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Shop Small Saturday in East Jordan November 30

BY KAREN WALKER

The East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce will kick off the annual Shop Small Saturday this weekend with a free mini breakfast sponsored by Family Fare and Save-A-Lot food stores.

Starting at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning, Nov. 30th, the first fifty shoppers to visit the Chamber office will receive a goodie bag filled with coupons, candy, promotional items, and sample products from local businesses. Many East Jordan businesses will

have early hours with special discounts, sale prices, and door prizes to help make the most of your holiday shopping.

In conjunction with the sales event, a home-based business vendor expo will be held in the Community Cen-

ter on Main Street starting at 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. where you can shop for your favorite products from nearly a dozen different sellers such as Pampered Chef, Tupperware, Paparazzi and more. Farther up Main Street, the Jordan River Art

Center's gift market will welcome early bird shoppers 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and again during their regular hours of 1-4:00 p.m. At the Banks Township Hall located in downtown Ellsworth, there will be a craft bazaar from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For a complete list of participating businesses, contact the East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce at 231-536-7351.

Always the last Saturday in November, Shop Small Saturday was created in 2010 by American Express, in partnership with the non-profit National Trust for Historic Preservation. The event encourages holiday shoppers to patronize brick and mortar businesses that are small and local. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the annual holiday shopping tradition that helps bring communities together to support their favorite small businesses.



There's plenty of holiday fun in store for the whole family on Friday, November 29, in Boyne City at the Holiday Open House and the Santa Parade. Photo courtesy of Boyne City Main Street.



The final parade entry will be Santa and his helpers who will stop in East Park to brighten the night by lighting the Community Christmas Tree for the first time this holiday season. Photo courtesy of the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce

BOYNE CITY Santa Parade, downtown open house, tree lighting November 29

The Boyne City Holiday Open House and Santa Parade is a true community celebration of the season. The festivities will be taking place on November 29, the Friday after Thanksgiving, from 5 to 9pm.

The open house begins at 5pm with refreshments at businesses throughout the downtown, and the parade starts at 6pm. Boyne Area Girl Scouts will light the Community Christmas Tree in Old City Park at 5pm. Following the tree lighting the Girl Scouts will lead holiday revelers in caroling. Santa will arrive on his horse-drawn sleigh in the parade, joined by some of his elves and reindeer from the North Pole.

Those participating in the parade will line up on East Main Street between East and Park Streets start-

ing at 5:30pm. The parade route will follow Lake Street to Water Street through the heart of downtown. After the parade, children can visit with Santa at a new location this year; the Sunset Park Log Cabin.

Returning this year will be a live Nativity scene at Coldwell Banker Real Estate, 231 Water St., from 5 to 7:30pm. Kids can feed and pet Gunther the Camel and other animals. Hot chocolate, chili, hot dogs, coffee, cookies and sample pours from Stiggs Brewery will be provided.

For a parade registration for and additional information visit www.boyne-city-mainstreet.com or call Boyne City Main Street at 231-582-9009.

CHARLEVOIX Charlevoix Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting November 29

Come celebrate a time of family, friends and fun during the annual Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting Celebration taking place in downtown Charlevoix on Friday, November 29.

Throughout the day, Charlevoix Merchants will be offering fantastic Black Friday Deals that you won't want to miss. While area restaurants will offer great food and drink specials. Black Friday also kicks off the Gift Local shopping initiative where you can shop Charlevoix for a chance to win up to \$500 in Downtown Dollars. For contest details visit www.charlevoixmainstreet.org.

From 3 to 5pm, children of all ages are invited to the Charlevoix Circle of Arts to partake in some good old fashioned holiday craft ac-

tivities. Charlevoix State Bank will also be offering free photos with Santa. Stop in and have your child's picture taken with Santa. Santa and his jolly elves will be at the bank to help you capture that special holiday moment. Kids will enjoy delicious treats, compliments of Charlevoix State Bank and Picture This while they wait for their turn to see Santa.

From 4 to 6pm, Enjoy complimentary cookies and cocoa next to the Community Christmas Tree in East Park from 4 to 6pm. A big thank you to Subway for providing the cookies, and to Stafford's Weathervane Restaurant for providing the hot cocoa.

At 5:30pm, the 9th Annual Charlevoix Holiday

See **Charlevoix Holiday** - Page 7A

Man Sentenced on Animal Cruelty Matter

On November 22, in the 33rd Circuit Court, Travis Jon Nelson, 29, Boyne City, was sentenced



TRAVIS JON NELSON

to pay \$1,874 in restitution and to serve 100 hours of community service at the Charlevoix County Humane Society following his conviction on animal cruelty charges.

On October 3, 2019, Nelson pleaded guilty to a felony charge of attempted torturing of an animal.

Nelson admitted that he had used a small hair tie band with metal wraps to attempt to castrate a house cat belonging to his girlfriend's mother. Nelson said that he had seen this procedure, called "banding", used on farm animals and thought that it would save money on neutering.

The band was left on the cat for approximately two weeks.

According to an affidavit filed in the case, a witness said that the banding had made the cat act angry and appear to be in pain. The procedure caused the banded area to turn red and purple. Eventually, on another family member took the cat to an animal clinic who in turn notified Charlevoix County Animal Control who investigated the incident.

Since February 25, 2019, the cat has been in the care of the humane society. The restitution was ordered to compensate the humane society for the care and treatment of the cat.

Judge Roy C. Hayes III said that though it appeared that Nelson did not mean to harm the cat, his actions showed a lack of common sense and caused injury. Hayes told Nelson that he would first have to undergo an interview at the humane society to be cleared for community service but that the court's expectation was that the community service would be performed there.

Submitted by Charlevoix County Prosecutor, Allen Telgenhof

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The American celebration of Thanksgiving



BY JIM AKANS

Thanksgiving is the classic holiday for all Americans. It is a day of food, family, football and restored faith in the thankful capacity of mankind. Celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, Thanksgiving is a red, white and blue celebration enconced in visions of Pilgrims in black and white sharing the harvest and good will with Native Americans so many moons ago. It is a reminder that extending the spirit of camaraderie and good will to all is a timeless and priceless act.

There are about 46 million turkeys don't look forward to the approach of Thanksgiving at all. That's how many birds Americans will be carving up for the annual feast according to the Wal-letHub.

Other morsels of trivia:
 - Average calories consumed on Thanksgiving; 3,000 - 4,500
 - Treadmill time to burn off those calories; 10 hours and 33 minutes



Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence. -Erna Bombeck. Wikimedia Commons photo

- Average cost of a 10 person dinner; \$48.90 (results may vary)
 - Favorite dishes (in descending order); Turkey, Stuffing, Pumpkin Pie, Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce.
 - Date President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving to be a National Holiday; October 3, 1863.
 Of course, Lions football

and the annual Macy's Thanksgiving parade are must see turkey-day television events, as well as great excuses to eat snacks before sitting down to a huge feast. The Macy's parade, known for elaborate floats, balloons and celebrity appearances, began in 1924, the same year "America's Thanksgiving Parade" first marched down the streets in Detroit.

The annual Detroit Lions Thanksgiving football game tradition started ten years later, in 1934, with a 19 to 16 loss against the Chicago Bears, and with the exception of a hiatus between 1939 and 1944, the game has been played every year since, with an overall record hovering under the .500 mark at 37-40-2. The Lions will play the Chicago Bears at Ford

Field this year starting at 12:30pm, which will be televised on FOX network television. Should be interesting.
 Most of all, Thanksgiving is a time for sharing our blessings and...giving thanks. It is a special day set aside for recognizing the good in ourselves and in those around us, celebrated by the simple act of sharing

a laugh, a remembrance, a kind word, and a delicious, hearty meal.
 Thanksgiving has inspired some memorable thoughts and observations over the years, such as...
 "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." -John Fitzgerald Kennedy
 "Thanksgiving is an emotional holiday. People travel thousands of miles to be with people they only see once a year. And then discover once a year is way too often." Johnny Carson
 "Thanksgiving is a very important holiday. Ours was the first country in the world to make a national holiday to give thanks." -Linus (Charles Shultz)
 "Thanksgiving, when the Indians said, "Well, this has been fun, but we know you have a long voyage back to England". -Jay Leno
 "Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough." - Oprah Winfrey
 "I come from a family where gravy is considered a beverage." -Erna Bombeck
 "Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some." - Charles Dickens
 Share your blessings and enjoy your celebration of Thanksgiving.

U. S. MILITARY VETERAN OF THE MONTH



The Veteran of the Month for November, 2019, is William Austin Clark. Born Jan 7, 1922 to parents Edward and Minerva Smith Clark. He attended school at Pleasant Valley, Antrim County, and grew up in the area. On July 4th, 1941, he married Marion Barnes Clark. They moved to Davison, Michigan where Bill found work at a gas service station. Bill and Marion welcomed a son born in April of 1942. On 8 December, 1942, Clark enlisted into the United States Army, and after completion of basic and advanced training was then sent with replacement troops overseas during the North African campaign. In an newspaper article from the Charlevoix County Herald dated August 20, 1943 it was reported that word was received that Clark had been seriously wounded in North Africa. Then in a later newspaper article from September 24, 1943, word was received that Clark had been Killed in Action in the North African area on 13 July, 1943, Clarks remains were interred in a temporary cemetery in Gela, Sicily. In 1948, Clarks remains were brought back to the United States American Graves Registration Division at Chicago, Ill., then transported by rail to Ellsworth Michigan along with a Military escort. There they were met at the train station by members of the American Legion Post #227 of East Jordan Michigan, and escorted



William Austin Clark

to the Watson Funeral home in East Jordan to lie in state from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm for visitation. Pvt. Clarks remains were then taken to the Dunsmore Cemetery in Antrim County for burial with full Military graveside honors conducted by the American Legion Post #227 members. Clarks widow received his Purple Heart Medal for his sacrifice. On 13 July, 1943, Pvt. William Austin Clark answered the final call and is being honored by his son Ed, and family.

To honor a veteran, call the program chairman at (231) 588-6067 or on Tuesdays call (231) 582-7811 between 3:30-8:30 p.m. The ceremony may be witnessed on the first Thursday of each month at The American Legion Post located on the corner of South Lake and Main streets in Boyne City, Mich. at 6:15 p.m.

Thanksgiving 1863 Presidential Proclamation

BY JIM AKANS

Growing up in America, the tale of the first Thanksgiving feast bringing together newly arrived Europeans immigrants and Native Americans in the early 1600's was well ingrained upon my young mind. The images of Deer-skin wardrobes joining in a feast with those dressed in conservative dark clothing and tall hats seemed to epitomize the spirit of cooperation, graciousness and gratitude that remains at the root of the American character to this day.

What isn't widely known is a legendary political figure, also associated with a tall black hat, is responsible for establishing the beginnings of Thanksgiving as a national holiday over 200 years after that first remarkable gathering.

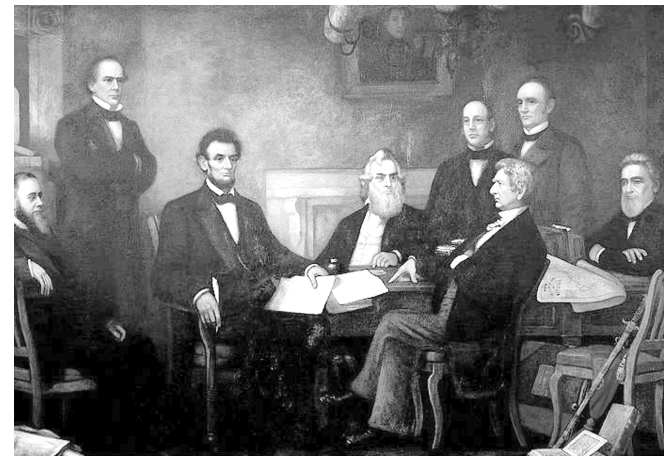
On October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation declaring the last Thursday in November be designated as a national holiday of Thanksgiving. It was a proclamation Lincoln issued at the urging of Sarah J. Hale, editor for a popular magazine at the time, who had campaigned for many years to create a national observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Following are the closing words from President Lincoln's official proclamation. And while Mr. Lincoln is referring to the Civil War that raged at that time, many of his carefully chosen words could apply to the sacrifices, courage and divisiveness we experience in our country



ABOVE: While often romanticized, such as in this "The First Thanksgiving" 1621 oil on canvas by Jean Leon Jerome Ferris, images of a first Thanksgiving much like this are firmly etched in the minds of most Americans. Public domain photo.

BELOW: While President Lincoln is often remembered for issuing the Emancipation Proclamation in the autumn of 1862, Lincoln also issued (at the urging of magazine editor Sarah J. Hale), the Proclamation declaring Thanksgiving



today:
 "It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part

of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the

heavens."
 "And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union."
 Abraham Lincoln

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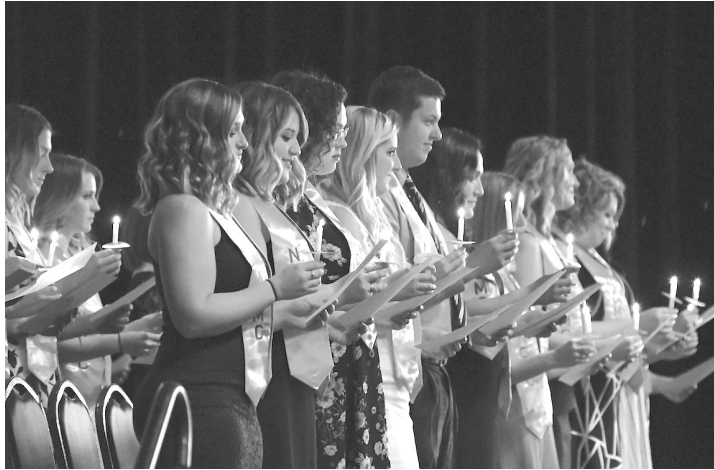
NCMC named top five nursing program in Michigan

North Central Michigan College's nursing program has been named a top five RN program in the state, according to a ranking released by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. The top five ranking measures North Central's nursing program against all other programs in Michigan, including those at four-year universities.

The program ranking is based on the percentage of North Central graduates who passed the NCLEX-RN® examinations administered between April and September 2019. NCLEX-RN® is the test that qualifies graduates to practice as registered nurses. North Central's first-time pass rate was 97 percent, and 100 percent overall.

"Our nursing graduates' success on the NCLEX exam is a testament to the quality of education provided at North Central Michigan College," said Dr. David Roland Finley, North Central's president. "We offer exceptional, accessible, relevant higher education for learners of all ages, and this is true across the board. We are especially proud of the 2019 nursing program graduates and all that they have achieved."

Nurses in the Class of 2019 were assisted by a generous donation from the Borra Family Foundation, which helped launch North Central's NCLEX Success Program. The program covered the cost of a live NCLEX training session and provided financial support for students to take the exam and secure their nursing licenses if they followed a prescribed path to complete the NCLEX shortly



North Central Michigan College's nursing program has been named a top five RN program in the state, according to a ranking released by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. Courtesy photo

after graduation.

"This is a major milestone for our nursing program and a sign of great accomplishment for our nursing students," said Chelsea Platte, executive director of the NCMC Foundation. "We appreciate the support of the Borra Family Foundation in launching this innovative initiative, as well as the many donors whose gifts continue to strengthen our nursing program."

North Central's nursing program is an accelerated, two-year program with a competitive application process. A regional nursing shortage, coupled with popular demand, prompted the college to expand its nursing cohort from 46 to 64 students effective with the Fall 2019 semester, the first increase since 2006.

"North Central's registered nursing program is led by a cadre of talented faculty who have dedicated their careers to preparing nurses who are some

of the best in the state of Michigan," said Jamie Pagels, DNP, dean of Nursing, Allied Health and Science. "Our nursing program exists within a community of educators, students, alumni, donors and clinical agencies who have one purpose: to elevate nursing education to the highest standard possible."

Dr. Pete Olson, vice president of Academic Affairs and Student Success, describes the achievement as a testament to a campus-wide pursuit of academic excellence.

"While we recognize that these scores are the result of a team effort on the part of the faculty, clinical instructors, administrators, and most importantly the students themselves, the whole North Central campus can benefit as we continue to attract students dedicated to excellence, no matter which program they choose," Olson said.



East Jordan Lion's Club raffle winner announced

On November 4 the East Jordan Lions Club held a drawing for their annual Rifle Raffle fundraiser. Pictured is Bob Noll of the East Jordan Lions Club presenting a Jay's gift certificate for a Browning 30.06 to the lucky winner Art Cosier. The Lions Club thanks everyone who supported the fund raiser by purchasing tickets and, also, EJ True Value Hardware, EJ Family Fare, and Jay's Sporting Goods of Gaylord. Funds raised from the raffle will go to support the Lions Club's initiatives of sight, hearing, and diabetes. Courtesy photo

Nominations sought for 2020 Governor's Service Awards

The Michigan Community Service Commission is pleased to announce that nominations are being sought for the 2020 Governor's Service Awards. The Governor's Service Awards are given annually by the governor to individuals, organizations and businesses to acknowledge their commitment to serving their communities through volunteerism. This event is hosted by the Michigan Community Service Commission.

The online application for the 2020 Governor's Service Awards is available at www.michigan.gov/governorsserviceawards. Nominations must be submitted by Jan. 17, 2020. Date and location of the event will be announced at a later date.

"We want to recognize Michigan volunteers who make their community a better place," Michigan Community Service Commission executive director Ginna Holmes said. "Hearing the stories of Michiganders generosity and giving spirit is inspiring for all."

Awards will be presented in 10 categories which reflect the diverse nature of volunteers throughout the state. The categories are:

- Governor George Romney Lifetime Achievement Award: honors an individual who has shown a lifelong commitment to community involvement and volunteerism.
- Lifetime Humanitarian Award: honors individuals or families that have demonstrated a lifetime of outstanding civic and charitable responsibility to a community or organization.
- Senior Volunteer of the Year Award: honors individuals age 65 and older who have

taken action to make their community a better place to live through service.

- Volunteer of the Year Award: honors an individual who strives to improve the lives of neighbors, friends, community or congregation through volunteerism.

- Youth Volunteer of the Year Award: honors individuals who are age 25 or younger who have already begun making a significant difference in their community through service.

- Mentor of the Year Award: honors an individual who provides youth with the confidence and assets to be successful.

- Outstanding Volunteer Organization Award: honors service clubs, nonprofit, faith-based, veteran, disaster preparedness and other organizations that make a demonstrated difference in their community.

- Education Service Leader Award: honors schools, colleges, universities and other organizations that support youth making a difference in their communities.

- Outstanding National Service Program Award: honors organizations that provide a high-quality national service program that yields a significant impact in a Michigan community.

- Corporate Community Leader Award: honors corporations and businesses that excel in community involvement and demonstrate excellent corporate citizenship by giving back to their community in a variety of ways.

For additional information or questions, please contact the Michigan Community Service Commission at 517-335-4295 or gsa@michigan.gov.

Great Lakes Energy powers classroom technology

Great Lakes Energy recently helped 22 classrooms implement technology-based programs in their schools. A total of \$29,932 in grants were awarded in November to schools that educate children of Great Lakes Energy (GLE) members. The grants help implement innovative projects up to a maximum of \$2,000 per school district. Projects submitted typically fall beyond the scope of school budgets.

A record total of 91 applications arrived this year. They were evaluated according to published standards by a panel of volunteer employee judges from various departments at GLE. School names and

districts were hidden during the evaluation process to allow for judging based on project merit and quality of the application submitted.

Grants awarded for the 2019-2020 school year bring the total to just over \$187,392 for 127 projects since GLE launched its classroom grant program in 2012.

A Montague High School teacher whose project was selected for a grant advised, "I have been doing my best to stay afloat this year in terms of managing fundraising for my classroom, and at times the pressure has weighed on me. I am so thankful for organizations like yours that can help make the dreams I

have for my classroom come true."

In the northern Lower Michigan area, these schools received classroom grants for the 2019-2020 school year:

- Boyne City Middle School, \$825 for Lego Robotics Kits
- Boyne Falls Public School, \$1,733.82 for ELMO document cameras and microscope adapters
- Concord Academy - Boyne, Boyne City, \$200 for green screen equipment
- Ellsworth Community School, \$1,785.64 for technology to teach engineering design
- Gaylord High School, \$2,000 for Anatomy in Clay

- Models
- Grayling High School, \$1,979.70 for Raspberry Pi and Sensor Kits
- Inland Lakes Secondary School, \$1,799.99 for laser engraving technology
- Johannesburg-Lewiston Elementary & Middle Schools, \$2,000 for Dash Robot and Bee Bots
- John R. Rodger Elementary School, Bellaire, \$964 for FOSS Next Generation materials
- Kalkaska High School, \$900 for "Sparks"
- Online applications for the 2020-2021 school year open in September 2020. To learn more, visit gtlakes.com.

Michigan celebrates Adoption Month

As the state celebrates Adoption Month, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is preparing to kick off two new projects to find adoptive homes more quickly for children in foster care who can't safely return home.

One initiative, which begins in November, assigns 21 child welfare staff from MDHHS called permanent resource monitors to remove barriers to finalizing pending adoptions that have been on hold more than six months. Barriers such as concerns about the child's behavior and incomplete documents can delay adoptions even when a family has been identified.

The second initiative is being planned for mid-2020.

MDHHS is working with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption's Wendy's Wonderful Kids program, which pays for recruiters to help find loving adoptive homes for children in foster care. Research has shown the Wendy's Wonderful Kids model to be more effective at serving children who have been in foster care the longest - including teenagers, sibling groups and children with special needs.

"Every child deserves the opportunity to have a loving, permanent home," said JooYeun Chang, executive director of the MDHHS Children's Services Agency. "MDHHS is committed to finding families for all children who are

legally free for adoption - and doing this in a timely fashion. Our staff and partners will continue to work together to better accomplish these goals that are so important for our children and families."

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has declared November to be Adoption Month in Michigan. Courts statewide, in partnership with MDHHS, hold special Adoption Month ceremonies this month at which children officially become permanent members of their new forever families. Included is a Nov. 26 event at the Michigan Supreme Court Hall of Justice in Lansing. A list of Adoption Day events and profiles of adoptive families can be found on the Michigan Adoption Re-

source exchange Adoption Day webpage.

Anyone interested in adopting from foster care can contact the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange at 800-589-6273, or see biographies and photos of children available for adoption at www.mare.org.

In fiscal year 2019, 2,038 children were adopted from the Michigan foster care system, according to preliminary data that will be updated in January. There are about 13,100 children in the foster care system, but the goal for most is reunification with their families.

For more information about adoption in Michigan, visit www.michigan.gov/adoption.

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Char-Em ISD Speech and Language Pathologist appointed to national association

Kelli Knight, a Speech and Language Pathologist for Char-Em ISD, has been selected to serve on a national committee of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA). Knight is a specialist in teaching students kindergarten through age 26 to communicate using alternative communication tools and technology in an area known as Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).



Kelli Knight, a Speech and Language Pathologist for Char-Em ISD, has been selected to serve on a national committee of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA). Courtesy photo

She was selected by ASHA in summer 2019 to begin serving on a committee that will work to establish board certification criteria for those specialists nationally who, like Knight, connect children and young adults with communication resources and technol-

ogy. Knight's students have not developed verbal communication or struggle with communication, for a variety of reasons such as neurological damage, developmental delay, autism or other underlying causes. "A lot of my

students are emerging communicators, and they need to learn ways to communicate their basic needs," she explained.

"I am very passionate about the work I do here with augmentative and alternative communication users in our Char-Em ISD districts," noted Knight, who has worked for the ISD since 2012 and in the field since 2008.

That enthusiasm for her work and her growing level of expertise in the field gained the attention of the national ASHA organization and led to her appointment to the specialized committee, which includes about 25 members from around the country.

In her daily work, Knight pairs the students and young

adults in her caseload with tools that aid their ability to communicate simple and more complex needs. She said some tools students use include PODD books, iPads with apps such as, TouchChat, Proloquo2GO, Words for Life, and even infrared technology to track eye movement for helping communicators. She works throughout Char-Em ISD districts in special education program classrooms.

Over the past decade-plus, she has grown a personal network of professionals around the nation who share practices and resources with one another. That network will be particularly useful as she serves on the Test Question Development Committee for Augmentative and Alterna-

tive Communication, a specialty recognition committee of ASHA. ASHA is the credentialing entity for speech and language pathologists, and ultimately the work of Knight's committee will be to develop credentialing standards for practitioners like herself who seek Board Certification in Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

"We will be developing specific tracks for clinical practice, academic master clinicians and examination questions in intermediate and advanced practices for board certification in AAC," she said. "This is going to lead to mentorship opportunities and ultimately, our students will benefit. Having this level of connection in

Char-Em ISD through my role will help expand what we can provide students and their families."

Once her committee develops the criteria for board certification testing, in about 2 or 3 years she estimates, she plans to turn around and take it herself and achieve the Board Certified Specialist AAC recognition, noting that the hard work is worth the effort when it comes to student success.

"Some of the kids say the funniest things now. They blow me away," Knight said. "You can really see their personality come out, and it's so rewarding. The motto of the ASHA is 'Making effective communication, a basic human right, accessible and achievable for all.' I truly be-

Community Mental Health awarded Grant & CARF Reaccreditation

North Country Community Mental Health has been awarded a mini-grant of \$2,800 from the State of Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) and CARF, (formerly known as Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities), announced North Country accreditation for a period of three years.

The grant funding will support two programs: "Art Speaks: All Art Has a Voice" for people with mental illness and/or intellectual/developmental disabilities and the provision of "PhotoVoice" classes for people with mental illness. Both programs aim to inspire, empower, and unlock individual artistic potential of individuals served by North Country Community Mental Health and its providers.

Art Speaks enriches the lives of individuals with disabilities by providing experiences in a broad array of the arts as well as opportunities to create, showcase and sell their art. The first project of Art Speaks using MCACA funding is to create a 2020 calendar featuring artwork by people with disabilities.

PhotoVoice is a special curriculum designed to give voice to people who often go unheard in society. Originally developed by an instructor at the University of Michigan, a version specifically for people with mental illness developed at Boston University is now being used in Northern Michigan to help people express what it is like to live with a disability and to promote dialogue and knowledge about the issues they face. Posters created by participants in the PhotoVoice classes are shown in public settings to shed light on what it is like to live with a mental illness.

Those interested in purchasing an Art Speaks calendar or making a donation to Art Speaks, call Julie Moran at 231-533-8619. Persons wishing to know more about North Country Community Mental Health are encouraged to visit www.norcochm.org or to access services call 877-470-7130.

CARF (formerly known as Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) announced North Country Community Mental Health Authority has been accredited for a period of three years (through 2021) for eight programs. This is the fifth three-year accreditation that the international



CARF (formerly known as Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) announced North Country Community Mental Health Authority has been accredited for a period of three years (through 2021) for eight programs. Courtesy photo



PhotoVoice posters created by members of the New Horizons Clubhouse in Rapid City are on display at the Alden District Library through the rest of this year. Courtesy photo

accrediting commission has awarded to North Country Community Mental Health. The first survey was in 2007.

"North Country staff do high quality, difficult work every day and it is rewarding to have their efforts validated in this way," said Christine Gebhard, North Country CEO. "This accomplishment reflects our focus on clients, our consistency in operations as one organization serving six counties, our

relationships with our valued community partners, and our strong staff foundation."

This accreditation outcome represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the standards established by CARF. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous

peer review process. It has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality.

Gebhard indicated the accrediting body was on site for several days in October and did a comprehensive review of service programs, policies and procedures, and operations, including con-

ducting interviews with staff, board members, community partners and persons served by North Country.

According to the formal CARF report, this accreditation is a confirmation of the organization's vision, mission, business ethics, values, and operations to providing quality services and to quality improvement. "The organization's staff members are engaging, proactive, and committed to providing quality services to clients."

In addition to its "committed, respectful and caring staff," several strengths were noted, including the almost perfect score the Recipient Rights Office received in its recent state audit, the innovative and cost effective Emergency Services Program and its use of teleconferencing technology, its rapid upgrade and expansion of the use of technology throughout the organization, its excellent community partnerships and extremely positive image and reputation in the community.

The organization's development and implementation of the LEAN Process Improvement System for human services delivery was cited as exemplary and having an impressive impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of services.

Lights of Love honors loved ones, benefits Hospice

The Boyne Eta Nu Charities annual "Lights of Love" tree lighting remembrance ceremony will take place Wednesday, December 4, at 6:30pm on the Dilworth Hotel porch. This special event offers an opportunity for community members to honor and remember loved ones during the holiday season and raise money for Northwest Michigan Hospice Assist. NMHA is a non-medical hospice service specializing in volunteer and grief support for those facing illness and loss in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego Counties. In the past 32 years, Boyne Eta Nu has raised over \$107,000 for Hospice.

You can help decorate our Lights of Love tree by purchasing a green, blue, red or gold light ranging from \$5 to \$30. For a \$40 contribution, you will receive a personalized "heart of love" with the name of your loved one that will hang on the tree during the month of December. All monies collected will go to the Hospice Assist program. We will accept donations through December and distribute the personalized hearts after the New Year.

Light of Love flyers with donation information for lights, hearts or reserving for our post-ceremony dinner at Water Street Cafe are available online, at the Boyne Area Chamber and the Northwest Michigan Hospice Assist office at 220 West Garfield, Charlevoix. Those wishing to make direct contributions may do so via mail to Pati Scott, 4408 E. Fontenoy, Boyne City MI 49712. Donations are tax-deductible and accepted through the end of this year. Please make checks payable to Boyne Eta Nu Charities.

For additional information visit Boyne Eta Nu Charities on Facebook or contact Pati Scott at patiski13@gmail.com or call 231-758-2496

CHARLEVOIX HOLIDAY

FROM PG. 1A

Parade Parade, sponsored by 4Front Credit Union, will make its way down Bridge Street. The parade will take place on Bridge Street between Hurlbut and Clinton Street downtown. Enjoy music, lighted floats and more. The final parade entry will be Santa and his helpers who will stop in East Park to brighten the night by lighting the Community Christmas Tree for the first time this holiday season. The tree will be lit at approximately 6pm.

Contact the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce at 231-547-2101 or visit www.charlevoix.org for additional information or to get a parade entry form.

Char-Em ISD Schools add Behavioral Health Providers

With \$294,000 of new funding from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District schools have partnered with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan to secure additional school-based mental health providers at districts including Harbor Springs, Charlevoix, Boyne City, Boyne Falls, and Ellsworth. Char-Em is also partnering with Alcona Health Center to expand mental health services in the Public Schools of Petoskey by utilizing these funds.

The funding is part of the 31n School Mental Health and Support Services grant opportunity to increase school mental health and support services. Earlier this year, the health department expanded its school-based mental health services into Alanson, East Jordan, and Central Lake through similar funding through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Mental health services continue to be a priority in funding, especially within schools. According to Char-Em ISD Superintendent Jeff

Crouse, "Our local school districts have identified mental health issues as a top priority to help our students be at their best in the classroom and in their lives outside of school."

"Expanding these services into additional schools increases access to care for all families, regardless of circumstances," said Natalie Kasiborski, Director of Community Health Services at the health department. "Placing qualified, master-prepared mental health providers within the schools ensures that all children and

adolescents have the opportunity to receive the care they need to be healthy, and ultimately, to be able to learn."

The partnership pairs the educational resources and expertise of the ISD with the implementation expertise of the health department, which operates eight school-based wellness centers across Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties.

"We were thrilled to be awarded this mental health grant from MDE and even more thrilled to find an incredible partner like the

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

Great Lakes Energy Truestream fiber network update

Great Lakes Energy has announced Phase I construction plans for its fiber network starting this spring in parts of its Boyne service area, which primarily covers rural areas in Charlevoix and Antrim counties. The construction, which will progress in three phases, will expand availability of high-speed Truestream fiber internet and voice services to members who are underserved with internet connectivity.

The fiber network delivers speeds up to 1 Gig (symmetrical for upload and download), massive bandwidth, unlimited voice services, no data caps, and no contracts, allowing for residents to work from home, have access to online education in addition to streaming, gaming and much more. The service will also be available to businesses.

The Boyne service district was selected due to having



Great Lakes Energy has announced Phase I construction plans for its fiber network starting this spring in parts of its Boyne service area, which primarily covers rural areas in Charlevoix and Antrim counties. Courtesy photo

tion and in-home installations continue. Nearly 1,400 Great Lakes Energy members in the Petoskey service area are currently enjoying Truestream's services, some experiencing a high-speed internet connection at home for the first time.

Construction of the fiber network is labor intensive process and will continue in phases through 2020 and beyond. Free installation is currently available for Great Lakes Energy members who register interest. Free installation for southern Emmet county will soon expire and those in that area are strongly encouraged to return their service paperwork as soon as possible to take advantage of this offer.

Please visit jointruestream.com register your interest and to see the project status by area.

the highest amount of interest from registered members on jointruestream.com. In 2020, the Great Lakes Energy Board of Directors may consider expansion into other phases of the Boyne service district as well as studying to determine expansion into a third district. Expansion will

depend in part on demand through registrations on the Truestream site, jointruestream.com

Along with the decision to expand into the Boyne service area, Great Lakes Energy's Petoskey service area will move out of the pilot phase as network construc-

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HOLIDAY PARADE & TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION

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ALL-DAY BLACK FRIDAY DEALS AT CHARLEVOIX STORES

3:00-4:00PM HOLIDAY CRAFT AND PHOTOS WITH SANTA

4:00-6:00PM COOKIES & HOT COCOA IN EAST PARK

5:30PM HOLIDAY PARADE BRIDGE STREET

6PM TREE LIGHTING EAST PARK

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 2009 TOYOTA COROLLA LE \$7,950 <small>57k miles, 4-wheel anti-lock brakes, Air, Auto, 1.8L 4 Cylinder, 12V auxiliary pwr outlets, Blackout sport grille.</small>	 2013 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT XL \$10,950 <small>45k miles, CARFAX one owner, Metal bins, Tire pressure monitoring, Remote keyless entry, Dual sliding cargo doors</small>	 2015 NISSAN ALTIMA \$11,950 <small>62k miles, CARFAX one owner, CVT transmission, Bluetooth, Push button start, Proximity key, 2.5L I-4.</small>	 2016 CHEVY EQUINOX LS AWD \$16,450 <small>CARFAX one owner, Bluetooth, OnStar, Rear view camera, Tire pressure monitor, Remote keyless entry, StabiliTrak.</small>	 2016 NISSAN FRONTIER SV \$18,950 <small>King Cab, 91k miles, CARFAX one owner, Bed Liner, Hill descent control, 12V outlets, Stainless steel exhaust.</small>	 2014 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 LT \$21,950 <small>104k miles, 4wd, Crew cab, All-Star edition, Heated seats, OnStar, Rear view camera, Remote start.</small>
 2016 AUDI A3 PREMIUM AWD \$22,950 <small>Premium plus pkg., Heated leather seats, Rear view camera, Bluetooth, Sunroof, Xenon headlights, 220hp.</small>	 2016 GMC ACADIA DENALI AWD \$26,950 <small>GMC CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED, 3.6L v6, 7-way seating, Sunroof, Rear view camera, Remote start, Tow pkg., USB.</small>	 2011 DODGE RAM 2500 SLT \$27,950 <small>130k miles, 4WD, Crew cab, Bed liner, Trailer hitch, Tonneau Cover, Tire pressure monitor, 5.7L V8 Hemi.</small>	 2016 FORD F-250 SRW CREW CAB \$33,950 <small>70k miles, CARFAX one owner, 4WD, Leather seats, Rear view camera, Trailer hitch, 6.2L V8, Firm suspension.</small>	 2015 CHEVY TAHOE LTZ \$39,950 <small>41k miles, 4WD, Pwr. sunroof, 20" wheels, 5.3L V8, Heated leather seats, Rear vision camera, 3rd row seats.</small>	 2018 SILVERADO 2500HD \$46,150 <small>CARFAX one owner, Boss plow, 5.761 miles, 6.0L v8, Snow plow pkg., Suspension pkg., 4WD, Rear view camera.</small>

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