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December 27, 2018

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Where's the Snow?

BY JIM AKANS

While yards across the north are still glowing with holiday decorations, and Santa has successfully made his way across the globe in his sleigh, there seems to be something running a little on the "lean side" as we edge into the official winter season. Where's all the snow?

National Weather Service data as of December 20 shows nearly all reporting stations in the northern tip of Michigan's lower peninsula are experiencing below normal snowfall amounts. At 27 inches, Gaylord has about a 17 inch deficit, Houghton Lake is a dozen inches below normal as is Traverse City, and West

Branch around three inches below the normal line. Only Petoskey, with 32-inches of snowfall so far this season, is at slightly above normal.

Jim Keysor, meteorologist in charge at National Weather Service Gaylord, states, "This winter is remarkable in mirroring the 2002-2003 winter. During that season we had a cold November, a hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico, a weak El Nino, and a mild December (Gaylord reported 50 degrees on December 19 in 2002). We are seeing much of that happening this year."

Keysor notes that weather patterns often follow four to six week time frames. That pattern seems to be the case this year with the season



While yards across the north are still glowing with holiday decorations, there seems to be something running a little on the "lean side" as we edge into the official winter season. Where's all the snow? Photo by Jim Akans

starting early with a cold October, turning warmer for several weeks, and future trends pointing to lots of cold and snow on the horizon from mid January

through February.

"It looks like it will flip back to cold and snowy again in the coming weeks," he observes. "This may well be more of a back-

loaded winter. The worst part of winter hasn't hit yet."

That prospect is great news for snowmobilers and outdoor winter enthusiasts. On the plus side; the colder start to the early winter has been great for ice fishing, and less snow on the ground (and roads) for the holiday is a plus for travelers. As with most things...a glass half full is always a good way to look at life's unpredictability.

"We should see a nice solid snow base around New Years," states Keysor. "as we will be getting the typical 'little bit here and there' northern Michigan snowfall."

Let it snow!

Charlevoix Elementary students raise \$11,000 for Toys for Tots

Principal loses challenge and will spend the day up on the rooftop

BY MICHELLE MEDJESKY

CHARLEVOIX - When most people hear the words "up on the rooftop" in a song or story this time of year, it's generally assumed they apply to a jolly old elf named Santa and his team of reindeer. But when students at Charlevoix Elementary School think about the words "up on the rooftop" this holiday season, they'll right away be thinking about a certain someone else they expect to appear soon on a rooftop-their school principal.

That's because Charlevoix Elementary School principal John Haan has promised to keep his word in coming weeks to spend a day up on top of their school's roof. It was his way of sweetening a challenge made by second grade teacher, Chris Isch, who wagered that students at the school could raise \$5,000 in three weeks after Thanksgiving for the Charlevoix Toys for Tots program. If they raised at least that amount, then Haan agreed to go "up on the rooftop" at the school for a day.

Students raised \$4,000 for the Toys for Tots program last year, so Isch figured it was a safe bet to believe they could raise just \$1,000 more than that amount during the 2018 holiday season.

In the end, both educators learned a



COURTESY PHOTO



lesson they didn't expect when students more than doubled what was bet by raising some \$11,000 in just three weeks.

Kindergarten teacher Ericka Mitchell joined forces with Isch to coordinate and help students in this year's three week-long fundraising drive. It was an effort especially near and dear to Mitchell's heart since her

father is a Marine Corps veteran and the Marines have long been at the helm of Toys-for-Tots.

As soon as the challenge was on, Mitchell said students in all classrooms went to work raising money for the cause. They took on odd jobs like

See Toys For Tots—Page 5A

East Jordan "opts-out" of marijuana business

BY KRISTAL JOHNSON

EAST JORDAN - A divided East Jordan city commission followed suit with other area municipalities last week by voting to "opt out" of allowing marijuana establishments in their community.

The ordinance, which passed in a 5-2 vote, in part, prohibits consuming (including smoking), cultivating, distributing, processing, selling, or displaying marijuana in buildings owned or operated by the city of East Jordan. It also prohibits the establishment of marijuana facilities, such as dispensaries and growing and processing houses.

At the December 4 city commission meeting, commissioners were split concerning the ordinance. Commissioner Boyer advocated for the city to "opt-in" and allow marijuana grow houses in areas zoned L1, which includes the Air Industrial Park, located off of M-32 in South Arm Township. Boyer made the suggestion again at the December 18 meeting.

"Again, my suggestion would be for tonight, that we simply eliminate section one from [the ordinance] and then pass the rest. What that would do would give us our public use policy, which pro-

See Marijuana—Page 3A

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weather

THURSDAY



HIGH: 39
LOW: 37

FRIDAY



HIGH: 44
LOW: 16

SATURDAY



HIGH: 19
LOW: 15

snowfall

2016-17	AMT	CITY
12/26/16	.19.5	.ATLANTA
12/26/16	.30.5	.BOYNE FALLS
12/26/16	.17	.CHARLEVOIX
12/26/16	.25.7	.CHEBOYGAN
12/26/16	.38.6	.EAST JORDAN
12/26/16	.75.1	.GAYLORD
12/26/16	.66.3	.KALKASKA
12/26/16	.18.5	.LEWISTON
12/26/16	.21.4	.MIO
12/26/16	.34.7	.ONAWAY
12/26/16	.45.7	.PETOSKEY

2017-18	AMT	CITY
12/25/17	.9.3	.ATLANTA
12/25/17	.33	.BOYNE FALLS
12/25/17	.33.9	.CHARLEVOIX
12/25/17	.17.8	.CHEBOYGAN
12/25/17	.60.2	.EAST JORDAN
12/25/17	.72.9	.GAYLORD
12/25/17	.36.8	.KALKASKA
12/25/17	.25.5	.LEWISTON
12/25/17	.10.6	.MIO
12/25/17	.29.1	.ONAWAY
12/25/17	.57.6	.PETOSKEY

2018-19	AMT	CITY
12/24/18	.6.7	.ATLANTA
12/24/18	.17	.BOYNE FALLS
12/24/18	.14	.CHARLEVOIX
12/24/18	.14.1	.CHEBOYGAN
12/24/18	.27.7	.EAST JORDAN
12/24/18	.30.8	.GAYLORD
12/24/18	.25.5	.KALKASKA
12/24/18	.15	.LEWISTON
12/24/18	.10.6	.MIO
12/24/18	.25.6	.ONAWAY
12/24/18	.32.1	.PETOSKEY

record temps

DAY	AVG	LOW	Avg. High	RECORD LOW	RECORD HIGH
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)
DEC 30	.15°	...30°	...24°	(1976)..46°	(2004)
DEC 31	.15°	...30°	...14°	(1948)..58°	(1965)
JAN 1	...15°	...30°	...9°	(1968)..48°	(1952)
JAN 2	...15°	...30°	...7°	(1999)..49°	(1998)
JAN 3	...14°	...29°	...16°	(1996)..51°	(1998)

Iris Jeannette (McIntosh) Nemeth, 89

(NOV. 11, 1929 – DEC. 20, 2018)



Iris Jeannette McIntosh Nemeth, born November 11, 1929, passed away peacefully in her home on December 20, 2018.

Iris was preceded in death by her parents, Eddie and Quaynah McIntosh, and her siblings Ray, Jim, Gerry and Duane. She is survived by her husband, Geza, son, Joseph Savage (Betsy) daughters, Kaye

Zbiciak and Juliana Nemeth, grandsons, Joseph Zbiciak (Christine) and Alexander Zbiciak (Brooke), great-grandchildren Abigail and Zach Zbiciak and an array of nieces and nephew.

Iris was an accomplished artist, working in a variety of mediums...acrylic, chalk and oil pastels, and watercolor to name a few. Her work won awards at local and regional juried shows, and has spread over much of the region. Her most recent fascination was doll-making. Iris was also a gifted musician, competent on guitar, violin, banjo and keyboards. She so enjoyed being creative...it gave her life meaning and made her family's lives brighter.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in her name to the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Oz and Roizen

Television's Dr. Oz and Cleveland Clinic's Dr. Roizen report on health, wellness and quality of life.



The oral health-blood pressure connection

After undergoing periodontal surgery, comedian and television personality Whoopi Goldberg returned to her seat on "The View" and admitted to the public that, despite her excellent dental insurance, she's never taken care of her teeth and is paying the price. "Your mouth is connected to your entire system," she told viewers. "If you do not take care of your mouth, then you are not taking care of your body, and it will kill you."

Mountains of research show that poor oral health increases your risk for many maladies, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and head and neck cancers. And now, new research has emerged that shows that good dental care (brushing and flossing your teeth daily and getting regular checkups) could prevent or help reduce high blood pressure.

The study published in the journal Hypertension found that people with healthier gums and little tooth decay have lower blood pressure. It also revealed that folks taking high blood pressure medications get more benefit from the meds if their gums are healthy. Specifically, patients being treated for high blood pressure who have inflamed gums are 20 percent less likely to have their blood pressure in a healthy range than patients with no signs of periodontal disease.

So, if you have periodontal disease, have your blood pressure monitored regularly, and get to your periodontist pronto! If you have high blood pressure, remember that maintaining good dental hygiene is as important for protecting your heart as eating fiber regularly or increasing

your steps from 8,000 to 12,000 daily.

Natural food coloring

In the 1989 tear-jerker "Steel Magnolias," bride-to-be Shelby (Julia Roberts) permits her adoring fiancé to order his own groom's cake. It's shaped like an armadillo and has gray icing. "Worse, the cake part is red velvet cake. Blood red," Shelby tells her friends. "People are going to be hacking into this poor animal that looks like it's bleeding to death."

Red velvet cake wouldn't exist without artificial food coloring — and Americans love what food dye does to the visuals. One study found that consumption of food dye has increased fivefold since 1955. But scientists don't give artificial colorings good reviews. Studies link artificial coloring to cancers, asthma, allergies, plus ADHD in children.

While many artificial food dyes are banned in Europe — Red 3 and 40, Yellow 5 and 6, Green 3, Blue 1 and 2 — the Food and Drug Administration permits their use here. They're found in processed foods and in many unexpected places! Oranges sometimes are dipped into artificial colors, and they show up in salad dressings and pickles! So read labels!

The good news: When cooking at home, you can add festive color to your favorite treats naturally. On "The Dr. Oz Show," Jocelyn Delk Adams, host of a popular food blog, showed viewers that dyes can come from healthy fruits and vegetables! For example, pomegranate juice delivers a vivid red color. Spinach? Boil, reduce, blend and strain. Two cups of fresh leaves will create green dye to use on your holiday ginger-

bread house or New Year's treats such as roasted nuts in festive colors!

Maintaining nutritional mission control when you're on the go

The Mars-exploring spacecraft InSight made a 300-million-mile journey that was artfully guided by scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, California. After six months of speeding through space at 6,200 miles per hour, a controlled six-minute descent placed the fully functional spacecraft on the Martian surface.

Well, we're here to help guide you, so when you're on the go, you can make sure you not only survive but thrive during your long day's journey from home to gym, to kids' school, to work, to store, back to work, and home. All you need is a little mission control over your diet.

Your mission goals?

— Be prepared for food deserts.

— Never get famished.

— Eat healthy snacks.

— Stay hydrated.

— Schedule mealtimes.

Your solutions?

1. Always bring along healthy snacks. Tote them in your backpack, briefcase or carryall: 2 ounces of walnuts, a piece of fruit (apple, banana), hummus packaged with veggie dippers and a bottle of water. You want to give your rocket a boost with a healthful hit of fuel if there's not a chance to eat a full meal when you're hungry. And don't forget to drink 8-16 ounces of water every couple of hours.

2. When you schedule a mealtime, sit down and eat a salad or grain bowl slowly, with no digital interference,

no traffic blaring, no boss looking over your shoulder. A peaceful meal creates a peaceful landing, wherever your next stop may be.

Interval training for a younger RealAge

In his memoir "Dream Weaver," musician Gary Wright describes how as a youth in New Jersey he was taught to swim by Olympic gold medal swimmer and Tarzan actor Buster Crabbe, who was giving swimming lessons at Palisades Amusement Park.

"I was about 7 years old ... [and] he looked at me and said, 'Can you swim?'"

"No,' I answered, 'I came here hoping you'd teach me.'" Buster then held the young Gary out flat in the water and told him to kick like the devil and paddle. Then he dropped his arms, "and there I was — swimming for the first time! I started yelling, 'I can swim, I can swim!'" A great moment for the rock'n'roller and for interval training.

A recent study from Leipzig University in Germany says that four bouts of high-intensity interval training ("kick like the devil") during an exercise session can increase telomere activity and length. Telomeres are the safety caps that protect the genes in your cells. They're like the plastic caps on shoelaces that protect your laces from fraying. When they go, so do your laces. And as your telomeres go, so goes your cellular health, and your RealAge.

So if you want to increase your telomere length, work interval training into your daily walk, bike ride or swim. When walking, walk a normal pace for four minutes and then speed up for two; repeat four times. For variety, Dr. Mike likes to walk, then jump rope for two minutes, then walk again. Find comparable adventurous rhythms for other aerobic activities.

Mehmet Oz, M.D. is host of "The Dr. Oz Show," and Mike Roizen, M.D. is Chief Wellness Officer and Chair of Wellness Institute at Cleveland Clinic. To live your healthiest, tune into "The Dr. Oz Show" or visit www.sharecare.com.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

To the Editor,

No Surprise There. What might be considered uncanny is that adherence to Constitutional premise – Rule of Law – has extended allegiance to culture in general, namely the public, as not only the Law of the Land but the norm of cultural satiety. Through all wars internal and external the US has returned to its Constitution as base, even though somewhat chipped and eroded in some essentials and amended in adjusting some original and misstep flaws. Throughout, the US has had the ability to reinvent itself whereas abiding by sovereign concept of a free people.

As to history, examples are rife but, one exemplar may stand out more glaringly, that of an ancient Grecian by name of Alcibiades (pronounced Al-suh-Bie-uh-deez) circa 5th century BC Athens. This person was born rich, and throughout adulthood was extremely talented, exceedingly handsome at all ages, gifted beyond comprehension or attribution, a prince of a man and yet unprincipled to the core. He was of such talent that he managed to rise to rank akin to General among the fighting forces of Athens in defeating all enemies. He was a student of Socrates which latter taught and praised him even to extensive mention by Plato

at the last quarter terminus of the Republic. The biography of Alcibiades may be condensed to: Athens hero thence disgraced, escaped to Sparta to great success even in fighting against Athens but debauched the Spartan King's wife who gave birth, thence escaped to Persia which is now Iran, likewise debauched that Barbarian Ruler's wife, split back to Athens where he was amazingly welcomed home as a hero.

Enter Donald Trump. Alcibiades didn't make sense. Neither does Trump. Both display the incredible perplexity of undermining their own intentions. Moreover, each had the capacity of consistently walking an edge of cliffhanging intrigue which changes synopses as quickly as records may be scribed – which in 21st century terms is every day, like, 24/7/365%. Alcibiades hadn't this fast forward communications and transportation in his day. Nonetheless, both created a mystique of both public support and public revulsion. As was said by Plutarch of Alcibiades, "Go on boldly, my son, and increase in credit with the people, for thou wilt one day bring them calamities enough." Another ancient Athenian, Aristophanes, said of Alcibiades, "They love and hate him and cannot do without him". This might be noted as to Donald Trump who has indeed captured the dedicated

audience he so desires for the past two years and introduction of many preceding. Constant outrage is his stock-in-trade – this is what he does, his Modus Operandi. Just like Alcibiades.

There is a one-word definition for this: Psychopathy.

Generalities match loosely in replicate but enough to form a pattern. It is of some credit to the American People that holding to the course of a lawful society has endured so long. Through wars and unruly flare ups the Americans have rallied to the cause time and again. Misguided rulers and undermining influences have fallen to the grace of the US Constitution and its harbor beckoning despite the many attempts to retract welcome. As a clinical psychological study, psychopathy does not specify a Hannibal Lecter personality, not Jack the Ripper or Ted Bundy; psychopathy to psychiatrists refers to scattered manifestations of irrational behavior due to capricious thought seemingly without conscience or empathy toward others, though a self-protective shield always seems to remain constant even if in tightrope walker sense.

If anybody can wade through all those old Greek names and dialogues, it's all there inclusive of the matrix for our society in general, our laws, linguistics, culture. The Democratic Republic of Plato is Western

civilization. When we read of the insubordinate acts exposed through history it is intrinsically viewing the separate jigsaw pieces of the psychopathic puzzle we deal with repeatedly. That which seems disparate is actually part of the whole of mental disorder attacking us in its various talisman forms. Donald Trump can now wreak more havoc with a Twitter tweet than a Spartan or Sultan with an army, and a thousand times faster. And backpedal and change course on the whim of a glimpse at a salacious girl crossing his purview, or a suggestion of money to be made or more saliently money to be lost. Even in infiltrating the various legal departments of federal government, the Law and the People tend to accept the premise of official declaration despite disproven by press and petition as being unconstitutional. Such is the power of Central Government. The same central government that sentenced Socrates to death because he was accused of aiding Alcibiades in his madcap subterfuge. Athens thereafter succumbed to dissolution and demise, Rome to follow, Asia Minor remains barbarically unsettled to this day. History encore still hearsken via psychopath.

Mitchell Jon MacKay, East Jordan

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Charlevoix New Year's Eve Celebration and 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 7th Annual Bridge Drop hosted by DTE Energy Foundation, Charlevoix State Bank, Munson Hospital and Charlevoix Main Street. On December 31st, starting at 1pm and going until the wee hours of January 1st, there will be a variety of both family friendly and

adult focused events hosted throughout downtown. All the daytime events lead up to two world class fireworks shows at 9pm followed by a finale firework display at midnight. Tommy Tropic will entertain the crowd prior to both fireworks shows. This year's event is sure to please the entire family. There will be horse drawn wagon rides around town with pick up on the corner



of Bridge and Mason Streets, as well as s'mores, hot cocoa and a snow sculpture contest in East Park.

Bring your own decorations for your snow sculptures. Charlevoix Cinema III will be showing a free movie, Incredibles 2, beginning at 4:30pm. Shops and restaurants will be celebrating all weekend by offering New Year's Eve specials and after holiday discounts. Be sure to check out the storefronts that will be decorated to celebrate the season; the most spectacular receiving the

Bridge Drop's coveted Wonderful Window Award. Back by popular demand, Charlevoix's favorite bridge will be closing for the last time of 2018. The countdown to the new year will be marked with the dropping of the Memorial Draw-bridge right before midnight. 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.bridge-drop.com for more information. Charlevoix County Transit will be offering free bus transportation on New Year's Eve. The first bus starts at 6pm and the last is at 2am. Call (231) 582-6900 and pre-schedule to get the best time slot.

MARIJUANA FROM PG. 1A

hibits (marijuana use) and would set our fines." Boyer made the push to ban dispensaries from the downtown district but recommended allowing marijuana growing and processing facilities in areas zoned L1. Commissioner Penzien, who had been in full support of the ordinance at the December 4 meeting, still expressed a resistance to rushing into allowing marijuana establishments and suggested that the planning commission and DDA also felt the city had time to make decisions. Opening the floor to two speakers at the meeting before the vote, Rick Robrahn agreed with commissioner Penzien and questioned the risk versus the reward of allowing marijuana related business in the community. Clif Porter stood by Boyer's recommendation, primarily from an investment standpoint. "The first movers are going to be the ones who get the high revenue, high investment," Porter said. Commissioners Boyer and Johnson voted against the ordinance, while Commissioners Timmons, Penzien, Reid and Mayor Peck voted in favor. Commissioner Hawley, who had said at the December 4 commission meeting, "When you know how people vote, I feel you should really try to honor that," also offered a vote in favor

of the ordinance. Commissioner Johnson, unhappy with the results of the vote, said, "We just slapped the voters in the face." Following the passing of the ordinance, the commission approved moving forward with Beckett & Raeder out of Petoskey as the firm to complete the city's updated master plan. City Administrator Cannon said there will be an emphasis on the EJ properties with the new master plan. Cannon noted that the city has made a lot of progress in the last three or four years since the last master plan, which is why a new plan is needed. "We need to look at house, retail, residential; it's going to be a busy process but exciting," Cannon said. Cannon also said that the firm has a Brownfield Specialist, which will allow for a lot of conversations surrounding environmental impact. A grant will cover 50% of the master plan costs. During final remarks of the night, Commissioner Johnson returned his focus towards the passed ordinance prohibiting marijuana use and marijuana related entities, and he requested that the commission revisit the ordinance in six months. The commission did not seem to oppose his request. The next regular meeting of the East Jordan City Commission is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 15, 2019.

Man sentenced to prison for damaging area home

Justin William Hillard, 25, Boyne City, was sentenced to 38 to 120 months in prison and ordered to pay nearly \$100,000 in restitution for crimes committed in Boyne Valley Township on July 16, 2018. Hillard pleaded guilty on November 30, 2018 to malicious destruction of property \$20,000 or more and two counts of breaking and entering a building with intent to commit a larceny. According to an affidavit filed by police in the case, Hillard broke into two

homes and an outbuilding in Boyne Valley Township in July of 2018 and in one of the homes, he destroyed or damaged fixtures, appliances and furnishings totaling \$97,813.88 in damages. In another home, he broke in and stole tools and electronics and in the outbuilding, he stole a brand new lawn mower. He was ordered to pay restitution totaling \$2,113.24 related to these offenses. No one was at home at the time of Hillard's actions.

Police discovered Hillard was the perpetrator by lifting and processing fingerprints which were identified as Hillard's. He lived in the same neighborhood as the homes he ransacked. Hillard was on felony bond out of Roscommon County at the time he committed these offenses. This was a very serious crime where these victims not only had their property damaged or stolen, they had their peace of mind taken away and as one of the victims wrote the court, they

lost their sense of safety and tranquility they felt in their home. Charlevoix County Prosecuting Attorney Allen Telgenhof said. This case was solved due to excellent police work by the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office with the spotting and collecting of evidence and interviews with the Defendant. This was an excellent team effort by Sergeant Fred Hasty, Detective Ben Speigl and Deputy Cody Wheat. Submitted by Charlevoix County Prosecutor, Allen

Man sent back to prison for attack on neighbor

Burton David Cortez, 39, East Jordan, was sentenced to 38 to 90 months in prison on charges of malicious destruction of personal property \$1,000 to \$20,000 and assault with a dangerous weapon today in the 33rd Circuit Court. The offense occurred on September 14, 2018 in Eveline Township. Cortez had just been released from prison on December 25, 2017 after spending over 17 years in prison on convictions of

assault with intent to commit sexual penetration and being a prisoner in possession of a weapon. In this incident, according to an affidavit filed in the case, Cortez and a neighbor became involved in a disagreement over property lines and Cortez and other individuals approached the neighbor and another man with Cortez carrying a knife and a Maglite style flashlight. The other men carried

large wrenches. Cortez and the other men slashed the tires of one of the victim's car to immobilize the vehicle, then assaulted the man with a knife, causing scars the victim showed Judge Roy C. Hayes III in the courtroom during the sentencing. Hayes also ordered Cortez to pay \$4,434.89 in restitution. This was a very scary situation for these residents. Charlevoix County Prose-

cuting Attorney Allen Telgenhof said. A simple disagreement over property lines in a remote part of the county resulted in a situation where a completely innocent person was, as he described in court, fighting for his life against a group of weaponized attackers. Submitted by Charlevoix County Prosecutor, Allen Telgenhof

Tips for staying safe & warm during the winter

With heating equipment a leading cause of fires in December, January and February, Consumers Energy is sharing important safety tips to help Michigan residents stay safe and warm. "It is our privilege to provide natural gas and electric service to our family, friends and neighbors around the state, but we are also committed to sharing information to help them stay safe during the winter months," said LeeRoy Wells, Jr, vice president of operations support for Consumers Energy. According to the National Fire Protection Association, heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January and February. To help prevent a tragedy, follow these simple safety tips: - Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like a furnace, fireplaces, wood stove or portable space heater. - Never use your own to heat your home. - Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional. - Turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed. - Never operate portable generators inside a home, garage or near windows. They should be operated outside and at least 25 feet

away from a home/building. - Install an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) listed carbon monoxide alarm that will activate if this deadly, invisible gas is produced. Most carbon monoxide problems occur in the winter when doors and windows are closed and furnaces are operating. There are also simple outside tips to stay safe and warm. Keeping natural gas and electric meters and gas furnace intake pipes free of ice and snow is important for safe operation. If snow builds up, it can become compacted and freeze around the meter, causing damage that can interfere with its proper operation and appliances served by that meter. - Remove snow by hand, never with shovel, other tools or power snow equipment. - Residents with high-efficiency furnaces should clear the intake pipes (typically two white plastic pipes coming out the side of the home) from piled or drifting snow to prevent possible obstructions that could interfere with safe operation. - Those living in manufactured/mobile homes should safely clear away snow from rooftop chimneys, fresh air intakes and furnace exhaust pipes. Learn more about cold weather safety and available assistance programs: www.ConsumersEnergy.com/coldweather

North Central offers free farming workshops

North Central Michigan College's Corporate and Community Education (CCE) department is offering free workshops on viticulture, farms and gardens this winter. CCE partners with Crosshatch Center for Art and Ecology to provide farming education in the Northwest Lower Michigan area. Seating is limited and you must register in advance. Starting January 9 is an 18-part viticulture series, Vines to Wines. Join some of the experts in our region to stay abreast of current ideas and strategies in vineyard agriculture development. Certificates of Completion are available

for both Series 1, January 9 - February 7, and Series 2, February 13 - March 13. All classes begin at 6 p.m. and will be held on the Petoskey campus in Room 536 of the Student and Community Resource Center. These classes are brought to you by our partnership with Crosshatch/USDA and the members of SAGGA, Straits Area Grape Growers Association bringing community education, growth in agriculture and continued development and ingenuity to the region. For more details, go to www.ncmich.edu and click on Community & Events, Corporate and Community Education Workshops.

Other workshops include: - 5S Your Farm the Lean Way, Tuesday, January 8, 6 - 8 p.m. The strategy of 5S is all about putting things/tools in the right place and making your job easier, more productive, and more efficient. Improve the way individuals work and begin to change the view of work to constant improvement and the customer. - The Waste in Farming and the Lean Approach, Wednesday, January 9, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lean waste is about those things that create a waste of time and effort on the job. Learn what creates waste in your

process and begin to get rid of it. Combine this lesson with 5S and you will have the power to redefine the way work happens on your farm! - The Lean Kaizen Approach, Thursday, January 10, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Kaizen is all about making positive change and constant improvement. These skills provide a great approach to discovery and sharing of ideas and improvements. To register, call 231-348-6613, email ccefaq@ncmich.edu or visit www.ncmich.edu, click on Community & Events, Corporate and Community Education Workshops.

BOYNE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT REPORT

Monday, December 10, 2018
0559 Car deer crash on Pleasant Ave. near the city limits.
1008 Assist EMS in the 800 block of S Park St
1657 Citation issued for CI No Insurance at Boice and Brockway. Vehicle towed.
1757 Citation issued for CI No Insurance at lake and Groveland. Vehicle towed.
1935 Report of PPO Violation on West St

Tuesday December 11 2018
0425 Assist EMS on N Lake St
1250 Vehicle unlock in the 1000 block of Boyne Av
1823 Vehicle unlock in the 500 block of N Lake St
1839 PR at high school wrestling.

Wednesday, December 12 2018
0655 Car deer crash at Boyne Av and Main St.
0730 Car deer crash at State St. and Jefferson St.
1056 Fraud complaint reported from the 400 block of Boyne Av
1150 Driving complaint from

the 300 block of E Division St
1335 Citation issued for disregarding stop light at Lake and Water
1340 Attempted mail fraud.
1531 Citation issued for fail to yield left turn on Boyne Av at McDonald's driveway
1828 Property damage crash at Beardsley and Brockway.
2129 Dead deer on State St. in from of the Baptist Church.
2134 Driving complaint on Boyne Ave.
2357 Parking violation on E. Lincoln near S. Park.

Thursday, December 13, 2018
0053 Assist EMS in the 1000 block of N. Park St.
0705 Suspicious subject in the 300 block of E Division St.
0714 Vehicle unlock in the 1300 block of Boyne Av
1420 Private property damage crash in the 1000 block of Boyne Av.
1453 Citation for speed on Boyne Av at School Entrance.
1942 Suspicious activity in the 1000 block of Robinson St.
2057 Assist EMS in the 500

block of N Lake St

Friday, December 14, 2018
0025 Found an injured deer in the roadway on W. Michigan near Mechanics.
0745 Cops and doughnuts at the High School.
1100 Salvage Inspection
1241 Salvage inspection
1435 Attempted phone scam reported from Cedar St. The grandparent scheme has started up again.
1500 Assist EMS in the 200 block of W Cedar St
1525 Custody dispute in the 900 block of Brockway.
1840 Citation issued for Expired Registration at Lake and Cherry.
2033 Assist EMS in the 800 block of State St.
2035 Dog running at large at Bailey and Jefferson
2225 Vehicle Unlock in the 400 block of High St

Saturday December 15th, 2018
1039 Citation issued for speed. N. Lake St/Lakeview Dr.
1715 Request for welfare

check in the 100 block of N Park St.
1800 Assist EMS in the 100 block of N Park St
1848 Citation issued for speed at Front St and Second St.
2324 Property damage crash at Division and Boyne Ave.
2330 Report of dog barking on Haven Ct.

Sunday, December 16 2019
0017 Suspicious situation at Park and Vogel St.
1052 Civil dispute in the 1000 block of S Lake St.
1122 Alarm in the 100 block of Water St
1152 Responded to medical alarm on Pine Pointe Tr
1619 Arrested subject for OUID, Possession of Cocaine, DWLS and an Emmet County warrant in the 400 block of N Lake St.
1730 Assist Sheriff Dept. on Crozier Road
2250 Citation issued for speed at Front and Second.

TUESDAY - Spin the wheel for a Deal!!!!
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News Briefs

CHARLEVOIX

A CHILDREN'S WINTER SPECTACULAR

December 27, 4-6pm, Castle Farms. Enjoy a visit and special performance by the well known Snow Queen and Ice Princess. Get creative at the hot cocoa bar and decorate your own sugar cookies. Plus, take the fun home with you with a take-home Olaf Craft. Tickets are \$15 per child and each child includes one adult. Extra adults are \$5. After this exciting event ends, take a drive through our first ever lighted Christmas display! (included with your ticket)

EAST JORDAN

RAVEN HILL HOLIDAY GATHERING

December 28. Come play, buy your annual membership or make an annual donation and help us celebrate our 27th holiday season with special treats.

PETOSKEY

SECOND CITY "DYSFUNCTIONAL HOLIDAY REVUE"

December 28, 8-10pm, Great Lakes Center for the Arts. The Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue delivers a healthy dose of seasonal satire where neither holiday film classics, family gatherings nor Christmas carols are too sacred for a show that is the perfect alternative to the same old holiday fare. Founded in Chicago in 1959, The Second City has become the premier training ground for the comedy world's best and brightest. Their alumni list reads like a who's who of American comedy, including Mike Nichols, Elaine May, Alan Arkin, Joan Rivers, Harold Ramis, John Belushi, Bill Murray, Gilda Radner, George Wendt, Martin Short, John Candy, Chris Farley, Mike Myers, Tina Fey, Steve Carell, Stephen Colbert, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Aidy Bryant, Keegan-Michael Key and countless others. Due to adult content, this holiday offering is recommended for mature audiences only. www.seconcity.com. Tickets start at \$35. Contact GLCFA Box office; Email: tickets@greatlakesca.org Phone: (231) 439-2610

BOYNE CITY

WILLY PORTER CONCERT AT FRESHWATER GALLERY

December 29, 8pm, Freshwater Gallery, 217 South Lake Street. His live shows are guitar-driven grit and soul, dynamic silence and muscle—unique and electrifying. He's one of America's finest guitarists. Willy toured as the opener for Tori Amos, Paul Simon, Jethro Tull, Sting and Jeff Beck. Tickets \$30 in advance. Call to reserve 231-582-2588. Remember to bring an item for our food pantry collection box.

BOYNE CITY

THE PAIN OF LIVING A DOUBLE LIFE ADDRESSED

December 30, 6:30pm, Lifetree Cafe. The program, titled "Living a Lie: The

Perils of a Double Life," features the filmed story of Carol Grever, a woman who discovered after 30 years that her husband had been living a double life. Participants will gain practical insights into coping with the pain of discovering double lives as they follow Grever's journey toward forgiveness, growth, and hope. Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Lifetree Café is in the First Presbyterian Church, 401 S. Park St., Boyne City. Use the Pine St. entrance.

CHARLEVOIX

BRIDGE DROP

December 31, downtown. Festivities begin at 1pm with fireworks at 9pm and midnight. Horse Drawn Wagon Rides from 1-4, S'mores and Hot Cocoa in East Park from 1-4

Snowman Contest in East Park from 1-4. Free family movie Incredibles 2 at Charlevoix Cinema III at 4:30. 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 Memorial Bridge will be dropped at midnight to welcome in 2019.

EAST JORDAN

NEW YEAR'S EVE OVERNIGHT

December 31, starting at 6pm to 9am January 1. Raven Hill Discovery Center staff will entertain the kids and keep them safe, while you celebrate here with them or on your own. Registration is limited and cost is \$100 per person, so book soon by calling Cheri at 231-536-3369. Register by December 24, 2018 for this fun-filled December 31st overnight. For more information on any Raven Hill activities, phone 231-536-3369 or email info@miravenhill.org

BOYNE CITY

FORMER FELON TURNED INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER SHARES INSIGHTS

January 6, 6:30pm, Lifetree Cafe. The program, titled "Second Chances: From Down and Out to Up and at 'Em," features the filmed story of author and entrepreneur Weldon Long. A high school dropout and addict, Long was in prison the third time when he decided to change the direction of his life. Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Lifetree Café is in the First Presbyterian Church, 401 S. Park St., Boyne City. Use the Pine St. entrance.

CHARLEVOIX

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

January 8, 1-2pm, America House, 615 Petoskey Ave. Free Blood Pressure Clinic hosted at American House Charlevoix by Hospice of Michigan.

BOYNE CITY

WHETHER GOD IS FAIR DISCUSSED

January 13, 6:30pm, Lifetree Cafe. The program, ti-

tled "Does God Play Favorites? Why Would a Caring God Bless Some and Not Others?" features the filmed stories of people affected by a devastating fire. Some residents describe how their house was "miraculously" spared, while others tell how their lives' possessions were lost in the forest fire. Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Lifetree Café is in the First Presbyterian Church, 401 S. Park St., Boyne City. Use the Pine St. entrance.

PETOSKEY

GLCO RECITAL; PIANO DUO

January 13, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1020 Mitchell St. Please join us for an afternoon of exciting music featuring Duo Pianists: Michelle Mitchum & Robin McCarty. Free Will donations will be taken at the door.

CHARLEVOIX

CHAMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

January 15, 5-7pm, Lake Charlevoix Brewing Company. Come mix and mingle at Business After Hours. Hosted by Lake Charlevoix Brewing Company. Networking, Food & Fun.

BOYNE CITY

ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

January 17, Boyne Mountain. This year, the Annual Awards Gala has a red carpet theme. We are hoping everyone will get into the fun and dress up like the local celebrities we know they are! Dust off those fancy duds - suits and dresses, or tuxes and gowns if you really want bonus points - and give them new life at the Annual Awards Gala. New this year, we'll have a plated meal, with your choice of entrée options that you can choose when you register.

BOYNE CITY

2ND ANNUAL "FAT AND FLURRIOUS" BIKE RACE

January 19, Avalanche Mountain. Test yourself and race your buddies to see who can make it around the groomed trails at Avalanche Mountain the fastest. The course will change this year (since last year was scorching fast and had textbook race conditions). The final course map will be released one week prior to the event and will be condition-dependent. The After Party will again be held at Stiggs Brewery & Kitchen, and this is also their anniversary party. Awards will be held outside and good food and libations will be available. All event proceeds will be donated to the Top Of Michigan Mountain Bike Association. Info at www.fatandflurrious.com

BOYNE CITY

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION DISCUSSED

January 20, 6:30pm, Lifetree Cafe. The program, titled "Kids Without a Country: An Illegal Immigrant's Story," features the filmed story of Reyna Grande, who crossed the

border with her family illegally when she was 9 years old. The Lifetree program explores the challenges facing immigration reform, including issues surrounding children of illegal immigrants. Grande, now a teacher and author, describes the border crossing and her subsequent life as an undocumented alien. She's the author of The Distance Between Us. Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Lifetree Café is in the First Presbyterian Church, 401 S. Park St., Boyne City. Use the Pine St. entrance.

EAST JORDAN

ANNUAL CHAMBER MEETING/DINNER/AUCTION

January 26, 5:30-9pm, Castle Farms. The Chamber's largest event of the year, the Annual Dinner in January at the majestic Castle Farms, kicks off the new year with an awards program, dinner and live and silent auction. Community members, Chamber Member businesses and organizations are honored and recognized annually with the Citizen of the Year and Spirit Award presented to deserving individuals and business owners. The Chamber's second largest fundraiser, next to membership dues, culminates the evening with spirited live auction. A silent auction is held during the Social Hour in the Castle's Gallery. For information on how to attend the dinner or donate an auction item, please contact the Chamber Office at 231-536-7351 or email info@ejchamber.org

BOYNE CITY

DISTRACTED DRIVING WORKSHOP

January 26, 10am-2pm, Boyne District Library community room. Join Michigan State Trooper Corey Hebner and Officer Dan Mercer from the Boyne City Police Department as they demonstrate and educate us on how dangerous distract driving can be...including a chance to use a driving simulator! Ages 14 and up. RSVP for use of driving simulator: call the library 231-582-7861 or online www.boynelibrary.org/programs.

BOYNE CITY

TV'S BIGGEST LOSER INTERVIEWE

January 27, 6:30pm, Lifetree Cafe. Tips and strategies for losing weight and becoming healthy will be shared at Lifetree Café on Potluck Sunday, Jan. 27. Bring a dish to share at 5:30. Program at 6:30. The program, titled "Hard to Be Healthy: TV's 'Biggest Loser' Weighs In," includes a filmed interview with Jaron Tate, a contestant on NBC TV's The Biggest Loser. Tate shares his secrets for losing over 150 pounds and keeping the weight off. Lifetree Café is in the First Presbyterian Church, 401 S. Park St., Boyne City. Use the Pine St. entrance.

BOYNE CITY

FARMERS MARKET

Boyne City Hall, Satur-

day's, 9 am - Noon. The Boyne City Indoor Farmers Market is located in the main lobby and training room of the City Facilities Building, which is located across the street from the summer market location in Veterans Park. Twenty vendors are confirmed for the indoor market. For more information on the market, visit the Boyne City Farmers Market Facebook page or email farmersmarket@boynecity.com

BOYNE CITY

KINDER CLOSET

At Christ Lutheran Church is open from 10am to noon on the second Saturday of every month. Free baby items are provided, including diapers; wipes; clothes and more, for any Charlevoix County parent with a newborn to 24 month-old-child. Christ Lutheran Church is located at 1250 Boyne Avenue in Boyne City. For more information, call 231-582-9301.

CHARLEVOIX

WELLNESS WORKSHOPS

Held at Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital Wellness Workshop, 411 Bridge Street. Call (231) 437-3482 for more information.

- Hatha Yoga, every Monday and Friday 7:30-8:30am. The yoga sequences, along with breath work and relaxation techniques will assist in building strength, stamina, flexibility, balance, and increasing body awareness. The use of props, blocks, or blankets make poses easily modified to suit the individual. All levels of fitness are welcome and modifications will be provided as needed. The class is taught by Lisa Hepner is a licensed physical therapist assistant with Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital.

- Wellness Wednesday, every Wednesday from 8am-11am. 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 diabetes 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.

- Full Body Toning Exercise Class, every Thursday from 5:30-6:30pm. The first class is free as are all yoga and strength training classes. If you enjoy your first class, low-cost punch cards available and are good for any of our classes. Call (231) 437-3482 for more information or email chxwellness@mhc.net to have our calendar emailed to you monthly.

BOYNE CITY

FREE COFFEE,

DOUGHNUTS & LUNCH FOR VETERANS

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

CHARLEVOIX

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

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan provides counseling and support services at no cost to survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, child sexual assault and adults molested when they were children. Support services include crisis counseling, individual counseling, support groups, trauma therapy (EMDR), play therapy for children, safety planning, advocacy and resources/referrals. If you or someone you care about has been a victim of crime, contact the WRCNM's main office at (231) 347-0067.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan offers free playgroups for children 0-60 months and their preschool-age siblings. Playgroups help you learn about your child's developmental stages, learn new children's games/activities and share parenting concerns/experiences with other parents and the playgroup facilitator. Playgroups are held in various northern Michigan communities. For current playgroup locations/times, visit www.wrcnm.org or call (231) 347-0067.

BOYNE CITY

BOYNE DISTRICT LIBRARY PROGRAMS

- Toddler Tales & Tunes every Monday at 10am and Preschool Storytime every Tuesday at 10am. Check website for any date changes. No registration is required.

- Yoga with Reb Andrews 9am every Monday, 8 week sessions/\$5 per week

- Tai Chi every Wednesday, 9am beginners class, 10am advanced class, cost is \$5 per session

- The Boyne District Library Book Club meets at 7pm. Information at www.boynelibrary.org.

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Pat Fralick on NW MI Health Department on retires after 42 years of service

Patricia Fralick retired this year after 42 years of service at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. During her tenure, she served as a public health nurse, family health county coordinator, family health supervisor, and director of the Family Health Division. Recently, Fralick was awarded the 2018 Athena Award by the Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce, in recognition of her decades of dedicated servant-leadership in Northern Michigan.

"It has been a privilege to work with Pat for many years," stated Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director for the health department. "I have learned so much from

her passion and focus on providing client-centered services to thousands of clients and families in Northern Michigan."

Since beginning her career as a public health nurse in 1975, Fralick has been driven by her love for public health nursing and her belief that every family deserves equal access to care. She committed to ensuring services could be provided wherever they were most needed: in the home, the school, the office, or anywhere in the community. Through her leadership and expertise as a grant writer, program designer, and administrator, Fralick developed and sustained needed programs

which today provide important services to individuals and families at all stages of life. These programs reflect Fralick's tireless advocacy for vulnerable populations, especially pregnant women and infants. Her belief in and commitment to social justice set the standard to which the Health Department of Northwest Michigan continues to strive.

Fralick cultivated an empathetic and compassionate workplace as she led a staff of more than 50 nurses, social workers, public health technicians, and coordinators to carry out countless programs across four counties, holding both people and programs to high standards of excellence. Lisa

Peacock, current Health Officer for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, states "I remember lessons Pat has taught me every single day, it has been such a privilege to learn under her amazing leadership."

Fralick's dynamic leadership has reached far beyond the health department through her contributions to the leadership programs in Charlevoix and Emmet counties, where she encouraged the development of future community leaders, as well as her leadership on the Northern Michigan Perinatal Collaborative Network, participation as a board member for the Women's Resource Center

of Northern Michigan, Chair of the Human Services Collaborative Body, and as a member of the local Child Abuse Prevention Council. Through her knowledge and passion, Fralick made a positive and lasting impact on Michigan health policy, serving on numerous Statewide committees and workgroups and holding the position of Chair of the Michigan Nurse Administrators Forum.

Fralick's service embodied the mission of the Health Department of Northwest Michigan: To serve the entire community and to achieve health equity by promoting well-being, preventing disease, and pro-

tecting the environment through partnerships, innovation, and excellence in public health practice. Her example will live on in the culture of the Health Department of Northwest Michigan and surrounding community for years to come. While she will certainly be missed, everyone at the health department congratulates her on a well-deserved retirement. The Board of Health unanimously approved a resolution thanking Fralick for her many years of service and extending best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Remote Office/Home Office (ROHO) Collaborative Meetings in Charlevoix

Charlevoix is known for its natural beauty and is a fantastic vacation spot in northwest Michigan with endless amounts of outdoor recreation opportunities year round. What makes Charlevoix popular for visitors also makes it a desirable place to live, especially for those fortunate enough to work remotely or have a home based business.

Charlevoix Main Street DDA has partnered with the Charlevoix Public Library and Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce to host monthly meetings for home based workers in the area. The purpose of the meetings is to give home based workers in Charlevoix a setting in which to meet others, network, collaborate, share resources, and support one another.

"The idea blossomed from a conversation we had with the library about the possibility of creating a co-

working space there," said Lindsey J. Dotson, Executive Director of Charlevoix Main Street DDA. "Since we started the meetings back in November we've gotten to know the home based worker community and realize that their needs are multi-faceted. Discussion has shifted to the possibility of a coworking space someplace downtown and whether or not there is a demand for it."

The monthly meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month at the Charlevoix Public Library in the Trustees Conference Room at 4pm. In March the time will change to 1pm to better accommodate home based workers with children. Anyone who works remotely for a company elsewhere or has a home based business is welcome to attend.

The ever increasing flexibility given by major companies to work from home

has made it so that Americans can live virtually anywhere as long as they have the technology to support their job. Some cities are going as far as offering money to remote workers to relocate there.

"We know that Charlevoix has a large number of remote workers, both year round and seasonal residents," said Sarah Hagen, President of Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce. "Our hope is that by hosting these meetings we create a community amongst the home based workers that can foster entrepreneurship and collaboration."

Additional information about the Charlevoix Main Street DDA program is available at charlevoix-mainstreet.org and facebook.com/downtowncharlevoix.

Funding the future

BY SEN. WAYNE SCHMIDT
37TH SENATE DISTRICT

There has been a lot of discussion lately about the aging Soo Locks and what will be needed to undertake any new construction.

The locks were built between 1896 and 1943 and last upgraded in 1968. By now, most people, especially those in the shipping industry, have realized that to sustain the current economic climate, some upgrades must be made.

Each year about 10,000 ships pass through the locks, carrying with them millions of tons of iron ore, coal, grain, and other cargo. Because only one of the four current locks can accommodate the size of the larger freighters, if there were to be a failure, it would be catastrophic for the state and national economies.

This places the burden of millions of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in commerce on one single lock. If a failure were to occur, it would impact an estimated 22 percent of the state's workforce. A study conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Se-

curity confirmed that a shutdown or failure would prove disastrous and as the locks continue to age, the probability of failure grows.

The plan is to build a new "super lock" that would replace the current Davis and Sabin locks, though the project has long been delayed due to a lack of federal funding.

A recent study released by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers significantly improved the previous benefit-cost ratio for building a new lock, and as a result, the issue continues to gain attention. The president has routinely shown interest in this project, and in order to leverage federal funds for the project, Michigan has committed more than \$50 million and is encouraging other states to make similar commitments.

On Nov. 21, the Army Corps of Engineers submitted its 2019 work plan to Congress that included more than \$32 million as an initial outlay for design and construction of the super lock.

The funds will be used to initiate deepening of the upstream approach channel and to complete the design of the lock. Deepening the upstream approach channel is the first big step in construction of the lock. Depending on the level

and consistency with which the project is funded, the nearly \$1 billion undertaking could be completed in as few as seven years.

Multiple Great Lakes states have approved resolutions urging the federal government to appropriate the necessary funds to make the upgrades, and it is good to see action being taken. State and federal officials have done a tremendous job at keeping this issue at the forefront — the locks have received more attention in the last 12 months than in the previous 20 years.

The Soo Locks are vital to the national economy and to several state and local economies throughout the Midwest. The recent announcement of federal funding is another step closer to getting the project done. I look forward to future discussions with legislative leaders, the governor-elect's administration and our federal counterparts on how we can bring this project to fruition.

Sen. Wayne Schmidt, R- Traverse City, represents the 37th state Senate District, which includes Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Luce and Mackinac counties.



Boyne Falls Public Schools STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Colton O'Neil

Grade: 8

Parent's Name(s): Michael and Becky O'Neil

Future Plans: Undecided

Favorite Book: Percy Jackson series

Hobbies and Interests: Basketball and video games

School Activities: Basketball

Staff Comments: Colton O'Neil is a student who stands out for his strong character. He comes into school everyday with a genuine smile and hello. He has been extremely helpful in his art class, often staying behind to help his classmates clean up. He exhibits creativity, kindness, and Logger Pride. Colton is thoughtful, a team player, and full of potential. I'm proud to name him student of the week.

Submitted By: Melissa McGuiness

A bit of New Year's trivia

BY JIM AKANS

As the clock ticks down to midnight on New Year's Eve, all thoughts focus on the promise of the future. Following is a bit of New Year's trivia to share during evening hours counting down toward the "giant leap" from this year to next.

Celebrating the New Year dates back to around 2000 B.C. when Mesopotamia welcomed the beginning of the spring season (at the vernal equinox) with festivals heralding a new year. According to the web site, celebrations.com, those trend-setting Babylonians even established the tradition of making resolutions, with a typical one at the time being the return of farming equipment that had been borrowed.

Today's resolutions tend to focus on getting our lives in better order in some fashion. Goskills.com found the top 10 New Year's resolutions are;

- Exercise more
- Lose weight
- Get organized
- Learn a new skill or hobby
- Live life to the fullest
- Save more money / spend less money
- Quit smoking
- Spend more time with family and friends
- Travel more
- Read more

According to statista.com about a third of respondents



Have a safe celebration this New Year's Eve and may the coming year bring good fortune and joy to you and yours! Wikimedia image

stated their resolution was to not make resolutions.

That might not be a bad idea. A University of Scranton research paper found that only 8-percent of the approximately 40-percent of American's making New Year's resolutions actually achieve them. The success rate is probably much higher for those who don't make them.

Most view New Year's as a symbol of renewed hope and a revitalization of achieving our dreams. It's also a chance for having a celebra-

tory evening before a day full of football.

- The first New Year's ball was dropped in New York's Times Square in 1907. That ball weighed 700 pounds and was decorated with 100 bulbs. Today, that ball weighs nearly six tons and is decorated with over 2,600 Waterford crystals.

- The establishment of the Julian calendar in 45 B.C. set the date of celebrating New Year's on January 1. (Spring still seems more appropriate to me).

- The month of January

was named after the Roman god of doors and gates - Janus. Janus was portrayed with a face looking forward and a face looking backward...symbolism that is apt to the start of a new year.

- The Chinese New Year occurs on the new moon between January 21 and February 20 (it will be on January 28 in 2017).

- The Thrillist web site states that those New Year's kisses have been happening since the Middle Ages, stemming from a belief that the first person you encounter in the New Year will establish the karma of the coming year. It's a good omen if that person is someone you want to lock lips with.

- Auld Lang Syne lyrics, a Scottish phrase that means "times gone by," are derived from a 1788 poem by Scotsman Robert Burns.

- The National Insurance Crime Bureau reports that New Year's Day hold the distinction of having the highest stolen vehicle rate of any national holiday. Could have something to do with grabbing the wrong keys after a long night of partying.

Have a safe celebration this New Year's Eve and may the coming year bring good fortune and joy to you and yours!

TOYS FOR TOTS FROM PG. 1A

shoveling snow and babysitting; they sold holiday ornaments and held bake sales; they donated birthday money, dug up spare change and cleaned out piggy banks. Mitchell said she made numerous trips to the bank to

use its machine to convert what came to be pounds of coins into stacks of cash. She said at one point students were averaging about \$500 daily-just in change.

Soon, some local businesses got wind of the students' fundraising momentum and even mentored donations. The final tally of some \$11,000 raised surprised students, teachers

and administrators alike.

The money was divided among about 60 students who were grouped into crews of three or four. Each crew was given \$525 to spend on gifts for kids at the Petoskey Walmart store, where they purchased 540 gifts for children of all ages-from the littlest to the largest. The students then helped deliver the toys to Bethany Lutheran Church, a

sponsor of the Charlevoix Community Christmas Project.

As for when he intends to keep his part of the bargain and spend the day on his school's rooftop, Charlevoix Elementary principal Haan says he plans to wait until after the holiday break to pick a date.

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Keep babies safe when traveling for the holidays

Many Michiganders will be traveling in the coming weeks to celebrate the holidays with family and friends. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reminding parents and caregivers to make sure infants have a safe place to sleep during their journey.

“Whether you are going to the in-laws or staying in a hotel, make sure your baby has a safe place to sleep,” said Nick Lyon, MDHHS director. “Do not put babies on couches or inflatable mattresses or in a bed with siblings or other family members.”

Infants should sleep alone in a crib, portable crib, bassinet or play yard with only a firm mattress and tightly fitted sheet. No pillows, blankets, comforters, stuffed animals or other soft things should be in the sleep area. Car seats and other sitting devices

are not recommended for routine sleep.

Other sleep recommendations include:

- Always place baby on the back to sleep. Once baby can roll from back to stomach and from stomach to back, he or she can be allowed to remain in the sleep position that he or she chooses.
- Avoid covering baby’s head or overheating. Dress the baby in as much or as little clothing as you are wearing. Instead of a blanket for sleeping, consider using a sleep sack, wearable blanket or footed sleeper to keep baby warm.

For more information on infant safe sleep, visit Michigan.gov/safesleep. For information on crib safety, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at 800-638-2772 or visit Cpsc.gov.

For Auld Lang Syne

BY JIM AKANS

One of the best known songs in English speaking countries, particularly as New Year’s Eve rolls around, is the hearty refrains of Auld Lang Syne. It’s surfacing is brief, typically just after the stroke of midnight on December 31st and then it is safely tucked away amid the noisemakers and party hats for the next 364 days, 23 hours and 50-odd minutes. But it’s presence during those celebrated moments as the year changes faces is HUGE...it seems that everyone instinctively knows the words and melody.

Well, some of it anyway. Actually, there are five stanzas to the poem penned by Scotland’s Robert Burns back in 1788. Typically, crowds gathering on New Years Eve sing verse one and the chorus, and while venturesome spirits sing a shortened version of the full song comprised of verse one, five and the chorus. Seldom do the other verses resound with voices.

There is some serious contention to the claim of Mr. Burns having been the originator of the piece. A letter written by Burns to an acquaintance named Mrs. Agnes Dunlop suggests that he restored the piece based on fragments of an old ballad dating back to the 15th or 16th century. It is generally agreed that at least two of the verses, (3 & 4), are directly attributed to Burns writing style.

The melody for Auld Lang Syne (which translates to “old long since”) is commonly credited to composer William Shield who originally used it in his 1783



opera; Rosina. The tune, with Burns words, quickly became popular as the last song sung as evening gatherings broke up. A ritual developed where the group stood in a circle, each per-

son crossing his arms in front of his chest and clapping his neighbors’ hands, and all arms swung forward and back in time with the music as the song was sung. Give that a try when the

clock strikes twelve this New Year’s Eve.

Here are the complete lyrics to Auld Lang Syne. Happy New Year!

Auld Lang Syne

ROBERT BURNS

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and days of auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We’ll take a cup o’ kindness yet
For auld lang syne

We twa hae run about the braes
And pou’d the gowans fine;
we’ve wander’d mony a weary foot
Sin’ auld lang syne

We two hae paidled i’ the burn,
Frae mornin’ sun till dine;
But seas between us braid hae roar’d
Sin’ auld lang syne

And here’s a hand, my trusty friend,
And gie’s a hand o’ thine;
We’ll take a cup o’ kindness yet
For auld lang syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and days of auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We’ll take a cup o’ kindness yet
For auld lang syne

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