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Charlevoix County News

December 22, 2016

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Local Community Foundations appoint statewide Youth Leadership Committee

Members of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation Youth Advisory Committees (YAC) were recently appointed to the statewide Michigan Community Foundations' Youth Project (MCFYP) Committee. Mishelle Shooks, advisor to the Charlevoix County Community Foundation YAC, and Finn Hopkins, member of the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation YAC, will each serve a three-year term on the committee.

The MCFYP Committee helps to coordinate and grow the pipeline of young philanthropists in Michigan. The Committee consists of 15 members, 12 of whom are youth under the age of 21 with experience as members of a community foundation YAC, and three adult advisors. One of the key initiatives of the

committee is planning and hosting the annual Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference, an important youth philanthropy leadership event. In addition, the committee advises on: development and promotion of tools for youth philanthropy, such as best practices; regional trainings for YACs, training for YAC advisors, and other web and social media opportunities to promote the work of YACs and youth philanthropy. There are 1,500 young people in Michigan serving on 86 YACs. Youth grantmakers across the state collectively give \$1.5 million in grants per year.

Hopkins, a senior at Petoskey High School, said he looks forward to having the opportunity to continue his participation in philanthropy after his service on his local YAC, "I'm most looking forward to having the opportunity to enhance



Mishelle Shooks is the first representative from Charlevoix County Community Foundation to serve on the Michigan Community Foundations' Youth Project (MCFYP) Committee. COURTESY PHOTO

so many of my fellow YACers' view of philanthropy during the summer conference," said Hopkins. "And, being part of a statewide committee filled with awesome, passionate people is a huge perk!"

Shooks will serve in an advisor role, which helps to guide the youth

MCFYP members through the planning process. "These youth grantmakers have so much to offer and I am looking forward to working with them as they spread their excitement of philanthropy," stated Shooks, a Program Officer of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. She added that "there is so much eagerness on the committee to make the world a better place and I am honored to work among this group".

Hopkins is the sixth youth from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation to serve on the MCFYP Committee. Harbor Springs graduate Claire Fleming is currently serving her final year of her three-year term. Shooks is the first representative from Charlevoix County Community Foundation to serve on the committee.



By Jim Akans

Kids of all ages can enjoy the thrill of following Santa's Christmas Eve journey, and make sure to be safely tucked in before St. Nick reaches their home. This up close look at Santa's progress from the North Pole is made possible by the high-tech tracking capabilities of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). NORAD is a United States and Canada bi-national organization charged with the mission of aerospace warning, aerospace control and maritime warning in the defense of North America.

Tracking Santa's Christmas Eve journey started in 1955 when a local media advertisement directed children to call Santa direct - only the number was misprinted. Instead of reaching Santa, the phone rang through to the Crew Commander on duty at the Continental Air Defense Command Operations Center. Thus began the tradition, which NORAD carried on since it was created in 1958. As technology has developed, NORAD has used satellites, high-powered radar, jet fighters and special Santa cameras to track Santa Claus as he makes his journey around the world.

Today, excited children have a new and improved resource for monitoring Santa's journey to their chimney or doorstep. Children, (and curious adults), can take a peek at a special website; www.noradsanta.org, which features a look at Santa's North Pole Village and updates the progress of Santa and his team of reindeer on Christmas Eve.

The site is already active and features Santa's North Pole Village, which includes a holiday countdown, games, activities, and more. Official NORAD Tracks Santa apps are also available in the Windows, Apple and Google Play stores, so parents and children can countdown the days until Santa's



Enjoy the thrill of following Santa's Christmas Eve journey, and make sure to be safely tucked in before St. Nick reaches your home. FILE IMAGE. LOGO COURTESY OF NORAD PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE.

launch on their smart phones and tablets. Tracking opportunities are also offered on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Google+. Santa followers just need to type "@noradsanta" into each search engine to get started.

Now NORAD's main job is to monitor the airspace and maritime area covering the United States and Canada using some very powerful satellite and radar equipment. It's a big and very important responsibility, and NORAD helps to keep us safe on a 24/7 basis. At Christmas time, however, NORAD continues a 61-year tradition of letting us know how Santa is doing with his journey of bringing smiles to the faces of children across the world.

Have a very, merry Christmas!

'Tis the Season



While it certainly 'tis the season to give (and receive), the spirit of Christmas reaches far beyond those beautifully wrapped presents that bring joy to faces young and old alike. WIKIMEDIA PHOTO.

By Jim Akans

The Christmas season seems to sneak up quickly after the Thanksgiving holiday. Even before the turkey coma subsides, the urgency of shopping for gifts takes center stage as images of frantic early morning shoppers fill news reports and singsong refrains of "I'm late for a very important date" fill the inner ears of those resting comfortably at home. With less than a month to fill that spot under the tree, there's much to be done indeed!

Oh 'Tis the season for making lists, checking them many times, watching bank accounts deflate and credit card balances rise. The National Retail Federation found that only 9 percent of consumers have finished their holiday shopping by Thanksgiving. They also predict sales to increase by over three-and-a-half percent in 2016 for a total spending of nearly \$656 billion. Ho, ho...hold the phone.

While it certainly 'tis the season to give (and receive), the spirit of Christmas reaches far

beyond those beautifully wrapped presents that bring joy to faces young and old alike. It is a celebration of the birth and love of Jesus Christ. A time for reflection, gathering together with friends and loved ones, giving from the heart and reveling in the excitement of seeing others receive. It is about smiles, laughter, long hugs, stories and remembrances, comforting hearts and sharing dreams.

The Christmas spirit can also be felt in communities throughout our great nation. People gather together for parades, tree lighting ceremonies, downtown celebrations, holiday concerts and plays, in churches and candlelight services. The message is clear - love and cherish one another regardless of our faults and differences.

'Tis also the season of community giving. Volunteers ring bells, serve meals, gather and distribute toys to ensure children, families and senior citizens enjoy the blessing of season regardless of their financial position. Hats off to those who administer and give their time and energy to countless programs in local places across the nation!

We all share this earthly real estate and at Christmas we are reminded that we are also bound together by the spirit of love, harmony, generosity and forgiveness. Take heart that this truly 'tis "the hap-happiest season of all."

Have a very Merry Christmas!

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weather

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
HIGH: 33 LOW: 28	HIGH: 37 LOW: 32	HIGH: 36 LOW: 25	HIGH: 35 LOW: 33	HIGH: 40 LOW: 23

snowfall

DATE	2015-16	DATE	2016-17
12/19/2015.....	2.3	12/19/2016.....	17.5
12/19/2015.....	10.5	12/19/2016.....	30
12/19/2015.....	2	12/19/2016.....	16.5
12/19/2015.....	8.6	12/19/2016.....	34.8
12/19/2015.....	15.7	12/19/2016.....	70.2
12/19/2015.....	6.5	12/19/2016.....	65.8
12/19/2015.....	2.7	12/19/2016.....	17.3
12/19/2015.....	12.6	12/19/2016.....	43.6

record temps

DAY	AVG	LOW	AVG	HIGH	RECORD LOW	RECORD HIGH
DEC 22	...18°	.....32°	.....0°	(1989)	...55°	(1957)
DEC 23	...17°	.....31°	.....-9°	(1989)	...52°	(1957)
DEC 24	...17°	.....31°	.....-14°	(1969)	...52°	(1994)
DEC 25	...17°	.....31°	.....-15°	(1958)	...58°	(1982)
DEC 26	...16°	.....31°	.....-9°	(1993)	...49°	(1982)
DEC 27	...16°	.....31°	.....-18°	(2004)	...50°	(1994)
DEC 28	...16°	.....30°	.....-31°	(1976)	...57°	(1984)
DEC 29	...16°	.....30°	.....-21°	(1976)	...56°	(1984)

OBITUARIES

Terry J Weber, 69

(APRIL 26, 1947 - DEC. 16, 2016)

Terry J. Weber, age 69 of Boyne Falls passed away unexpectedly on Friday, December 16, 2016.

Terry was born on April 26, 1947 in Cheboygan, MI the son of Jack and Gwen (Sheffer) Weber. He grew up in Cheboygan and graduated from Cheboygan High School. On August 23, 1986 he married Jean Birdsall in Boyne City. Before retirement from Consumers Energy; he continued his passion for the outdoors and started Advance Tackle from his home in 1980. Advance Tackle, Michigan Stinger has grown to be more than he had ever imagined.

Terry was an avid and accomplished outdoorsman. His love for his family and the outdoors is unmeasurable. He has touched so many lives in everything he has done. His passions were fishing, hunting, and classic cars. He and Jean have won several trophies with their beautiful 1966 GTO. He was blessed to be loved by so many as he reciprocated his love back to them.

Terry is survived by his wife Jean; children Bill, Mike (fiancé Kristy), Rob (wife Melissa) and daughter Toni (fiancé Andrew); grandchildren Payton, Melanie, Ben, Carter, Bailey, Matthew, Andrew Jr., Casandra and Necia; and sister Mary (Tom) Brownell.



He is preceded in death by his parents.

A funeral service will be held 11:00 AM Wednesday, December 21st at Walloon Lake Community Church with visitation being held from 9:00 AM until the time of service at the church. Pastor David Behling will be officiating. A luncheon will follow the funeral service at the Boyne City United Methodist Church.

Memorial donations in Terry's name may be directed to the Denise Elowsky, DNR Fisheries PO Box 30446, Lansing, MI 48909

Randolph Dewayne Weathers, 59

(JUNE 27, 1957 - DECEMBER 17, 2016)

Randolph D. Weathers of East Jordan died Friday, December 17, 2016 at Charlevoix Area Hospital.

He was born June 27, 1957 in Terrell Texas to Billy Ray and Gwendolyn Virginia (Stout) Weathers.

Randy worked in carpentry and construction in Texas before moving to East Jordan fifteen years ago.

Randy enjoyed gardening, playing guitar, music of all kinds, especially meeting regularly with a local music group. He also loved family, especially his grandsons, great-nieces and great-nephew.

Surviving are his children Joshua Weathers of Terrell, Texas and Miranda Frazer of Sulphur, Oklahoma; four grandsons, Logan Frazer, Michael Frazer, Colten Frazer, Brayden Frazer; sister Renea Morris of Ellsworth and brother Ray Weathers of Elmo, Texas; nieces and nephews Mike

Bartz, Savanna Bartz, Malissa Morris, Cody Morris and Roxann Swank; great-nieces Reanna, Kayli, JoLynn, Ava, Lylla, Melody, Harmony, Mya and Alex, great-nephew Kalum; and many friends.

A memorial gathering was held Tuesday, December 20 at the Jordan Inn in East Jordan.

The family was served by Hastings Funeral Home in Ellsworth, online at www.hastingsfuneral.com.

Louisa Ann Taylor Northup, 77

(JUNE 6, 1939 - DEC. 14, 2016)

Louisa Ann Taylor Northup of Petoskey, formerly of Walloon Lake and Boyne Falls, MI went to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, December 14th, 2016, at home with her daughter Kathy at her bedside.



She was born on June 6, 1939 in Petoskey, MI to Ralph and Pat (Buckley) Taylor of Walloon Lake. Louisa grew up in the Village of Walloon Lake, canoeing, swimming, sledding, and of course roller skating. She was baptized and confirmed into The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at Zion Lutheran Church in Petoskey, MI. Louisa attended Petoskey High School her freshman through junior years. She graduated from Tawas City High School, Tawas City, MI in 1956.

Louisa met and married USAF Airman Gene Gross in December 14, 1957. The life of an Air Force family lead to living in Southern and Northern California and Japan. During her 5 year stay in Japan, she attained a third degree black belt in Karate.

Louisa was always available to chaperone every class field trip and Girl Scout trips. She visited Mt. Fuji, Tokyo and Kamakura.

Louisa and daughters returned to Walloon Lake in 1973. She was employed at (then) Northern Michigan Hospitals and later, the Petoskey Public Schools Adminis-

tration. After the death of her father, Louisa and her mother Pat moved to their winter home in Punta Gorda, FL where they remained until Pat's death from Alzheimer's in 1991.

Louisa returned to Michigan permanently and was blessed to be reunited with her teenage sweetheart, Nels Northup. Shortly thereafter, they married in Gladwin and returned to Boyne Falls.

Louisa was active with the Boyne Valley Lion's Club and was past President. Louisa volunteered her time, talent, and treasure with Christ Lutheran Church and Charlevoix County Humane Soci-

ety. Louisa is survived by five daughters and their families; Kathryn Taylor Gross, and children Andrea Hopf—Zach and Alexandria, Allison Hopf and Shane Beal—Shaun and Jesse; Anthony Hopf and Alyssa Hopf; Kimberly Taylor Martin and children Madeline and Benjamin Martin; Lynell (Denny) Northup Wakely—Gabe and Gannon Switzer; Lori (Bill) Northup Bailey, Justin and Lacey Bailey and Family; Jennifer (Tony) Northup Witer, Marie and Riley Berning and family, Jessica, Allison, Elizabeth, and Faith

A funeral service was held Tuesday, December 20th at Christ Lutheran Church in Boyne City. Burial will take place at Maple Hill Cemetery in Clarion.

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

Patrick David Weisler, 63

(NOV. 13, 1953 - DEC. 16, 2016)

Patrick David Weisler died Friday, December 16, 2016, at his home in East Jordan.

He was born on November 13, 1953 in Charlevoix, Michigan, the son of David W. and Helen (Dubas) Weisler. He grew up and graduated from East Jordan High School in 1971.



Pat worked for Petrie Construction Company from 1982 and retired as CEO in 2012 for health reasons. He also owned and operated Peg Leg Pat's Fireworks and Unlimited Products Emporium, both in East Jordan.

He enjoyed fireworks and any building projects. In the past, he loved to play softball and later bowling.

He is survived by his mother, Kris Testa Weisler of East Jordan; ten siblings, Matthew (Billie) Weisler of East Jordan, Jerome (Pam) Weisler of Rapid City, Martha (Steve Hall) Weisler of East Jordan, Theresa (Lanny) Gillespie of Cordova, Alaska, Daniel (Kellie) Weisler of East Jordan, Julie (Bill) Zimbar of Verona, Wisconsin, Janet (Don) Dawson of East Jordan, Bonnie (Chaz Briethaupt) Testa of Boyne City, James Testa of East Jordan and Jo Anne Testa of East Jordan; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Pat was preceded in death by his mother in 1968, father in 1998; and two brothers, John Testa in 1981 and Mark Weisler in 2010.

A funeral mass will be held on Tuesday, December 27, 2016 at 11:00 A.M. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in East Jordan with burial following at St. Joseph Calvary Cemetery.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, December 22, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. and Friday from 2:00 to 4:00 & 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. at the Penzien Funeral Homes, Inc. in East Jordan. A rosary service will be held on Friday at 7:30 P.M. at the funeral home. Memorials may be directed to American Diabetes Association or the American Heart Association.

Bruce V. Woodcock, 91

(DEC. 19, 2016 - DEC. 15, 2016)

Bruce V. Woodcock of East Jordan died on Thursday, December 15, 2016, at Grandvue Medical Care Facility in East Jordan. Rites are pending.



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Publisher

DAVE BARAGREY 1

Office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com

Editor

JIM AKANS

News@CharlevoixCountyNews.com

Sports Reporters

CHRIS FIEL

sports@charlevoixcountynews.com

MIKE DUNN

Mike@WeeklyChoice.com

ANDY SNEDDON

andysneddon36@yahoo.com

Distribution

JEFF BARAGREY

Jeff@WeeklyChoice.com

Photography

SCOTT RICHARDS

Scott@CharlevoixCountyNews.com

CINDA SHUMAKER

RACHEL LANGE

M. CHRIS LEESE

News Reporters

TINA SUNDELIUS

tina@charlevoixcountynews.com

KRYSTAL JOHNSON

krystalbirgy@gmail.com

MICHELLE MEDJESKY

mm@WeeklyChoice.com

Advertising Sales

EAST JORDAN & ELLSWORTH

TINA SUNDELIUS

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CHARLEVOIX & EMMET COUNTIES

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OTSEGO COUNTY

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Back@WeeklyChoice.com

GAYLORD & BOYNE CITY AREAS:

JR WILLIAMS

Williams@WeeklyChoice.com

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SHERRY KILBOURN

shersk1942@gmail.com

Cell 231-645-6414

Office

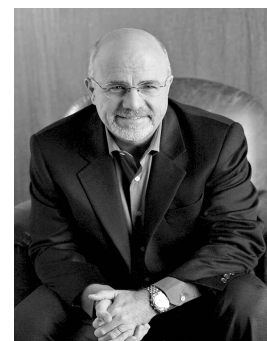
CATHY BARAGREY

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DAVE Says



Dave Ramsey

(Credit cards are not an emergency fund)

Dear Dave,

My husband and I are trying to follow your plan. We've paid off all of our credit cards, but he still doesn't want to close the accounts and cut up the cards. Instead, he wants to keep them in a drawer and use them as an emergency fund. He grew up really poor, and I think he's afraid of being poor again. We both know that's not what you recommend, so what can I do to convince him to follow your advice?

Lynn

Dear Lynn,

I think rather than trying to convince him, it might be a better idea to gently ask questions and talk things through. You said he grew up in poverty. What I'm hearing is that the cards represent a kind of security blanket for him. I can understand that. But if you had \$10,000 set aside for emergencies, you'd have the security of knowing that a transmission repair on the car or a new water heater for the house would only be a minor inconvenience — and you wouldn't have to go back into debt to make things right again.

Explain to him that what you'd like to do is replace the credit cards with your own money. You'd also be replacing what they do with a debit card. Ask him if there's a reasonable amount you two could have in the bank that would take away his worry and stress. Talk it out, agree on the amount, and then agree that when you've saved up and hit that

number, the cards get cut up and the accounts are closed.

Just be patient and understanding. Above all, make sure you work together. If he's recognized the wisdom of getting out of debt and taking control of your finances, he's moving in the right direction!

(Dave's take on layaway)

Dear Dave,

How do you feel about using layaway programs?

Jay

Dear Jay,

I'm not a huge fan of layaway plans, because they're not really the solution to a problem. What's wrong with just saving up and buying stuff when you have the cash? I mean, Christmas comes at the same time every year, you know? It's not like it snuck up on you.

I know there are rare instances when particular items are on sale, and you can take advantage of it through layaway if you don't have the cash at the moment. I don't really have a problem with that kind of thing in rare instances. But I would not, under any circumstances, use a layaway plan that has fees attached. You might as well borrow the money if you're going that route.

Here's a good rule of thumb: if you don't have the money, you can't afford it. And make sure you don't get into the habit of lusting after things you don't own, because that lack of contentment is always tied to people being broke. Just don't make plans like this a way of life, Jay. If you do, you're liable to stay chained to lay-

away programs just like you'd be chained to debt!

— Dave

(Dying car or kill the student loan?)

Dear Dave,

I'm 38 years old, and I've got \$12,000 in student loans still hanging over my head. It's the only debt I have. I make \$30,000 a year, and I've managed to save \$12,000, but I'm also driving a junky, old car that will have to be replaced soon. Should I split the money I've saved and buy a \$6,000 car while paying off \$6,000 of the student loan?

Phil

Dear Phil,

If I'm in your shoes, I want that student loan out of my life as quickly as possible. At the same time, I don't want you living life without some money in the bank. If you've followed me for very long, you know I teach the Baby Steps when it comes to getting out of debt and saving money. Baby Step 1 is to save a beginner emergency fund of \$1,000. Baby Step 2 is to pay off all debt, except for your home, using the debt snowball method. The third Baby Step is to build a fully funded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses.

You don't have quite enough on hand for your idea and to have something left over. I recommend paying off \$11,000 of the school loan now and then finishing it up as you go. It won't take much more time. Limp along in the beater for a little while longer and then, when you have no student loan debt, finish your emergency fund and start a car fund.

I talk to a lot of people your age who still have student loan debt. But you have the opportunity to punch its lights out in a hurry. If you pour on the coals, you should be able to save money and get a better car in just a few months!

— Dave

— Dave

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

What is most popular Christmas movie?

There have been a number of popular Christmas movies made through the years, including the vintage Christmas Story from 1983 featuring the bespectacled young boy Ralph and his tale about Christmas with his family in Ohio set in the 1950s.

The most popular Christmas movie, though, is still the classic from 1946 featuring Jimmy Stewart and Clarence the guardian angel (Harry Travers) who visits him on Christmas Eve. It's a Wonderful Life starring Stewart as George Bailey and

Donna Reed as his wife is still shown more frequently than any other Christmas movie each December.

Another old classic, Miracle on 34th Street, made in 1947 and starring the venerable Edmund Gwenn as Santa on trial, is also annually listed among the top Christmas movies along with the 1950 classic A Christmas Carol starring Alistair Sim as Ebenezer Scrooge in addition to the 1984 remake of the Dickens' classic starring George C. Scott as Scrooge. More recent movies such as Home Alone, The Santa



The 1946 classic *It's a Wonderful Life* featuring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed is still at the top of the list of Christmas movies.

Clause, and National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation also make the list of top Christmas movies each year. White Christmas, made in 1954 and featuring the singing-and-dancing duo Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye, is also perennially on the list.

As far as Christmas TV specials go, there are four that are listed on everybody's list every year in various or-

ders but always near the top: Rudolph; A Charlie Brown Christmas; Frosty the Snowman; and How the Grinch Stole Christmas.

Here is some other interesting Christmas trivia:

- ▣ Each year more than 3 billion Christmas cards are sent in the U.S. alone.
- ▣ All the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas would equal 364 gifts.
- ▣ The traditional three col-

ors of Christmas are green, red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty, represents Christ. The "two turtle-doves" represent the Old and New Testaments.

▣ According to the Guinness world records, the tallest Christmas tree ever cut was a 221-foot Douglas fir that was displayed in 1950 at the Northgate Shopping Center in Seattle, Washington.

▣ The traditional three colors of Christmas are green, red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ; and gold represents light as well as the wealth and royalty of Christ the King. The "two turtle-doves" represent the Old and New Testaments.

▣ The word Christmas is from Old English, a contraction of Christ's Mass

▣ The first president to have a Christmas tree in the White House was Franklin Pierce.

▣ Rudolph" was actually created by Montgomery Ward in the late 1930s for a

holiday promotion. The rest is history.

▣ Jingle Bells" was first written for Thanksgiving and then became one of the most popular Christmas songs.

▣ The poinsettia plant was brought into the United States from Mexico by Joel Poinsett in the early 1800s.

▣ Mistletoe was chosen as Oklahoma's state flower in 1893 and later changed to the state floral emblem.

▣ In 1843, Charles Dickens wrote "A Christmas Carol" in just six weeks.

▣ The first state to recognize the Christmas holiday officially was Alabama.

▣ Christmas became a national holiday in America on June, 26, 1870.

▣ Clearing up a common misconception, in Greek, X means Christ. That is where the word "X-Mas" comes from. Not because someone took the "Christ" out of Christmas.

▣ More diamonds are sold around Christmas than any other time of the year.

—Compiled by Mike Dunn

Boyer Falls Public Schools

Student of the Week



Gavin Fitzpatrick

Grade: 7th

Parent's Name(s): Jeanie Belford and Hank Fitzpatrick

Future Plans: Going to college

Favorite Book: "The Son of Neptune" by Rick Riordan

Hobbies and Interests: Basketball

School Activities: JV Basketball

Staff Comments: "Gavin is doing a great job in the classroom. He is well liked and works well with his classmates. Gavin is polite, respectful, and a pleasure to have in class. He is a student/athlete who represents Boyer Falls Public School in a positive way. Keep up the good work Gavin." - Jason Stolarski

BOYNE FALLS 2016-17 HONOR ROLL

First Trimester

3rd Grade

All A's:
Aiden Grubaugh
Hazel Ogden

All A's and B's
Eryn Fair
Necia LeBlanc
Jason Masserant
Carissa Towns

4th Grade

All A's:
Selah Bennett
Lilliann Fenske
Madison Ochampaugh
Mackenzie Smith
Jozlyn Turnbull

All A's and B's
Jayden Gerloff
Hannah Haug
Megan Pickering
Fred Smeltzer

5th Grade

All A's:
Anthony Yost

All A's and B's:
JT Greenier
Bryar Lest
Isaiah Whennen
Brianna Wilson

6th Grade

All A's:
Yannis Burnell
Scott Matelski
Zofia Wasylewski

All A's and B's:
Kaliah Lightfoot
Colton O'Neil
Abigail Smith

7th Grade

All A's:
Logan Crocker
Danial Powers

All A's and B's:
Calvin Cousineau
Gavin Fitzpatrick

8th Grade

All A's:
Blake Brunmeier
Aubrie Sparks

All A's and B's:
Josh Herman
Kayden O'Neil
Keegan Whisker

9th Grade

High Honors (3.7+ GPA):

Honor Roll (3.0 - 3.69):
Jordin Gellis
Erienne Goodrich
Ryleigh Richardson
Nicoma Sayles

10th Grade

High Honors (3.7+ GPA):

Honor Roll (3.0 - 3.69):
Sydney Bess
Maddie Daneff

11th Grade

High Honors (3.7+ GPA):

Jordan Herman
Michael Whennen

Honor Roll (3.0 - 3.69):

12th Grade

High Honors (3.7+ GPA):

Honor Roll (3.0 - 3.69):
Amber Leinonen
Neall Perron
Brooke Stevens
Leszek Wasylewski
Katelynn Wilson



Church announces Christmas services and free community dinner

First Presbyterian Church of Boyne City is hosting Christmas Eve caroling (indoors) at 6:30 p.m. and a service at 7. Christmas Day Service is at 11 a.m. followed by the Community Christmas Dinner from 12-2 p.m. All are invited to join us for the Christmas Dinner as we celebrate the birth of Christ and join our hands in fellowship.

Church members are cooking a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixin's. If you would prefer not to eat alone, please join us. The dinner is free to everyone, paid for by contributions from the congregation, the public and local grocery stores. Anyone who would like to support the effort may call 231-582-7983.

Was Jesus born on December 25?

The tradition of a December birth came during the reign of Constantine

By Mike Dunn

Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25. But is that the actual date of the Savior's birth in Bethlehem? Is there any way of knowing? And if we don't know for sure, why do we celebrate His birth on that particular day?

The date for the birth of Jesus was not a topic of discussion very much among the early church fathers, though by the Second Century there appears to have been some interest. Clement of Alexandria in his writings around 200 A.D. said that Christians who did research on the subject determined that Jesus was likely born somewhere between March 21 and May 20. A spring date would also fit with the shepherds being in the field on the night of the Jesus' birth because it was during the lambing season. It is not as likely the shepherds would be in the field in December when the weather was colder. The sheep at that time of year were typically kept in a sheep fold during the nights.

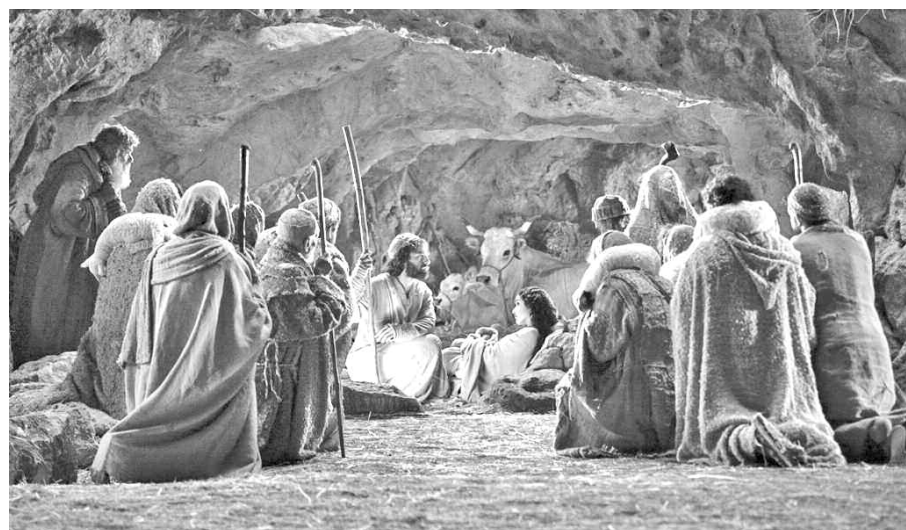
Another clue as to time of year comes again from Luke's gospel and it is the reference to the Roman census. The census decreed by Caesar Augustus played a critical role in the unfolding of events that very first Christmas.

The census was the reason that Joseph and his pregnant wife Mary left Nazareth in the north part of the country to make the arduous journey to Bethlehem 80 miles to the south just before Jesus was born. It had been prophesied centuries before (Micah 5:2-5) that Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah. The census was the vehicle used for bringing Joseph and Mary to that city at just the right time.

The census would almost certainly have been undertaken when the weather was conducive to traveling. Many in Israel were like Joseph and Mary and had to travel a long distance over mountainous roads to get to the city of their birth to register. That would also point away from a December birth date and point to either a spring or a fall date for the actual birth of Jesus.

So how did we end up celebrating the birth of Jesus in December?

For that, we go back to the Fourth Century and the reign of the Roman Emperor Constantine. Constantine, who ruled from 306 to 337 A.D., famously be-



This image of Jesus being born in a cave that served as a stable for animals outside Bethlehem is historically accurate. As it says in Luke's Gospel, He was laid in a manger after His birth. But when was He born?

came a Christian and discontinued the persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire in the early years of his reign. With the Edict of Milan in the year 313, Constantine de-criminalized Christianity in the known world. The first celebration of the birth of Christ on Dec. 25 that we know of came in the year 336 A.D. near the end of Constantine's reign. A few years after that, Pope Julius I officially named that date for the birth of the Savior.

It is likely the date for the birth of Christ was chosen because it was also the date of the pagan Saturnalia festival, which related to the Winter Solstice. In the Third Century, the Roman emperor Aurelian had established Dec. 25 as the date for the mid-winter Saturnalia festival celebrating the birth of Sol Invictus (the Unconquered Sun). It was opportune for Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, on Dec. 25, in contrast to the pagan celebration of the birth of the sun. The Christians of that era no doubt saw it as a way to promote the spread of Christianity through the Roman world.

The Dec. 25 date also interestingly coincides with the Jewish festival of lights, Hanukkah, which starts on the 25th of Kislew (the month in the Jewish calendar that occurs at about the same time as December).

And if you ever wonder where the tradition of the 12 days of Christmas comes from, it also relates to the date chosen for the birth of Jesus. Christians cele-

brate the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, in remembrance of the visit of the Magi from the East. In Eastern Europe, the birth of Christ was also celebrated for centuries on January 6.

Something else we know for certain is that Jesus was not born in the year that correlates with his birth in the Gregorian Calendar.

Extra-biblical evidence points to Jesus being born somewhere between 4 and 7 B.C. Herod, who was king of Judea at the time that Jesus was born, died in 4 B.C., not long after his infamous decree that the male children in Bethlehem two years and younger be put to death. This would seem to put the birth of Jesus in the summer or early fall of the year 6 B.C. or thereabouts.

No matter when Jesus was born, or what day, or whether the angels sang or simply announced their message in the night sky above Bethlehem, it doesn't change the simple truth surrounding the birth of Jesus or the essential tenet of faith that it establishes for all Christians: Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world as had been promised.

As the angel of the Lord so eloquently told the shepherds: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

After 2,000 years, this incredible proclamation remains the foundation stone upon which the Christian faith is built.

News Briefs

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

BOYNE CITY PRE-CHRISTMAS FARMERS MARKET

December 22, 3-6pm, Library Red Barn on Park Street. Market will have giveaways every hour, including market money, cookbooks and a basket full of market goodies. There will not be a market on Saturdays, Dec. 24 and 31. Saturday markets return starting Jan. 7th.

BOYNE CITY CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICE & DINNER

December 24. Caroling begins at 6:30 and service at 7:00. Christmas Day: Service at 11 followed by the Community Christmas Dinner 12:00-2:00. All are invited to join us for a Christmas Dinner as we celebrate the birth of Christ and join our hands in fellowship. If you would prefer not to eat alone, please join us. Lifetree Café at 6:30. First Presbyterian Church.

IRONTON CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 7pm, Ironton Congregation Church, 3805 Washington Street. Please come and join us for a traditional Christmas Eve service with hymns, candlelight sharing and more. All this followed by scrumptious homemade goodies before you step out again into the softness of Christmas Eve.

BOYNE CITY EXTRATERRESTRIAL LANDINGS DISCUSSED

December 25, 6:30pm, Lifetree Café, 401 S. Park St. The program—titled “The Aliens Are Coming: What If It’s True?”—features filmed interviews with UFO researcher Stanton Friedman and Mutual UFO Network director Clifford Clift. During the program, participants will have the opportunity to discuss their belief or lack of belief in extraterrestrial life. Admission to the 60-minute event is free

EAST JORDAN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

December 25, 1-3pm. The East Jordan United Methodist Church would like to invite everyone to join them at a Community Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day.

CHARLEVOIX BLOOD DRIVE

December 29. Charlevoix Elks Club, Basement, 104 Mason St, Charlevoix, 1 to 6pm.

BOYNE CITY FRESHWATER CONCERT; DREW NELSON & HWY 2

December 30, 8pm, Freshwater Art Gallery, 217 South Lake Street. Michigan-born Navy veteran Drew Nelson is a storytelling songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. A fly fisherman and world traveler, he writes as a witness to the lives and journeys of those he has met along the way, mixing Americana and roots rock. Tickets \$25 in advance. Call (231) 582-2588 to order.

CHARLEVOIX COMMUNITY POOL PRE-NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

December 30, 6-8pm. Reservations are required. It's cold outside, but not on the Pool deck! Grab your swimsuits, lounge at the pool, toss around some beach balls, and soak in the hot tub. Subs, refreshments and goody bags provided. \$5 for students and \$6 for adults (swimmers and non-swimmers). Children 5 and under are FREE! Call the Pool today to ensure your spot: 231.547.0982.

CHARLEVOIX ANNUAL BRIDGE DROP

December 31, Downtown. Noon-4pm; There will be horse drawn wagon rides, s'mores and hot cocoa in East Park, a snowman-making contest sponsored by the Charlevoix Public Library from noon to 4pm. There will be arts and crafts at the Charlevoix

Circle of Arts from 2-4pm. Charlevoix Cinema III will be playing a free movie, “Finding Dory”, beginning at 4:30pm. Tommy Tropic's One Man Circus show will entertain the crowd a half hour prior to each of the fireworks shows in East Park. Spectacular fireworks will be displayed at 9pm and midnight. This year, the best place to view them will be from East Park. The Bridge Drop will be in East Park at midnight. Count down to the New Year with a replica bridge that will drop from a crane near the marina.

BOYNE CITY HOARDING & COMPULSIVE SPENDING PROGRAM

January 3, 7-8:30pm, Boyne District Library. Presented by hoarding expert, Terrence Shulman, who founded the Shulman Center for Compulsive Theft, Spending, and Hoarding. She has been helping people recover from addictive behaviors like hoarding since 1992. He has been featured on The Today Show, TLC's “Buried Alive,” and 20/20. His presentation will offer advice on helping yourself or those you love work on resolving hoarding behaviors. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Monica at the library at 231-582-7861 or visit www.boynelibrary.org.

CHARLEVOIX CHAMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

January 17, 5-7pm, Lake Charlevoix Brewing Company

BOYNE CITY CHAMBER ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS CEREMONY

January 19, 5-8:30pm, Boyne Mountain Resort. It's the “can't miss” event of the year and typically sells out with 300 people attending. The program is an upbeat gathering with great food and drink, live and silent auctions, live music and the introduction of our Chamber Board

members. We will also be announcing six awards for business leadership, volunteer of the year, nonprofit of the year, entrepreneur of the year, young entrepreneur and heritage award. Tickets are \$45 per person by Jan. 6 and \$50 after. Table sponsorships are \$420, including 8 seats, a table sign, program listing, listing on overhead screens and introduction at the event. Call the Chamber at (231) 582-6222 for ordering information.

EAST JORDAN 36TH ANNUAL SNO-BLAST

January 20-22. This annual event includes Sno-Sculpture Contest, Crowning of the Belle of the Blizzard & Winter Knight, Blessing of the Sleds, the Annual Rotary Chili Supper, Antique Snowmobile Show and much more.

EAST JORDAN CHAMBER ANNUAL DINNER/MEETING/AUCTION

January 28, 5:30-9pm. The East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to join us for our annual Dinner/Meeting/Auction held at Castle Farms. This is a wonderful time to network with local businesses and community leaders. The Chamber will announce the 2016 award winners, as well as, hold the annual auction that is the Chamber's largest fundraising event next to the annual dues. Ticket information: 231-536-7351 or info@ejchamber.org

BOYNE CITY GLCO SUNDAY SERIES CONCERT

January 29, 4pm, First Presbyterian Church. Join us for the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra's Woodwinds & Brass ensemble performing music from Gustav Holst, Suite No. 2 in F and Victor Ewald's Quintet No. 3. Performances by Vern Campbell, trumpet; Pat Jarve, trumpet; Bev Isehbarger, horn; Ed Bahr, trombone; and Carl Hawkins, tuba. A free will donation will be taken at the door.

BOYNE CITY FARMERS MARKET

Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9am – Noon, Red Barn at Boyne District Library.

EAST JORDAN LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS TREES

The East Jordan Lions Club is holding its annual Christmas Tree Sale at the EJ True Value Hardware through Dec. 24. This year we are offering Scotch Pine, Blue and Norway Spruce, and Fraser Fir. Prices start at \$25. All proceeds from the sale remain in the community and support the local Lions Club programs and projects.

The warming house at Boyne City's Avalanche Mountain Park is now open for the season. Its hours are: Monday thru Friday 4 to 9pm, Saturday & Sunday 11am to 9pm. The warming house will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day. The ice rink is currently being prepared and the City will announce when it is open.

BOYNE CITY SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Three American Legion scholarships of \$500 each available to graduating seniors for the Class of 2017. These three scholarships come from funds raised with the 2015 motorcycle raffle and additional donations from Gaylord Middle School and others. Other opportunities include the The Guy M. Wilson Scholarship can be awarded to high school students planning on attending any Michigan college. The student must have a minimum 2.5 GPA and be a child or grandchild of a wartime veteran. Last year, ten \$500 awards were granted. Due by 1/9/17. The Michigan State Police sponsored Student Trooper program has opportunities for students entering the 10th, 11th, or 12th grades to win \$1,000 as Student Trooper of the Year, or \$500 for winning as Orator, Marksman, or Aca-

demical achievement. Deadline of 5/26/17. Eagle Scout of the Year for the Department of Michigan gets \$1,000. At the National level, there is a chance for \$10,000 or one of three \$2,500 scholarships. March 1, 2017 is the Department deadline. Boys State and Girls State delegates who are descendants of wartime service veterans are eligible to compete for \$1,000 or \$20,000 Samsung Scholarships. Due by May 26, 2017. Contact Boyne American Legion Post, (231) 330-4990 or adjutant@boyneligionpost228.org for information.

Beginning September 8th and continuing until May 15, 2017; the Tennis Courts at Rotary Park will be closed to facilitate the reconstruction of the playing surface. This project involves removal of the current playing surface, proper subgrade installation, paving of the playing surface and all new marking (including “Pickleball”) for the 4 courts. If you have any questions please contact City Hall at 231-582-6597.

CHARLEVOIX WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

Every Wednesday from 8am-11am, Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital will be hosting their “Wellness Wednesday” health screening program at the hospital's Wellness Workshop at 411 Bridge Street in Charlevoix. Health screens include: Total Cholesterol, HDL, TC/HDL Ratio, Glucose Level, Body Mass Index Score, Muscle and Fat Percentages, and a Blood Pressure Reading. No fasting is required. However, if you are fasting and LDL and Triglyceride reading can also be obtained. Cost for the service is \$15. Hemoglobin A1C Levels can also be done for known or borderline diabetics for an additional \$10. Participants will receive all test results at the time of the screening and a “Know Your Numbers” log to track progress. A Registered Nurse will adapt health consultation and educational materials to individual results. Walk-ins only, no appointment required. For further information, contact the office of Community Health Education at the Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital Wellness Workshop at 231-437-3482.

EAST JORDAN OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN COFFEE HOUSE

Held every first and third Saturday at the East Jordan Senior Center, new location is 951 Mill Street. Different performers presented through December. Admission is free-will donations, refreshments are available; free coffee and a small charge for pizza and soda. Great fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

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.

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.

218 W. GARFIELD ST., CHARLEVOIX, MI 49720

Phone: (231) 237-0103
Toll Free: (866) 428-5185
Fax: (231) 237-0105

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:30am to 4:30pm

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Richard Fish, Chair
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Nancy Ferguson, Board Liaison
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Theresa Graham, Receptionist
Sally Nye, Database
Tracey Rupinski, Clinical Manager
Debbie Peck, Food Service Manager

LOCAL SENIOR CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION
Beaver Island Center:
Ann Partridge
26215 Main St, BI, 49782
231-448-2022

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

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

East Jordan Senior Center
Brenda Skop
951 Mill Street
East Jordan, MI 49727,
Phone: 231-536-7831

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Senior Hi-Lites Newsletter
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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.”

SHIP/MMAP Provides Critical Services to Medicare Beneficiaries in Michigan Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP)

SHIP/MMAP in Michigan provides a network of free, unbiased, reliable, and personalized health benefit information specifically to Medicare beneficiaries.

In Michigan, SHIP/MMAP helps Medicare beneficiaries make choices among a vast array of insurance options that include:

- 25 prescription drug plans
- An average of 16 Medicare Advantage plans available in each Michigan county
- Up to 10 different Medigap supplemental insurance policies sold by 50 companies that are licensed to market them in Michigan!

Having all these options is great, but the decision process for seniors is terribly confusing! In Michigan, SHIP/MMAP also provides assistance with Medicare fraud and abuse issues, billing problems, appeal rights, and enrollment in low-income assistance programs and much more.

In Michigan, client contacts have increased by 189% in the last five years. In 2015, the Michigan SHIP/MMAP had 125,524 contacts with Medicare beneficiaries.

SHIP/MMAP in Michigan provides community educational efforts and enrollment events. In Michigan, SHIP/MMAP hosted 239 enrollment events and 2,499 outreach events to assist and educate Medicare beneficiaries and their families in 2015.

SHIP/MMAP in Michigan provided assistance to beneficiaries in greatest need, including those with disabilities and those facing language and cultural barriers. In Michigan, 47% of

SHIP/MMAP contacts served beneficiaries with incomes below 150% of the federal poverty level.

In Michigan, 23% of SHIP/MMAP contacts served beneficiaries with disabilities. In Michigan, over 6% of SHIP/MMAP contacts served beneficiaries that speak English as a second language.

SHIP/MMAP provides critical resources and expertise to federal partners.

The Social Security Administration, CMS, 1-800-Medicare, Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare Part D prescription drug plans, local and state agencies and Congressional representatives and staff refer beneficiaries to SHIP/MMAP. They include MMAP in their websites, publications and correspondence to beneficiaries as the source of help when

individuals need one-on-one counseling.

In Michigan, 42% of the SHIP/MMAP client contacts were referred from federal partners.

How can you help? Contact the Michigan Congressional delegation serving our local 10 county MMAP Region and let them know the importance of SHIP/MMAP and urge them to maintain the current level of funding for 2017. They are:

U.S. Senators
Gary Peters: (202) 224-6221
Debbie Stabenow: (202) 224-4822
U.S. Representatives
Dan Benishek: (202) 225-4735 or
John Moolenaar (202) 225-3561

BOYNE AREA SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Thursday, December 22 Foot Clinic (by Appt) 11am Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program Wii Bowling	Friday, December 23 CENTER CLOSED... HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!	Monday, December 26 CENTER CLOSED... HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!	Tuesday, December 27 9-11am Veterans' Social Gathering & Lunch After— Veterans Eat Free! 10am-1:30pm CVX Vets 11am Mont Loper American Legion Post Presentation by Ed May	Wednesday, December 28 10:30am Wii Bowl Practice Various Card Games	Thursday, December 29 11am Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program Wii Bowling
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CHARLEVOIX SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Thursday, December 22 11am Chair Yoga Class 11:30am Kevin Johnson Music 1pm Mahjong 1pm Wii Bowling Practice	Friday, December 23 CENTER CLOSED... HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!	Monday, December 26 CENTER CLOSED... HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!	Tuesday, December 27 1pm Paint Class 1pm Mahjong	Wednesday, December 28 1pm Bingo	Thursday, December 29 11am Chair Yoga Class 11:30am Kevin Johnson Music 1pm Mahjong 1pm Wii Bowling Practice
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EAST JORDAN SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Thursday, December 22 11am KARAOKE DAY! 12:30pm Euchre 1pm Ceramics	Friday, December 23 CENTER CLOSED... HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!	Monday, December 26 CENTER CLOSED... HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!	Tuesday, December 27 12:30pm Bingo - Meal Ticket Prize 1pm Paint Class Mexican Poker	Wednesday, December 28 GAME DAY! Pool Table / Ping Pong 10:30am Crafts 1pm Texas Hold-Em	Thursday, December 29 11am KARAOKE DAY! 12:30pm Euchre 1pm Ceramics
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CHARLEVOIX COUNTY SENIOR CENTER MENU

Thursday, December 22 BEEF PASTY & GRAVY	Friday, December 23 CENTER CLOSED... HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!	Monday, December 26 CENTER CLOSED... HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!	Tuesday, December 27 ITALIAN LASAGNA	Wednesday, December 28 CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS	Thursday, December 29 SLOPPY JOE w/BUN
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Goodwill Retail & Distribution Centers in Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Gaylord and Petoskey

By Jim Akans

Goodwill is a name that symbolizes services and programs that provide a means for people in need to get back on their feet and regain their treasured independence. Goodwill has been around since 1902, when a Boston area Methodist Minister named Rev. Edgar Helms began collecting used household goods and clothing, and hired those who were down on their luck to mend and repair those goods for resale. Here in Northern Michigan, Goodwill opened their doors at Asgard Enterprises in 1972, and today the non-profit organization offers vocational, housing, transportation, nutritional and family strengthening programs across the region.

Goodwill has also become a nationally recognized name in resale; offering gently used clothing, household items, books, home décor accessories and more at their Retail and Donation Centers. Centers located in Petoskey, Gaylord, Cheboygan and Charlevoix utilize proceeds from sales at each location to help support programs throughout Northern Michigan that help people overcome barriers to independence. Goodwill also recycles metal items, cardboard, purses, belts, shoes, books and clothing.



Goodwill Retail and Donation Centers are also located in Charlevoix (shown here), Cheboygan and Petoskey. PHOTO BY DAVE BARAGREY SR.

Goodwill Northern Michigan serves 19 counties with nine locations, strengthening communities through programs such as Patriot Place transitional housing and resources for homeless military veterans, the Goodwill Inn emergency shelter for individuals and families and the Workers on Wheels programs. Workers on Wheels (WoW) pairs low income, hard working families in need with a safe, reliable donated vehicle at little or no

cost to the family. Being able to get to work in a reliable dependable vehicle strengthens family independence and community involvement. Last year, 50% of WoW recipients reported increased earnings from picking up more hours or landing a better job through reliable transportation. Seventy-nine percent of car recipients reported that their kids had an increase in extracurricular activities.

Goodwill has achieved many

amazing results, including:

- .91 of every dollar from Goodwill resale stores is reinvested into the mission and Goodwill is rated an "A" by Charity Watch.com.
- Donated items that do not meet quality criteria for resale are not just thrown away, but salvaged... that includes your shirt with a stain or that puzzle missing a piece. Goodwill Northern Michigan is proud to be a leader in sustainability as one of the largest recyclers in Northern Michigan, diverting millions of pounds of "stuff" from local landfills each year.
- Goodwill's Jobs program offers a hands-on opportunity for individuals to gain trust in themselves and explore their capacities in the workplace.
- In 2015 Goodwill collaborated with local agencies to provide financial resources to support community meals and vouchers including more than \$72,000 in Goodwill store vouchers for neighbors in need.
- Goodwill employees earn higher than the Michigan state minimum wage with excellent benefits, including career advancement opportunities.
- Goodwill Northern Michigan is all about maximizing impact. Donated items of exceptional value are auctioned online at

www.shopgwmi.com...check it out! Proceeds are re-invested in the Goodwill Northern Michigan mission.

Your support is vital to the success of Goodwill's mission – whether you make a financial contribution, donate a pair of jeans you've outgrown, shop our stores, or you volunteer your time – that's where GOOD happens. And it happens right here, every day. Thank you for making GOOD happen in your community.

The Goodwill Retail and Donation Center in Charlevoix is located at 402 Petoskey Avenue and is open Monday through Saturday from 9am to 7pm and Sunday from 11am to 6pm. The Center in Gaylord is at 1361 Pineview Drive and is open Monday through Saturday from 9am to 7pm, and Sunday from 11am until 6 pm. The Goodwill Retail and Donation Center at 1600 Anderson Road in Petoskey is open Monday through Saturday from 9am to 8pm, and Sunday from 11am until 6 pm and the Center in Cheboygan is located at 982 South Main Street and is open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 7pm and Sunday from 11am until 6pm. For additional information, visit www.goodwillnmi.org/goodto-know.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

To the Editor

IT'S NOT OVER YET but multiple prognostications indicate that Donald Trump won't make it through his first term of office. This is not unprecedented, of course, via assassination, resignation, impeachment, death, interns &c.

Presidents lately have been cloaked in Teflon but Trump is not of that club. He purposefully insults anyone. We can't know how or why the Electoral College concluded as it did other than states' winner-take-all politics. It is, as always, an odd way to run an election. It's why some states are claiming support for a popular vote, which if enough states want it theoretically would create or force an amendment to the Constitution. But it's not that simple. State legislatures can muck things up, courts too, and there are interpretations galore about what's legal and what's not. Federal legislation by both houses might clinch it but since that seems unlikely in the immediate there is also execu-

tive veto to consider. It does loom cynical that presidents elected by the electoral vote are Republican, losers by the EC often win the Popular Vote and are invariably Democratic candidates, a clue.

The system, in other words, is indeed "rigged". Naturally those that win by this method of Electors easily sidestep the former "rigged" notions but assuredly wouldn't if they'd lost – then the allegations would fly, the invective be more invidious. The current supposed winner is churlish, narcissistic, vulgar, a thief and a liar, womanizer, a cheat and he always has a bad hair day. It's outrageous and sadly hilarious to think of this actually being enacted. But as suggested it's doubtful this will continue long. That would be my conclusion but you never know for sure. The guy has to play by the rules at some point.

Researching this dilemma – for that's what it has become – one finds gobbledygook explanations, historic preambles, rhetorical conundrums, metaphorical interpretations, wackadoodle in-

terpolations and not much more. Yes, it's Article 2, Section 1, paragraph 2 as reiterated through most search sites but nobody pays much attention to all that, as evidenced in any cursory scan of both the Constitution and the Amendments. It's pretty much a defunct document now. Um, except the parts that work for the protagonists of money and power. In any case, this is unprecedented in its surreal absurdity, a veritable sideshow of house of horrors ghoulish Dali paintings with mirrors and twisted clocks.

Certainly Europeans are baffled as are a plurality of US Americans. But it might be the catalyst that change springs from. Canadians must think we're all nuts, probably have for decades, maybe centuries. The demeanor of the USA, however, has always been dynamic. Instead of a sleeping dragon we're more a tiger snoozing with one eye winked. Americans get mad. They're mad at cops right now and some things will change. Those that talk of moving are already coming back to staying

and fighting on principle. It's not easy to move anywhere unless you're free, white and twenty-one and have some money.

This crazy dramaturgy will continue for a while nonetheless, until Mr. Trump does something really illegal and dumb enough for the legislature to step in, the courts back them, the impeachment process starts. That will be a real circus, no Bread and Circus. That's what I'm waiting for in anticipatory mode. I don't know if America has the collective sense to do so but there's a lot of antipathy out there, lots of outrage. To think that America fell so low as to elect a guy like Donald Trump is a harbinger of doom for this country. Not that it would disappear off the face of this Earth, only that it has lost its credibility and it might not be long before it loses other standings as well, financial, ethnic, political, ramifications throughout all those meritocratic gauges.

Trump is a heretic who builds glass and steel totem-poles to aggrandize himself. You want that for a leader? If the Martians

land and say "Take us to your leader", we'll have to try to explain, "We ain't got none". So this aftermath may last a while but it will culminate in a fiasco, guaranteed. The guy knows nothing about internal or international politics, détente, worldwide concerns and so on. He knows only how to build gigantic edifices to his ego. He's preposterous and has bestowed his image on the USA. In essence he's disgraceful. How long can this last? He's an egg perched on a precipice above a country divided against itself. How long can it stand? How long can Trump last? In my and many another's estimation, not long. It's the end of the USA as we have known it (TEOTUSAAWHKI). Perhaps meant to be, the end of a dubious era in human evolution, we anticipate the inevitable. What's next: Joe P-dunk for president? And his junkyard dogs.

Mitchell Jon MacKay, East Jordan

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

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



Will You Help Make a Difference?

- **1 in 3 Charlevoix County families are not able to make ends meet.**
- **1 in 5 kids don't get enough to eat at home.**
- **It is possible some of your friends and neighbors are visiting our food pantry. We serve about 650 families every month.**
- **These are real people with real needs. They may live in the house next door. These struggling families are across from us at the gas station, sitting in front of us in church, their kids are in the classrooms with our kids.**
- **They are doing their best working marginal or multiple jobs; jobs with few hours and low pay.**
- **The choices are tough; heating fuel, food, reliable transportation, and on and on. These basic needs have to be met. For many stressed families, a major car repair or medical bill is all it takes to send them to our pantry for help.**
- **Many families live just above the poverty line and cannot receive state aid.**
- **Good Samaritan has been the resource of last resort since 1990. With few options for a desperate family in Charlevoix County, we help with the seemingly impossible unmet needs.**
- **Our resources are eventually overwhelmed as we try to keep families together in their homes; children and elderly warm and fed, living as normal lives as possible.**
- **We must keep hope alive.**
- **When you give thanks for your many blessings this Christmas season, please reach out and help those less fortunate.**

**We are ready to help, but we can't do it without you.
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New Year's Eve Celebration: Bridge Drop

It's time to make plans to celebrate the New Year and Downtown Charlevoix will be celebrating New Year's Eve with the 5th Annual Bridge Drop. On December 31, starting at Noon, there will be a variety of both family friendly and adult focused events hosted throughout downtown. All the events are leading up to two world class fireworks shows beginning at 9pm followed by a final firework display and Bridge Drop at midnight. There will be a DJ and live entertainment featuring Tommy Tropic prior to both fireworks.

This year's event is

sure to please the entire family. There will be horse drawn wagon rides, s'mores and hot cocoa in East Park, a snowman-making contest sponsored by the Charlevoix Public Library from noon to 4pm. There will be arts and crafts at the Charlevoix Circle of Arts from 2-4pm. Charlevoix Cinema III will be playing a free movie, "Finding Dory", beginning at 4:30pm.

Back by popular demand, local artist Linda Boss has created a brand new holiday ornament. This year, each of these one of a kind, hand painted ornaments feature the iconic draw-

bridge looking towards Round Lake with the fireworks. These beautiful ornaments can be purchased at Elements Gallery for \$100. Proceeds from ornament sales will help fund the firework displays and the free kid's activities.

The Bridge Drop is going to be an exciting event that brings family and friends together to ring in the New Year. Look no further than Downtown Charlevoix for your New Year's Eve celebration. Check out www.bridgedrop.com for more information.



Practicing Giving, Concord Boyne

2nd and 4th grade classes at Concord Boyne visited The Brook in Boyne City and spread Christmas cheer. Students decorated sugar cookies and made homemade ornaments for the residents, then gave them to the residents wrapped in a song. It was a lot of fun. Many heartfelt thank you's, hugs and kisses were exchanged. The students truly exhibited the act of giving unselfishly and came away with so much love in return. COURTESY PHOTO

Boyne Library presents program on hoarding

Many people collect special items to display: baseball cards, dolls, antiques, and coins are examples of popular collections. Maintaining a collection is not a problem, but when an individual compulsively acquires an excessive number of items and the idea of parting with or discarding these items causes severe anxiety, it is possible that that person is dealing with a hoarding disorder.

Hoarding is different than collecting. A person who hoards possessions acquires things that have no seeming value or worth, and acquires such a large number of possessions that they overflow any attempt at storage or organization. Rooms in the home become unusable for their intended purpose, mobility in the home is diminished, and basic activities like cooking, cleaning, showering, and sleeping are impaired to near impossibility. Hoarding can cause a number of problems ranging from emotional reactions like frustration and embarrassment to legal and health problems.

Family and friends of people who have a hoarding disorder suffer the effects of the problem as well. There is often anger and resentment at the situation and the person causing the problem, as well as depression stemming from an inability to resolve the issue. Tangible health problems like allergies and respiratory problems are often an issue for family members, and children who live in a home where hoarding is a problem can suffer social delays. These side effects of hoarding may in turn lead to a strain on family relationships, financial problems, separation or divorce, and even eviction.

An estimated 2-5% of the population suffers from a hoarding disorder. As hoarding is recognized in the psychiatric community as a variant or symptom of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, there are ways to help friends or family members struggling with this affliction. Cognitive behavioral therapy with a mental health professional can be beneficial. Psychological treatment

can help family members as well as the individual who suffers with the hoarding disorder. There are also companies who will help sort, clean, and discard the hoarder's possessions.

The Boyne District Library is hosting a Hoarding and Compulsive Spending Program featuring hoarding expert, Terrence Shulman, on Tuesday, January 3 from 7:00-8:30pm. Mr. Shulman, who founded the Shulman Center for Compulsive Theft, Spending, and Hoarding, has been helping people recover from addictive behaviors like hoarding since 1992. He has been featured on The Today Show, TLC's "Buried Alive," and 20/20. His presentation will offer advice on helping yourself or those you love work on resolving hoarding behaviors.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Monica at the library at 231-582-7861 or visit www.boynelibrary.org.

Holiday decorating safety tips

Consumers Energy is offering Michigan residents tips for avoiding holiday-related fire hazards while enjoying the season's festivities.

"This is a very special time of year for many who celebrate holidays with family and friends. Because safety is at the heart of everything we do at Consumers Energy, our goal is for everyone to safely enjoy this memorable time," said Mary Palkovich, vice president of energy delivery for Consumers Energy.

Between 2009 and 2013 fire departments responded to over 1,000 home structure fires in the United States due to holiday decorations and/or Christmas trees, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

The following eight tips can help ensure safety during the holiday season:

- Install smoke detectors on every level of the

home, making sure at least one is located outside the sleeping area.

- Use holiday lights that are approved by a nationally recognized testing organization, such as Underwriter's Laboratory (UL). Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outside.

- Before hanging any lights, inspect them for frayed wires, broken sockets or other signs of wear. Test each light string and discard damaged sets.

- Use no more than three light sets on any single extension cord. Place extension cords against the wall to avoid tripping hazards. Do not run cords under rugs, around furniture legs or across doorways.

- Keep electrical connections off the ground and make sure they are clear of downspouts, railings, aluminum siding, standing water and snow.

- Never leave lights on trees and decorations unattended. Turn them off

before you go to bed or leave the home. Consider using a timer.

- If you use an artificial tree choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant.

- If using a real tree, lessen the fire hazard by making sure it stays fresh. Cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood and insert the base into a stand that holds water. Keep the stand filled with water. Keep the tree away from heat sources such as furnaces and heat registers, fireplaces, and space heaters.

Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest utility, is the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy (NYSE: CMS), providing natural gas and electricity to 6.7 million of the state's 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.

For more information about Consumers Energy, go to www.ConsumersEnergy.com.

News

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POST SCRIPT BY MIKE DUNN



Charlie Brown is still right!

I saw an article recently listing the top Christmas songs of all time. Among the entries were "Jingle Bell Rock"; "The Christmas Song" by Nat King Cole; "Santa Claus is Coming to Town"; "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"; "Blue Christmas" by Elvis; "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby; and even "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus."

Now, there isn't a thing wrong with any of those choices individually but I find it interesting that there was only one song out of the 20 listed that even remotely had anything to do with the actual meaning of Christmas ("The Little Drummer Boy").

I'm not down on Santa or sleigh bells or Rudolph or even poor Grandma who got run over by a reindeer

(though I must admit I do kinda feel bad for Grandma). What concerns me is how much the significance of Jesus coming into the world has been overshadowed by everything else that has become associated with the holiday.

Christ has been taken out of Christmas, by and large. The choice of the most popular Christmas songs is one small indication of that. Christmas cards are another indicator. When I went looking for cards to send out this year I was struck by just how few actually portrayed something to do with the birth of the Savior in Bethlehem. In one store, there must have been 30-plus boxes of cards available for purchase and I found only a handful that featured the stable or the wise men following the star or anything else involving the biblical account of Jesus' birth.

I'm not trying to make a case that there's a war on Christmas (though I think a case could be made). But I do believe there's been a gradual moving away from the sacred origins of Christmas in our culture to the point where a "happy holiday" is an end unto itself without any kind of acknowledgement of Jesus coming into the world.

Just as there was no room at the inn for Joseph and Mary on the night of Jesus'

birth more than 2,000 years ago, it seems there isn't room for Jesus in our crowded culture anymore.

This issue was addressed very insightfully by Charles M. Schulz, the creator of the comic strip Peanuts, way back in 1965. Schulz collaborated with Director Bill Menendez to bring to the TV screen a half-hour cartoon special about the over-commercialization of the season. Schulz and Menendez had to fight tooth-and-nail with CBS network executives to keep the show intact as we know it and love it, especially the portion of the show where Linus quotes from the Gospel of Luke about "Christ the Lord" being born in Bethlehem. Fortunately, Schulz and Menendez won the battle and the show, which CBS bigwigs reckoned would be a total flop, became an instant Christmas classic.

The message of the cartoon still resonates today, and perhaps is even more applicable in our time as it was when it was first broadcast nearly 50 years ago.

Schulz brilliantly portrayed the ever-conflicted Charlie Brown as someone who realizes something is wrong with the way Christmas has been overtaken by the trappings of the holiday. We all know the story. Charlie Brown, seeking to bring "the proper mood" to the play he is directing, finds a

"real" Christmas tree in a lot brimming with aluminum trees of various sizes and colors. The tree is small and unappealing amidst all the other more colorful and glitzy artificial trees but Charlie Brown sees the value in the little tree that others don't see, at least not at first.

Charlie Brown's tree, of course, is a metaphor that illustrates how the birth of the Savior in Bethlehem is so often overshadowed by the focus on the gift wrappings instead of the True Gift: God's Son coming into the world to open a door to a relationship with the Father in heaven that would be possible no other way.

People might say they don't need Jesus to enjoy Christmas or the spirit of Christmas and that's probably very true. For many, Santa is sufficient. But even so I believe with all my heart there's something very precious that's been lost. Just as in the innkeeper didn't realize who he was shutting the door to, so it is today.

Regardless, the eternal words of Luke's gospel still ring out to those with ears to hear: For unto you this day in the City of David a Savior is born, who is Christ the Lord.

Would that we could all see along with Charlie Brown the inexpressible value of the "real" message of Christmas. There's been no greater message ever delivered to man.

Optimism remains high for small business owners

The latest Michigan Future Business Index (MFBI) data show that optimism among Michigan's small- to mid-sized businesses is holding strong and keeping businesses' perceptions of the economy positive. That optimism is fueling projections for sales and profit increases, as well as boosting investments in human capital.

Confidence in future growth is the top reason for the optimism. Four in ten businesses say they are expanding by either adding a new business location or a new product or service to their offerings. Many also point to an improving economy, excellent employees, in-demand products/services and a renewed hope for regulatory reform.

The survey identified the primary challenge to be finding qualified talent and new customers and the steadily increasing weight

of healthcare costs. "Small businesses are quite optimistic about the future and we should all feel good about the business climate in Michigan and the opportunities for success," said Mike Britt, president of Accident Fund Insurance Company of America.

"While the future looks bright, we can't lose sight of the challenges we face including attracting and retaining top employees."

"The latest survey shows that Michigan small business owners remain bullish about the future," said Chris Holman, CEO of the Michigan Business Network. "We continue to see great optimism for future growth into 2017 and beyond."

Review a detailed summary of the December 2016 Michigan Future Business Index at AccidentFund.com or MichiganBusinessNetwork.com.

Community Pool Pre-New Year's Celebration in Charlevoix

December 30, 6-8pm. Reservations are required. It's cold outside, but not on the Pool deck! Grab your swimsuits, lounge at the pool, toss around some beach balls, and soak in the hot tub. Subs, refreshments and goody bags pro-

vided. \$5 for students and \$6 for adults (swimmers and non-swimmers). Children 5 and under are FREE! Call the Pool today to ensure your spot: 231.547.0982.

BC POLICE DEPT INCIDENT REPORT

Monday, November 28, 2016
 1125 Vehicle Unlock in the 200 block of S Lake St.
 1318 Vehicle unlock in the 900 block of E Division St
 1642 Gasoline drive off in the 1300 block of Boyne Av
 1738 Alarm in the 800 block of Front St.
 1833 Civil complaint in the 200 block of State St.
 2138 Arrested subject on warrant in the 400 block of E Main St.
 2357 Alarm in the 1300 block of Boyne Av

Tuesday, November 29, 2016
 0251 Assist Fire Dept with an alarm activation in the Industrial Park
 0840 Civil complaint in the 300 block of N Lake St
 1209 Vehicle unlock at Rotary Park.
 1250 Report missing scrap metal from Lagoon Dr
 1326 Property damage crash on Terrace St
 1421 Assist to Emmet County Sheriff Dept in the 300 block of E Division St
 1546 Report of a stolen Christmas wreath from the 200 block of N Lake St
 1550 Juvenile Complaint from the 1000 block of Boyne Av
 1840 Mental Health Pickup Order served in the 100 block of N East St

2228 Probation violation in the 300 block of E Division St

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2016
 0825 Suspicious subject in the area of Avalanche Mountain
 1025 Found wallet dropped off at the PD
 1054 Assisted parole agents arresting subject in the 300 block of E Division St
 1346 Report of stolen Christmas lights from the area of Brockway and Beardsley.
 1542 Suspicious situation on W Water St
 1600 Assist with vehicle fire on M-75N.

Thursday, December 1, 2016
 0223 Assist Sheriff Dept on Sho Sho Nie Beach Dr
 0726 Citation issued for expired registration at Lake and Vogel.
 0952 Private property damage crash in the 1200 block of Boyne Av
 1028 Dog dragging leash with no human attached in the 100 block of N Park St
 1041 Salvage Inspection
 1553 Private property damage crash in the Industrial Park
 1644 Disturbance in the 300 block of E Division.
 1813 Report of alarm going off in the 300 block of E Division St.
 2212 Assist EMS in the 300 block of E Division St

Friday, December 2, 2016
 0801 Minor personal injury crash Fall Park Rd and Boyne Ave.
 1436 Assist EMS in the 200 block of S Park St

1608 Driving complaint on Boyne Av. Citation issued for DWLS.
 1807 Assist motorist at Boyne Ave and Beardsley.
 2058 Private property damage crash in the 300 block of E Division St
 2339 Car alarm going off in the area of lake and Ray St

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3, 2016
 0103 Assist Sheriff Dept at Boyne Mountain with an intoxicated disruptive subject.
 1619 Assist Sheriff Dept with an MDOP type complaint.
 2200 Assist EMS on M-75 S

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4, 2016
 0106 Arrested subject for OWI on M-75 near the Industrial Park
 0825 Report of a suspicious subject walking North on Lake St. near State St. with a holstered revolver. Not concealed and no suspicious activity was observed. Open carry- no reason for contact.
 1105 Private property crash in the 100 block of Silver St.
 1849 Unruly customer reported in the 400 block of N Lake St.
 1851 Driving complaint reported in the 1200 block of Boyne Av
 2149 Report of fight in progress in the 200 block of E Lincoln Av. Arrested subject for assault
 2254 Assist FD in the 400 block of State St

MONDAY DECEMBER 5, 2016
 0051 Assist Sheriff Dept with

suicidal subject on Boyne City Rd.
 1001 Found keys in the 200 block of E Water St
 1600 Salvage Vehicle Inspection
 1651 Assist the Jail on W Lincoln
 1751 Assist Fire Dept in the 800 block of W Division St, tree on lines.
 2012 Assist EMS in the 400 block of State.

Tuesday December 6, 2016
 0552 Health and Safety concern in the 100 block of N Park St
 0813 Report of lost cash in the 400 block of N Lake St
 1321 Assist ambulance in the 100 block of W. Pine St
 1425 Second report of the health and Safety issue on Park St
 1729 Assist to Sheriff Dept on Boyne City Rd near Sayles Rd.
 2008 Juvenile complaint from Jersey St
 2151 Citation issued for speed at W Michigan and Charlevoix Street.

Wednesday, Dec 7, 2016
 1106 Civil dispute in the 200 block of State St
 1115 Suspicious subject reported in the 1300 block of Boyne Av
 1229 Body found in the 400 block of S Park St. Appears to be an accidental death.
 1452 Gasoline drive off in the 1300 block of Boyne Av.
 1540 Suspicious situation reported in the 400 block of Front St
 1605 Report of phone being

hacked
 2039 911 check on Vogel St

Thursday December 8, 2016
 0905 911 check on Vogel St
 0840 Private property damage crash in the 300 block of E Division St
 1135 Possible fraud reported on Ray St.
 1152 Alarm in the 800 block of S Park St
 1203 911 hang up in the 1000 block of Boyne Av
 1828 Report of possible domestic dispute in the 400 block of N Lake St.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9, 2016
 0316 Property damage crash at Boyne Av and E. Division St.
 0422 Alarm in the 300 block of N Lake St
 0444 Found a suspicious vehicle parked in the 300 block of N Lake St.
 1238 Report of possible financial exploitation in the 100 block of E Lincoln.
 1423 Vehicle Unlock in the 400 block of N lake St
 1803 Vehicle Unlock in the Industrial Park
 1842 Vehicle Unlock in the 200 block of N East St
 1921 Driving complaint on Wenonah St.
 2234 Report of vehicles doing donuts in parking lot in the 1000 block of Boyne Av.

Saturday, December 10, 2016
 0234 Snow parking violation at Main and Lake. Citation issued and

vehicle towed.
 0529 Vehicle unlock in the 300 block of E Division St.
 0910 Report of MDOP to vehicle in the 700 block of S Park St.
 0932 Report of a possible Embezzlement in the 1300 block of Boyne Av
 1144 Vehicle unlock in the 200 block of S East St
 1541 Report of an intoxicated subject in the 400 block of N Lake St
 1643 911 Hang Up in the 400 block of North St.
 1650 Report of an intoxicated subject in the 400 block of N Lake St
 1817 Subject arrested at River and Park for possession of marijuana.
 1918 Found wallet in Old City Park.

Sunday, December 11, 2016
 0000 MDOP/Disorderly on W Main St. Suspect transported by EMS. Will seek warrant.
 0313 Snow parking violation at Front and Main. Citation issued and vehicle towed.
 0609 Alarm in the 300 block of E Water St.
 1654 Suspicious situation on E Division St
 1716 Property damage crash at Vogel and Jefferson.
 1809 Citation issued for Careless Driving in the 1000 block of Boyne Av.
 2100 Assisted Sheriff Dept with Car deer accident on M-75 S and Topolinski.

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 www.otsegocountyparksrec.com

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 www.munsonhealthcare.org

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 Gaylord
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 www.communityhomehealthservices.com

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Munson Healthcare Grayling
 1100 Michigan Ave.,
 Grayling
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 www.mercyhealthgrayling.com

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 Charlevoix
 231-547-8630
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MASSAGE THERAPY
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 www.fourstarnutrition.net

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The Medicine Shoppe
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 www.rimgmt.com

The Brook of Gaylord
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 Gaylord
 989.732.6200
 www.brookretirement.com

The Brook of Boyne City
 701 Vogel Street

Boyne City
 Phone: 231.582.4300
 www.brookretirement.com

The Brook of Cheboygan
 11965 Townline Rd.
 Cheboygan
 Phone: 231.268.3400
 www.brookretirement.com

The Brook of Grayling
 503 Rose Street
 Grayling
 Phone: 989.348.8900
 www.brookretirement.com

SENIOR ASSISTANCE
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 Gaylord
 989-732-1122
 www.otsegocountycoa.org

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

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

TO ADD YOUR BUSINESS OR SERVICE LISTING CALL 989-732-8160

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

East Jordan Sno-Blast Winter Festival coming soon

Submitted by Shannon Fender, East Jordan Chamber of Commerce Events Coordinator

Let it snow, let it snow. How quickly the landscape can change in northern Michigan. As I'm writing this article, the radio keeps blasting winter storm warnings and the snow swirls about my window. With the cold temperatures and predicted snowfall amounts for the upcoming days, the snowmobile season should be a great one.

The 36th Annual East Jordan Sno-Blast Winter Festival, to be held January 20-22, promises to offer something for everyone. For the outdoor enthusiasts the festival will feature the popular Blessing of the Sleds, Antique and Classic Snowmobile Show, a vintage snowmobile ride, snowshoe hikes, softball in the snow tournament, snow sculptures, fishing tournament and ice skating.

For the non-outdoor winter fans there are many fun events to break Cabin Fever, new this year the "Grand Story Hour", back for its third year the Lion's Club "Dog Gone Fun Dog Show",

Wild Game and Forage Food Dinner, chili supper, Jordan River Arts Council's annual winter party featuring music by "Full Circle", coloring contest for all ages, Belle of the Blizzard and Winter Knight competition, businesses will be holding Indoor Sidewalk Sales throughout the weekend and Sno-Lovers Breakfast at the East Jordan Snowmobilers Clubhouse.

If you haven't visited East Jordan recently, I encourage you to put our community on your winter destination list. The community is experiencing a fabulous rejuvenation of new businesses, new buildings and community spirit. I invite you to shop, dine and experience all that our new and existing businesses and attractions have to offer. Exciting happenings and progress continue to unfold in our beautiful town located on the South Arm of Lake Charlevoix with the wild and scenic Jordan River on our doorstep.

A bit of trivia about a classic holiday movie and song

By Jim Akans

The list of holiday "classic" films grows ever larger with each passing year. Movies such as "A Christmas Story," "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," "Home Alone," and a throng of renditions of Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" have joined the ranks of such long-standing films as "It's a Wonderful Life," "Miracle on 34th Street," and "The Bishop's Wife," as perennial holiday viewing favorites to help rekindle the spirit of the season.

One of those Christmas classics, "White Christmas," holds a unique position in that it is not only a holiday film favorite, becoming the top grossing film in the year of its release; 1954, it also presented the best selling song of all time, with over 50 million copies of Irving Berlin's title composition having been sold worldwide.

Though many have watched the film countless times, here are a few trivia items you may want to look for the next time your television remote catches a showing of White Christmas.

- This was the third film to feature Bing Crosby singing "White Christmas". The other two are "Holiday Inn" and "Blue Skies." The Vermont Inn set is also a remodeled version of the Connecticut Inn set from the Holiday Inn film.

- Rosemary Clooney was not allowed to record her voice for the soundtrack album because it was being released by a record company (Decca) other than hers (Columbia). She was replaced on the soundtrack album by Peggy Lee.



WhiteChristmasTriviaPhoto; "White Christmas," holds a unique position in that it is not only a holiday film favorite, becoming the top grossing film in the year of its release; 1954, it also presented the best selling song of all time, with over 50 million copies of Irving Berlin's title composition having been sold worldwide. WIKIMEDIA PUBLIC DOMAIN PHOTO.

- When the General blows out the candles on his cake near the end of the movie, the ones on the far side of the cake blow out from another direction, almost before he blows out the ones nearest him. After General Waverly blows out the candles, at the very end of the movie the candles are lit again (I've had birthday cake candles like that).

- While Phil and Bob are lip-syncing the song "Sisters" there is a phrase at the end that Bob (Bing Crosby) goofs up and says, "Lord help the mister" instead of "Lord help the sister". It's obvious that Danny Kaye catches the mistake.

- According to Rosemary Clooney, Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye's "Sisters" performance was not originally in the script. They were clowning around on the set, and director Michael Curtiz thought it was so funny that

he decided to film it. In the scene, Crosby's laughs are genuine and unscripted, as he was unable to hold a straight face due to Kaye's comedic dancing.

- During "The Best Things" dance number, on the very last twirl around a kneeling Danny Kaye before she falls into his arms, Vera-Ellen trips over Danny Kaye's outstretched left foot. She recovers so smoothly that it is difficult to catch.

- Bob Fosse was the uncredited choreographer for the movie.

- During the song "Snow" on the train, a close-up of Danny Kaye shows his lips moving but the voice coming out is definitely Bing Crosby's. This happens a couple of times during the song.

- This was 1954's most successful film. The second most successful was The

Caine Mutiny (1954), which featured Rosemary Clooney's husband, José Ferrer.

While "White Christmas" has become the most recorded Christmas song, with over 500 versions in several different languages, Irving Berlin's opening bars are often dropped from those recordings. So just when you think you've heard it all, you may well have missed these lyrics...

"The sun is shining, the grass is green, The orange and palm trees sway.

There's never been such a day in Beverly Hills, L.A.

But it's December the twenty-fourth, — And I am longing to be up North."

Merry Christmas northern Michigan!

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Solid brick home that has been converted into 3 units. Very good tenant history. There is also a 2 car insulated finished garage. This also offers a shared laundry room in a very quiet neighborhood close to schools. MLS #444858. \$99,900 Ask for Holly Nierman or Mike Stark.



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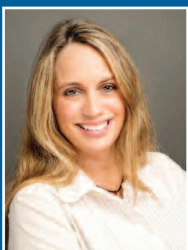
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ASSOCIATE BROKER
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