

Sports

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Charlevoix County News

Section B

Thursday, November 23, 2016

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CHARLEVOIX COUNTY NEWS 2016'

ALL-AREA FOOTBALL "DREAM TEAM"

**Boyne City's Joseph Baugh is offensive player of the year;
Charlevoix's Brad Klinger is defensive player of the year.**

Coach of the Year - Ron Bindi, Charlevoix



The 2016 Boyne City Rambler All-Area team selections. (Back L-R) #73 Jared Hausler; #55 Spencer Joles; #67 Jacob Robinson; #51 Ryan Hautz; #2 Jacob Ager; and #16 Mason Gardner. (Front L-R) #21 Eric Carson; #20 Tyler Himebaugh; #54 Juan Wilson; and #5 Joseph Baugh. Not pictured, Tarin Bell and Logan Sulak. (PHOTO BY CHRIS FIEL)



The 2016 Charlevoix Rayder All-Area team selections. (Back L-R) #21 Jared McLean; #20 Cam Alden; #7 Colin Smith; and #2 Brad Klinger. (Front L-R) #66 Caleb Hart; #79 Ray Cunningham; #55 Colin Davis; and #54 Joe McCraney. Not pictured, Oliver DeYoung and Malcom Williams. (PHOTO BY CHRIS FIEL)



The 2016 East Jordan Red Devil All-Area team selections. (Back L-R) #55 Payton Loviska; #1 Keegan McDuffie; #50 Ryan LaVanway; #81 Nick Norton; and #42 Ryan Graham. (Front L-R) #15 Jake Skrocki; #5 Spencer Reid; and #3 Trey Peterson. (PHOTO BY CHRIS FIEL)

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY — With the MHSAA football finals just around the corner, it's time for the Charlevoix County News to announce the annual "Dream Team".

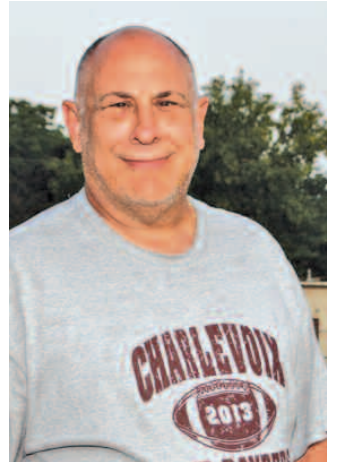
The Charlevoix Rayders returned to the playoffs after a short absence, finishing 7-3 overall on the season, led by coach Ron Bindi and a talented senior class.

Boyne City continued their playoff run despite dropping their first two games of the season, finishing 6-4 behind a big push from their talented roster and veteran coaching staff, including head coach David Hills.

The Red Devils saw their program take a new direction this season, as first year varsity coach Greg Kitson has them moving in the right direction, East Jordan started fast and battled hard throughout the season, finishing 5-4.

With competitive football all over the area, it was often difficult for area residents to decide which team to follow on Friday nights. No matter what they decided, they would find themselves in for a treat. The resurgence in East Jordan, the continued success in Boyne City and Charlevoix progressing to the next step under coach Bindi, it was fun for anyone in attendance.

While it takes teamwork to get the job done, it is often a few individuals that perform at a high level and help get their team to the next level. With that being said, the Charlevoix County News is proud to announce the 2016 All-Area Football "Dream Team", including offensive player of the year, defensive player of the year and coach of the year.



**Coach of the Year
Ron Bindi**
Charlevoix Rayders

Offensive Player of the Year

#5 Joseph Baugh, Boyne City

Top offensive honors go to the Rambler junior. Baugh led all area backs with 1,216 rushing yards, an average of 152 yards per game on 176 carries, for an average of 6.91 yards per carry.

Baugh also scored 12 touchdowns, including a 57-yard run, he also hauled in one reception for 13 yards.

On defense, he contributed 23 tackles, including seven solo as well as 16 assists, one tackle for a loss and a fumble recovery, returning it 47 yards for a touchdown.

Defensive Player of the Year

#2 Brad Klinger, Charlevoix

The Rayder senior, held down the Charlevoix defense from his free safety position, calling a majority of the secondary coverages on the season. Klinger recorded 35 tackles, including three for a loss, while making two interceptions as teams would throw away from his direction, knowing his take away ability.

On offense, Brad was the Rayder quarterback, passing for 854 yards and 10 touchdowns. He completed 55-of-92 passes a completion rate of 60 percent. He also picked up 594 yards rushing on 99 attempts and four TD's and added seven two-point conversions. Klinger was also successful on 11-of-16 extra point attempts.

Joining Joseph and Brad on the "Dream Team" are; Jared McLean, Cam Alden, Colin Smith, Caleb Hart, Ray Cunningham, Colin Davis, Joe McCraney, Oliver DeYoung and Malcom Williams of Charlevoix. From Boyne City; Jared Hausler, Spencer Joles, Jacob Robinson, Ryan Hautz, Jacob Ager, Mason Gardner, Eric Carson, Tyler Himebaugh, Juan Wilson, Tarin Bell and Logan Sulak.

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ALL-AREA FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

From East Jordan; Ryan Graham, Keegan McDuffie, Payton Loviska, Ryan LaVanway, Nick Norton, Jake Skrocki, Spencer Reid and Trey Peterson.

CHARLEVOIX

#21 Jared McLean

McLean, a senior speedster, rushed 68 times for 491 yards and three touchdowns and also hauled in nine passes for 99 yards and a score.

On defense, he made 45 stops, including five for a loss and two interceptions.

#20 Cam Alden

Alden played multiple positions on defense for the Rayders, leading Charlevoix with a team-high 49 tackles, which also included four for a loss.

Cam also picked up 313 yards rushing on 27 carries and three touchdowns. He also made 14 receptions for 253 yards and three scores.

#7 Colin Smith

Smith led the Rayders with a team-high 15 receptions for 345 yards and five touchdowns, while keeping defenses honest trying to take away the running game.

On defense, he made 15 stops, including two for a loss.

#66 Caleb Hart

The Rayder senior lineman anchored both sides of the ball for Charlevoix, playing guard on offense.

Caleb made 42 tackles on defense, including six for a loss and recorded one sack.

#79 Ray Cunningham

Cunningham was another key lineman for the Rayders. On defense he had 23 tackles, including tied for a team-high nine stops for a loss and two sacks.

#55 Colin Davis

The Charlevoix junior started every game for the Rayders, playing linebacker on defense and on the line on offense.

On D, Colin made 36 tackles, including one for a loss.

#54 Joe McCraney

McCraney, a senior, tied Cunningham for a team-high nine tackles for a loss, while recording 29 stops on the season. He also recorded one sack.

#11 Malcom Williams

Williams, a senior, was a two-way threat for the Rayders. He picked up 41 tackles, including five for a loss and a team-high five sacks on defense.

On offense, Malcom rushed 71 times for 492 yards and seven touchdowns, while catching eight passes for 76 yards and a score.

#3 Oliver DeYoung

A cornerback on defense for the Rayders, DeYoung made 40 tackles, one for a loss and picked off two passes.

Offensively, Oliver caught five passes for 49 yards and also made a two-point conversion reception.

BOYNE CITY

#73 Jared Hausler

Hausler, a senior, played offensive tackle and defensive line for the Ramblers this season, opening holes for the fleet footed backs to slide through.

On defense, Hausler made 14 tackles and 12 assists.

#55 Spencer Joles

Joles, a junior was another key component in the BC offensive attack, playing center for the Ramblers.

On defense, Spencer made 36 tackles, including three for a loss and made 29 assists.

#67 Jacob Robinson

Robinson, a junior offensive tackle helped clear the way for the rushing attack and provided protection for the passing game.

On defense, the lineman made 12 stops, one for a loss and nine assists.

#51 Ryan Hautz

Hautz, a junior linebacker recorded 54 tackles, 12 solo, including two for a loss, two sacks and 42 assists.

#2 Jacob Ager

Ager, a junior, made a team-high 87 tackles, 31 solo stops and 56 assists. Jacob also had three sacks and made seven tackles for a loss. He forced one fumble and recovered two.

#16 Mason Gardner

Gardner, a junior, played free safety for the Ramblers, making 28 tackles, nine solo and 19 assists from the secondary. Mason made three interceptions and returned them for a combined 26 yards.

Offensively, Gardner was the quarterback for Boyne, completing 43-of-95 passes for 693 yards and 10 touchdowns. He also rushed 27 times for 110 yards and two scores.

#21 Eric Carson

Carson, a junior tight end, was second on the Rambler receivers with 11 receptions for 188 yards and four touchdowns.

He also carried the ball one time for 13 yards.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY NEWS' 2016 ALL-AREA FOOTBALL TEAM



Jared Hausler BOYNE CITY



Spencer Joles BOYNE CITY



Joseph Baugh Boyne City



Jacob Robinson BOYNE CITY



Ryan Hautz BOYNE CITY



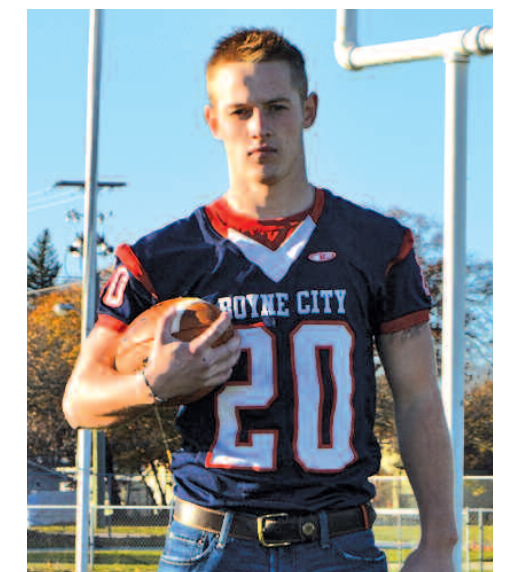
Jacob Ager BOYNE CITY



Mason Gardner BOYNE CITY



Eric Carson BOYNE CITY



Tyler Himebaugh BOYNE CITY



Juan Wilson BOYNE CITY



Tarin Bell BOYNE CITY



Logan Sulak BOYNE CITY



Jared McLean CHARLEVOIX



Cam Alden CHARLEVOIX



Colin Smith CHARLEVOIX

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CHARLEVOIX COUNTY NEWS' 2016 ALL-AREA FOOTBALL TEAM



Defensive Player of the Year

Brad Klinger

CHARLEVOIX



Caleb Hart

CHARLEVOIX



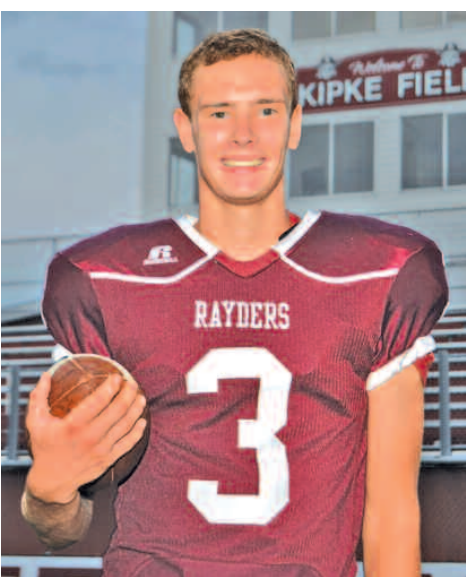
Colin Davis

CHARLEVOIX



Joe McCraney

CHARLEVOIX



Oliver DeYoung

CHARLEVOIX



Ryan Graham

EAST JORDAN



Malcom Williams

CHARLEVOIX



Keegan McDuffie

EAST JORDAN



Ryan LaVanway

EAST JORDAN



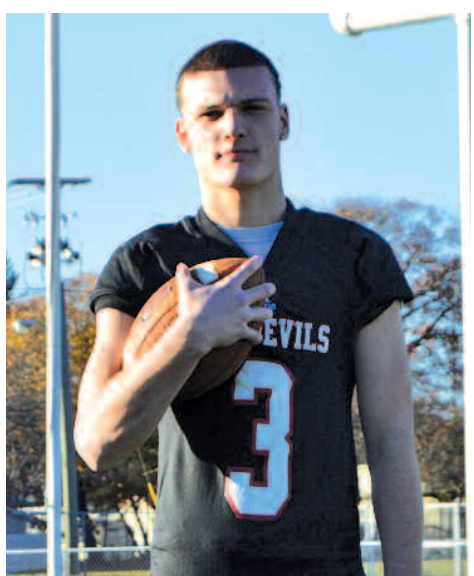
Payton Loviska

EAST JORDAN



Nick Norton

EAST JORDAN



Trey Peterson

EAST JORDAN



Spencer Reid

EAST JORDAN



Jake Skrocki

EAST JORDAN

#20 Tyler Himebaugh

Himebaugh, a Rambler senior, was a hard-hitting force from his outside linebacker position, small in stature, Tyler would utilize his speed, running over offensive players in his path to the ball.

Himebaugh recorded 39 tackles, 16 solo, two sacks and four tackles for a loss, while making 23 assists.

Tyler also rushed three times for 14 yards on offense.

#54 Juan Wilson

Wilson, a senior defensive lineman made 42 tackles, including eight solo and four for a loss, 14 assists and one sack.

#4 Tarin Bell

The speedy Rambler senior running back, carried 44 times for 269 yards and three touchdowns. He also hauled in a team-high 13 passes for 250 yards and six touchdowns.

On defense, Bell made 20 tackles, 10 solo stops, 10 assists and picked off two passes, returning them 87 total yards.

#11 Logan Sulak

Sulak, a senior defensive back, finished the season with 26 tackles, eight solo, including two for a loss, 18 assists.

On offense, Logan rushed 16 times for 77 yards and two touchdowns.

EAST JORDAN

#42 Ryan Graham

The Red Devil senior running back, led EJ with over seven yards per carry and scored five touchdowns on the season.

He played multiple positions on defense for the Red Devils, finishing fifth on the team in tackles.

#1 Keegan McDuffie

The East Jordan junior averaged over five yards per carry and a team-high six touchdowns. Moved to quarterback half way through the season.

Was second on the team in tackles and also punted for the Red Devils.

#50 Ryan LaVanway

LaVanway, a senior lineman/linebacker played guard on the Red Devil offense helped spring the EJ backs for over five yards per carry and almost 18 yards per completion.

He led the defense in tackles and interceptions.

#55 Payton Loviska

Another Red Devil senior offensive guard that helped provide running room for the team. Credited with doing anything to help the team win.

On defense, Loviska moved around until he found a home at defensive end, doubling his tackles in the process.

#81 Nick Norton

A junior, Norton was the top receiver for the Red Devils. He had "big play" ability, hauling in a majority of his catches on third or fourth down. Also a great blocker at his tight end position.

Norton also contributes on defense and special teams as well. Nick handles almost all of the EJ kickoffs, and blocked two punts.

#3 Trey Peterson

A senior, Peterson was willing to play anywhere the Red Devils needed him.

Trey was the second leading tackler and did that without playing the same position more than three games in a row.

On offense, Trey averaged about four yards per carry and has scored four touchdowns in the running game, mostly from a back up position. He is very much the emotional leader of the East Jordan defense.

#5 Spencer Reid

Reid, a junior running back averaged over 6.5 yards per carry and was also a top target out of the backfield.

He was fourth on the team in tackles and added an interception.

#15 Jake Skrocki

A senior, Skrocki, was one of the top targets in the air attack, with over half of his touches going for a score.

He was sixth in tackles from his cornerback position and added many pass deflections and had an interception.

Coach of the Year

Ron Bindi, Charlevoix

While every area coach is deserving of this honor, Charlevoix's Ron Bindi was the clear favorite. Helping orchestrate the Rayders magical 7-3 season and return to the playoffs this year, coach Bindi has Charlevoix program headed in the right direction.

"I'm elated about the progress we've been able to make over the last few years," coach Bindi said. "As a staff, we we're blessed with people that have either coached or played here and willing to put in the things necessary to be successful."

Coach Bindi also touched on the importance of running a program, from the junior high through the varsity levels.

"I didn't see myself as the varsity coach, and neither did any of the others, those are just titles, we were program coaches and to be successful, we all needed to be on the same page and implement the same strategies, from the weight room to the field," he noted. "This year the middle school was 6-0, the JV was 7-2 and the varsity was 7-3, so things are progressing."

He also noted that they would like to get more kids involved in the program, not just in Charlevoix, but all over the state, especially with all the emphasis on health and safety, football has

Sports & Outdoors

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Belvedere Golf Club Named 2016 Michigan Golf Course of the Year

Charlevoix, MI – Belvedere Golf Club, a centennial golf course in Northern Michigan, has been named the 2016 Golf Course of the Year by the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association (MGCOA).

The MGCOA Course of the Year Award honors a member course that meets four criteria: exceptional quality of the course; exceptional quality of ownership and management; outstanding contribution to its community; and significant contribution to the game.

Belvedere Golf Club was established in 1925, opened in 1927 and is best known in Michigan as a host to the Michigan Amateur Championship a record 40 times, including the 2014 state championship.

The semi-private club has also helped develop the golfers of the future. A 20-year primary sponsor of the Charlevoix Junior Golf Program, Belvedere is nationally recognized as a top 15 junior program by the American Junior Golf Association, and has sent over 140 local youngsters to the Ferris State University Golf Camp with full scholarships.



In addition, Belvedere supports all of the Charlevoix High School

athletic programs and was instrumental in starting the first ever Charlevoix girls golf team in 2014. The girls call Belvedere their home course, and after just three seasons qualified and played in the Michigan High School Athletic Association's state championships in 2016.

Golf legends love Belvedere, too. The course is Tom Watson's third favorite in the U.S. behind Augusta National and Pebble Beach. His family spent the summers of his youth near Charlevoix and he remains a member of Belvedere.

"In a state that is full of great golf facilities, to be recognized by our golf course owners association, is very humbling and an honor," David Gray, Belvedere's general manager said. "This recognition is a tribute to our wonderful staff which has taken great pride in the vision we maintain here at Belvedere."

Located in the popular Northern Michigan resort town of Charlevoix, Belvedere is one of the most historic and renowned golf clubs in the state. It was designed by acclaimed golf course architect William Watson and remains true to the original minimalist 18-hole design. The classic parkland course is challenging enough to test today's best golfers yet playable enough for the novice weekend player. It is walkable and plays to par 72 over 6,943 yards.

"Belvedere Golf Club offers a golf experience that is different from most of today's modern Northern Michigan golf courses," said Marty Joy II, the PGA head golf professional, who has researched the history of the course and the great works of William Watson.

DNR NEWS

Thanksgiving and wild game go together

Reports of the first Thanksgiving dinner indicate that the Pilgrims and indigenous peoples certainly feasted on venison and wild fowl, but whether that fowl was wild turkey is a matter of conjecture.

Though wild turkeys were known to exist in the area and have been mentioned as hunters' quarry in other accounts of early American life, it is just as likely the fowl at that celebratory feast were ducks, geese, swans and/or the now extinct passenger pigeons.

In any case, wild game was certainly at the center of the first Thanksgiving.

Though domesticated turkey has assumed the role of main course in the intervening years, wild game – often venison – is on the menu at many homes during Thanksgiving – and why not? Thanksgiving occurs during deer hunting season.

Wild game offers challenges for cooks. For the most part, it has less fat than domesticated meat and the fat is located differently in the body. Cooks must refine their techniques to get the most out of wild game.

That's the view of Dan Nelson, a restaurant chef, who also serves as the main man in the kitchen at Gourmet Gone Wild events in Michigan.

Gourmet Gone Wild is an outreach program sponsored by several entities, including the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The program highlights to young professionals and families, in urban to suburban environments, the health benefits of eating wild game, while also emphasizing its connection to environmental stewardship, sustainability and conservation.

Nelson, a 35-year-old lifelong sportsman/cook, says overcooking is the biggest mistake most beginners make when tackling game. Check out a video of Chef Nelson.

"Wild game is not as fatty as domesticated meat and most of the fat that's stored in wild game is in quick-access areas," said Nelson, who puts on a dozen Gourmet Gone Wild events each year. "The intermuscular fat we see in beef and pork is fat that is long-term storage. Quick-access fat is just below the skin and the centerline – close to the backbone and within the gut. Those are all fats that game animals can turn to on a daily basis as a constant energy source."

"In processing, you remove most of that fat from the game itself. That means you either have to put fat back into it or cook it in ways that accommodate that lack of fat."

Nelson said he prefers to accommodate and that means serving most wild game rare.

"Every degree of temperature you add to the muscle causes muscle fibers to constrict," Nelson said. "When a steak hits the grill you see the steak constrict – the muscle fibers pull in reaction to the heat. That's why a hamburger gets smaller when you cook it."

"All that constriction drives fluid out of the meat. That's why I have a very accurate meat thermometer. I don't like to go a degree past where I need to go. If I'm looking to cook something rare or mid-rare, I know the exact temperature

I want to go to."

Although rare is the option for dark meats, wild turkey – which has both white and dark meat – offers a different complexity.

"Wild turkey is something that should be cooked more well-done because of the possible pathogens that are found in poultry," Nelson said. "That only changes the temperature, but it doesn't change the fact that you don't want to go over the temperature you're aiming for."

For white meat, shoot for 165 degrees, for dark meat, 180 degrees, Nelson said. You want to cook the dark meat (i.e., the drumsticks) longer because the meat is tougher.

"Wild turkey is extremely difficult to roast," Nelson said. "To make use of the skin, you have to pluck it very thoroughly and clean it very thoroughly. And with toms, that readily accessible fat is in the sponge and it's not delicious at all."

"Wild turkey lends itself to being cooked in pieces. You can cook the legs and the wings/breast separately. And I would cook the breast separate from everything else – it's helpful to have them in the same pan so you have the juices to make gravy, but have them cut up in such a way as you can remove pieces as they reach ideal temperature. You want to bake it in a way in which you're starting the dark meat first. Don't overcook it."

Another key to wild turkey is to slice it thin, across the grain, Nelson said.

"Wild turkey breast is extremely low in fat and has extremely long grain to it. There's just no fat to



Gourmet Gone Wild executive chef Dan Nelson prepares to immerse a wild turkey in a pot of hot water where paraffin wax has been added. (COURTESY OF DNR)

keep your mouth moist while chewing," Nelson said. "Eliminating the length of chew is the most crucial part of having delicious wild turkey breast."

Cooks preparing waterfowl should either cook in a manner that preserves moisture or add fat.

"There's no better fat than goose or dabbling ducks," Nelson said. "That's liquid gold. Way too many hunters are breasting their birds and not taking advantage of the rest of it."

"Besides a lot of valuable meat on the carcass, there's a lot of extremely valuable fat on the carcass."

Either marinate with it or add it to stock. And if you're sauteing, that would be the fat you would use in the pan."

Any game should "rest" after it's out of the oven before it's served, Nelson said.

"Every piece of meat you cook you should rest for about as long as it took you to cook it," Nelson

said. "If there is still built up heat and you didn't let it rest, that tension that is in there is going to squeeze all the moisture out. Make a little tin foil hut and let it sit there – the top of the oven is going to be warm because you've had your oven on."

That's especially true for venison, Nelson said.

"If you're eating something that has venison fat in it, it coagulates as soon as you put it in your mouth," he said. "It's not that it tastes terrible, it's just that it coats your mouth. After it's sliced, hit it with some heat to raise the temperature of the fat. Take a platter of meat, pop it in a high-temperature oven for a couple of minutes to warm the fat up, and warm the serving platter up to hold the heat."

"And serve a good red wine with it," he said. "That'll cut the fat out of your mouth right away, too. The bolder, the more tannic your red wines, the better they are at cutting the fat."

ALL-AREA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B

never been safer to participate in.

Bindi also recognized the numerous individuals that help buy into his idea of a total program, from equipment purchases through donations, including those from the sports boosters, The Gridiron Club to name a few.

He was especially fond of this season, knowing coming into the year that the staff had high expectations for the group, being that they were talented enough to get the job done. The group did in fact live up to their billing, knocking off a powerful Boyne City program in week two in overtime, battling would be state finalist Glen Lake and Frankfort, and watching the roster of under 20 kids compete to the best of their abilities and battle through the adversity of injuries to finish so strong.

He also wanted to recognize the student-athletes for their effort following their first loss to Glen Lake, by rolling over rival East Jordan the next week and continuing to keep it going the remainder of the year.

"I'm honored to be recognized for this," coach Bindi added. "It has always been about us (Charlevoix) being a program."

The Rayders will graduate 10 seniors.

NFL STANDINGS (11/20/16)

American Football Conference

| AFC EAST | W | L | T |
|----------------------|---|----|---|
| New England Patriots | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Miami Dolphins | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| Buffalo Bills | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| New York Jets | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| AFC NORTH | W | L | T |
| Baltimore Ravens | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Pittsburgh Steelers | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Cincinnati Bengals | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| Cleveland Browns | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| AFC SOUTH | W | L | T |
| Houston Texans | 6 | 3 | 0 |

National Football Conference

| AFC WEST | W | L | T |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Oakland Raiders | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| Kansas City Chiefs | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| Denver Broncos | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| San Diego Chargers | 4 | 6 | 0 |
| NFC EAST | W | L | T |
| Dallas Cowboys | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| New York Giants | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| Washington Redskins | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| Philadelphia Eagles | 5 | 5 | 0 |

| NFC NORTH | W | L | T |
|----------------------|---|---|---|
| Detroit Lions | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| Minnesota Vikings | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| Green Bay Packers | 4 | 6 | 0 |
| Chicago Bears | 2 | 8 | 0 |
| NFC SOUTH | W | L | T |
| Atlanta Falcons | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| Tampa Bay Buccaneers | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| New Orleans Saints | 4 | 6 | 0 |
| Carolina Panthers | 4 | 6 | 0 |

| NFC WEST | W | L | T |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Seattle Seahawks | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| Arizona Cardinals | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| Los Angeles Rams | 4 | 6 | 0 |
| San Francisco 49ers | 1 | 9 | 0 |

NFL SCHEDULE:

| THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 | TIME |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Minnesota at Detroit | 12:30 PM |
| Washington at Dallas | 4:30 PM |
| Pittsburgh at Indianapolis | 8:30 PM |
| SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 | TIME |
| Tennessee at Chicago | 1:00 PM |

| MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28 | TIME |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Green Bay at Philadelphia | 8:30 PM |

NCAA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATED PRESS TOP 25

| TEAM | REC | PTS |
|---------------------|------|------|
| 1Alabama (61) | 11-0 | 1525 |
| 2Ohio State | 10-1 | 1455 |
| 3Michigan | 10-1 | 1370 |
| 4Clemson | 10-1 | 1347 |
| 5Wisconsin | 9-2 | 1255 |
| 6Washington | 10-1 | 1220 |
| 7Oklahoma | 9-2 | 1169 |
| 8Penn State | 9-2 | 1091 |
| 9Colorado | 9-2 | 997 |

| TEAM | REC | PTS |
|--------------------------|------|-----|
| 10Oklahoma State | 9-2 | 868 |
| 11Louisville | 9-2 | 830 |
| 12USC | 8-3 | 811 |
| 13Florida | 8-2 | 703 |
| 14Western Michigan | 11-0 | 701 |
| 15Florida State | 8-3 | 661 |
| 16Auburn | 8-3 | 613 |
| 17Nebraska | 9-2 | 593 |
| 18Houston | 9-2 | 490 |

| TEAM | REC | PTS |
|-------------------------|------|-----|
| 19West Virginia | 8-2 | 448 |
| 20Boise State | 10-1 | 389 |
| 21Utah | 8-3 | 280 |
| 22Texas A&M | 8-3 | 253 |
| 23Washington State | 8-3 | 186 |
| 24Tennessee | 8-3 | 133 |
| 25LSU | 6-4 | 84 |

Dropped from rankings:
San Diego State 24, Troy 25

Others receiving votes:
Stanford 81, Virginia Tech 77, Navy 62, North Carolina 55, South Florida 24, Pittsburgh 24, Arkansas 10, Iowa 7, Troy 6, Minnesota 5, Temple 1, Wyoming 1

REMINDER:

Coaches please remember to email or call in your results weekly. All sports related results are wanted and welcomed regardless of outcome. Since we are unable to attend every contest, your help is appreciated, you can reach us at sports@charlevoixcountynews.com.

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2005 GMC Silverado 3500 SLT Crew 4x4. Heavy Duty 6.6 Liter Dura Max Diesel Dually! In Summit White w/dark pewter heated & memory leather, tube steps, Rear DVD, Deep in Rubber, A Must See! Very Nice! \$16,990. Dave Kring Chevy Cadillac. 1861 US 31 North, Petoskey, 231-347-2585
2006 Dodge Dakota Laramie. 4x4, ARE fiberglass cap, tow pkg, bedliner, leather, Pioneer

sound, 4 door. As low as \$229 a Month. Drive Now Auto. 2215 North US 31, Petoskey. 231-347-3200.
2006 Ford F-350 XLT Super Duty. V-8, Power stroke turbo diesel, 4x4, FX4 Off Road, seats 6, bedliner, tow pkg, 136 K. As low as \$219 a Month. Drive Now Auto. 2215 North US 31, Petoskey. 231-347-3200.
2006 Jeep Liberty. Trail Rated 4x4, power moonroof. As low as \$189 a Month. Drive Now Auto. 2215 North US 31, Petoskey. 231-347-3200.
2007 Chevy Tahoe LT 4x4. Graystone Metallic w/ heated titanium leather seats, even 2nd row heat-

ed seats, 3rd row seating, DVD player, sunroof, roof rack, remote start and much more! See it at davekring.com. \$14,950. Dave Kring Chevy Cadillac. 1861 US 31 North, Petoskey, 231-347-2585
2009 Ford F-250 XL Super Duty. 4x4, tow pkg. As low as \$225 a Month. Rivertown Auto Group, 989 VFW Road, Cheboygan, MI 231-627-6700. www.RiverAuto.net
2012 Jeep Rubicon 2 dr. 4x4. Flame Red CARFAX 1 owner! Take on Winter and have a Ball in this Sporty Jeep! Remote Start, Satellite Radio, Heated Cloth, Removable panel roof, 285 hp, 3.6 liter V6! Hurry in today.

\$28,990. Dave Kring Chevy Cadillac. 1861 US 31 North, Petoskey, 231-347-2585
2012 Toyota Tacoma Double Cab 4x4. With Fiberglass matching cargo topper in Magmatic Gray, USB Port, deep tread tires, Alloys, All-Weather Floor Mats, Bluetooth, Bed Liner, Running Boards, Tow & more! Very Nice! \$25,990. Dave Kring Chevy Cadillac. 1861 US 31 North, Petoskey, 231-347-2585
2013 Ram Laramie 4x4, 48,000 miles, loaded with accessories, \$27,900. Professional Motors, South Boardman, 231-676-9026.
2014 Chevrolet Silverado Z71 4x4, low miles, \$27,900. Professional Motors South Boardman, 231-676-9026.

wheels, Bose Sound System. See more at davekring.com. Save Big NOW! \$19,990. Dave Kring Chevy Cadillac. 1861 US 31 North, Petoskey, 231-347-2585
2006 Chevy Cobalt LS 4 dr. CARFAX 1 owner in victory red with gray cloth. Low miles! CD, Air conditioning, Tilt steering wheel, 145 hp 2.2 liter 4 cylinder check it out at davekring.com. Great MPG's. \$7,990. Dave Kring Chevy Cadillac. 1861 US 31 North, Petoskey, 231-347-2585
2006 Toyota Corolla S. Southern car, no rust. Kenwood sound. As low as \$129 a Month. Drive Now Auto. 2215 North US 31, Petoskey. 231-347-3200.

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HAVING SOLD OUR HOME, WE WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING AT PUBLIC AUCTION. LOCATED: FROM THE SHELL STATION IN STERLING, GO NORTH & WEST 1/2 MILE ON M-76 TO GAVORD RD., THEN TURN RIGHT & GO 1 MILE TO SALE OR FROM THE BLINKING LIGHT @ THE NORTH END OF STANDISH (US-23 & RICHARDSON CHEVY DEALERSHIP), GO NORTH 6 MILES ON M-76 TO 780 GAVORD RD.

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CLASSIC AUTOMOBILES, RINKER BOAT, CUB CADET COMPACT TRACTOR, EZ-GO RVX, HOUSEHOLD & MISC. ITEMS: 1953 PONTIAC CHIEFTAIN 2 DOOR HARD TOP, PROFESSIONALLY RESTORED • 1958 FORD EDELSEL CITATION FOUR DOOR HARD TOP • 1949 DODGE CORONET FOUR DOOR HARD TOP • 1997 RINKER 260 FIESTA VEE 28' CRUISER/FISHING BOAT W/ MERCURISER I.O. & TRAILER • 2012 CUB CADET YANMAR SC2400 SUB-COMPACT 4X4 DIESEL TRACTOR, 2 RANGE HYDRO. TRANS., P.S., 3 PT. W/ 60" BELLY MOWER, 48" LOADER, 45" FRONT MTD. SNOW BLOWER & FULL ENCLOSED CAB, W/ LESS THAN 200 HRS., SELLS AS A COMPLETE PACKAGE, (LIKE NEW) • 2008 EZ-GO RVX, GAS, LIFTED, LIGHTS, KNOBBY TIRES & DUMP BOX (LIKE NEW) • ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES TO INCLUDE: HAND CARVED WOODEN 6' CIGAR STORE INDIAN • LARGE EARLY SIMPLEX WOODEN TIME CLOCK MACHINE • (2) OAK ROCKERS • FLY ROD & REEL • FISHING TACKLE BOX W/ OLD LURES • VINTAGE HUNTING CLOTHING • 2 PLANET JR. HAND PLANTERS • MANY MORE COLLECTIBLES • NUMEROUS NICE HOUSEHOLD & OFFICE FURNISHINGS • MISC. ITEMS TO INCLUDE: 3 H.P. SNOW BLOWER • 3 H.P. ROTOTILLER • PUSH MOWER • (2) MOUNTAIN BIKES • SHOP VAC • 2 DRAW BARS • COLEMAN LANTERN • LARGE GLASS TOP PATIO SET W/ 4 CHAIRS & CUSHIONS • PROPANE GRILL & TURKEY FRYER • FARM WAGON LOADS OF ITEMS FROM THE POLE BARN • THIS IS A PARTIAL LISTING AS THE HOME & POLE BARN ARE PACKED FULL! AUCTIONEERS NOTE: PLAN TO ATTEND THIS GOOD AUCTION. IN A NICE COUNTRY SETTING LARGE POLE BUILDING IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER. YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE MACON MOVING AUCTION IS APPRECIATED. TERMS OF SALE: CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

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Gladwin, MI (989) 426-8061

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IN ORDER TO SETTLE THE AL PUHAR ESTATE, THE FOLLOWING WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION. LOCATED: 8 MILES NORTH & WEST OF GLADWIN ON M-18 TO CHAPPEL DAM RD., THEN NORTH 4 MILES.

Gladwin, MI

Saturday, November 26, 2016 • 11:00 A.M.

RIDING GARDEN TRACTOR SHOP TOOLS & MISC. ITEMS: CASE/INGERSOLL 222 RIDING GARDEN TRACTOR W/ 44" MOWER DECK • (2) PULL TYPE DUMP CARTS • CRAFTSMAN 9 DRAWER ROLL AROUND TOOL CABINET W/ 10 DRAWER TOOL CHEST LOADED W/ TOOLS • BELSAW #9103 FLOOR MOD. WOOD PLANER • GENERATOR • LINCOLN WELDER • COMPLETE RIDGID PIPE THREADING SET • ROCKWELL BAND SAW • CRAFTSMAN DRILL PRESS • CRAFTSMAN RADIAL ARM SAW • DELTA DISC SANDER • CRAFTSMAN TABLE SAW • CRAFTSMAN 12" WOOD LATHE MTD. ON A TABLE • LATHE TOOLS • STAND BEHIND HYD. JACK • CRAFTSMAN AIR COMPRESSOR • TRANSIT W/ TRIPOD & STICK • ROCKWELL JOINTER/PLANER • SEVERAL ROUTERS • CRAFTSMAN PEDESTAL GRINDER • 1 TON CHAIN FALL & RATCHET HOISTS • TOOL BOXES W/ TOOLS • GEAR PULLERS • PORTA POWER • 100 LB. ANVIL • BENCH VISES • SEVERAL ASST. HAND & POWER TOOLS • FRAMING NAILER • ASST. BAR CLAMPS • CRAFTSMAN GRINDER • WOOD CRAVING TOOLS • H.D. WELDING LEADS • H.D. ACETYLENE CART • ASST. HARDWARE • ASST. EXT. LADDERS • TILT BED SNOWMOBILE TRAILER • HONDA 175 MOTORCYCLE • 12V YARD SPRAYER • DR WALK BEHIND WEED TRIMMER • HUSQUARNA GAS WEED WHACKER • SALAMANDER HEATER • PROPANE TURKEY FRYER • FARM WAGON LOADS OF ITEMS FROM THE BARN • HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES: OAK DINING ROOM SUITE • 3 PC. QUEEN SIZE MISSION STYLE BEDROOM SUITE • KENMORE WASHER & DRYER • LOVESEAT W/ END RECLINER • LAZY BOY CHAIR • OAK END TABLES • OAK ENTERTAINMENT CENTER • COLLECTIBLES TO INCLUDE: FISH MOUNTS • DEER ANTLERS • CEDAR CHEST • (4) WATER FOWL PRINTS BY DAVID MASS • CANOE SHELF • BEER ADV. SIGN • HANGING COUNTRY STORE SCALES • DINNER BELL • VINTAGE COLEMAN LANTERNS & COOLERS • WOOD BLOCK PLANES • DRAW SHAVE • SPOKE SHAVES • TOBoggAN • RUNNER SLED • THIS IS A PARTIAL LISTING! AUCTIONEERS NOTE: PLAN TO ATTEND THIS GOOD ESTATE AUCTION. YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE PUHAR ESTATE SALE IS APPRECIATED. TERMS OF SALE: CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

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2014 Ford F-150 XLT. 4x4, bedliner. Tow pkg, EcoBoost, Roll N Lock bed cover. Sale Price \$21,900. Rivertown Auto Group, 989 VFW Road, Cheboygan, MI 231-627-6700. www.RiverAuto.net
2016 Ford F-150 XLT. Ext. Cab, 4WD, 2.7L twin turbo V-6, smart device integration. MSRP \$45,445. Feeny Price \$37,695. Feeny Ford, 208 S. James, Grayling. 989-348-2791.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

1946 Sea King outboard motor - collector quality, \$175. 989-348-1202.

Little Wonder children's book- pub 1939-1946. 32 issues w/ metal case, \$75. 989-348-1202

AUCTIONS

Snowmobile and Motorsports Auction Saturday, December 3 and December 17, 2016. Buy or Sell. Information at www.snowmobileauction.com. 517-369-1153. White Star Motorsports Auction, US 12, Bronson, MI

AUTOMOBILES

1997 Toyota Corolla. Sale Price \$1,495. Rivertown Auto Group, 989 VFW Road, Cheboygan, MI 231-627-6700. www.RiverAuto.net
2000 Chevy Corvette Convertible. 345 hp, 5.7 L V-8 in Torch Red! Low Miles! Black Leather power seats, Automatic, Air, Chrome

Real Estate Corner

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You don't have to decorate a home with expensive decorating items, rather decorate with little creative things that reflect your personality and taste. Decorating a home is all about being creative. So put your creative hat on and let your creativeness fly, you will love it! These little ideas can certainly ignite the passion in your heart and help kick-start your creative side.

Paint Brighter - A little brightness is always needed, when you want to decorate your home! Don't adopt the neutral one paint approach; rather paint little things to the brightest hues to bring that touch of life. So pick up your paint spray and do it with love.

Family Photos also do the

magic - Instead of buying expensive wall hangings, print some cool family photos and get them ready in simple wooden frames. You can hang them all around the corridor for a royal look.

Say it with Nature - Nature is the best thing, when it comes decorating your home frugally. So bring in some shade loving plants and nurture them in beautiful self-painted cases. You can also use pebbles, rocks and shells around them to create a beautiful look indoors.

Mirrors on the Wall - So what if your home is a little small, you can create a wide spacious effect by using mirrors. Yes, mirrors are great to make your home look spacious. So use mirrors all around your home.

Sweet Little Things - Vases look charming, with or without flowers, and the best vases that you can place are your antique perfume bottles! Why go to market to spend dollars on vases. Just grab those empty perfume bottles, you've been hiding in drawers for years and use them.

Pretty Fabrics & Frills - Frills are the best thing to give your home a soft and romantic effect. So use lots of soft pillows with frills. Buy bed sheets in soft colors and frills to create an effeminate look.

Creative Handmade crafts - Believe me, there is nothing more powerfully appealing than handmade crafts. If you have that artist eye, you can create creative hand crafts, if not, use the internet and

books to spice you up with ideas. You can use cute little button on cushions. Grab large pieces of checkered or polka dot clothes to create cute handcrafted items.

Sparkle it up with Candles - Candles are the best thing to decorate your home. You can reserve a special shelf for candles and fill it up with different colored candles for a tranquil soothing environment.

Be yourself - Well, decorating a home is all about you and how you do it! Just don't copy other's ideas, instead get inspiration and also add sparks of your own personal taste to decorate your home frugally.

Featured Property

Great Business Opportunity!

By Jim Akans

What a great business opportunity for the coming New Year! Ready for the entrepreneur looking to launch a new business, or those with an existing business who are ready to relocate, this outstanding commercial building is ideally situated in the heart of the East Jordan community.

The approximately 5,000 square feet air-conditioned structure offers lots of versatility to accommodate virtually any business need. It currently has one tenant in part of the building as well as vacant space. There is a charming, private courtyard at the side of the building, and there is

ample off-street parking. The structure is well maintained and is fully handicap accessible.

While the location offers great visibility to passing traffic, it also offers a great view. It is situated across the street from public parks, ball field and tennis court. There is even a fantastic view of the South Arm of Lake Charlevoix.

Located at 507 Water Street in East Jordan, this outstanding commercial building is listed at just \$179,000. For additional information or to arrange for a tour, please call Chris Oliver, Agent at Coldwell Banker Schmidt - East Jordan at 231-536-7700 or email chrisforreality@gmail.com



BOATS & MARINE

16 foot Smoker Craft boat and 35 HP Johnson hand till and trailer, \$2,900. 989-732-3603.

CLASSIC AUTO

1935 Chevy, 2 door standard, no rust, \$15,000 obo. 231-622-1553.

1966 GTO, 2 door, hard top, 38 year barn find, \$12,500, 231-622-1553.

1993 Z-28, Indy pace car, 5,800 miles, \$19,000 obo. 231-622-1553.

CASH FOR OLD CARS. Please don't send your pre-1970 vehicle to crusher. Michel's Collision & Restoration 231-622-1553

FOR SALE: 1940 FORD PICKUP. 2 available projects. 231-622-1553

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DRY, SPLIT HARDWOOD Firewood. You Haul, North Townline Road, Gaylord. \$55 per facecord. Delivery available. 989-858-1388.

FREE ITEMS

FREE. 1973 assembled motor home, East Jordan, 231-536-9503.

HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE AWAY? Free items classified ads run free of charge in the Weekly Choice and the Michigan MoneySaver. Call 989-732-8160 or e-mail your ad to Dave1@WeeklyChoice.com.

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BOYNE FALLS: Enjoy 6 Acres of wooded property. The 4 bedroom two bath home offers plenty of options for a family or two. The home features two kitchens, which allows for a mother in law apartment with private entrance. There is a four car garage with extra depth for a workshop and additional storage along the back of the building. Streetable Trail 70 runs along the property as well. Centrally located between Boyne City, Gaylord and Petoskey. This would make a great get away home or even the family home. \$139,900

Lynda's Real Estate 27 S. Lake St., Boyne City, MI 231-582-9555

East Jordan State of the Community Luncheon

By Tina Sundelius

EAST JORDAN— East Jordan is heading in the right direction and its future is bright was the message members of the community walked away with after hearing four keynote speakers discuss the status of the city, schools, and DDA at East Jordan's State of the Community Luncheon Tuesday, November 11. An air of optimism filled the Harvest Barn hall as 26 East Jordan High School seniors and other members of the community listened intently to Mayor Russell Peck whose speech focused on the challenges and infrastructure im-

provements that still lie ahead for the city. "All in all things are looking up, we're heading in the right direction. Together we will position our community for a resilient and sustainable future. Indeed, East Jordan's future is bright," he concluded. Peck not only talked about all that the city has accomplished but emphasized the infrastructure improvements needed to accommodate new growth. "We are very optimistic about the future of our community and that optimism comes from the exciting new direction we have been heading," he said. He cited the city's sewer system that is already operating at 98%

capacity, sidewalks, and sea-pilings to be installed at the southwest side of the harbor next to the bridge intended to stop silt from filling the harbor (construction to begin in December) as projects that will further enable the city to grow. He mentioned the new well house (already up and running), the now open 24/7 recycling center and the \$12,000 Kayak facility in the park which he stated presently "looks like an art project." "We are developing the kind of community we have envisioned for future generations. There is a positive up beat energy," he said.



DDA Chairman Tom Teske, Entrepreneur Director with the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance Tom Erhart, Chamber of Commerce Director Mary Faculet, East Jordan Mayor Russell Peck and EJ schools Superintendent Matt Stevenson addressed an audience of community leaders at the third annual State of the Community Address Tuesday, November 11. "East Jordan's future is bright," said Peck.

See State of the Community—11A

SPORTS



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District Champs!



Boyne City's Luke Sage (2) follows an opening for another big gain. Sage finished with 63 yards on nine carries and a touchdown. Full Story in Sports. (PHOTO BY CINDA SHUMAKER)

Boyne Area Community Christmas

"That no child in the Boyne area be without a Christmas"
Over the last 60 years your generous donations ensured thousands of Boyne area children had a merry Christmas. With the holiday season approaching we, the volunteers of Boyne Area Community Christmas, are asking for your support. All of your donations are greatly appreciated and can be in the form of non-perishable food items, new unwrapped toys, games or books. If you would like to donate monetarily, please make checks payable to Boyne Area Community Christmas and send them c/o Eleanor West, Treasurer at 915 Robinson Street #15, Boyne City, MI 49712. All donations can be dropped off at the Boyne City Education Center by using the Pine Street entrance. We will be accepting donations from November 19 until December 19, 9am to 4pm. If you need any additional information, please contact Ruth Witek at (231) 582-3152 or (231) 758-2787. If you would like to submit the name of a child in need, please contact Nancy Hosmer at (231) 582-7246.

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Advocacy & Resource Coordinator – Full Time. The Crawford County Commission on Aging is now accepting applications. Starts at \$14.25/hr. Duties include assisting older adults in locating, applying for and managing programs, services and benefits. Preferred candidate will have Bachelor's degree in Social Work. Preference given to Veteran. Application packets can be picked up at 308 Lawndale, Grayling or found at www.crawfordcoa.org/about-us/employment. Deadline to apply 5pm December 6th.

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Generator, 6200 watts, 110/240 plugs. On wheels. \$400. 231-536-2840

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MOBILE HOMES

2 mobile home heavy duty tongues, no reasonable offer refused, East Jordan, 231-536-9503.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

FREE. 1973 assembled motor home, East Jordan, 231-536-9503.

New 2017 Clipper 16CFB Travel Trailer. Towable Essentials Package- 3 Cu ft. Refer, 20K BTU Furnace, 5K BTU A/C, 6 Gal Gas Water Heater, Rear Stab Jacks, Awning, Foot Flush toilet, Elec Brakes, Stare Tire, Travel Easy Roadside Assist. Sale Price \$10,995. Northern Michigan RV 277 N. Expressway Court, Gay-

lord. 989-448-8700.

New 2017 Palomino SS-1251 Truck Camper. CO2 Detector, Furnace, Refrigerator, Pre Wired for Jacks, Black Reico Titan Convertible Jacks, Reico Titan Electric Roof Lift, LED Interior Lighting. Clearance priced. Northern Michigan RV 277 N. Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700.

Used 2000 Coleman Sedona Pop-up Camper. This RV has two large beds, one on each end with the living area in the middle. There is a table with two bench seats for dining, 2 burner stove, mini fridge. Sale Price \$2,995. Northern Michigan RV 277 N. Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700.

Used 2003 Coachman 248TB Travel Trailer. Awning, double stainless steel sink, three burner range with oven, microwave, refrigerator and freezer. Sale Price \$6,995. Northern Michigan RV 277 N. Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700.

Used 2007 Cougar 31RL Fifth Wheel. 3 Slideouts! This unit comes equipped with A/C, in-floor heated furnace, heated en-

closed underbelly, LED TV, full 30# LP tanks (2), fully charged 12v marine grade battery, auxiliary shower, 3-burner LP stove and microwave, 8 cu. ft. gas/electric refrigerator, manual awning, crank down stabilizers (2), power front landing jacks, (2) rocking chairs, and pull-out sofa sleeper. Priced to Sell! Northern Michigan RV 277 N. Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700.

Used 2015 StarCraft Comet 1232 A-frame Pop-up Camper. All the ease of a pop-up with the luxuries of a much bigger RV. This comet is an easy tow weighing just over 2000 pounds, and has eye appeal that will make heads turn! Inside is a great warm feeling area with touches of home. Sale Price \$10,995. Northern Michigan RV 277 N. Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700.

RESORT PROPERTY FOR SALE

Lovely double wide mobile home in a senior community in Punta Gorda , Florida. Sleeps 6, washer and dryer, central air and heat, \$63,500, includes lot and one share of the park. Call J. Kolka at 989-348-9527.

SNOWMOBILES

2000 ARCTIC CAT 440 Z. 1,800 original miles. \$2,000 obo. 989-735-2652.

2003 ARCTIC CAT 600 cc, liquid cool. 2004 Arctic Cat 600 cc, liquid cool. Both run great. Great tracks. With Titan covered trailer. \$5,000 obo. Inquire at Mama Leone's Restaurant, Gaylord, ask for Sil or call 989-732-3603.

SPORTING GOODS

Lund snowshoes-classic wood w/bindings, like new, \$100. 989-348-1202.

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1999 GMC Yukon station wagon, needs transmission which is included, \$3,000 obo, East Jordan, 231-536-9503.

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2003 GMC Envoy SLT. AWD, power moonroof, leather, 3rd row seat. Sale Price \$6,295. River-

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Automotive Review

Ford rethinks Fusion interior to accommodate the digital world

As consumers look for new ways to tap into the ever-growing digital world, the number of people using multiple digital devices on a regular basis has grown. In response, Ford has re-designed the interior of its 2017 Ford Fusion to offer drivers and passengers more storage, increased connectivity, and an open, airier feel throughout.

"People love the look and feel of Fusion, but there are always things we can do to make it better," says Kelly Whetstone, Ford vehicle architecture supervisor for Fusion. "So we looked at customer feedback, and then we honed in on the storage capability of the car."

Roughly one in three Americans now own a smartphone, a computer and a tablet – a 140-percent increase over the last three years, according to Pew Research Center. Among U.S. adults today, 68 percent have a smartphone, up from 35 percent in 2011, while tablet computer ownership has edged up from 3 percent to 45 percent. Research also finds some 14 percent own a



Ford has redesigned the interior of its 2017 Ford Fusion to offer drivers and passengers more storage, increased connectivity, and an open, airier feel throughout. IMAGE COPYRIGHT FORD MOTOR COMPANY

portable gaming device, while around 19 percent have e-book readers.

To accommodate all of these devices, Ford engineered 59 percent more storage into the Fusion console, adding easy-to-reach bins throughout, including a new phone pocket and area for small coins. To provide a 4-liter increase to the main console storage area, the armrest has been lengthened

about 3 inches, and a clamshell design has been incorporated for the upper compartment to make the space more accessible and user friendly.

The revamped media bin at the front of the console, under the 8-inch touch screen, sees the addition of a lighted USB port for increased connectivity on the forward wall. A narrow new storage slot behind it is per-

fect for a cellphone and other small items. The rearrangement provides room for more efficiently designed cord storage space, so cords don't tangle, droop or snag. The new USB port allows for easier phone connection, so customers can enjoy the full functionality of SYNC® 3 and AppLink™.

A sleek rotary gearshift dial replaces the traditional shifter found in previous

models. The new shifter serves both form and function, says Hani Badawi, Ford Fusion ergonomics engineer. Not only is its less intrusive form aesthetically pleasing, the design frees up valuable real estate on the console.

"Without the larger base of the traditional shifter, there was much more room for us to add features that are important to the Fusion customer, like storage and connections," says Badawi. "We were able to shuffle around the driver-assist controls to the base of the shifter, along with the electronic brake, for a more intuitive arrangement for the customer, as well as providing a longer armrest for significantly improved elbow comfort for drivers."

The change in size and placement of the shifter also allowed the cup holders to be repositioned. Previously side-by-side in the middle of the console, they now sit fore and aft – closer to the passenger side. The front cup holder is only six inches forward from its original position, say the engineers, but the tweak makes quite a dif-

ference ergonomically, as Fusion cup holders are now within easy reach for 95 percent of the population.

The new location also eliminates an issue sometimes found in previous models, explains Whetstone. "Before, people would be using the shifter and they'd be bumping their elbows on cups because the cup holders were behind it," she says. "That's not going to happen anymore."

With the futuristic shifter and new console configuration, the Fusion cabin now appears open and airier, while the streamlined console seems less crowded, with more length and space.

The comfort of the new Fusion interior is further enhanced by a tweak to the design and size of the footrest pedal, which is now larger and around 1 inch wider to better accommodate various foot sizes. And a slimmer A-pillar allows for improved forward visibility for the driver.

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