

Charlevoix County News ®



YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS & SPORTS

BOYNE CITY, CHARLEVOIX, EAST JORDAN, ELLSWORTH AND SURROUNDING AREAS

DECEMBER 19, 2019

Notice of Early Deadline

For the 12/26/19 and 1/2/20 issues of the Charlevoix County News and Weekly Choice, the deadlines will be Saturday of the week prior for Classified Ads, Display Ads and news submissions.

County News

Weekly Choice



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Inside THIS WEEK **SPORTS**

BOYS BASKETBALL

- **Red Devils open season** with pair of wins - Page 1B
- **Jackson Raymond male** athlete of the week -Page 1B
- College basketball t op 25 - Page 2B
- Lancers take down **Trojans - Page 3B**
- **■** Ramblers beat Soo -Page 3B
- **NBA Standings Page 3B**
- NBA stat leaders Page 3B **GIRLS BASKETBALL**
- **■** Katelyn Gabos female athlete of the week -Page 1B
- Aggressive defense leads Ramblers to victory -Page 2B
- Red Devils fall to Petoskey -Page 2B

MORE SPORTS

- NFL standings Page 2B
- NFL schedule Page 2B
- **NFL stat leaders Page 3B** Rayders wrestling at
- Mancelona Page 3B **■** Boys Soccer Players Named All-State - Page 3B
- **Volleyball Players Named**
- All-Region Page 3B
- schedule Page 3B **■** Division 3-4 All-State
- Football Page 4B **Division 5-6 All-State**
- Football Page 4B **Division 7-8 All-State**
- Football Page 4B **OTHER**
- Classified Ads Page 5B
- Legal Notices Page 5B
- Feature home of the week - Page 6B

- Weather Forecast Page 2
- Snowfall report Page 2
- Obituaries Page 2 Talking is teaching - Page 3
- **Boyne City Superintendent** Receives a "Highly **Effective" Rating - Page 3**
- News Briefs Page 4
- **Taylor Malpass named East Jordan DDA Coordinator -**Page 5
- **■** Boyne Falls student of the week - Page 5
- Police report Page 5
- **Celebrate the Christmas** Spirit - Page 6
- Super Santa Page 6
- Christmas fun facts Page 6



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Master Plan sets the stage for private investment in East Jordan

BY KAREN WALKER

As part of the City of East Jordan's master plan update, consulting firm Beckett & Raeder, Inc., headquartered in Ann Arbor, along with the City Planning Commission held an open house at East Jordan's Civic Center last Thursday to unveil their draft master plan, a document that will help guide the future growth and development of the City. Refinement of the master plan was based on public input and surveys, giving consideration to existing development, physical characteristics, and social and economic conditions.

The master plan sets the stage for private investment in East Jordan like new housing and waterfront development. The master plan includes a community history and profile, an overview of existing conditions, goals and strategies, future land use, and an im-

plementation plan. A key component of the Master Plan is the Zoning Plan. The Zoning Plan is based on the Master Plan recommendations and is intended to identify areas where existing zoning is inconsistent with the objectives and strategies of the Master Plan, as well as guiding development of the

Zoning Ordinance. In March and April 2019, the City invited area residents and employees to participate in a short survey to better understand issues



EJ Community Center Redevelopment Elevation. Courtesy Image

and priorities in the community to help guide development of the master plan. Results of the survey showed respondents feel restaurants, access to water, and shopping opportunities are the top three assets necessary to support a thriving East Jordan. In terms of downtown improvements, a greater variety of uses and enhanced connectivity to the waterfront topped the list.

In a visioning session held last April at East Jordan High School, 10th grade Honors English students provided input on their vision for East Jordan. Several students expressed their desire for a movie theater and other places to congregate, places to shop as well as more activities for teens. When asked if the statement, "I would like to live in East Jordan as a young adult" and "I plan to raise a family here", was true for them, only 10 percent responded in agreement. For the statement, "I think of East Jordan in a

positive way", 45 percent of the students agreed. No further explanation of the students responses were provided at the open house. However, John Iacoangeli, Principal at Beckett & Raeder, felt these findings could be considered a "red flag", warranting further exploration.

Displayed at the open house were conceptual drawings for two City properties designated as priority redevelopment sites: the Community/Civic Center on Main Street and the former Boat Launch area west of the bridge. The designs presented by Beckett & Raeder give potential developers a vision of how the two sites could be repurposed and returned to the tax roll.

Beckett & Raeder's suggestion for the Community Center was to remove the existing building and replace it with two buildings with an open walkway between them to provide access to the public parking lot at the corner of Second

COBURN FARMS SWEET CREAM

and Esterly streets. The proposed buildings could have retail space on the main floor with housing units above.

For the former boat launch site, the consulting team suggested a commercial building located on the corner of Bridge Street and M-32/Water Street and a cluster of condominiums or other housing units above retail space near the center of the site, keeping a public green space at the water's

The City Planning Commission will review the draft master plan at their next regular meeting scheduled for Jan. 9, 2020, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. Once the **Planning Commission** makes their recommendation to the East Jordan City Commission for adoption of the plan, the draft will be available for public review. Residents will have 63 days to comment and provide additional input. For more information, contact City Hall at 231-536-3381.

Children, (and curious adults), can take a peek at a special website; www.noradsanta.org, which features a look at Santa's North Pole Village and updates the progress of Santa and his team of reindeer on Christmas Eve. Logo courtesy of NORAD Public Affairs Office.

NORAD tracks Santa's Christmas Eve journey

BY JIM AKANS

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

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

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

The site is already active and features Santa's North Pole Village which includes a holiday countdown, games, activities, and more. Official NORAD Tracks Santa apps are also available in the Windows, Apple and Google Play stores, so parents and children can countdown the days until Santa's launch on their smart phones and tablets. Tracking opportunities are also offered on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Google+. Santa followers just need to type "@noradsanta" into each search engine to get started.

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

Have a very, merry Christ-

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LOW: 32



SUNDAY

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snowfall

2018-19 AMT" CITY	2019-20 AMT" CITY
12/17/186.7ATLANTA	12/16/198.9ATLANTA
12/17/18 17 BOYNE FALLS	12/16/1920.5BOYNE FALLS
12/17/189.8 CHARLEVOIX	12/16/1919.7CHARLEVOIX
12/17/1814.1CHEBOYGAN	12/16/1922.4CHEBOYGAN
12/17/1823.5EAST JORDAN	12/16/1941.4EAST JORDAN
12/17/1829.2GAYLORD	12/16/1946.8GAYLORD
12/17/1825.5KALKASKA	12/16/1955.2KALKASKA
12/17/1815LEWISTON	12/16/1916.5LEWISTON
12/17/189.8MIO	12/16/1916.8MIO
12/17/1822.5ONAWAY	12/16/1924.2ONAWAY
12/17/1832.1PETOSKEY	12/16/1939.5PETOSKEY

record temps

DAYAVG LOWAVG. HIGHRECORD LOWRECORD HIGH
DEC 2018°32°20° (1983)48° (1988)
DEC 2118°32°14° (1975)53° (1967)
DEC 2218°32°0° (1989)55° (1957)
DEC 2317°31°9° (1989)52° (1957)
DEC 2417°31°14° (1969)52° (1994)
DEC 2517°31°15° (1958)58° (1982)
DEC 2616°31°9° (1993)49° (1982)
DEC 2716°31°18° (2004)50° (1994)
DEC 2816°30°31° (1976)57° (1984)
DEC 2916°30°21° (1976)56° (1984)

MDHHS mails Healthy Michigan Plan work compliance requirements letters

More than 238,000 people enrolled in the Healthy Michigan Plan will begin receiving letters this week explaining what is needed to comply with the program's new work requirements under a state law approved prior to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer taking office. The notices are the latest effort by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to preserve health insurance coverage for as many people as possible.

Anyone who receives this letter must tell MDHHS monthly about their work or other activities, such as job training approved by MDHHS or searching for a job. They must work or participate in other qualifying activities for

at least 80 hours each month or else they could lose Healthy Michigan Plan cover-

Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries who are subject to the work requirements must report work or other activities to MDHHS from Jan. 25 to Feb. 29 by going to www.Michigan.gov/MiB-

or calling 833-895-4355. They will need to continue to do that every month.

Whitmer and MDHHS Director Robert Gordon have made clear their concerns about the work requirements that were signed into law before Whitmer took office. If Michigan's experience is similar to what happened in other states that added work

requirements, the law will strip away health insurance from more than 100,000 Michiganders.

Michigan's work requirements are in jeopardy as a result of a lawsuit filed last month. In Arkansas, Kentucky and New Hampshire, after similar lawsuits were filed, a federal court issued an injunction halting application by vacating approval of each states' work requirements. This is an action Michigan could face as well.

Facing similar litigation, Republican governors in Indiana and Arizona, and New Hampshire (prior to the court vacating the requirements) voluntarily put their states work requirements implementation on hold. Michigan

legislative leaders, however, refused to take the same course of action, notwithstanding requests from both Whitmer and Gordon to delay implementation to avoid the risk of wasting millions of taxpayer dollars and confusing Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries. If the court blocks the requirements, MDHHS will need to spend additional money to inform Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries of the update.

Michigan is the only state moving ahead with expanded Medicaid work requirements in January despite legal action.

"Implementing work requirements under a dark legal cloud is not a good use of taxpayer dollars, as con-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

servatives in Indiana, Arizona and New Hampshire have recognized," Gordon said. "Unfortunately, that's now MDHHS's job, and we will do everything in our power to implement the law effectively. I am proud of the excellent work of the MDHHS team in designing notices that tell individuals in the clearest possible terms what they must do to comply with the law. I urge individuals to review these notices carefully."

Michigan enacted its highly successful Healthy Michigan Plan effective April 1, 2014, after bipartisan approval of legislation that expanded Medicaid to residents with incomes at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty level. More than 640,000 people have Healthy Michigan Plan coverage today. According to research from the University of Michigan, the Healthy Michigan Plan has more than doubled primary care usage, reduced enrollees' reliance on the emergency room by 58 percent, cut uncompensated care by nearly 50 percent, and added \$2.3 billion to the state's economy. The work requirements threaten the initiative's suc-

Learn more about the Healthy Michigan Plan at HealthyMichiganPlan.org and about the work requirements and other changes on the Changes Coming in 2020 tab. Beneficiaries with questions can call 800-642-3195.

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TANNERY LORE EXTEN-

To the Editor, KAREN WALKER, AWARD-WINNING PHO-TOGRAPHER, gives Charlevoix County News readers a splendid biopic-biosis of the fabled Tannery of Boyne City to which might be added a biopsy garnered

from a local boy then in his elder years, one who grew contiguous to the tanning business as a resident of Boyne City from birth circa 1930 and who retained his family home until his demise ten years ago, an addendum not available via Google or anywhere else. Jim Andrews aka Dimitri Andropopopolis from Greek heritage, told anecdotes of the waterfront business as he knew it from Leroy Street just up the hill from the lakefront overlook-

Jim said that when he and his buddies wanted to go swimming in lake Charlevoix they'd first huddle on a knoll overlooking the water which allowed sight of the panorama between the tanning conglomerate structures to see if the

ing the once-thriving con-

glomerate scenario.

water was discolored in red. Blood? No, chemical compounds that would affect the skin, burn and cause rashes and other maladies that threatened enough to prevent swimming that day if so present from effluvium of the tanning compound. Original Hemlock bark was replaced chemically as tanning solution but apparently any process contained the irritant to skin and certainly was not advisable to eyes, nose, ears or throat either. So went the summer months for kids of Boyne City. They would do something else that day. Jim was born in that little house on Leroy Street, doctors still doing house calls back then, and he pointed to the living room that had been his natal beginning. He had attended MSU to initiate his career as properties management director in finality at MSU itself for his lifelong work which was instrumentally mentored by a stint at Michigan Technical Institute in the Upper Peninsula. A railroad of men-

tion in Karen's delightfully informative article was mentioned by Jim Andrews as having tracks crossing Ko-

rthase Road between Deer lake and M-32 though most old railroad tracks have been uprooted leaving no trace even considering that the railroad was the only means of conveyance at one time in US history, both freight and passenger travel on a daily basis. Some old train stations are preserved in various usage, some standing forlorn and empty such as the one in East Jordan behind the equally moribund East Jordan Cooperative buildings.

Jim, though living in the Lansing area, still traveled north to his old home regularly to reaffirm his beginnings, but though occasionally stopping at the Eagles Club Bar in Boyne made a regular pilgrimage to East Jordan bars, first those now defunct, ultimately The Zone addition to the Gemini Lanes on Main Street. He referred to Boyne City as "Fudgeville" from some point of time around about the era proliferating throughout the 90s with no end in sight considering many McMansions sprouting along the water's edge heading toward Advance, itself

now assuming the same proportions of grandeur. Jim referred to East Jordan as "Mayberry" which we know from Andy Griffith television, Barney Fife and Aunt Bee and all the good country townsfolk. Indeed as Karen relates, Boyne City blossomed into a real gentrified entity replete with a very real fudge outlet as cornerstone at the main intersec-

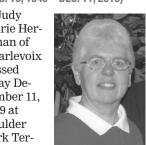
The Howes Leather Company of Boston which purchased the Tannerv, a brokerage with matrix in West Virginia, went broke in 2003. Brick from the Tannery buildings that was sold in the 70s was innocuously used to build local fireplaces and chimneys thereafter, but burning logs warmed the bricks which emitted an animal stench that permeated so noxiously that the brick was soon dismantled. The only vestige of the Tannery surviving in memory was the Tannery Bar on Lake Street which has undergone many incarnations along with the rest of the lakeside.

Mitchell Jon MacKay, East Jordan

Judy Marie Herriman, 79

(DEC. 10, 1940 - DEC. 11, 2019)

Judy Marie Herriman of Charlevoix passed away December 11, 2019 at Boulder Park Ter-



race in Charlevoix, MI, with grandson Ben and granddaughter Mandy at her side. Judy was born December 10, 1940 in Dayton, Ohio the daughter of Joseph Brun and Elizabeth (Evakich) Brun.

Judy graduated from Charlevoix High School in 1959 and then on November 14, 1959 Judy married Nathaniel Herriman at St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlevoix, and they raised their family in Charlevoix.

As a very active member of the Church, Judy volunteered by counting money and helping with luncheons. She also volunteered at the Rainbow Shop in Charlevoix. Judy was fond of puzzles, reading, sitting on her patio, and visiting

with her kids and grandkids. As well as crocheting afghans for her loving grandchildren. She had a tradition of baking Couka at Christmas with her children and grandchildren that will be missed.

Surviving Judy are six children, Joe (Debra) Herriman of Lansing, MI, Sue (Brad) Sweet of East Jordan, MI, Bill (Kristen) Herriman of Charlevoix, MI, Jim (Judy) Herriman of Charlevoix, MI, Mike (Kris) Herriman of Petoskey, MI, and Cindy (Seth) Arnold of Charlevoix, MI. 16 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren, brothers Tom (Karen) Brun, Mike (Donna) Brun, sister Louise Hamlin, brother-in-law Howard (Darlene) Herriman. along with many nieces and nephews. Preceding Judy in death were her parents and husband.

A funeral mass was held Monday, December 16, at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Interment followed in St. Mary Catholic Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1005 Bridge St., Charlevoix, MI 49720.

Arrangements are in the care of the Charlevoix Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes. Sign her online

guestbook www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com

Donald Keith Krusell, 72

OBITUARIES

(JULY 3, 1947 – DEC. 11, 2019)

Donald Keith Krusell of Boyne Falls died December 11, 2019 at his home surrounded by family

and friends. Don was born on July 3, 1947, the son of Charles and Mavis (Stezaker) Krusell. He was raised in Petoskey and graduated from St. Francis Catholic School. Shortly after graduation, Don joined the United States Army and proudly served his country

from 1967 to 1969. Don married Lynda Arman and together they had two daughters, Laura and Brenda. He enjoyed watching NASCAR, and football. In his spare time, Don liked to go 4 wheeling and snowmobiling. Most fall days, Don would be

at his deer camp in Boyne Falls, having a beer around the bonfire with his buddies, doing his favorite thing with his good friends and family.

He was a member of the American Legion and the Fraternal Order of the Eagles in Petoskey and Indian River.

Don is survived by his daughters, Laura (Will) **Hughey of Harbor Springs** and Brenda (Mike) Ford of Harbor Springs; his partner for the past 11 years, Carol Ross; grandchildren, Casey and Austen Hughey and Brendyn Ford; and nephew, Jeremy Krusell.

Don is preceded in death by his parents; and his twin brother, Ronald Krusell.

There will be a memorial service at Stone Funeral Home in Petoskey on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. with a visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. Reverend David Behling will officiate.

Friends and family wishing to make a charitable donation in Don's memory are asked to please consider Brave Hearts Estate, a project of Operation Injured Soldiers, a retreat center for veterans and their families (4171 Ely Road, Pellston, MI 49769).

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News

A New Great Start Collaborative & Parent Coalition initiative encourages parents to engage children in everyday moments. Everyday conversations with young children can have the power to boost their brain and vocabulary development through the simple act of talking. That is the premise behind a new initiative known as "Talking is Teaching," which has launched in the communities of the Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District and throughout the state.

"Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing" is a public awareness and action campaign that empowers parents and caregivers with fun and easy ways to improve their babies' and young children's learning, said Maureen Hollocker, Great Start Collaborative Director, which is leading the regional Talking is Teaching effort. In partnership with Michigan's Department of Education and the Great Start Collaborative & Parent Coalitions, Michigan is the first official "Talking is Teaching" state for this national initiative.

Hollocker said that although the campaigns across Michigan will be unique to each community, each will include three core elements:

- Trusted messengers who have established positive, trusting relationships with parents and are conduits of information and tools.

- High-quality materials and tools, such as tote bags filled with tip sheets, baby clothing, books and more.

- Messages in community spaces and local media, ranging from signage in and around public spaces to local radio ads and social media outreach

"While it may sound simple, we all live busy lives and sometimes are task-oriented rather than conversational with our children," Hollocker said. "Whether you are a parent, caregiver or community member, we all have opportunities to talk with children and this campaign is intended to provide gentle reminders and prompts for conversation."

Numerous studies point to early language exposure being a positive indicator of later developmental growth and achievement. Parents are powerful teachers in their children's lives and they don't have to be early childhood experts to succeed they need only to talk and connect, Hollocker added.

An important part of the Talking is Teaching initiative includes providing concrete supports for families in their daily lives. This is being carried out in the form of Bathtime/Bedtime Literacy Totes and by partnering with laundromats in Charlevoix, Emmet and northern Antrim

TALKING IS TEACHING!



Great Start Parent Coalition parent liaison Jean Faivor is pictured showing a child one of the puppets available for playtime at the Wash Basket in Central Lake. Courtesy photo

counties.

Talking is Teaching Bathtime/Bedtime Literacy Totes are being offered free to parents living in Charlevoix, Emmet and northern Antrim counties with a child younger than one year of age. The tote includes a onesie and bath towel with conversation prompts, a water- and ripproof book and informational leaflets with tips.

"We want parents of babies to realize that it is never too early to talk, read and sing, and these materials empower them to do this during bathtime and bedtime - both opportunities for building a parent-child bond," Hollocker said. (The full contents of the tote can be viewed on the Great Start Collaborative website along with a request link: www.GreatStart-ForKids.com).

Hollocker said laundromats are a natural partner in launching the campaign, "because they are part of many young families' routines, with an average of 2.5 hours spent during each visit." The Great Start Parent Coalition (GSPC) is seeking to change "doing the laundry" from a tedious routine to a fun and educational opportunity instead, she added.

Over the past few years, the GSPC and partners including the Child Abuse Prevention and Education Council (CAPE) have held "Love of Laundry" events at laundromats. These events support families with free coin laundry, healthy snacks, and crafts for children while connecting families with expand this concept, and thanks to grant funds from the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative, the GSPC is now working to create Talking is Teaching Literacy Stations at all local laundromats.

"This initiative is about meeting parents in the everyday spaces where they go with their children, honoring them as their child's first and most important teacher and creating literacy-rich environments that set parents and children up for success" said Great Start Parent Liaison Jean Fajvor

son, Jean Faivor. The GSPC has commitments from three of seven local laundromats and is working to secure more. "We cut the ribbon on Central Lake's Wash Basket laundromat on Dec. 5 and we hope to have East Jordan's Laundry Station and Alanson's Laundry Center set up in early January 2020. Our funds of February, so we are hoping other laundromats will see the value and jump on board to let us install a Talking is Teaching Literacy Station at their business," Faivor

The Great Start Collaborative leaders noted that the concept of combining laundry and literacy is not new and has been tested across the country. A couple key findings include:

- Children were observed engaging in 30 times more literacy activities in laundromats that include the - "Laundry & Literacy" kits compared to laundromats that did not.

- Customers reported high praise for the literacy stations and felt greater loyalty to the laundromat.

"Even for our laundromats that already have a children's 'play area,' with this grant we have the opportunity to transform the space into a robust Talking is Teaching Literacy Station with high-quality materials designed to create a playful, literacy-rich space for young children and families," said Hollocker. "We are excited to see this develop and blossom with use by our families throughout Northern Michigan."

The Great Start Talking is Teaching Bathtime/Bedtime Literacy Totes and Laundromat Talking is Teaching sites in Charlevoix, Emmet & northern Antrim Counties are currently supported by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5), Grant Number 90TP0002, from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



A peek at what is inside of the literacy totes, available for free to parents throughout the Char-Em ISD region with children under age one. Courtesy

Boyne City Superintendent Pat Little Receives a "Highly Effective" Rating



Boyne City Schools Superintendent Pat Little. File photo

The Boyne City
Board of Education
produced the
following statement
regarding Pat Little's
superintendent yearly
evaluation.

The Boyne City School Board held Superintendent Pat Little's evaluation at their regular meeting on Monday, December 9th. The Board unanimously agreed on a "Highly Effective" rating for the four-year employee of the district. This is the third consecutive "Highly Effective" rating for Superintendent Little. "Pat Little's heavy educational experience and motivation for strong academic perform-

ance in all grades focus on our District and the educators on excellence," says Zareena Koch, Board

Secretary. Pat's vision for our District encompasses every child. New initiatives have paid off big for students, such as educational/emotional evaluation for preschoolers to determine progress and program success. This has proven to be an excellent example of his commitment to Boyne City's youngest citizens. Ross McLane, Board Treasurer, described Little as being a "highly professional" leader of our District. Little continues to work closely with the community he serves. "Pat Little is a dedicated and hardworking employee for our District," says Jeff Mercer, Board Vice President. The Board looks forward to working with Little to further the educational opportunities for all students.

TUESDAY – Spin the wheel for a Deal!!!!!

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COLOR!

Leadership travel opportunity for High School Students

High school sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are Great Lakes Energy members are invited to take part in a once-in-a-lifetime leadership travel opportunity in June 2020. From the battlefields of Gettysburg, to the halls of Congress in Washington, D.C., the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour will explore leadership lessons from our nation's history and immerse participants in the cooperative spirit.

Those selected to attend Youth Tour will meet in Portland, MI for orientation, then board a motor coach bound for Washington, D.C. There, they will join other Youth Tour high school students from all over the USA. The Michigan group will make stops to tour the Civil War battlegrounds in Gettysburg, PA, and Fort McHenry in Baltimore, MD—birthplace of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Students will engage in brief lectures with a tour guide at various Washington, D.C. monuments and memorials, and explore several museums of the Smithsonian Institution. They will witness the timehonored changing of the guard ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery,

have a unique opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues with several Michigan Senators and Congressmen on Capitol Hill, and enjoy an evening at a Washington Nationals baseball game.

"Electric co-ops have been sponsoring Youth Tour for over 50 years," says Great Lakes Energy program coordinator Linda Kotzian. "And every year, students returning from Washington, D.C. tell us that the friendships they made and all they experienced together on Youth Tour were life-changing."

Great Lakes Energy is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative utility serving 26 counties throughout western and lower northern Michigan. The co-op sponsors students selected to attend Youth Tour as part of the its ongoing commitment to power communities and improve quality of life for members and their children.

The event takes place June 20-25, 2020. More information and the online application are available at Cooperative Youth Tour.com . Applications must be received by Feb. 28 for consideration **BOYNE CITY**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BOYNE AREA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

December 19. Volunteers are needed for packing and distribution of Boyne Area Community Christmas. Thursday, December 19 at the Boyne City Education Center, 9am to 6pm. Packing of food boxes, 9am to noon with distribution and pick up in the afternoon, 1pm to 6pm. Any length of time that you can help is greatly appreciated - no need to sign up, just show up. The Boyne City Education Center is located at 321 S. Park St., Boyne City.

PETOSKEY

HANDEL'S MESSIAH CONCERT

December 19 & 20, 7pm, Great Lakes Center for the Arts. Featuring Libor Ondras (Music Director) and Karen Hughes Beacom (Chorus Master). Soloists; Karen Hughes Beacom (Soprano), Christine Amon (Mezzo-Soprano), John Bragle (Tenor) and Clay Thompson (Bass). Reserved seating; \$50, \$35 and \$25. Ages 18 and under free. Visit GLCOOrchestra.org or call (231) 487-0010.

CHARLEVOIX **FOOD DRIVE**

December 21, 11am-3pm. The Rotary Club and Charlevoix Charlevoix Rayder Football Team are pairing up to help fight hunger. Rotary will be at in the Oleson's parking lot and the Football team will be in the Family Fare parking lot. Food Drive will benefit the Charlevoix Community Food Pantry. Nonperishable food items and cash donations will be accepted

BOYNE CITY LIFETREE DISCUSSES THE **SPIRIT OF SANTA**

December 22, 6:30pm, The pro-Lifetree Cafe. gram, titled "The Spirit of Santa: The Legend, the Love, the Lowdown," features a filmed interview with Mark and Teresa Mc-Graw, a couple who professionally play the roles of Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. During the interview, the McGraw's explain that they don the costumes and personalities as a way to bring joy to those around them, particularly kids. 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 LESSONS AND CAROLS AT ST. MARY PARISH

December 22, 5pm. St. Mary of the Assumption Church will host "Lessons and Carols" on Sunday, December 1st starting at 5pm. "Lessons and Carols" is a service of Scripture, song and prayer that dates back to the late 19th century. The "Lessons" lead us to reflect upon nine different scriptures that take us from the Book of Genesis and the story of the Fall of Man to the Gospel of Matthew's recording of Jesus's story and his Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is accompanied by a carol and prayer. The service will be followed by an informal reception in the Parish Center. For more information, please call the Parish office: 231-547-6652.

CHARLEVOIX

ELKS CLUB BLOOD DRIVE

December 23, 1-7pm. Season of Giving! The Charlevoix Elks Club is having another community blood drive. It takes place at the lodge located at 12735 US 31 N in their Community Room. We welcome walk-ins and honor appointments. For more information call or visit: 1-866-642-5663 versiti.org.michigan.

IRONTON

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 7pm. Iron-Congregational Church. Looking for an old fashioned Christmas service? One with all your favorite carols and cookies? We invite you to our candlelight Christmas Eve service. Join us in singing trahymns ditional celebrating the birth of the baby Jesus. Fellowship with coffee and cookies before heading back out into the crisp evening air. We look forward to seeing you. We are located at 3805 Washington Street in Ironton.

BOYNE CITY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

December 25, noon-2pm, First Presbyterian Church of Boyne City, 401 S. Park Street. A Free Christmas Dinner for anyone and everyone in the community. Rev. Elizabeth Broschart said, "Boyne City area residents are invited to join us for a Christmas Dinner as we celebrate the birth of Christ and join our hands in fellowship. If you would prefer not to eat alone, please join us. The congregation is cooking a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixin's. The dinner is paid for by contributions from the congregation, the public and local grocery stores. Anyone who would

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like to support the effort may call 231-582-7983. On Christmas Eve, First Presbyterian will have worship at 7pm. They invite you to join them for a service of carols, the Christmas story, Communion, and candlelight. Please use the Pine St. entrance.

EAST JORDAN **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS** DINNER

December 25, 1-3pm, East Jordan United Methodist Church. This free dinner will be served buffet style and features traditional holiday food, complete with ham and turkey, and all the fixings. Please join us for food and fellowship on Christmas Day at the United Methodist Church, 201 Fourth St. Take out will be available. Please call 536-2161 for more information.

BOYNE CITY FRESHWATER CONCERT; **WILLIAM RAVEAU**

December 27, 7pm, Freshwater Gallery & Concert Venue. William Raveau is a Boyne City High School graduate now performing and residing in New York City. During his time in Boyne City, he was seen as Baby John in West Side Story, Nicely-Nicely Johnson in Guys and Dolls, Sid Sorokin in The Pajama Game, The Man in the Chair in several Boyne Meets Broadways, among other roles at the Little Traverse Civic Theatre and Bay View Music Festival. Tickets for his Boyne City concert start at \$15 and can be purchased by emailing williamboynecityconcert@gmail.com. This concert is part of a fundraising effort for Raveau's upcoming album, and is not part of the winter concert series produced by Freshwater.

BOYNE CITY PERSONAL TRAGEDIES EXPLORED

December 29, 6:30pm, Lifetree Cafe. The Lifetree event, titled "Why, God? When Personal Tragedy Doesn't Make Sense," features an original film depicting the true story of Thomas Vander Woude. who found his son struggling for his life after a backyard accident. Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Lifetree Café is in the First Presbyterian Boyne City. Use the Pine St. entrance.

BOYNE CITY JOSHUA DAVIS TRIO AT FRESHWATER GALLERY

December 28, 8pm. Many of you know Josh from his appearance as a

finalist on season 8 of NBC's The Voice. This will be his third appearance on the Freshwater stage in the past eleven years. It's always fun, always a packed house and we're looking forward to a great show. He's bringing his trio to light up the night.

We hope you can join us. Tickets; \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Call soon to reserve; 231-582-2588

CHARLEVOIX BEACH BASH

December 30, 6-8pm, Charlevoix Community Pool. Celebrate with family and friends at the Pool. It's cold outside, but not on the Pool deck! Grab your swimsuits, lounge poolside, toss some beach balls, and soak in the hot tub. Two slices of pizza, refreshments and goody bags provided. \$6 per student or adult (swimmers and nonswimmers). Children 3 and under are FREE! Reservations required (75 people max.). Call the Pool today to ensure your 231.547.0982, or register online at www.charlevoixpool.org.

CHARLEVOIX

8TH ANNUAL BRIDGE DROP December 31, starting at 1pm. Celebrate your New Year in Charlevoix. there will be a variety of both family friendly and adult foevents hosted cused throughout downtown. There will be horse drawn wagon rides on the corner of Bridge and Mason, s'mores, hot cocoa and a snow sculpture contest in East Park. Charlevoix Cinema III will be playing a free movie, Lego Movie 2, beginning at 4:30pm. All the events are leading up to two world class fireworks shows beginning at 9pm followed by a final firework display at midnight. Come out and enjoy a one-of-a-kind event only in Charlevoix.

CHARLEVOIX **NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH AT CASTLE FARMS**

December 31. Roar into the 20's at Castle Farms! Dance all night with DJ Casey Rusch from Rusch Entertainment. Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and desserts with a chocolate fountain! A cash bar will be serving classic cocktails, beer and wine. Make sure fits for a chance to win great prizes for best costume, couples costume and best jazz cats (dancing pair). Also capture fun memories with the Magic Mirror Photo Booth. You must be 21+ and present a valid ID at the door. Ticket information at www.castlefarms.com

BOYNE CITY ANNUAL CHAMBER AWARDS

GALA January 16, 5:30pm, Boyne Mountain Civic Center. Presenting sponsor for the gala will be Korthase-Flinn Insurance and Financial Services. In addition to the presentation of awards to community leaders and the installation of chamber board members, the event will feature a buffet dinner, cash bar, bucket raffles and a live auction. Tickets are

Bucket raffles will be held for great prize packages with 10 tickets available for \$25. There will also be a raffle with \$10 tickets for a Yeti Cooler full of spirits and goodies, sponsored by Boyne City Hardware. The Live Auction is sponsored by Boyne Mountain. Ticket info at www.boynechamber.com

CHARLEVOIX LIVE FROM CHARLEVOIX PRESENTS THREE MEN AND A

TENOR January 18, 8-10pm Charlevoix Cinema III. THREE MEN and a TENOR has regularly sold-out shows at performing arts centers, theatres, and festivals and fairs for over 25 years with a powerful blend of vocal harmonies and feel-good music for all ages. information visit http://livefromcharlevoix.co

EAST JORDAN ANNUAL CHAMBER MEETING/DINNER AUCTION

January 25, 5:30-9:30pm, Castle Farms. The East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce will hold it's annual Meeting/Dinner/Auction at Castle Farms. Everyone is welcome to attend, RSVP to the Chamber Office to reserve your seat. Seating is limited. Auction items are always appreciated and welcome. Contact the Chamber Office to arrange pick-up. Call (231) 536-7351 or email info@ejchamber.org

BOYNE CITY FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays, 8am - Noon. The market has moved indoors to the lobby of Boyne City Hall. Packed full of beautiful produce, greens, homemade goodies and so much more. The Market is also working with the support of Blissfest and Grain Train to continue to provide talented local musicians for your listening pleasure as you shop. For more information on the market, visit the Boyne City Farmers Market Facebook page or email farmersmarket@boynecity.com

NORTHERN MICHIGAN **LEADERSHIP TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

High school sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are Great Lakes Energy members are invited to take part in a once-in-a-lifetime leadership travel opportunity in June 2020. From the battlefields of Gettysburg, to the halls of Congress in Washington, D.C., the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour will explore leadership lessons from our nation's history and immerse participants in the cooperative spirit. The event takes place June 20-25, 2020. More information and the online application are available at CooperativeYouthTour.com. Applications must be received by Feb. 28 for consid-

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

BOYNE CITY KINDER CLOSET

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 "Know Your Numbers" log to track progress. A Registered Nurse will adapt health consultation and educational materials

to individual results. Walk-

ins only, no appointment reauired.

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

BOYNE CITY

FREE COFFEE, DOUGHNUTS & **LUNCH FOR VETERANS**

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

CHARLEVOIX

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

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

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

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

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

BOYNE CITY

BOYNE DISTRICT LIBRARY PROGRAMS

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

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

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

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

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News

Taylor Malpass named East Jordan DDA Coordinator

Taylor Malpass will be joining the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance (NLEA) team serving as the East Jordan Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Coordinator. In that role she will work closely with the City of East Jordan and DDA Board of Directors to implement the many exciting projects and initiatives in the DDA annual work plan. Taylor will begin her duties on January 6, 2020.

"It's great partnering with the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance for this service. We are excited to welcome Taylor to East Jordan and the DDA," said Tom Cannon, East Jordan City Manager. "We were very impressed during the interview process. The NLEA received several good applications; however Taylor's experience, personality and commitment to our community really stood out."

"Taylor will be a great addition to the team and I've enjoyed getting to know her. She's committed to the area and the East Jordan community. East Jordan has some exciting opportunities ahead and Taylor's experience and enthusiasm will be perfect,' stated Andy Hayes, NLEA

Taylor grew up in Southern California and graduated from California State University Fullerton with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and a Master's in Public Administration. Tay-



Taylor Malpass will be joining the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance (NLEA) team serving as the East Jordan Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Coordinator. Courtesy photo

lor spent six years working for Orange County beginning her career in the County Treasurer-Tax Collectors office, then transitioning to Public Works where she served as the Administrative Policy Manager. She was responsible for ensuring all contracts and policy-related items abided by

state and federal government code, as well as met all County requirements. She was the liaison for Public Works with the Board of Supervisors and other county departments working with appointed and elected officials on project and contractual matters. In 2018, she moved to East Jordan, where she and her husband enjoy being active with their family and friends.

Taylor volunteers as a Board member for Communities in Schools and owns Iron Goat Coffee in downtown East Jordan. After obtaining her degrees and working for a large county, Taylor developed a broad understanding of municipal government. Her experience with large-scale projects combined with her desire to build meaningful relationships will bring new perspectives to the DDA and will help guide her in this new endeavor as she seeks to leverage her past experiences, while effectively meeting the needs of the community she lives in and cares about.

In talking with her several references there was a common theme about how capable, personable, and professional Taylor is. Some comments included:

'She is one of the most phenomenal people I know."

"Is an asset to any community or organization." 'Wow!... Lucky you! Con-

grats to you all for hiring 'She wore many hats, is a

great role model and mentor. I learned a lot from her."

"She can relate to and communicate with people of all positions and backgrounds, very personable and professional."

Congratulations to Taylor

East Jordan is financially

EAST JORDAN CITY COMMISSION MEETING, DECEMBER 17, 2019

healthy according to audit

BY KAREN WALKER

In a presentation to East Jordan City Commissioners at their regular meeting Tuesday, Dec. 17th Doug Welton from the Kincheloe based accounting firm Anderson, Tackman & Company reviewed the City's financial audit for the 2018/2019 fiscal year. With a total net position of over than \$14 million, the audit indicates that the City of East Jordan is financially healthy. Net position is determined by taking all the City's assets and subtracting all the City's liabilities. East Jordan's net position increased by about \$1.7 million

over fiscal year 2017/2018. In a five year analysis of the City's general fund balance, the primary operating fund for the City, Mr. Welton explained the City's fund balance has had a steadily increasing trend. At the end of the 2018/2019 fiscal year, the City's fund balance was \$328,705 compared to \$234,876 at the end of the 2014/2015fiscal year.

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, January 21, 2020. The meeting scheduled for January 7th has been cancelled.



EJ Lions Club donates to Care & Share food pantry

East Jordan Lions Club held their annual Christmas Dinner and live action at the Jordan Inn December 2nd. Lions Club members and special guests raised \$1,500 in the auction which was donated to the East Jordan Care & Share Food Pantry. Pictured are Sherry Pursel, Lions Cub Treasurer and Kathy Reed, Executive Director of the Care & Share Food Pantry. Courtesy photo



Boyne Falls Public Schools

STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Alexis Loudner

Grade: 3rd

Parent's Name(s): Danielle and Jacob Ormsbee

What do you want to be when you grow up?: Lexi wants to be a police officer when she grows up, so she can save the world!

Favorite Book: Lexi likes to read the Dogman series. She just finished reading <u>Dogman Unleashed</u>.

Hobbies and Interests: She enjoys ice skating, playing with hamsters, building things with Legos, and playing basketball.

School Activities: In school, Lexi's favorite subject is reading. She also enjoys gym class. Lexi participates in the grade school basketball program as well.

Staff Comments: Lexi has been a great addition to our 3rd grade classroom and the Boyne Falls School Family! She always follows the Logger Agreement. She is kind to everyone and always gives her best effort in all subjects. Lexi has a great future in our school. We can't wait to see everything she accomplishes. You make us proud, Lexi, keep up the great work!

Submitted By: Mrs. Meier

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BOYNE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT REPORT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Citizen assist in the 1109 500 block of S Park St. 1440

iPhone Retail Fraud in the 1632 400 block of N Lake St. Located and arrested suspect. 1733 Juvenile complaint on Smith St.

2256 Arrested subject for Domestic Assault in the 500 block of Hannah St.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 0530

Report of a Facebook post that seemed concerning. 0949 Vehicle unlock in

the 400 block of N Lake St 1238 Motor Vehicle inspection.

1500 Suspicious situation reported in the 1000 block of Boyne Av

Assist Sheriff Dept. with an alarm activation on M-75 S.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

0800 Property damage crash at Boyne Ave. and Brockway St.

Vehicle unlock in 1210 the 1300 block of Boyne Av 1444 Report of possible violation of no contact order on Hannah St.

Suspicious subjects in the 1000 block of Boyne Αv

2027 Civil complaint reported at the Police Dept. 2102 Vehicle unlock in the 100 block of E Water St. 2217 Fraudulent activity reported from Jefferson St.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 0641 Alarm in the 200

block of S Lake St

911 hang up in the 900 block of Brockway St. Request for civil standby on Hannah St. Vehicle unlock in the 400 block of N Lake St.

2309 Alarm in the 700 block of Front St.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 Assist EMS in the 400 block of North St. 1040 Report of vehicles parking on the street overnight at the west end of Elm St

Suspicious activity 2001 on W Main St 2210 Assist Sheriff Dept. with vehicle in ditch on M75

N and Old 75 Loop. 2222 Vehicle unlock in the 200 block of S Lake St **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**

Parking complaint

at the high school. 1302 Civil standby requested on Hannah St. 1407 Civil standby re-

quested on Hannah St. 2120 Assist Sheriff Dept. in Walloon.

Juvenile complaint 2144 on Smith St.

SUNDAY. DECEMBER 8

0312 Assist MSP with traffic stop at Pleasant Ave and Trent St.

1115 Foot patrol in the central business district. Report of a possible intoxicated driver on M75 S coming in to the city Unable to locate.

2159 PPO violation reported from Smith St.

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SUPER SANTA!

BY JIM AKANS

Santa Claus is truly an amazing fellow. Visiting an estimated 400 million eager children across the globe who celebrate the Christmas holiday, Santa has his work cut out for him during the eve of the big day. Yet for centuries Kris Kringle, St. Nicholas, Father Christmas or simply, Santa Claus, has successfully filled the stockings and stuffed presents under the trees of all good girls and boys during one very long night.

Here are some "fascinating facts" about just how incredible Santa's Christmas Eve journey is. While these are estimated guesses, you'll get the idea:

- With about 2 billion children in the world, and estimating 15-percent of those celebrating Christmas, Santa visits nearly 380 million children, or, at about 3.5 kids per household; over 100 million homes.

- His approximately 31 hour trip (time zone changes extend his work hours a bit), there are about 900 visits per second. This works out to onethousandth of a second per household. No wonder children who stay up late never seem to catch him visiting their house.

- Santa's sleigh moves very quickly. Using some very rough math (even the experts don't know exactly how Santa does this) the journey covers around 75 million miles. That puts that reindeer propelled craft at a whopping speed of 650 miles per second. Rock on Rudolph!

- Let's talk cargo. Put-



WIKIMEDIA PHOTO.

ting each gift at an average of two pounds (what the heck), we are looking at 380 tons of gleaming, glittering toys and stocking stuffers packed for the trip. Mary Poppins' magic travel bag has nothing on

And of course there is the milk and cookie diet Santa craves. Let's go back to that 900 visits per second estimate. Santa never seems to drink all the milk or eat all of the cookies at each home...he really doesn't have the time. We'll give him two ounces of milk and one-quarter of a cookie at each stop. My calculation puts his milk consumption at around 28 gallons per second. We'll just call it a LOT of cook-

As I mentioned above, the arithmetic is all relative here. There are years when there are more good children to visit, seasons when the popular gift weighs a bit more or less, pit stops along the way (don't forget he drinks tons of milk)...but the bottom line is clear; Santa is a super duper kind of guy.

Celebrate the Christmas Spirit

BY JIM AKANS

When Andy Williams voice rings out the lines of the Christmas classic, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," there is no mistaking the heartfelt joy and elation he feels embracing the Christmas spirit. As with many holiday song and movie classics; the words, sentiments and message invigorates the spirit and kindles those feelings that it's okay to share a smile, a laugh, hold open a door for a stranger, and extend those simple gestures of

The Christmas spirit is a testament that even amid the fast-paced, electronic networking, media centered era we live in there remains a collective longing for the fellowship, compassion and love the Christmas season brings to light every December. For a while it's okay to look up from that phone or tablet and experience a world that focuses on giving to others. It's a time to appreciate community in what's become a much too global world.

For that's what the spirit of Christmas is about. It is a celebration of the birth and love of Jesus Christ. A time for reflection, gathering together with friends and loved ones, giving from the heart and reveling in the excitement of see-



Celebrate the Christmas spirit! Wikipedia Commons file.

ing others receive. It is about hugs, stories and remembrances, comforting hearts and sharing dreams.

It is most certainly about the children who sense the Christmas spirit on a whole different level. There is simply no joy grander than seeing the beaming faces of children on Christmas morning. They see grown-ups also regain a sparkle in their eyes.

The Christmas spirit can also be felt where people

gather together for parades, tree lighting ceremonies, Main Street celebrations, holiday concerts and plays, in churches and at candlelight services. The message is clear; love and cherish one another regardless of our differ-

Celebrate the Christmas spirit. We all share this earthly real estate and at Christmas we are reminded that we travel spaceship Earth together, so let's enjoy the

journey. Take to heart that this truly is "the hap-happiest season of all."

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful." Norman

Vincent Peale "One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day. Don't clean it up too quickly." Andy Rooney

Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS FUN FACTS Why is Jesus' birth celebrated

Son of God was born in Bethlehem but probably in spring

on December 25?

There are some famous people who are born on Christmas day, including Sir Isaac Newton in the year 1642, the actor Humphrey Bogart (1899), Rod Serling (1924), Jimmy Buffett (1946) and a pair of NFL Hall of Famers, Ken "Snake" Stabler (1945)

and Larry Csonka (1946). But there is one person we can definitively say was not born on December 25 and that is Jesus. How do we know this? Because the clues we're given in the gospels indicate that Jesus would likely have been born in spring or fall because that is when shepherds were in the field watching

their flocks by night. So how is that we celebrate the birth of the Son of God on the 25th of December each year? In the year 335 A.D. that Dec. 25 date was chosen by the Roman Emperor Constantine because on the same day the pagan festival Saturnalia was celebrated revolving around the Winter Solstice and the "birth" of a new year. The date for the birth of Jesus caught on and that is how Christians around the world began to celebrate the birth of the Savior on Dec. 25.

Another interesting fact about Christmas is that there really was a Saint Nicholas. He was the Fourth Century Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (present day Turkey), a godly man known for his charity and good deeds, particularly to children.

According to legend, there was a widower in Myra who

had three daughters for whom he could not provide a dowry. The story goes that Saint Nicholas surreptitiously threw three bags of gold into the fireplace chimney one Christmas Eve and the gold landed into the stockings drying by the fire. Thus began the tradition of putting presents into Christmas stockings. (And, of course, for Christians around the world the giving of gifts each December reflects the manner in which the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, came into the world and gave Himself as redeemer for the sins of mankind.)

Here are some other interesting facts and trivia about Christmas:

• The traditional three colors of Christmas are green, red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the

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blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty, represents Christ. The "two turtledoves" represent the Old and New Testaments.

 Although many believe the Friday after Thanksgiving is the busiest shopping day of the year, it is not. It is the fifth to tenth busiest day. The Friday and Saturday before Christmas are the two busiest shopping days of the year.

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

• When "A Charlie Brown Christmas" first aired on December 9, 1965, executives at CBS thought it would be a disaster. There was a battle pitched to remove the quotation of the Bible by Linus from the animation but Charles Schulz, the creator of the comic strip, was adamant that it remained because the whole them of the program was the real meaning of Christmas. Schulz won out, happily, and the cartoon became an instant hit, still shown every December more than five decades later.

 Other popular Christmas specials that have stood the test of time include How the

Grinch Stole Christmas; Santa Claus is Coming to Town; Frosty the Snowman; and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeeer.

• In 1843, Charles Dickens wrote "A Christmas Carol" in

just six weeks. • Christmas trees have been

sold in the U.S. since 1850. · Christmas trees usually grow for about 15 years before

they are sold. · Christmas became a national holiday in America on June, 26, 1870.

· Each year more than 3 billion Christmas cards are sent in the U.S. alone.

• All the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas would equal 364 gifts. • The word Christmas is

from Old English, a contraction of Christ's Mass

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

· Rudolph" was actually created by Montgomery Ward in the late 1930s for a holiday promotion. The rest is his-

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

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

—Compiled by Mike Dunn

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