREDERIC Pineview Military Surplus 7328 Old 27 North, Frederic 989-348-8300	Homespun Antiques & Crafts 230 West Main Downtown Gaylord 989-731-4305 Mon – Sat 10-5, Sun Noon - 4	MIO Strawberry Patch Resale & Consignment Store Downtown Mio, Mio MI (989)826-1503 Open Mon – Sat 10 am to 5 pm
Goodwill Retail and Donation Center 402 Petoskey Avenue Charlevoix 231- 437-6176	ELLSWORTH Good Samaritan Furniture & More Store 6519 Center St., Downtown Ellsworth 231-588-2208 thegoodsam.org	GAYLORD A-2-Z Resale 1829 Old 27 South, Gaylord 989-732-9500	GRAYLING The-Brickery.com <i>Two floors of treasures</i> 107 Ottawa, Grayling, One block north of the light 989-348-8999	PETOSKEY Goodwill Retail and Donation Center 1600 Anderson Rd., Petoskey 231-348-6947 www.goodwillnmi.org

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

BANKS TOWNSHIP MEETING, MARCH 21, 2016

Banks Township Board agrees to DTE Energy natural gas franchise agreement

Tina Sundelius

ELLSWORTH - At a standing room only meeting of the Banks Township Board of Trustees approved a franchise agreement with DTE energy.

During the opening public comment portion of the March 21 meeting Township Supervisor Thomas Mann and DTE representative Scotty Kehoe fielded questions predominately about the maintenance of gas lines and possible hidden costs. Mann opened the floor to Kehoe, allowing him to address each concern individually. "We're a very customer oriented company and this (agreement) holds us accountable," he said. Nearly everyone in the room had an opinion to express or questions on the issue. "Depending on how you look at

the numbers, we could be looking at a savings of \$30,000 - \$35,000 a year and possibly more than that," said ECS Superintendent Aaron Gaffney, who also commented on the benefit of having a natural gas option before the new construction takes place at the schools.

"We try to employ people here, the potential of people choosing natural gas is a route and that's an employee," said Ellsworth Farmers Exchange General Manager Tim Underwood.

County Commissioner Dave Heeres encouraged the board to keep in mind what's in the best interest of the majority. "You're going to upset the applecart someplace, do what's in the best interest of the majority," he said. After an hour and a half question and answer period the board voted to ap-

prove the agreement.

The franchise agreement doesn't require anyone to switch to natural gas it only allows DTE to seek a customer base in the township and the village who accepted the agreement at their meeting last week. DTE will begin contacting residents by direct mail in the next few weeks, holding informative town hall meetings in mid-April and their representatives will be going door to door gathering signatures of residents interested in switching. "The goal is to have all the customers that choose to sign up on line by September," said Kehoe. DTE is seeking 60% of the residents to switch but will still lay pipe if only 40-50% choose to participate.

The next Banks Township Board meeting is scheduled for April 18 at 6pm.

East Jordan Public Schools

Student of the Month



Alyssa Dunson (pictured above with her mother Nicole) is a model student. She is a leader in her history class and is respected by her peers. She has a positive spirit and work

ethic and always has a smile and positive attitude. I look forward to watching Alyssa excel the rest of this year and beyond. Congratulations Alyssa, this award is well deserved.



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Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
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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

East Jordan Senior Center

Brenda Skop
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East Jordan, MI 49727,
Phone: 231-536-7831

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Home Delivered Meals
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Project Lifesaver
Senior Hi-Lites Newsletter
Tax Assistance
Volunteer Opportunities

WEBSITE ADDRESS:

www.charlevoixcounty.org/coa.asp

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."

Blue Cross Blue Shield Legacy Medigap Update

Counselors with the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program continue to field questions from many of the 200,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Michigan who are enrolled in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Legacy Medigap products. Some of the subscribers to these plans have heard that there will be changes and they are calling to find out the details.

While much is still unknown, we do know that the premium subsidy will end this year. Several years ago the Michigan Attorney General's office and BCBSM came to an agreement that the premium cost for the Legacy plans would remain frozen until July 31, 2016. It is rumored, however, that the subsidy will re-main in place until the end of 2016.

Regardless of when the change occurs, there are still many questions that re-

main such as:

1. Will the Legacy plans continue to be offered by BCBSM?
2. If so, what will be the unsubsidized premium cost?

Will the plan structure be modified, i.e., will Legacy continue to be a "community-based" plan that has the same premium and underwriting criteria for everyone, including those on Medicare via disability? Hopefully, current Legacy subscribers will be armed with all of this important information prior to the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period that starts October 15th. That way they will be able to make a good decision regarding their health care insurance for the following year. They will have the option to enroll in a different Medigap plan with another company, or apply for one of the many

Medicare Advantage plans if they can no longer afford the more expensive premium.

Another important consideration is the guaranteed issue period. This is a Medicare rule that requires companies to sell certain Medigap policies to new customers regardless of current or past health conditions. With this right, Medicare beneficiaries cannot be denied coverage based on pre-existing health conditions. If BCBSM continues with their Legacy plans it doesn't appear that current subscribers will be able to access the important guaranteed issue right, so an insurance company can deny them coverage for a Medigap plan if they are unable to meet the underwriting requirements.

It appears that BCBSM will be required to file a rate

change with the Michigan Department of Insurance and Finance in Lansing. This will afford the public some consideration and oversight in guaranteeing that there will be some oversight in the process.

Once BCBSM announces the future plans for their Legacy products, counselors with the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program can provide help explaining options that are available to beneficiaries. Local assistance in all aspects of Medicare can be obtained from a certified MMAP representative by calling 800-803-7174.

*By: Jim Verville, Region 10 Coordinator
Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program
Area Agency on Aging,
Traverse City, Michigan*

BOYNE AREA SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, March 23
Foot Clinic (by Appt)
10:30am Wii Bowl Practice
Various Card Games

Thursday, March 24
EASTER PARTY!
"COOL" PAJAMAS &
AWESOME SLIPPERS CONTEST!
11am Tag-a-Longs

Friday, March 25
Closed...
Happy Holiday!

Monday, March 28
10:30am Line Dancing
Pretty-Bag Bingo -
Gift Certificate Prize
Rummikub

Tuesday, March 29
Pretty-Bag Bingo -
Free Lunch Prize
Mexican Train

Wednesday, March 30
10:30am Wii Bowl Practice
AARP Driver Safety
Program—Call Terri
Various Card Games

CHARLEVOIX SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, March 23
10am-1pm Veterans Services
12:45pm Bingo

Thursday, March 24
EASTER PARTY!
FOOT CLINIC
11am Chair Yoga Class
11:30 Kevin Johnson Music
1pm Wii Bowling

Friday, March 25
Closed...
Happy Holiday!

Monday, March 28
1pm Bridge
1pm Woodcarving
7pm Bible Study

Tuesday, March 29
9am-1pm Tax Assistance
11am Chair Yoga Class
1pm Paint Class

Wednesday, March 30
12:45pm Bingo

EAST JORDAN SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, March 23
GAME DAY!
Pool Table / Ping Pong
10:30am Crafts
1pm Cards

Thursday, March 24
EASTER PARTY!
11am KARAOKE DAY!
10:30am Chair Exercise
1pm Paint Class

Friday, March 25
Closed...
Happy Holiday!

Monday, March 28
Exercise Room
8am-1pm Walking M-F
10:30am Chair Exercise

Tuesday, March 29
10am E.J. Story Time
12:30pm Bingo -
Meal Ticket Prize

Wednesday, March 30
GAME DAY!
Pool Table / Ping Pong
10:30am Crafts
1pm Cards

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY SENIOR CENTER MENU

Wednesday, March 23
TACO CASSEROLE

Thursday, March 24
COOK'S CHOICE

Friday, March 25
Closed...
Happy Holiday!

Monday, March 28
COOK'S CHOICE

Tuesday, March 29
HAMBURGER BAR

Wednesday, March 30
ROSTA PASTA

**NON-MEAT CHOICES AVAILABLE FRIDAYS DURING LENT

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News

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Blood drive in honor of Trinity "Fred" Smeltzer

On March 29 at Boyne Falls Public School, we invite you to donate in Fred's honor and help ensure blood is available for others who need it. Any monetary donations received on this day will go directly to PORT: Pediatric Oncology Resource Team, at DeVos Children's Hospital. PORT takes care of and supports children and their families, while at DeVos.

Fred will present this donation directly to PORT, in her name. The PORT team is run strictly by donations and is an amazing group of volunteer families who help families with little pick-me-ups such as care bags, medication coolers, snacks, and meal, phone and gas cards.

PORT also has wonderful programs like Bravery Beads ~ Look for Fred's many Bravery Beads on display during the drive.

Wear your Star Wars gear to support Fred on March 29. All students and blood drive donors will show our support for Fred in her "epic journey" overcoming Refractory Cytopenia of Childhood on this day.

Fred's amazing story: Trinity Smeltzer, whom most know as "Fred," is a strong 8-year-old Boyne Falls third-grade student who has been battling a rare bone marrow failure disorder since June 2012, when she was diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia. After almost 3

years of many treatments that had little to no response, and lots of blood and platelet transfusions, she was re-diagnosed with Refractory Cytopenia of Childhood (a Pediatric Myelodysplastic Syndrom (MDS). This meant the only treatment that could work was a bone marrow transplant.

Fred was admitted to Helen DeVos Children's Hospital October 5, 2015, for 10 days of harsh chemo and Antithymocyte Globulin rabbit (ATG). On October 16, 2015, she received her new cells. On day +11 (October 26, 2015) she engrafted. Four days later we were able to leave the hospital (to the Reuncci House). Fred was

admitted back to the hospital a couple of times before she was able to come home the day before Thanksgiving. Fred ended up with GVHD (Graft vs Host Disease) and was treated with a high dose of steroids.

Fred is at day +165 from her bone marrow transplant and continues to recover daily. If it weren't for all the kind people who donate their blood platelets and join the bone marrow registry, Fred would not be here today. I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

~ Fred's mom, Ryan Richards
Call the school at 231-549-2211 to schedule your blood donation.

\$35M in grants available to provide services to crime victims

Local organizations can apply for \$35 million in grants to provide services to crime victims, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced today. The MDHHS Crime Victim Services Commission will award three- to five-year U.S. Department of Justice grants of \$50,000 or more. The department will accept applications through 3pm on April 18, 2016.

The purpose of the funding is to expand and enhance services to victims of crime, such as responding to the immediate needs of crime victims, reducing psychological consequences of victimization and helping restore victims' sense of dignity and self-esteem.

Applicant agencies must be public or non-profit organizations – including faith-based organizations and American Indians tribes – that provide direct services to crime victims. Eligible organizations could include, but are not limited to, sexual assault treatment centers, domestic violence programs, child abuse programs, children's advocacy centers; and other community-based organizations, including those that serve survivors of homicide victims, drunken driving or elder abuse; and American Indian tribal victims or other underserved victims.

For more information or to apply, visit the MI E-Grants Website at <https://egramsmi.com/dch> and click the "About EGrAM" link on the left panel to access the Crime Victims Agreement training manual. For questions, email MDHHS-CVSC-VOCA-GRANTS@michigan.gov by March 25.

For more information about Michigan's crime victim services, visit www.michigan.gov/crim evictims.

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Plan now for 2017 Char-Em ISD spring break date changes

To better accommodate juniors taking the SAT college board entrance exam and at the request of superintendents across Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District (Char-Em ISD), the start date of school spring break for 2017 has been moved ahead a week.

For the 2015-2016 school year, with the ACT changing to SAT, juniors will be taking the SATs on the day they return to school following spring break – Tuesday, April 12. Administrators across the ISD preferred not to have students take this important exam immediately upon returning to school after the break.

The SAT dates are established by the exam board and are offered annually the second Tuesday in April.

Superintendents across the ISD asked Char-Em ISD Superintendent Jeff Crouse to request changes to the "common calendar" established by the ISD Board of Education. By law, the ISD Board of Education – with input from local administrators – sets the dates in the common calendar. Local public school districts are required to comply with winter break, spring break, and the three identified professional development days; outside these dates, it is a local

public school district's decision on when school is in session for full or partial days.

Starting with the 2016-2017 school year, students and staff will return to school the first Tuesday in April, allowing one week before the SAT is offered the second Tuesday in April.

"The change is the right thing to do for students," said ISD Superintendent Jeff Crouse. "We want to provide our students with their best opportunity to excel on this college entrance exam."

Crouse and the other superintendents also wanted to get this information out more than a year in advance

as many families will book their spring break accommodations a year in advance.

"Now families have ample time to plan for the 2016-2017 spring break," Crouse said, adding that this change will be in place for all future common calendars.

All public schools within Char-Em ISD will make this change for the 2016-2017 school year. To view the common calendar for the 2016-2017 school year and five years out, visit <http://www.charemisd.org/about/ourdistracts/commoncalendars/>.

Senate exempts maple syrup from seasonal weight restrictions

Maple syrup producers would be able to transport sap from the field to the farm without worry of exceeding Michigan's seasonal weight restrictions under a bill approved by the Senate on Tuesday, National Agriculture Day.

"Maple syrup production is an important part of Michigan's agriculture industry, contributing \$2.5 million to our state's economy annually," said Sen. Wayne Schmidt,

R-Traverse City. "While maple sap is the first crop to be harvested each year, from February through April, it is not included on the list of agriculture products that are exempt from seasonal weight restrictions. Given the size and importance of maple syrup production in Michigan, and the fact that demand often exceeds supply, it only makes sense that we remove this barrier so our farmers can more easily do their

jobs."

Under law, vehicles used in the transportation of agricultural commodities are provided an exemption from seasonal weight limits on Michigan roads during the months of March, April and May, when the state's historical pattern of freezing and thawing occurs.

Senate Bill 314 would add maple sap, maple syrup, and equipment used to produce and transport

maple syrup to the list of exempt commodities.

Michigan ranks sixth in the U.S. for maple syrup production. There are about 500 commercial maple syrup producers and some 2,000 hobbyists throughout the state. Michigan produces 90,000 gallons of pure maple syrup per year on average.

SB 314 now goes to the state House for consideration

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

VIRTUE

To the Editor,
SOME CALL IT INTEGRITY. Others refer to compassion as the overtone in our cultures which compels us to interact with decency and care for others. This is hardly the popular exemplar of current societies. Those subgroups that insist upon this practice are appreciated in the sense of We need more people like you but otherwise ignored or politely con-

doned.
Virtue as a person, place or thing noun has no relationship to virtual as in virtual reality, the current hypothetical animated cartoonish decorative method of enhancing reality via computerized technology. Virtual in that usage is an adjective describing reality or changing it, close to an adverb modifying as in virtually immune or seemingly something that it is not. Virtue as a concept is disregarded in today's society at large, scoffed at by the legal association, ravaged by the authoritarian troops that surveil and monitor, its credibility limited to ideology alone, damaged goods in the moral and ethical realm, fire sale item in the etymology of our linguistics system. It has become argumentum ad hominem in the

civil and criminal court and legislative system.

Virtue is what Gautama Buddha extolled while extrapolating and demonstrating in a personal way how disengagement from society at large is recommended for following the course of virtuous living. In other words one must leave society to find virtuous lifestyle. This is the Tibetan way, The Way of Lao Tzu, the implied message of Jesus of Nazareth.

US Americans are accepting of this principle inasmuch as it creates empathy or sympathy in protagonists that replicate the antagonism of social altercation. The law, the court, the legislature, the executive proffer no semblance of virtue but only rhetorical parameters of paradigm as per statutes of ossified law. Social order in terms of the vast public adhere to custom even as they are forced to revise custom to try to fit new laws and shifting mores, politically correct mandates and the like. Much convoluted anti-logic comes of this from which the term Catch-22 emanates, that is, nonsensical oxymoron.

Virtue has become a mere product relegated to the dustbin of progress much as the compact disc or CD which begins wearing out

the second it is recorded. Most people in the US will have no definition to offer for this conceptual word and many will attribute it to said virtual reality. This is in line with the recent concept of secular humanism, a bastardized version of doing good works for benefit of unknown responsibility toward others, unknown in that there is no underlying deity or actual factual reason for so doing. Sartre's existentialism comes into play just as the mirror image of KKK Nazi extremism fills in the blanks of the spectrum of anti-virtue. Totalitarian societies are the antithesis of virtue as the usual propaganda hypocritically defines. Political virtue so-called is nonexistent. The word in fact is never used in politics or law.

Most of us are well aware of those of us caught in some machinations of law that is obverse to common sense and even empirical definition, that is, what we know is logical but is illegal or subversive to public opinion. Going against the inner voice is the preemptive dictate in societies such as the US has become, following the statolatory or worship of State in lieu of the neighborly prerogative that mankind has tried to inculcate at times but is rarely entirely suc-

cessful. Even emulation of this principle of compassion toward others is often looked upon askance as unworthy and susceptible to abuse and misuse from the guileful opportunist.

US polity despite inconsistent clauses provided a semblance of this attempt at virtuous organization. It is what carried us through the World Wars in relatively good shape and provided a template for the world as proper conduct if a bit perforated. Yet deep down in the recesses of consciousness everybody really knows what virtue is. It's known as the small still voice within. It's conscience as opposed to survivalist consciencelessness. This is the choice before all of us. In this world of conformity it takes the heroic to adhere to such principles. Heroism of this sort is often defined as radical or just as often illegal as political prisoners will attest. As Henry David Thoreau wrote, "Our whole life is startlingly moral. There is never an instant's truce between virtue and vice". We are never far from our moral core. Virtue is that which we know we should follow and so often fail to.

Mitchell Jon MacKay, East Jordan



Health SERVICES directory

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308 South Otsego, Gaylord
989-732-5094

OriginAILS by Shelley
200 Fairview St., Gaylord
989-732-7100

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Main Oak Family Dentistry
219 East Main St.
Gaylord
989-732-6271
www.mainoak.com

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220 W. Garfield,
Charlevoix
231-547-6092
www.nwhealth.org

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800-252-2065
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www.cah.org

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www.otsego-county-coa.org

Crawford County COA
308 Lawndale St., Grayling
989-348-8342
www.crawfordcoa.org

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

Charlevoix County COA
218 West Garfield St., Charlevoix
231-237-0103
www.charlevoixcounty.org/coa.asp

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News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

2016 Charlevoix Business Expo and "Taste of Charlevoix"



"Best of Show" winner by popular choice, Alfred Soriano-Micheau of Cre8tive Cupcakes Charlevoix (right) tells Alex Hodgson, 8 of Charlevoix, about his choices for a free tasty treat, during the Charlevoix Business Expo recently at Castle Farms. PHOTO BY M. CHRIS LEESE

Manager Leslie Dupin of American Spoon Charlevoix (center) is happy to see crowds of people enjoying the chocolate cherry dessert they provided while participating in the "Taste of Charlevoix" during the Charlevoix Business Expo recently at Castle Farms. PHOTO BY M. CHRIS LEESE



LEFT: Leah Olson of Charlevoix State Bank (from left) smiles as she receives a tasty sample from Adam and Jill Kline of Pigs Eatin' Ribs, Charlevoix during the 'Taste of Charlevoix' and 2016 Business Expo at Castle Farms recently, sponsored by the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce. PHOTO BY M. CHRIS LEESE



Kristie Fichtner of Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital provides free blood pressure screening for Judy Shimoda of Boyne City and many others throughout the day during the Charlevoix Business Expo recently at Castle Farms. PHOTO BY M. CHRIS LEESE



ABOVE: Beacon Dental Center staff shares smiles with the community as they provide a free photo-booth and free cancer screenings during the Charlevoix Business Expo recently at Castle Farms. PHOTO BY M. CHRIS LEESE

List locally! List with us!



03055 BLACK ROAD, CHARLEVOIX

This cute mobile home is located in a quiet area and sits on approx. 1 1/2 acres just minutes from Charlevoix but with the out of town feel. It features a 1 1/2 car garage, and would make a great weekend getaway or starter home. Affordable living. MLS# 447455 \$49,900. Ask for Holly Nierman or Mike Stark.



307 WILLIAMS, EAST JORDAN

This amazing home has been tastefully updated, and features a wood burning fireplace, enclosed porch, ample storage and a fenced yard. The home features 4 bedrooms and/or 3 bedrooms and family room 2 remodeled full baths that makes this a great family home. Newer appliances, lighting fixtures, carpet etc. MLS 447167. \$99,900. Ask for Mike Stark or Holly Nierman



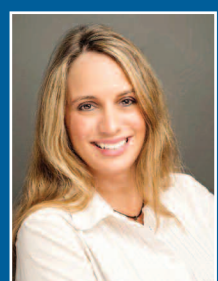
7665 SAND ROAD, BRUTUS

Newly remodeled and updated manufactured home situated on over 1 acre. The home has 1800 square foot of living space, with 3 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms. The home features a full basement and a large yard for a growing family. MLS# 447140 \$79,900. Ask for Holly Nierman or Mike Stark.

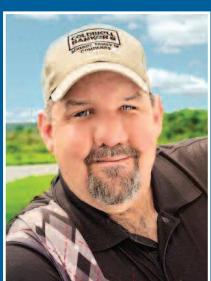


4215 N M-66 HIGHWAY • EAST JORDAN

This home is nestled in 40 acres and is a hunters dream. There is a 3 bedroom 2 bathroom home as well as a barn. Wildlife is surrounding you and can be seen drinking at your pond. New flooring in kitchen and dining area. MLS #445617. \$139,900. Ask for Holly Nierman.



HOLLY NIERMAN
ASSOCIATE BROKER, MANAGER
CELL: 231-675-3105



MIKE STARK
ASSOCIATE BROKER
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