



Charlevoix County News

April 25, 2019

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Great Lakes Energy announces purchase of former Carter's Food Center

Great Lakes Energy Co-operative (GLE), announced today the purchase of 1315 Boyne Avenue in Boyne City, formerly a Carter's Food Center. The building and parking lot is adjacent to GLE's headquarters building located at 1323 Boyne Avenue and will provide much needed infrastructure and space for the growth the electric cooperative has experienced in recent years.

"We're excited to announce our expansion in Boyne City, which has been home to GLE since 1937" said Bill Scott, President and CEO. "The community here is so supportive and we're looking forward to our continued growth to better serve our members and employees."

GLE has been slowly outgrowing their current building and began to identify and pursue possible locations within the Boyne City community last year.

Truestream, GLE's new



Great Lakes Energy Cooperative (GLE), announced today the purchase of 1315 Boyne Avenue in Boyne City, formerly a Carter's Food Center. COURTESY PHOTO

fiber internet and voice network, plays a vital role in the need to expand. Launched in 2018 in rural parts of Emmet, Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties, Truestream brings high-speed internet, with speeds up to 1 Gig, and voice services to homes and business that have long been without broadband connectivity.

Truestream has created local employment opportunities and with it a need for more office and warehouse space.

"This expansion is a positive sign of growth for Great Lakes Energy, our Truestream network and the local economy," continued Scott. "Plans for renovation will be shared as

they become available, we're just in the very early stages right now."

In the upcoming months, GLE will be selecting an architect and working with stakeholders to identify the exact needs and best uses for the expansion. Construction could begin as soon as 2020.

GLE's board of directors

approved the purchase of the new building in early 2019. Jeff Wellman, broker/owner of North Harbor Christie's International Real Estate in Boyne City, helped to secure the purchase of the 36,450-square foot property which was formerly home to Carter's Food Center but has stood vacant for approximately 15 years.

As the largest electric cooperative utility in the state and one of the largest in the nation, GLE serves more than 120,000 electric cooperative members in 26 counties in western, lower Michigan. The cooperative operates eight offices throughout their service area. For more information about Great Lakes Energy visit gtlakes.com. For more information about Truestream visit truestreamfiber.com.

99th annual East Jordan Rotary Father of the Year

Gerald "Jerry" Roberts, father of 6, grandfather of 15, and great-grandfather of 12, was recognized as East Jordan's 2019 Father of the Year by the East Jordan Rotary Club at the 99th Annual Father Son Banquet held Saturday, April 20. The award was presented by East Jordan Rotary Club President-Elect, Carol Timmer.

Jerry's family describes him as a hard working man who was a leader at the EJ Foundry for over 40 years. He also did side jobs in his shop to provide for his growing family, always striving for his children to have more than he did growing up. As a father, he took time to sponsor a baseball team & take them all over the state to compete. He would help build floats for the Freedom Festival each year. He taught by example to work hard and put your family first.

After retirement, his wife's (Ernestine) MS pro-



Pictured from left Ernie Roberts (son), Gerald Roberts, Carol Timmer (Rotary emcee and President elect) and Gloria Roberts. Courtesy photo

gressed to the point that she became wheelchair bound. She also developed Cancer. He took care of her and all her health issues along with keeping the house. He set aside his dreams of travel-

ing the world to make this happen without ever complaining. He continued to care for her 24/7 at home until the day she passed. He used his actions to show what love and devotion are

to his wife, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Congratulations to the 2019 East Jordan Father of the Year, Jerry Roberts!

Mackinac Bridge south tower repainting to begin

Now that repainting of the Mackinac Bridge's north tower is complete, a two-year project to do the same to the south tower is set to begin next week. Contractor Seaway Painting of Livonia, which completed the 2017-18 project to strip the north tower down to bare metal and repainted it, was awarded the latest low-bid contract to repaint the bridge's south tower. As with the north tower, this will be the first time the south tower has been completely stripped and repainted the iconic ivory color.

"Right now, we expect the repainting to begin sometime the week of April 22, as weather allows," said Mackinac Bridge Authority Executive Secretary Bob Sweeney. "As with the north tower repainting, this work will require lane closures on the bridge near the tower, and some intermittent

See B ridge - Page 5A

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weather

THURSDAY



HIGH: 59
LOW: 39

FRIDAY



HIGH: 51
LOW: 32

SATURDAY



HIGH: 45
LOW: 33

SUNDAY



HIGH: 46
LOW: 34

MONDAY



HIGH: 50
LOW: 38

TUESDAY



HIGH: 51
LOW: 40

WEDNESDAY



HIGH: 55
LOW: 40

record temps

DAY	AVG	LOW	AVG	HIGH	RECORD LOW	RECORD HIGH
APR 25	.34°	...60°	...15°	(1967)	.85°	(1990)
APR 26	.34°	...60°	...20°	(1958)	.88°	(1986)
APR 27	.34°	...61°	...20°	(1967)	.86°	(1990)
APR 28	.35°	...61°	...20°	(1982)	.88°	(1986)
APR 29	.35°	...62°	...19°	(1977)	.88°	(1970)
APR 30	.35°	...62°	...19°	(1956)	.87°	(1970)
MAY 1	...36°	...63°	...22°	(1963)	.85°	(1951)
MAY 2	...36°	...63°	...21°	(1990)	.83°	(1951)
MAY 3	...36°	...64°	...21°	(1967)	.87°	(1955)
MAY 4	...36°	...64°	...21°	(1967)	.87°	(1955)

OBITUARIES

Thomas "Tom" Leslie Sheridan, 81

(MAY 26, 1937 - APRIL 17, 2019)



Thomas Leslie Sheridan, "Tom" of East Jordan died Wednesday, April 17, 2019, in Petoskey.

Tom was born May 26, 1937 in Muskegon, Michigan, to Leslie "Red" and Lucille (Barrett) Sheridan. They moved to East Jordan during WWII and farmed while Red worked at the foundry supporting the war effort. Tom met RuthAnn Kratochvil in high school and they were married in 1956. Without a doubt, RuthAnn was the love of his life and he hers.

Tom worked at the Mobil Station in the heart of East Jordan for several years before purchasing it. Tom's Mobil Service provided a livelihood for his growing family through 1973 when he transitioned to teaching mechanics at East Jordan High School while pursuing his Bachelors in Education from Ferris State University, continuing on to earn

his Master's Degree in Secondary Administration from Central Michigan University. He retired from EJHS in 1998.

He was active in the school and the community. He served as President of the Rotary Club, was voted Father of the Year, chaired Zoning Board and Charter Commission as well as being Student Council and Class Advisors for many years.

Active in the church, Tom served as a lector for 50 years. He also used his woodworking skills to build the baptismal font and other items at St. John Nepomucene parish in Bohemian Settlement.

In later years, Tom began work restoring first the Ford 8N tractor acquired by his father in the 1940s, then a Model T and a Model A. He also owned an original Ford Model T that he loved to ride in parades and take to visit "old-timers" at Grandvue. His lifelong fascination with flying led to working with the Young Eagles, being a founding member of the Jordan Valley RC Club, and filling the duties of Assistant Airport Manager for the City of East Jordan.

Together with the love of his life, they nurtured four children: Joan Sheridan (Pete Umlor), Donna Robinson (Scott), Diane Dowling (Brian), Michael Sheridan (Belinda), ten grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.

A funeral mass was held

on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in East Jordan. Rev. Peter Wigton officiated with interment at St. John Nepomucene Cemetery, Jordan Township, Antrim County, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to EJ Public Schools for the Student Council, PO Box 399, East Jordan, MI 49727.

Trudy J. Center, 65

(JUNE 15, 1953 - APRIL 16, 2019)



Trudy J. Center of Charlevoix passed away on April 16, 2019 at her home.

Trudy was born on June 15, 1953, in Rogers City, MI, the daughter of Neil and Ruth (Pomranko) Whitsitt.

Trudy was a very strong willed woman with a very good business mind. She owned and operated "Center Salon" in Petoskey for over 40 years and "Then and Now" furniture resale store also in Petoskey.

She enjoyed decorating her home, spending time on the beach and loved animals, especially dogs and cats.

On September 24, 1983, in Millersburg, MI, she married Charles D. Center who survives. Also surviving are a brother Jeff (Colleen) Whitsitt of Millersburg, MI, step-daughter Marci

(William) Alexander of Madison, WI, and step-granddaughter Lackland.

She was preceded in death by a brother Roger Whitsitt, her parents and a step-son Britt Center.

Memorial services took place on Saturday, April 20 at the Community Reformed Church in Charlevoix with Pastor Chip Sauer officiating.

Memorial contributions may be given in Trudy's memory to support the Charlevoix Area Humane Society Fund. Checks made payable to the "Charlevoix County Community Foundation," with Charlevoix Area Humane Society Fund on the memo line can be sent to C3F, PO Box 718, East Jordan, MI 49727. Gifts can also be made online at www.c3f.org.

Online guestbook www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com.

Carolyn "Big Momma" Williams, 65

(MAY 9, 1953 - APRIL 21, 2019)

Carolyn "Big Momma" Williams of Charlevoix passed away on April 21, 2019 at Boulder Park Terrace in Charlevoix.

Carolyn was born on May 9, 1953, in Jackson, MS.

Carolyn was a Petoskey Club member for several years where she served on the Board. She enjoyed blues music, cooking and most importantly spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by a son Maurice (Nicki) Williams of Charlevoix, 4 grandchildren, Malcom, Danzle, Kylie and Sharice Williams, 2 brothers, Johnny Spann, Freddie Hampton and a sister Mary Hampton.

No services will be held in

Charlevoix. Carolyn will be taken to Mississippi in the near future to be buried with her family.

Arrangements are being handled by the Winchester Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes.

Please sign her online guestbook www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com.

James Arthur Mielke, 89

(FEB. 14, 1930 - APRIL 18, 2019)

James Arthur Mielke of Charlevoix passed away on April 18, 2019.

James was born on February 14, 1930, in Sandusky, Ohio, the son of Arthur Mielke and Esther (Kollman) Mielke.

He served in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He went on to attend The Ohio State University, graduating in 1956 with a marketing degree.

He was a businessman by trade, working in the market research department, at Mead Paper Co. in Dayton, Ohio. He was then the marketing manager for Brunswick in Kalamazoo, Michigan, overlooking the school equipment division. For 23 years James started, owned, and operated Michigan Officeways, which began as "The Park Place" in Charlevoix, Michigan. He then sold the business in 1994, which still exists today.

On June 8, 1957 in Sandusky, OH, James married Elizabeth (Miller) Mielke who survives. Also surviving are their three sons, Stephen (Sarah) Mielke of Boxborough, MA, Thomas (Martha) Mielke of Charlevoix, MI, and Fred (Christine) Mielke of Charlevoix, MI, along with his sister, Marilyn Shearer of Sandusky, OH. James is

survived by his twelve loving grandchildren, and one beloved great-grandson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and brother-in-law Samuel Shearer.

James was a member of the Congregational Church of Charlevoix, the Kiwanis Club of Charlevoix, as well as a former member of the Charlevoix Yacht Club. He loved the outdoors, especially sailing and racing his sail boat with his family and friends. Above all, James enjoyed spending his time with family and friends.

Visitation will take place on Friday, April 26, 2019, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Winchester Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the First Congregational Church of Charlevoix.

Burial with Military Honors will follow Funeral services on Saturday, at Norwood Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Kiwanis Club of Charlevoix, P.O. Box 275, Charlevoix, MI 49720.

Arrangements have been handled by the Winchester Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes.

Sign his online guestbook at www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com

Gwendolyn Joy Marston, 82

(OCT. 2, 1936 - APRIL 17, 2019)

Gwendolyn J. Marston of Beaver Island passed away Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

No services are planned at this time.

Arrangements have been handled by the Winchester Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes.

Depression is not a dirty word

HOLLY TIRET, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Have you ever had the blues? Been sad and lonely? Ups and downs are a normal part of life. Most of the time, people are able to tap into some inner strength or resilience and bounce back so they can move on with their lives.

But what if you don't bounce back or feel like you can't? What is the difference between the blues and clinical depression? One key word there is "clinical." If you don't know whether you are just down or clinically depressed, a good place to start understanding the difference is by having a conversation with your medical care provider. They are in the best place to ask you questions that can help them determine if you are in fact "clinically depressed."

Michigan State University Extension works to provide reliable and timely information to the general public. One area of interest is around mental health and

wellbeing. According to the Mayo Clinic, there are common symptoms of depression that can vary from person to person. However the one thing they have in common is that these symptoms last longer than two weeks and severely interfere with the ability to function in every day normal activities.

Here are just a few of these symptoms:

- Feelings of sadness, emptiness or unhappiness
- Sleep disturbances, including insomnia or sleeping too much
- Tiredness and lack of energy, so that even small tasks take extra effort
- Changes in appetite
- Feelings of worthlessness or guilt
- Trouble thinking, concentrating, making decisions and remembering things
- Frequent thoughts of death, suicidal thoughts or attempts

According to the National Institutes of Mental Health, depression is a combination of genetics, biology, environment and psychological

factors. Because of the advancement in brain imaging, we now understand that brains of depressed people look different than brains of people who do not have depression. This helps to dispel one common myth of depression; that "it is all in your head" or "it's not real." The fact is that depression is a disease of the brain, much like diabetes is a disease of your body and asthma is a disease of your lungs.

Another common myth is that if you can't get over it, you are weak. The fact is that it is a disease dealing with your brain chemistry, not your character. You wouldn't expect someone with asthma to "just get over it" without the use of an inhaler.

Unfortunately, many people do not seek treatment because they believe the myth that depression will just get better on its own, if they wait it out. The fact is that most people do need treatment. With a personalized treatment plan and support, most people are able to return to work, and function quite well in their daily

lives. Depression that is not treated can last months or even years.

Many people feel like they are alone in dealing with depression. It is more common than you might think. According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in 10 people have depression. Although we know more about the causes and successful treatments, many still feel stigmatized by having a diagnosis of depression. The best thing we can all do is start talking about it in the open. Know the facts and speak up when you hear the myths. If you or someone you care about is showing signs of depression, seek help.

There are many who live happy, healthy lives while managing their clinical depression. It might even be the person you are sitting next to.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>.

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Northern Symphonic Winds Annual Spring Concert

We are all dreaming of spring and sun and renewal by this time of year. We are ready for winter to graciously bow out and let the winds of spring blow! The members of Northern Symphonic Winds would like to help speed along the process by bringing a selection of music to delight, provoke, and help to renew our senses. Please join us for our annual Spring Concert on May 1, starting at 7pm, at the Charlevoix High School Performing Arts Center.

We are glad to be able to feature our esteemed conductor, Dr. Timothy Topolewski, as a clarinet soloist on "Concerto for Clarinet in Eb Major, Op.

36" by Franz Krommer, arranged by Dr. Topolewski himself. Dr. Topolewski is a Professor Emeritus from the Crane School of Music in New York and has both conducted and performed around the world.

And as an extra special treat, we will be performing the WORLD PREMIERE of a commissioned work by NSW's composer in residence entitled "On the Threshold of Spring"! Tony Manfredonia is an award-winning composer and orchestrator for concert halls, video games, and media, providing a multi-layered and sensory experience through expressive, colorful orchestration and warm

melodies. He recreates stories, environments, and everything in between through massive orchestral productions, as well as intimate atmospheres. He now resides in Petoskey, MI where he is the music director at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Other pieces to be performed include another commissioned work, "Fanfare and Prelude on Semper Paratus" arranged by Ted Hartly, wind ensemble favorite "Colonial Song" written by Percy Aldridge Grainger and edited by Dr. Topolewski, and selections from the 2017 Blockbuster hit "The Greatest Showman!" "Homage to Leonin"

by Ron Nelson brings a bit or a choral feel to the concert while "Lux Aurumque" by Eric Whitaker may awaken your senses to something altogether different!

There is sure to be something for everyone at this exciting concert! We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, May 1 at 7pm at the Charlevoix High School Performing Arts Center.

This concert is FREE, but donations are always appreciated. Reception to follow.

NORTHERN SYMPHONIC WINDS
Annual Spring Concert
 FEATURING
 DR. TIMOTHY TOPOLEWSKI, CLARINET SOLOIST

Boyne Falls Public Schools
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Logan Greenier

Grade: 3rd
Parent's Name(s): Nelson Greenier and Lisa Greenier
What do you want to be when you grow up? When Logan grows up he wants to be a K9 Officer.
Favorite Book: Logan's favorite book series is the "Boxcar Children".
Hobbies and Interests: Logan's hobbies and interests outside of school are sports, hunting, and snowboarding.
School Activities: Logan's favorite school activities are science and writing.
Staff Comments: Logan is a hardworking, competitive, and determined boy. If Logan puts his mind to something, he can do pretty much anything. His determination and competitiveness keep him from giving up even when tasks become very difficult. Logan's hard work and determination helped him increase his reading level by more than a year since September of this school year. Congratulations Logan on your achievement! We are all so proud of you!
Submitted by: Mrs. Milks

Lilli Fenske

Grade: 6th
Parent's Name(s): Brooke and Brian Fenske
Future Plans: Nursing
Favorite Book: Buddy
Hobbies and Interests: Lilli is very active. Besides hanging out with her cousins, she enjoys skiing, bowling, and riding her 4-wheeler.
School Activities: Volleyball and basketball
Staff Comments: Lilli is a bright, hardworking student, who always has a smile. She helps teachers and classmates without hesitation when needed. She gives her best effort every day, is always positive, compassionate, and a wonderful role model for her classmates and others.
Submitted By: Lisa Hoogerhyde

Morning Bird Walks on Tuesdays and Thursdays in May

The Petoskey Regional Audubon Society (PRAS) invites the public each Tuesday and Thursday in May for free early morning bird walks to share the wonders of spring migration throughout the month. These leisurely-paced walks are appropriate for all levels of birding experience, and no reservations are required.

The Tuesday morning walks begin at 9 am at Pond Hill Farm near Harbor Springs. Pond Hill Farm is located approx. five miles northwest of Harbor Springs on M-119. It is easy walking on flat farm lanes. The Thursday morning walks will begin at 7:30 am at Spring Lake Park. Spring Lake Park is located near



The Petoskey Regional Audubon Society (PRAS) invites the public each Tuesday and Thursday in May for free early morning bird walks to share the wonders of spring migration throughout the month (Scarlet Tanager shown here). COURTESY PHOTO

the M-31 / M-119 intersection north of Petoskey. Meet

at the gazebo, and we'll walk the flat trails, boardwalk,

and paved rail trail along Mud Lake to Round Lake.

Both the Tuesday and Thursday morning walks last about two hours, but participants are free to come and go as their schedules allow. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them, dress for the weather, and wear sturdy shoes that you don't mind getting muddy. Loaner binoculars will be available, so feel free to bring along a guest to share the wonders of spring migration. No smoking or pets on any PRAS field trip.

PRAS also has other bird walks scheduled during the month of May, please visit www.facebook.com/PetoskeyAudubon/ to learn more.

Northern Michigan Choral Annual Spring Concert

Tickets are now on sale for the 37th Annual Spring Concert of the Northern Michigan Chorale, titled "From Broadway to the Silver Screen" Dates and times for the performances are Saturday, May 4 at 3 and 7:30pm, and Sunday, May 5 at 3:30pm. All performances will be held at the Great Lakes Center for the Arts in Bay Harbor, off of US 31.

Music Director, Julie Pierpont, explains, "We have so many talented singers performing in our concerts. It's been lots of fun incorporating their voices into the va-

riety of selections from many shows and films like Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserable and Beauty and the Beast. We will also perform songs from 1927 Show Boat and 1939 Wizard of Oz through current Tony and Oscar award winners."

Joining the Chorale for the May 4th concerts will be the Grand Traverse Show Chorus. The chorus is a chapter of Sweet Adelines International and is made up of women from northwest Michigan. Their high scores at the regional level qualified them to compete in the international competi-

tion in Las Vegas last year, where they placed 4th in the world.

Their director, Jill Watson says, "We are thrilled to be performing with the Northern Michigan Chorale again".

The Little Traverse Treble Choir, from Voices Without Borders, will join the Northern Michigan Chorale at the 3pm, Sunday concert. Their Music Director, Maria Pierpont, will lead the group in singing a Disney Medley.

Joining the Chorale as accompanist is Cynda Coleman. The variety of songs in these concerts is truly a

mix of music that will be enjoyed by the whole family.

May 4 (Saturday) tickets for both afternoon and evening performances are \$18 for Adults, \$15 for Seniors, and \$12 for Students. May 5, (Sunday) tickets are \$15 for Adults, \$12 for Seniors or Students. Children 10 and under are Free for all performances.

Please call Great Lakes Center for the Arts at 231-439-2610 for tickets or email: tickets@greatlakescfa.org. Tickets are available at the door. For more information, send your email to NM-Chorale.org.

Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra Young Artist Competition winners announced

The Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra held their 2019 Charles F. Davis Young Artist Competition last Sunday, April 14th, at the United Methodist Church at 1804 E. Mitchell in Petoskey. There was a total of nine contestants in the Junior and Senior divisions of the competition. Three winners were selected: Eeva Rintala (Violin) and Collin Brantly (piano) in the Junior Division and Helen Hanchin, (Flute) in the Senior Division. Congratulation to these winners and to all the contestants!

This annual competition is open to students of piano, winds, brass, percussion, strings and voice between the ages of fourteen and nineteen who reside in Northern Michigan and attend schools located between the 45th Parallel and the Straits of Mackinac.

Eleven years ago, the Chamber Orchestra sought an opportunity to encourage and promote young musicians by offering them an opportunity to showcase their talent while competing for a chance to perform with the orchestra, or in other orchestra-sponsored concerts. In addition, winners also receive scholarship

awards to further their music studies.

This Young Artist Competition was named to honor Charles F. Davis after his untimely death in an automobile accident. He had been a member of the original youth orchestra, Orchestra board member, frequent volunteer and vocal advocate for young musicians. According to Dr. Robert Patten-gale, he was "one of the prime movers in establishing this event."

The Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra produces live orchestral performances providing entertainment, education and inspiration for our northern Michigan community. Support for the orchestra is provided by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, the Frey Foundation and hundreds of individual patrons of the arts.

For more information about the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra and its educational programs, call the orchestra office at 231-487-0010 or, go to www.glorchestra.org.

Vernal Pool Patrol workshop in Walloon Lake

On Saturday May 11, the Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy and Michigan Natural Features Inventory want to train you to be a member of the Vernal Pool Patrol! Put a small team together - coworkers, family, friends or anyone! - and join us for a FREE workshop to learn more about vernal pools and how you can help monitor and protect these important wetlands at the Talcott Center in Walloon Lake on Saturday May 11 from 9am - 2pm.

Vernal pools are small, temporary wetlands that are important for maintaining healthy forest ecosystems. Because these wetlands dry up and are fishless, they provide critical breeding habitats for amphibians and invertebrates. Due to their small size and temporary nature, vernal pools are vulnerable to climate change and various land use practices. Conservation of vernal pools requires increased awareness, knowledge, and protection.

Get your team together (family, friends, anyone!) to

learn all about vernal pool ecology and how to identify these unique pools. We will visit a vernal pool nearby and practice monitoring a vernal pool in the Walloon Lake watershed. A monitoring kit will be provided for your team to participating in the Vernal Pool Patrol for Walloon which is a part of the statewide, citizen science-based vernal pool mapping and monitoring program.

Bring knee boots or hiking boots. Dress in field gear for walking around in the woods in the afternoon: long pants, long sleeve shirts, hats, etc. Bring a brown bag lunch and water. Beverages will be provided. To register please contact Heather Huffstutler: heather@walloon.org or 231-535-6112

This is a free workshop. Training is provided with funding from the Great Lakes Energy People Fund and the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation. For more information about the Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy visit www.walloon.org.

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News Briefs

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CHARLEVOIX

RESTAURANT WEEK

Through April 28. Charlevoix Main Street is excited to announce spring Restaurant Week taking place April 22-28. Charlevoix restaurants are gearing up for another successful restaurant week. Enjoy specialty menus from your favorite area eateries. Locals and visitors alike will have the opportunity to sample the finest cuisine from Charlevoix's top restaurants at discounted prices. charlevoixrestaurantweek.com

EAST JORDAN

OFF THE CUFF

April 25, Noon-1pm, Las Maracas Mexican Restaurant. Join East Jordan's City, Chamber and School Leader for an informal gathering to ask your questions and hear about current projects and events. Be informed and share your thoughts in a casual venue. Enjoy lunch or a soda and some great conversation.

EAST JORDAN

13TH ANNUAL EAST JORDAN ROTARY VARIETY SHOW

April 26 & 27, Community Auditorium. Showtime is at 7:00 p.m. each night at the Community Auditorium, and the doors open at 6:00 p.m. Patrons will once again enjoy great music with Bob Bryan and Full Circle, and the great slapstick comedy that is the hallmark of every show. Reserved seats are limited to 100 for each show and are available for \$15 + internet fees at www.mynorthtickets.com. General admission tickets are available for \$10 each and are available from any Rotarian, and at Charlevoix State Bank.

BOYNE CITY

CANCER CRUSADERS PRESENT "ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK"

April 27, 6pm-midnight, Boyne City Eagles Hall. Join them for music, dancing, cash bar, food, celebrity performers, a Twist contest and a silent and ticket auction. Tickets can be purchased in advance by contacting Gail Farley (231-582-2424) or at the door for a \$6 donation. Music will be provided by TNT and Tim's DJ Service. Come dressed as your favorite 50's/60's personality for a chance to win a prize.

BOYNE FALLS

PET VACCINATION & LICENSING CLINIC

April 27, 9am-noon. The Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office along with the Charlevoix Area Humane Society and the Charlevoix County Treasurer's Office will be hosting a vaccination and licensing clinic at the Charlevoix County Boyne Falls Annex located at 2287 Railroad Street. Canine rabies vaccines will be \$15. Charlevoix County dog licenses will be offered on site as well and for that day only, all late fees will be waived.

Appointments are preferred but are not required. To make an appointment please call the Charlevoix Area Humane Society at 231-582-6774.

EAST JORDAN

FIDDLERS JAMBOREE

April 27, noon-10pm, Civic Center. The Jordan Valley Fiddlers Jamboree will take place from noon - 5pm with a dance from 7 - 10pm. Old time fiddlers and musicians, callers and dancers from around the state will gather at the East Jordan Civic Center in downtown East Jordan to celebrate old time fiddle and dance. Come and play your fiddle, accompany the fiddlers with your acoustic instrument, call your favorite dances, enjoy the music and/or dance to the calls. Everyone is welcome. Look for the "Fiddlers 3" banner. Admission is by donation at the door.

BOYNE CITY

ONE MAN'S PATH TO

HEROIN ADDICTION EXPLORED

April 28, 6:30pm, Lifetree Cafe. The societal impact of heroin addiction will be examined at Lifetree Café on Potluck Sunday, April 28 at 5:30/6:30. Bring a dish to share. The program, titled "The Heroin Addict Next Door: One Man's Painful Story," features a filmed interview with Rocky Romano, a former heroin addict. During the interview, Romano explains that his downward spiral began with alcohol and grew worse from there. This Lifetree episode will also explore whether a connection exists between early childhood trauma and self-destructive behavior. 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 PRESENTS "VIOLINS OF HOPE"

April 28, 7pm, Great Lakes Center for the Arts. Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra presents "Violins of Hope," Music of Terezin, April 28th. Music often plays a powerful role in communicating history. This is evident with "Violins of Hope" a collection of over 50 restored violins that were played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. These extraordinary instruments have survived concentration camps and ghettos to tell remarkable stories of injustice, suffering, resilience and survival. One Violin of Hope will sing again in a performance at the Great Lakes Center for the Arts located at 600 Bay Harbor Drive. For Tickets: www.glcorchestra.org or call 231-487-0010.

BOYNE CITY

RESTAURANT WEEK

April 29-May 5. This is your chance to try new restaurants and food products. Eateries and food retailers in the Boyne City area are preparing amazing menu specials and offers. Details at boyneappetit.com

CHARLEVOIX

GROW WITH GOOGLE SEMINAR

April 30, 8-9:30am, Charlevoix Public Library. Learn how customers find your business online and how to promote your online presence using search engine optimization and online advertising. We will introduce tools that will help you run your business online, including Google Analytics and Trends. Light breakfast and coffee provided. Free workshop for Charlevoix, Boyne City and East Jordan Chamber members. \$5 per person for non members. Register at charlevoix.org

BOYNE CITY

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER'S GATHERING

May 2, noon-12:30pm, Boyne City Marina (between Lighthouse and Pavilion). Everyone is welcome to this gathering on the first Thursday in May. We will spend time in united prayer for our city, county, state, nation, and world. For more information, please contact Daryl at (231) 675-7570 or email daryl@lmichael@gmail.com.

EAST JORDAN

METHODIST CHURCH SOUP & SALAD LUNCHEON

May 2, 11am-1pm. The East Jordan United Methodist Women will be hosting their annual Soup & Salad Luncheon downstairs at East Jordan United Methodist Church. Tickets will be: Adults \$7, Children 6-12 years old \$3, Children 5 and under are free. Delivery available 231-838-5541

CHARLEVOIX

PLAY DOUBLE FEATURE; "BEAR AND ANT" AND "ALICE IN WONDERLAND"

May 2; 2pm and May 3 & 4; 6pm. Charlevoix Montessori Academy for the Arts' Drama department presents back to back plays at our new North Building

Theater. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the front office. Stop in at 115 W. Hurlbut St in Charlevoix or call 231-547-9000 to buy tickets. This will be our premier show in our new theater space, made possible by grants from Michigan Youth Arts and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, plus many donations from the community. "Bear and Ant" is a student-written adaptation of a traditional Native American tale performed by the CMA elementary and assisted by older students and staff. "Alice in Wonderland" is a K-12 production, adapted for the stage from the classic story. Come experience the magic and wonder of both of these performances.

PETOSKEY

LUNCHEON LECTURE FEATURES MT.

KILIMANJARO CLIMBER
May 3, NCMC Library Conference Center. Lunch begins at 11:30 am and the program begins at noon. Karen Marietti, director of the Camp Daggett Adventure Center, has spent most of her adult life working and living experientially. Mt. Kilimanjaro was always on her list of places to go and, when she was diagnosed with breast cancer, she decided it was time to make the climb. In 2017, she and three other women climbed the 19,340 feet to the summit. She will tell us about her adventure, and show us her amazing photographs. Reservations are required. Call 231-348-6600 or email luncheonlectures@ncmich.edu to reserve your place at the table. Cost is \$12 (cash or check only - at door) and includes lunch.

BOYNE CITY

BUFF UP BOYNE

May 4, 9am-noon. The community clean-up event is organized every year by the Boyne City Main Street Program and it will start in Sunset Park. Doughnuts will be provided in the morning, courtesy of Family Fare, and Boyne City Bakery will provide coffee. The Lions Club will be grilling hot dogs donated by Dearborn Sausage Co. Volunteers are asked to bring their own tools, such as brooms, rakes, shovels and gloves. Some supplies will be available to borrow. Buff Up Boyne provides community members with an opportunity to meet their neighbors, get out in the sunshine, and get ready for a great summer season. For more information about Buff Up Boyne and Boyne City Main Street, visit www.boyne-city-mainstreet.com or email mainstreet@boyne-city.com.

BOYNE CITY

KENTUCKY DERBY EXTRAVAGANZA

May 4, starting at noon, Stiggs Brewery & Kitchen. Stiggs and Northern Michigan Equine Therapy team up to provide an all-day derby event that gives back to NMET's core causes. The Stiggs parking lot will be transformed into a delightful event space where they will be dishing up some one-of-a-kind food to match the special beer release, "Run for the Roses". Bring the whole family down and enjoy live music starting at 2 pm, a bouncy house for the kids, an interactive 50/50 horse bidding, silent auction and more. Be sure to stick around for the live viewing of the Kentucky Derby (Race time is 6:46 p.m.).

BOYNE CITY

LIFETREE CAFÉ HONORS MOTHERS—YOURS INCLUDED

May 5, 6:30pm, Lifetree Cafe. The program, titled "Love Ya, Mom: Celebrating Mothers," highlights the transformation women undergo when they take on the role of a mother. Lifetree Café national director Craig Cable explained this Lifetree session is designed to honor the work of mothers while giving participants an opportunity to reflect on the impact of moms in their own lives. 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.

ELLSWORTH

GOOD GOOD SAMARITAN SPRING FLING

May 6, 12 pm. Catered by A Matter of Taste. Held at Tapawingo. Tickets \$20, call 231.588.2208. Luncheon, Fashion Show, Silent Auction. www.thegoodsam.org. All proceeds go to Good Samaritan Food Pantry

CHARLEVOIX

SHARPS DROP-OFF

May 8, 9am-1pm, McLaren Family Medicine, 1404 Bridge Street. Sharps need to be in an approved hard impermeable plastic container. For needles only. Free. Info at 800-248-6777.

EAST JORDAN

MASTER PLAN INPUT SESSION

May 9, 5-7pm, East Jordan Community Center. Please join us for a Business After Hours Input Session. East Jordan is updating its community master plan and city officials are looking for input on priorities from local business representatives. All are welcome at this informal networking and input event. You will have the opportunity to review results from the community survey and help identify future development priorities. Enjoy light refreshments from local businesses.

WALLOON LAKE

VERNAL POOL PATROL TRAINING WORKSHOP

May 11, 9am-2pm, The Talcott, 4060 M-75 North. Vernal pools are small, temporary wetlands that are important for maintaining healthy forest ecosystems. Get your team together (family, friends, anyone!) to learn all about vernal pool ecology and how to identify these unique pools. We will visit a vernal pool nearby and practice monitoring a vernal pool in the Walloon Lake watershed. BRING: Knee boots or hiking boots. Dress in field gear for walking around in the woods: long pants, long sleeve shirts, hats, etc. Bring a brown bag lunch and water. Beverages will be provided. Free. To register contact Heather Huffstutler; heather@walloon.org or (231) 535-6112.

BOYNE CITY

FAMILY ADVENTURES EXPLORED

May 12, 6:30pm, Lifetree Cafe. The program, titled "Low-Cost No-Cost Adventures," features a filmed interview with the Abbots, a family that regularly sets off on family adventures. Participants will get practical tips for having low- cost or no-cost adventures and explore the barriers to family adventures. 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.

BOYNE CITY

ANNUAL CRAFT BEER BLOCK PARTY

May 16, 5-9pm, downtown. The 5th Annual Craft Beer Block Party will kick off the 59th Annual National Morel Mushroom Festival again this year. featuring craft breweries, plus wineries, restaurants and live music from Jedi Mind Trip. The block party draws a big crowd to the middle of downtown Boyne City with the 100 block of South Lake Street blocked off for all the festivities.

BOYNE CITY

NATIONAL MOREL MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

May 16-19. Highlights include an Arts & Crafts Show, Carnival Rides, Morel Outdoor Recreation Show, Guided Mushroom Hunt, Wine & Dine Gourmet Dinner, Competitive Mushroom Hunt, The Taste of Morels and the Great Morel Giveaway. Full schedule at www.morelfest.com.

PETOSKEY

ANNUAL NLEA SPRING LUNCHEON

May 17, Registration starts at 11am, Great Lakes Center for the Arts. celebrating economic development with fellow businesses, and community and government leaders involved in the economic vitality of our area. The event format will be a little different than in years past. Guests will watch the program first in the auditorium. Following the program, rather than a traditional seated lunch, there will be food stations set up around the facility for guests to partake in while networking and exploring the building.

Registration from 11:00am to 11:30am. Proceed to the auditorium for the program from 11:30am to 12:30pm. Networking/Lunch stations until 2:00pm. Tickets are \$20 per person and you may purchase up to 10 tickets per transaction. Tickets are mandatory at the door. NLEA will mail tickets to the address you include on your order. Please fill tickets out and bring with you as admission into the event. Purchase at eventbrite.com.

EAST JORDAN

ENHANCE EAST JORDAN

May 18, 9am-3pm, Meet in Memorial Park. Five Projects To Choose TonWork On At-

Friends of the Jordan, City of East Jordan-Parks, East Jordan Public School- Bike Trail, Grandvue Medical Care Facility and Raven Hill Discovery Center. Registration via email to - info@ejchamber.org or call 231-536-7351. All volunteers will receive a pair of gloves courtesy of East Jordan True Value Hardware.

BOYNE CITY

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EXPLORED

May 19, 6:30pm, Lifetree Cafe. The program, titled "An Immigrant in the Sanctuary: When Faith and Politics Collide," features a filmed interview with Rev. Mike Morran, whose church offered sanctuary to Arturo Hernandez Garcia, an undocumented immigrant. Garcia moved into the church basement knowing he faced immediate deportation should he leave the church building. At this Lifetree episode, participants will have the opportunity to share their views concerning illegal immigration, immigration reform, and responding to undocumented immigrants. 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

ROUND LAKE MUSIC FESTIVAL

May 26-28, 5-8pm, Bridge Park. Free concerts and fun. Featuring the Jelly Roll Blues Band, The Hustlers and the Jill Jack Band. Info at livefrom-charlevoix.com

BOYNE CITY

PRIME MINISTER'S "GOD ENCOUNTER" AIRED

May 26, 6:30pm, Lifetree Cafe. Former Ethiopian prime minister Tamrat Layne tells about his controversial "encounter with God" in a filmed interview at Lifetree Café on Potluck Sunday, May 26. Bring a dish to share at 5:30. Program begins at 6:30. After serving as prime minister, Layne was convicted of corruption charges and served 12 years in prison. During his incarceration, Layne claims he experienced a supernatural visit from God. 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

SHARPS DROP-OFF

June 19, 9am-1pm, McLaren Northern MI, 915 Mill Street. Sharps need to be in an approved hard impermeable plastic container. For needles only.

Free. Info at 800-248-6777

BOYNE CITY

FARMERS MARKET

Boyne City Hall, Saturday'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@boyne-city.com

EAST JORDAN

OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN COFFEE HOUSE

Features gospel music on the first and third Saturdays of the month starting at 7pm. East Jordan Senior Center, 951 Mill Street. Everyone welcome. Free coffee and snacks with a small charge for pizza and water.

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 diabetics for an additional \$10. Participants will receive all test results at the time of the screening and a "Track 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 chx-wellness@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.

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WEEKLY WACKY SPECIALS

4/23-4/27

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News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Mental Health Month activities

North Country Community Mental Health is announcing May is Mental Health Month. #4mind4body is this year's theme for North Country's May is Mental Health Month activities to draw attention to the importance of mental health to overall health and well-being. "Mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being, and mental illnesses are common and treatable," said Christine Gebhard, Chief Executive Officer, North Country Community Mental Health. "A healthy lifestyle can help to prevent the

onset or worsening of mental health conditions, as well as chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. It can also help people recover from these conditions." "This Mental Health Month, we are encouraging everyone to learn about steps they can take to protect their mental health and balance both mind and body. For example, humor, spirituality, recreation, animal companionship, and work-life balance are important for everyone, and may be of special importance to people also living with chronic health conditions and those

who care for them," Gebhard said. North Country CMH has planned the following activities during the month of May: - Saturday, May 18 - 22nd Annual "Splash of Color" 5K Run/One Mile Walk at the Bayfront Park, Petoskey Waterfront Area. The run will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the walk at 10:10 a.m. This is a fundraiser for the North Country Consumer Council Special Needs Fund. There will be prizes and giveaways and fun "Splash of Color" paint throws! Cost is \$20 per person, or \$15 per person for groups of 4 or

more. Register at www.eventbrite.com or call 231-547-5885. You can also register the morning of the event from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Petoskey Waterfront. - Free Community Movies - North Country is partnering with area movie theatres to sponsor free showings of the movie, Ralph Breaks the Internet, for families in four communities on: May 7 - Petoskey Cinema, 4 pm; May 9 - Bellaire Cinema, 4 pm; May 11 - Charlevoix Cinema, 11 am; May 15 - Gaylord Cinema West, 4 pm. - The North Country OBRA/Older Adult Services Program will host a viewing

of the Lifetime movie, The Trip To Bountiful, on National Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day May 9 at 12:30 p.m. at the Petoskey Friendship Center. The movie is about a woman who begrudgingly lives with her busy, overprotective son and pretentious daughter-in-law. She wishes for her freedom and "escapes" for a visit to her hometown, Bountiful. After the movie there will be a brief presentation about mental health and aging. - In addition, there will be a free showing of the movie, Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope, at the Carnegie Building, Petoskey Public Library on May 29 at 7:30 p.m. After the one-hour film, there will be a discussion and Q&A

session with members of the Emmet/Charlevoix Resilient & Trauma Informed Community Task Force. - Community Discussion and film preview - Coming Up For Air - May 8 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Boyne Mountain. North Country, along with local partners, is bringing a preview of the new Michigan-made family drama, Coming Up For Air, and planning a discussion of local issues and resources including panelists from North Country, law enforcement, Kiersten's Ride, DHHS, Charlevoix-Emmet ISD, and the movie Producer Roger Rapoport. The focus will be on mental health and its effects on families. Coming Up For Air takes audi-

See MENTAL HEALTH - Page 6B

Discussion on mental illness and effects on families May 5

Even as more and more communities offer outstanding mental health resources, caregivers struggle to persuade those in need to take advantage of an open path to wellness. The 2019 feature film, Coming Up For Air, a project of the Heartland Independent Film Forum based in Muskegon, Michigan, is a unique opportunity to reach those who can benefit today from readily available treatment. The film focuses on the impact of mental health on families as told through the story of a young college student who is also a competitive diver. The film is set for national theatrical release in the fall of 2019.

North Country Community Mental Health, along with local partners, is bringing a preview of this film along with a panel discussion of local resources at Boyne Mountain at 6pm on Wednesday, May 8. Community partners include the Petoskey Harbor Springs Community Foundation, Kiersten's Ride, Char-Em ISD, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and Boyne Mountain, which is hosting the event. This ninety-minute Coming Up For Air preview event will include four preview scenes from the film plus an introduction from the producer co-screenwriter.

Following a presentation by the film's production team, community mental health experts detail the readily available services that can prevent tragedy and give hope to families everywhere. The mission of the film is to inspire empathy for individuals and their families, explore the complexities of personal responsibility, demonstrate how crisis intervention can prevent tragedy and foster community discussion of mental health and its stigmas. At a time when mental health services are better and better, the need for those services has never been higher.

Lorraine Manary, one of the North Country Community Mental Health event organizers, said, "It is our goal that at the end of this event audience members will know where to go to get the help they need for family, friends and colleagues. The fact is, more than 80 percent of those who seek mental health care report positive results."

Lisa Williams, executive director of West Michigan CMH System, had this to say about a similar event recently held in Ludington: "The Coming Up For Air preview and community dialog provided a beautiful starting point for a compassionate discussion about the impact of mental health and mental illness on families, caregivers, and loved ones. Through movie clips, we were able to, without judgment, talk honestly and empathically together about the feelings parents, friends and siblings may have regarding the seemingly inexplicable behavior of the person they know and love who is coping with a mental illness. We discussed what is reasonable helping behavior that doesn't dehumanize or threaten the dignity of the person who is struggling with their recovery but that also honors the fears and frustrations of the caregiver who wants to communicate their love and desire to help."

Free and open to the public, this event will combine a relatable film, local mental health experts, and caregivers in a town hall setting. This program assumes that caregivers need a hand to help persuade family members to seek out treatment. It focuses uniquely on the impact of the mentally ill on family members.

Persons wishing to know more about the agency are encouraged to visit www.norcoemh.org or to access services call the Access Center at 1-877-470-7130.



Rotary awards Paul Harris Fellow pin

Mark Andresky (far left), Rotary Club of Charlevoix Foundation Chair, and Abbie Hart (Center), President, award Glen Catt (far right), longtime Rotarian, with a special Paul Harris Fellow pin in recognition of his generous lifetime contributions to The Rotary Foundation. Founded in 1917, The Rotary Foundation has funded hundreds of millions of dollars of humanitarian projects in the United States and around the world. COURTESY PHOTO

North Country Community Mental Health receives grant

The Michigan Association of Rehabilitation Organizations (MARO) awarded North Country Community Mental Health (NCCMH) an Innovation Grant in the amount of \$4,000 aimed at increasing employee recruitment and retention of direct care workers.

NCCMH will partner with MI Works! regional Business Resource Network (BRN) by bringing the BRN strategies of employment retention to a direct care provider and facilitating the expansion of a proven model to the very difficult job of caring for clients. An on-site Success Coach will act as a confidential third-party, connecting employees to resources that can help break down barriers to employment and offer needed assistance.

Expected outcomes are to reduce employee turnover, increase employee productivity, identify trending em-

ployment issues and address potential gaps and solutions, and provide support for the provider's HR department.

Emily Meeder-Ramirez, NCCMH Living Arrangements Manager, indicated, "The plan is innovative and resourceful in that it adopts an existing community program, expands our partnership with area providers, and promotes Michigan Works! as a strong community resource. We expect to learn a lot and share with the broader CMH network."

Monica Salingue, Spectrum Community Services Area Director, said, "Spectrum Community Services is excited for the opportunity in a support system that can help staff in many aspects of their life in order to be able to retain their positions. Staff work hard and the less barriers they have overall, the better they can be in their position. This is

a job that has multiple opportunities for career growth and we feel positive a program like this will aid in their success."

Denis J. Mayowski, MI Works! BRN Success Coach said, "MI Works! is incredibly excited to partner with organizations like North Country Community Mental Health and Spectrum Health. I believe we can ensure their employees remain productive and engaged as we work together to remove barriers to their employment. By implementing a program like Safety Net Works, offered by MI Works, NCCMH and Spectrum Health are investing in their employees' future within the organization. They have also shown their commitment to their consumers, as they try to offer the best service possible by ensuring they retain their great employees, as they do such im-

portant work within all of our communities."

Christine Gebhard, North Country Chief Executive Officer said, "We are fortunate to have this support from MARO for this innovative pilot program. Our goal is to provide even the best possible support to the 877 people we serve with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the majority of whom receive direct supports. Our expectation is that there will be an increase in staff longevity as well as job satisfaction, for those who provide direct service to some of our community's most vulnerable citizens."

Persons wishing to know more about the agency are encouraged to visit www.norcoemh.org or to access services call 877-470-7130.



EJ Lion's Club Easter Fun & Games winners

Grand Prize Winners in the East Jordan Lion's Club's annual Easter Fun and Games event are Katie Carson and Payton McKenzie with their grand prize bicycles. More than 150 children took part in the activities on Saturday, April 20th at the East Jordan Elementary School. COURTESY PHOTO

BRIDGE FROM PG. 1A

closures while Seaway stages equipment, so we ask that customers use extra caution when crossing."

Closures on the northbound lanes will be lifted on Fridays and on southbound lanes on Sundays during peak traffic weekends. Lane closures also will be removed as needed for other high-traffic volume times, such as holidays.

The project will begin with stripping and painting on some of the tower's interior "cells," and installation of an enclosure for painting the outside of the tower. The portions of the tower below the bridge deck are expected to be painted in 2020. The original paint is lead-based and Seaway is required to contain 100 percent of the

paint as it is removed and ship it to an appropriate landfill facility. The new paint, which is zinc-based, is expected to last at least 35 years, with periodic maintenance.

The south tower contract is for just less than \$6.5 million, and Seaway is required to complete the project by Dec. 31, 2020. The contract to repaint the north tower was just less than \$6.3 million.

Sweeney said that until the 1970s, the bridge authority hired contractors to spot paint the bridge towers as needed. Since the late '70s, MBA employees have handled that task.

Construction of the Mackinac Bridge began in May 1954 and the completed structure was opened to traffic on Nov. 1, 1957. The MBA's sole source of funding is from tolls and fees collected, with all revenue used to maintain, operate and protect the bridge.

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

East Jordan Rotary Club 13th Annual Variety Show



FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH AND 27TH

AT THE
Community Auditorium - East Jordan High School,

The pre-show begins at 6:00 p.m., so come early to enjoy music provided by Bob Bryan and Full Circle.

General admission tickets are priced at just \$10 each and are available in East Jordan at Charlevoix State Bank and from any member of the Rotary Club.

A limited number of reserved seats for each show are available for \$15 each plus fees at www.mynorthtickets.com

Tickets may also be available at the door, but in very limited quantities

Proceeds from the show will be utilized in support of the good work the East Jordan Rotary Club does throughout the year including scholarship support for local students, youth leadership training programs, community improvement projects and more.

MENTAL HEALTH

FROM PG. 5A

ences on an all-too-common journey, highlighting the importance of mental health care and the pressures that are put upon teenagers to succeed. The movie premiers in theaters this fall.

- PhotoVoice and Art Exhibitions - Community: Creating Connections art show will include PhotoVoice posters and artwork created by people with disabilities. PhotoVoice is a special project that has been used all over the world to give voice to people who are not usually heard in the community. Local people with disabilities have come together to discuss mental health issues and experiences and capture their feelings in words and pictures which they share with the community. The exhibition will be held at Charlevoix Public Library and Cheboygan Public Library during the month of May. In addition, artwork from the Bergmann Center will be displayed at Crooked Tree Arts Center Youth Exhibit through May 11. All exhibitions are free

to the public.

- Thursday, May 9 - People who receive services from North Country CMH will participate in the 15th statewide "Walk a Mile in My Shoes Rally" in Lansing from 1:30 - 2:30pm at the State Capitol. Michigan's 46 Community Mental Health agencies are hosting the rally. A number of people from Petoskey Club and New Horizons Clubhouse will attend the event to help raise awareness among state legislators about mental health issues and to help combat the discrimination and prejudice associated with mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities and substance use disorders. Eighty-three people who use CMH services, one from each county in the state, will deliver brief statements from the capitol steps about the status of the public mental health system in their counties.

- A Day of Recovery Education sponsored by the Northern Michigan Regional Entity will be held at Gaylord Treetops on May 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. People who receive community mental health services are invited to attend. Register by calling 1-877-470-7139.

Persons wishing to know more about the organization are encouraged to visit www.norcochm.org or to access services call 877-470-7130.

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