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The Dogman Challenge Fat Bike Race is February 22 in Charlevoix

Revolution Bike in Charlevoix is proud to host the 8th Annual Dogman Challenge Fat Bike Race with the support of Bickersteth Brown & Associates, The City of Charlevoix, and Visit Charlevoix. The Dogman is the 4th race of the 2020 Short's Brewing Fat Bike Series which includes 5 races in northern lower Michigan.

The event is on tap for Saturday, February 22 beginning with a mass start at noon on top of the bunny hill at Mt McSauba in Charlevoix. Riders will race Fat Bikes on a one-point-eight mile loop through the trails of Mt McSauba and North Point Nature Preserve.



The Dogman Challenge Race begins with a mass start at noon on top of the bunny hill at Mt McSauba. Courtesy photo.

The riders to complete the most laps in two hours are the

champions and will be awarded one-of-a-kind Dog-

man medals and cash prizes. Medals and prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in the Men and Women's Open and Master 45+ divisions. The after party and awards ceremony will be held at the ski lodge beginning at 4pm.

Not a competitor? Not a problem. The course is spectator friendly. There will be fire pits, s'mores, and excitement galore, so we hope that you are able to come out and watch these amazing athletes com-



pete. Spectators can get in out of the cold and watch the action unfold from the upper level of the ski lodge. It's a great day to bring the family to Mt. McSauba to watch an extreme sporting event and/or partake in some fantastic skiing, sledding, skating, or snowboarding.

For more information or to register to for the race, contact Revolution Bike at 231-237-0900 or visit www.dogmanchallenge.net.

East Jordan "Sno-Blast" festival

The 39th Annual East Jordan Sno-Blast Winter Festival scheduled for February 21-23, promises to offer fun for the entire family. For the outdoor enthusiasts the festival will feature the popular Blessing of the sleds and ORV's, Antique and Classic Snowmobile Show, a snowmobile safari ride open to all types of snowmobiles, snow sculpture contest, an ORV fun obstacle course & weight pull, The TNT Ride Like A Girl To Save The Girls Bikini Radar Run, snowmobile Radar Runs, Sno-Mobilers delicious Bean Pot.

For the non-outdoor winter fans there are many fun event to beach Cabin Fever, the Grand Story Hour and Craft, Taco Dinner, Euchre Tournament, Kids Coloring Contest for children 0-11 year's old, Belle of the Blizzard and Winter Knight competition and a Sno-Lovers Breakfast at the East Jordan Sno-Mobilers Clubhouse on Sunday to wrap-up the long running winter festival.

If you haven't visited East Jordan recently, be sure to put our community on your destination visit list. The town is undergoing a rejuvenation of new businesses and community spirit. There are several opportunities for new businesses and services for entrepreneurs.

For more information about Sno-Blast, contact the East Jordan Chamber at 231-536-7351 or visit www.ejchamber.org or check out EastJordanSnoBlast on Facebook.

39TH ANNUAL SNO-BLAST SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Note: some events are dependent on weather conditions



Vintage snowmobiles will be on display on Saturday at the East Jordan Sno-Mobilers Club House, located on Mt. Bliss



Don't miss the Bean Pot at the East Jordan Sno-Mobilers Club. Courtesy photo

tions

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

(East Jordan Sno-Mobilers Club House, Mt. Bliss Rd.)
4:30 – 8 PM; ORV Club Taco Dinner – Enjoy 2 tacos, chips, dessert & beverage. \$7 adults, \$5 seniors & children (10 & under, 1 taco, chips, dessert & drink) Proceeds to

benefit ORV safety class. 5:30 PM; Crowning of Winter Knight & Belle of the Blizzard (@ ORV Taco Super-Sno-Mobile Club) 6PM; Snowmobile Safari Ride – Leave the Snowmobile Club House and ride thru the Jordan Valley and back for a hot dog roast.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

(Sno-Mobilers Club House, Mt. Bliss Rd.)

9 AM – 1 PM; Classic & Antique Snowmobile Show

9 AM – 9:45 AM; ORV Obstacle Course Registration

10 AM; Blessing of the Sleds & ORV's

10:30 AM; ORV Fun Run – Timed FUN course \$5 per run, door prize drawings. (18 years old and up)

12 PM; TNT Ride Like A Girl To Save The Girls Bikini Radar Run

1 PM – 3 PM; Snowmobile Radar Runs. Pay \$10 and run your sled as many times as you want against the radar machine. Challenge your friends to see who can get the best time. Everyone registered will be entered to win cash prize drawings throughout the event. Riders must be 18 years of age or older.

All Day; Concessions and Bean Pot at the Club House

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

(Locations around town)

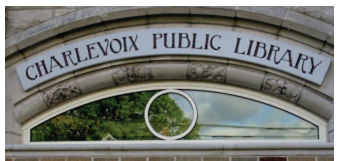
11 AM; Grand Story Hour – Family Story Time with Luanne Reed, Refreshments. Location & Sponsor & Location: Books N' Things

6:00 PM; Sno-Blast Euchre Tournament – Location: The Zone. \$20 per person. Must Pre-Register (limited space) Call 231-350-1773

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

(East Jordan Sno-Mobilers Club House, Mt. Bliss Rd)

7 AM – Noon; Sno-Lovers Breakfast "The Works" Pancakes, bacon, sausage, potatoes, and Eggs: \$7 Adults, \$5 Kids 10 & under



Electrical fire results in water damage at Charlevoix Public Library

BY JIM AKANS

This past weekend a small electrical fire at the Charlevoix Public Library caused the interior sprinkler system to activate. The library experienced some water damage, which resulted in the temporary closure of the facility.

As of this past Tuesday, the following areas remained closed:

- Teen Room
- Conversation Area
- Hallway upstairs by the Director's Office

Library Facilities Manager, Ryan Deery, noted that they did not experience damage to books and the bulk of the technical equipment was unharmed.

Deery stated, "Ninety-five percent of the library is open. Most of the library was unaffected. Dehumidifying and drying equipment is in place and we hope to be back to normal soon. We feel very fortunate there was minimal damage."

For updates, please visit www.charlevoixlibrary.org or call the Library at (231) 547-2651.

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NCMC announces new degree completion initiatives

North Central Michigan College is implementing a series of new initiatives, each focused on students' degree-completion. Accelerated 7-week courses, multiple scholarship cycles, Academic Forgiveness give students more options. North Central will offer 7-week accelerated courses beginning with the Summer 2020 semester, allowing students to complete courses in less than half the time. Summer semester will be comprised of four separate terms: a standard, 15-week term, an 8-week term and two 7-week terms. Students will have the flexibility to enroll in any or all of the terms depending on their

schedule. "This format will be beneficial for our students who are working and need the flexibility of choosing either an earlier or later start date," said Joseph Balinski, North Central's registrar. "Giving students more options allows them to better balance their other commitments, and shorter terms are great for students who want to remain on track—or better yet, ahead of schedule—during their educational journey." The change to accelerated semesters also necessitates a change to the add/drop period. Students will have one week to add and drop courses, a departure from

the two-week drop period during prior semesters. Courses dropped during this one-week period will be eligible for a 90% refund, Balinski said. "Students will need to pay close attention to semester start and end dates as well as the refund deadlines," he said. "Our advisors are always happy to answer any questions, and we'll work hand-in-hand with students to ensure that registration is seamless." Both the summer and fall course schedules are available on the college's website, www.ncmich.edu, beginning February 17, and registration for courses opens on March 11.

North Central will switch from one yearlong scholarship application cycle to three application cycles effective February 2020. The first application cycle runs February 1 – April 15 for scholarships to be awarded for the Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 semesters. Round two opens July 1 and runs through August 31 for scholarships to be awarded for the Fall 2020 semester. Round three runs October 1 – November 30 for scholarships to be awarded for the Winter 2021 semester. "The change from one to three application cycles will allow us to distribute scholarship funds more equitably throughout the year," said

Virginia Panoff, director of Financial Aid. "Students who decide late in the summer to attend North Central beginning in the fall will not be at a disadvantage relative to students who applied for scholarships earlier in the year." Students who apply but are not awarded a scholarship must reapply during the next application cycle to be considered. A list of available scholarships and eligibility criteria is available on North Central's website. A new policy approved in January is written for previous North Central students who want to return to college but need a fresh start. Academic Forgiveness al-

lows students to return to North Central with better academic standing by removing the effect of up to 12 semester hours from a cumulative grade-point average. "As long as those classes are not required in your degree program, we won't hold them against you," said Renee DeYoung, vice president of Student Affairs. "We want to see students return to North Central and succeed academically, and this is another potential barrier we can remove." The Academic Forgiveness policy, including requirements for eligibility, is available on North Central's website.


Keegan Malpass achieves LSSU Dean's List



Keegan Malpass achieved the Lake Superior State University's Dean's List for the fall semester. To make the Dean's List a student must achieve a minimum of a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Keegan is the daughter of Brenda and Tad Malpass of East Jordan. She plays on the school Varsity tennis team, is Treasurer of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Congratulations Keegan! Courtesy photo.




Pictured Left To Right: Gerard Doan-Charlevoix Chief of Police, Don McMullen-Charlevoix EMS Director, Mark Greyerbiehl-ACE Hardware, Douglas Bergmann-Bergmann Marine, Abe Manthei-Manthei Development Corp., Jeff Stevens-Charlevoix EMS Professional, Mike Hinkle-Charlevoix State Bank. Courtesy photo



Boyne Falls Public Schools

STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Emery Smith

Grade: Kindergarten
Parent's Name(s): Shelby Pedigo and Kirk Smith
What do you want to be when you grow up?: Emery wants to be a teacher when she grows up.
Favorite Book: Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late, by, Mo Willems
Hobbies and Interests: Emery likes playing games at home with her little sister.
School Activities: Emery loves Center time at school.
Staff Comments: I am so happy to have Emery in my Kindergarten Class. Emery is kind to her peers and is always willing to help. She follows the Logger Agreement every day and always encourages others to do the same! Emery works hard, tries her best and she always uses her stamina. I am so proud of Emery!
Submitted By: Mrs. Riccinto

Charlevoix City EMS equipment upgrades

Recently, the Charlevoix City EMS Department needed to upgrade and replace some of its CPR and AED training equipment. Four area businesses stepped up to make this happen. ACE Hardware, Bergmann Marine, Charlevoix State Bank

and Manthei MDC Contracting, all helped fund the purchase of the new Equipment. EMS Director Don McMullen commented "this equipment isn't just used to train emergency and health-care professionals. The department also provides

training to local groups and residents." Mike Hinkle of Charlevoix State Bank agreed, commenting that "EMT Professional Jeff Stevens has done a great job working with Charlevoix Public Schools to ensure that all athletic coaches are CPR

certified as required by MHSAA guidelines." If you or your organization has a need for CPR or AED education please contact EMS Director Don McMullen at 231-547-3279.

Headlands, NOMAC plan path forward

Emmet County officials met Tuesday with Northern Michigan Astronomy Club (NOMAC) vice-president Rod Cortright to discuss a path moving forward for the group's continued involvement at the county's Headlands International Dark Sky Park. County commissioners reached out to Cortright following a story last week on NOMAC's disappointment with the county's allocation of some funds it had received after the dissolution of the Dark Sky Coast Association. NOMAC had engaged in discussions in 2018 and early 2019 with county officials on how those funds should be spent on equipment to improve the night sky viewing experience for the thousands of visitors to the Headlands each year. When the new parks department director, Ryan Bauman, was hired in July 2019,

he was not aware of the extent of the earlier discussions with NOMAC. Having been tasked with finding more ways to generate revenue at the parks, Bauman put a focus on updating the house near the Headlands' entrance. The house had been rented for many years by the park manager until September 2018. Efforts had been ongoing since that time to make repairs and improvements so the house could again bring in revenue as a rental, but from guests rather than a park caretaker. "It definitely wasn't my intention to upset NOMAC's members. When the winter hit, we got focused on other projects to prepare us for the upcoming busy season and we didn't fully appreciate the earlier plans that had been discussed with NOMAC," Bauman said. "I'm glad we've had the opportunity to sit down with them and find a

solution. Their expertise and help on our observing nights at the Headlands have been invaluable and park visitors from around the country have told us, and posted comments on social media, how their experience here inspired them." County staff reopened communication lines earlier this week with members of NOMAC, who serve as NASA Solar System Ambassadors, and the two sides worked together to decide on and purchase new telescopes and related items. With NOMAC'S guidance, over \$7800 was invested from funds left in the Dark Sky Coast Association's dissolution as well as park department funds budgeted for equipment. "We're happy the communication is flowing again and we can look forward to working together to make the experience visitors have at the

Headlands an unforgettable one," said Bryan Shumaker, president of NOMAC. "Our conversations have us excited about what we're going to be able to offer visitors this year." Acting county administrator Mike Reaves agreed. "Though this situation was brought to my attention in the first week after being appointed to this position, I'm proud of how quickly our staff worked to find a solution that puts everyone back on the same team dedicated to providing a memorable experience at the Headlands." Those interested in the events and programs at the Headlands are encouraged to follow the park on Facebook for news, photos, and links to information about the importance of protecting our dark skies.



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News

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Check boxes on tax forms to prevent child abuse, help foster youth go to college

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) reminds Michiganders when filing state income taxes that they can check boxes on the forms to prevent child abuse and help children in foster care go to college.

The checkoff boxes allow taxpayers to donate \$5, \$10 or more to these causes. One is to donate to the child abuse prevention efforts of the Children's Trust Fund and the other is to contribute to the Fostering Futures Scholarship for youth who have

experienced foster care. These options can be found on both the online and paper versions of the Voluntary Contribution Schedule Form 4642.

"MDHHS is committed to preventing child abuse and neglect, and to supporting youth who have experienced foster care pursue their dream of a college education," said JooYeun Chang, executive director of the department's Children's Services Agency. "Protecting and caring for our children is everyone's business. We ap-

preciate the generosity of Michigan taxpayers who step up to prevent children from being abused or neglected and assist children who have been maltreated in pursuing their higher education dreams."

The Children's Trust Fund serves as a voice for Michigan's children and families and promotes their health, safety and welfare by funding more than 100 local programs and services statewide that help prevent child abuse and neglect, including home visitation, cri-

sis nurseries, parent support/education and personal safety.

The Children's Trust Fund relies heavily on donations through the state income tax campaign to fund direct service and local prevention programs across Michigan that make child abuse prevention programming possible in all 83 counties across Michigan.

The Michigan Education Trust (MET) is part of the Michigan Department of Treasury and administers the Fostering Futures Scholarship in partnership with

MDHHS. Scholarship awards are paid to Michigan degree-granting colleges or universities where eligible students are enrolled to assist with tuition, fees, room, board, books and supplies. Close to 13,000 children are in the Michigan foster care system at any given time.

Since 2012, fundraising efforts have totaled more than \$1.3 million. In 2019 enough money was raised from the tax checkoff, fundraising events and other efforts to provide scholarships to more than 540 youth.

Michigan income tax forms are available on the website for the Michigan Department of Treasury.

For more information about the Children's Trust Fund, how to contribute and the tax campaign, visit www.michigan.gov/CTF.

For more information about the Fostering Futures Scholarship and how to contribute, go to www.Fostering-Futures-mi.com.

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How To Prepare Your House For Sale

PART 3

8. MAKE THE HOUSE SPARKLE.

- Wash windows inside and out.
- Rent a pressure washer and spray down sidewalks and exterior.
- Clean out cobwebs.
- Re-caulk tubs, showers and sinks.
- Polish chrome faucets and mirrors.
- Clean out the refrigerator.
- Vacuum daily.
- Wax floors.
- Dust furniture, ceiling fan blades and light fixtures.
- Bleach dingy grout.
- Replace worn rugs.
- Hang up fresh towels.
- Bathroom towels look great fastened with ribbon and bows.
- Clean and air out any musty smelling areas.
- Odors are a no-no.

9. SCRUTINIZE.

- Go outside and open your front door. Stand there. Do you want to go inside? Does the house welcome you?
- Linger in the doorway of every single room and imagine how your house will look to a buyer.
- Examine carefully

how furniture is arranged and move pieces around until it makes sense.

Make sure window coverings hang level.

Tune in to the room's statement and its emotional pull. Does it have impact and pizzazz?

Does it look like nobody lives in this house? You're almost finished.

10. CHECK CURB APPEAL.

- If a buyer won't get out of her agent's car because she doesn't like the exterior of your home, you'll never get her inside.
- Keep the sidewalks cleared.
- Mow the lawn.
- Paint faded window trim.
- Plant yellow flowers or group flower pots together. Yellow evokes a buying emotion.
- Marigolds are inexpensive.
- Trim your bushes.
- Make sure visitors can clearly read your house number.

Tips on Dealing with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)

It's that time of year again. People living in Northern Michigan get less light this time of year and for many people, seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is an unwelcome part of the winter months. SAD is a type of depression that researchers think is caused by changes in the level of exposure to sunlight. Signs and symptoms of SAD are the same as for major depression. However, with SAD, these signs and symptoms appear in the winter and fall months, and disappear in the spring and summer.

According to Nina Martenson, Charlevoix County Center Supervisor of North Country Community Mental Health, the main symptom is a sad, despairing mood that is present most of the day, nearly every day. "Usually, the symptoms last for more than two weeks and get in the

way of the person's functioning at work, at school or in social relationships."

Other symptoms of depression include:

- Changes in appetite and weight, usually eating more and craving carbohydrates
- Changes in sleep, usually sleeping too much
- Marked loss of interest or pleasure in activities once enjoyed
- Withdrawal from family members and friends
- Feeling useless, hopeless, excessively guilty, pessimistic or having low self-esteem
- Agitation or feeling slowed down
- Irritability
- Loss of energy or fatigue despite increased sleep hours
- Trouble concentrating, remembering and making decisions
- Crying easily or feeling like crying but not being able

to

- Thoughts of suicide (which should always be taken seriously)

"SAD has been linked to biochemical changes in the brain and appears to be triggered by shorter daylight hours and less sunlight in the winter. This may upset a person's biological clock, which controls sleep-wake patterns or disturb neurotransmitters, such as serotonin or dopamine," said Martenson.

"Increasing exercise, spending more time outdoors, eating healthy, and staying socially connected are all important to help reduce symptoms of SAD," said Martenson.

Many people who have SAD are also helped by exposure to bright artificial light (light therapy) for at least 20 minutes a day. Various types of light devices are available

and can be used at home.

"There are a variety of other treatments for depression as well, including medications and therapy, which can be effective for people with SAD. These treatments may be used individually or in combination," said Martenson.

North Country Community Mental Health provides services to residents of Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Kalkaska and Otsego Counties experiencing a serious mental illness, severe emotional problem, or intellectual/developmental disability, including individuals with co-occurring substance use disorder. Persons wishing to know more about the agency are encouraged to visit www.norccmh.org or to access services call 877-470-7130.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by e-mail to [office@Charlevoix CountyNews.com](mailto:office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com).

GRAND OLE HANK WILLIAMS

"The Lovesick Blues Boy" To the Editor,
Convoluted, a word unheard in country music, best describes the history of the Nashville Sound inclusive of "the Nashville Number System", the Grand Ole Opry, Music Row and all. It wasn't Hank Senior that started it all, he being born in 1923 the year of "the dawn of recorded country music", the Opry in roughly 1943 with WSM Radio 1925 down the street from the Ryman, but that was and remains the Mecca for country music concerts, fans, musicians, TV and radio broadcasts and the never-ending odyssey for our buses, guitar players, and songwriters worldwide, and the place that provided Hank Williams his opportunity.

The Ryman Auditorium on 5th Avenue North, downtown Nashville is still there, built in 1891 by Tom Ryman a riverboat tycoon who apocryphally "saw the light" through a preacher he had come ashore to heckle but was stopped cold in his tracks by the evangelist's sermon about, you guessed it, "Mother". So, he naturally built the Ryman to house further weekly evangelical meetings with of course music to accompany. There was no longer horse and buggy parking on 5th Avenue North but lots of pickup trucks fresh from the farm on those hoe-down nights.

In 1981 advent, the scene wasn't much changed, Ernest Tubb Record store still open on "Lower Broad" as Broadway was called, Tootsie's Orchard Lounge contiguous to the Ryman, actually adjacent to

Tootsie's back entrance quite conveniently for Hank and all betwixt acts. Songwriting was the catalyst for migration to Nashville then and now though the Opry moved north toward Hendersonville in 1974 after a 31-year base at the Ryman, the 1970s and 80s being the popularization era for country music worldwide. My rendition of Music City in book form, "Johnny Heartache or the Songwriter's Guide to Music City" published 2004 was written in 1989 right here in little ole East Jordan in a sort of stream of consciousness recollection when back in the snow-blown northern wilds of Michigan, a country music haven of its own. The latest perhaps greatest book about Hank himself is "Hank Williams, The Biography" by Colin Escott also in 2004. My version is that of a Chicago (Canadian) interloper come to see firsthand what the country music scene was all about since the more-or-less integrating of North-South relations post-Civil Rights Era. As the folk music revival of the sixties waned there was really nowhere else to find guitar and vocal song in the US except for Nashville, maybe Austin, Texas, Fresno, California, or one's kitchen table - which was a favored forum throughout the eighties in Nashville for that very thing. "Writers Nights" hence were a mainstay in every club through that era and some even were "discovered" through such venues. I actually knew through small city ambience a couple people who had known Hank Sr. in those drunken Opry days.

The song that made it for Hank was "Lovesick Blues",

which incongruously wasn't a country song at all, written by Irving Mills-Cliff Friend in 1922 as more a jazz-pop tune in a Tin Pan Alley Duke Ellington novelty style. Acuff-Rose, the publishing company that got Hank started, hated the song but country music fans knew better as reportedly did Hank. Yes, Audrey was Hank's undoing but so was alcohol, his reputation almost precluding his now-inevitable fame as it seems to we who still listen to all his hits, which were almost all his songs recorded whether under titular copyright of Hank Williams or Luke the Drifter as alter-ego which though resisted by most was accepted due to Hank's fame at his heights.

Hank died young as we know, age 29, adding to the legacy of sainthood. He was always insubordinate throughout his career but still managed undeniable fame and fortune until kicked off The Grand Ole Opry for drunkenness and unreliability, also apocryphally to stumble onto the back entrance into Tootsie's for another drink. At his death in 1953 the country, indeed the world, was about to experience the arising of rock n roll and the overlap is more apparent now than back then. Elvis Presley came to the attention of the world through country music and actually sang at the Opry early on. Johnny Cash appeared shortly after in 1955-6 and Bob Dylan made his debut album in 1961 with The Beatles to follow in 1964 with a couple country flavored recordings, the truncated timing being of swifter evolution than many imagine. There was a rift between folk and country

music which still exists as it does for jazz and most other musical forms. It's all one and when one is raised in a musical family the musicology factor is inherent from the start, that is, you tend to log the development of musical styles as a whole and not the parts. Not so oddly The Rolling Stones could get down with George Jones as easily as Chuck Berry or Elizabethan "Lady Jane".

Jack L. Martin, a musical arranger there was a good friend who died in 1989, and, yes, there are arrangers there and symphony orchestras are often tapped for backup on recordings. Hillous Butrum, whom I knew in his elder years, was a bass player for Hank in the Opry days, died in 2002, country music being contrarily sophisticated and simplistic at once despite dogged downhome insistence on Okie-hokey imagery. Woody Guthrie missed Nashville, he being born in 1912 eleven years earlier than Hank and more socially attuned to topical songs. All roads lead to Nashville now, Third Coast as dubbed. Jack came from New York, some from Canada, Hank Williams Senior from Alabama. A great place to live too although prices are said to be rising. Though it is still incomprehensibly convoluted, those meager beginnings, the natural talent and sincerity in vocals and lyrics of Hank Williams, from hills and hollers to city lights, proclaim him undeniably the "King of Country Music".

Mitchell Jon MacKay, East Jordan

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Housing Ready Director Named for Charlevoix County

TRAVERSE CITY, MI – A coalition of communities, philanthropy, and nonprofits have created a new program that will lead and support Charlevoix County communities and volunteer groups as they work towards housing solutions, beginning in March, with support from the newly-named Housing Ready Program Director.

Steve Schnell has been named as the Housing Ready Program Director, beginning work on the program in March. The Housing Ready position is a collaboration between the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, the Frey Foundation, Charlevoix County, the cities of Boyne City, Charlevoix, and East Jordan, and Housing North. Schnell will be an employee of Housing North, with office space provided by partners Northern Lakes Economic Alliance.

“Steve is a well-respected community planner, with a wealth of experience in community development in Northern Michigan, and we know he’ll be a huge asset to housing work throughout the County,” said Sarah Lucas, Housing North Executive Director. Schnell’s previous experience includes work with the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, Cheboygan County, and Mackinaw City, where he was involved with housing projects and needs in a variety of capacities.

“There’s a lot to do and I am really looking forward to getting started,” Schnell said. “The level of dedication of the community members to create housing solutions is impressive.”

The Housing Ready program will support the work of Charlevoix County communities and networks that are working towards hous-

ing solutions, including the Boyne Housing Solutions, Charlevoix Housing and Building Committee, and East Jordan Housing Solutions. Each community has identified housing needs and solutions, and is working to align projects and partners.

Chip Hansen, Charlevoix County Community Foundation President, noted that these all-volunteer groups have ambitious goals, but lacked staff. “The Housing Ready program will be the ‘boots on the ground’ to move these ideas and projects forward,” said Hansen.

Lucas stated that there’s interest from other communities in Northwest Michigan in replicating the program, which was seeded with grants from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and the Frey Foundation. “Housing is such a huge need for our communities, but the solutions are complex, and it takes a lot of local commitment to get projects off the ground. There’s such a strong commitment from Charlevoix County communities and other partners in this work, and we’re excited about the potential for creative, ground-breaking solutions here.”

Lucas and Schnell will be a part of a “joint meeting” of the County’s three housing networks on Monday, February 24 at 1 p.m. at the Boyne City Hall Commission Chamber, where they’ll discuss the Housing Ready program. The discussion will also include information about how deed restrictions can help guarantee housing affordability and year-round occupancy. The meeting is open to the public. For more information, please contact Sarah Lucas at 231-342-1242 or via email at sarah@housing-north.org.

EAST JORDAN CITY COMMISSION MEETING, FEBRUARY 18, 2020

Joining Jordan project approved

BY KAREN WALKER

At Tuesday’s East Jordan City Commission meeting, Commissioners approved a bid in the amount of \$1,969,775.10 from Team Elmers to construct the “Joining Jordan” project. Funding for much of the project will be provided by a Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) grant. Kevin Krogulecki of Gozling Czubak, the engineering consultant firm for this project, was on hand at the meeting and explained how the current high water level factors in to the design and construction along the shoreline. He explained that a large portion of the walkway will be adjustable for changing water levels. The project to

build a pedestrian walkway and platforms from the City Marina, across the mouth of the Jordan River to the former boat launch area is expected to start this spring with work continuing through the following year.

In other business, the City of East Jordan now allows taxpayers the opportunity to protest their tax assessment in writing to the Board of Review. In a resolution approved at last Monday’s regular Commission meeting, a taxpayer may file his or her protest before the board of review by letter without having to appear in person at Board of Review meetings. Letters must be delivered to the physical or electronic address provided in the public notice or

publication. For the March meeting of the board of review, letters must be received prior to the deadline on the publication. For the July and December meetings of the board of review, letters must be received by 5 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting stated on the public notice. In making this change, the City hopes to ease the burden on taxpayers and the City assessor.

Commissioners also approved a Brownfield Plan for the vacant Co-op property (once the location of a feed and hardware store). The plan is one of the final steps before a grant application can be submitted to Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

(EGLE) for cleanup of the property.

In his report to the Commissioners, City Administrator Tom Cannon said he expects a busy year at the City’s marina. For the first time since 2006, the City has a waiting list for seasonal boat slip rentals. Mr. Cannon also reported that the ice skating rink at the Tourist Park has seen lots of use as well as cross country skiing at Community Park. Much of the ski trail maintenance is being done by volunteers which has contributed to the successful year ‘round use of the park.

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

DNR fish surveys yield key data, insights

Did walleye stocking on an inland lake help grow its yellow perch population? Do changing water levels alter fish movement? Are more salmon returning to home waters? Finding answers to questions like these is a big part of why the DNR does fisheries surveys – and, in fact, conducted more than 230 such surveys last year alone!

In 2019, staff from eight DNR fisheries management units completed 132 surveys of inland lakes and 101 stream surveys. Anyone fishing those waters might have seen crews collecting key data on state fisheries. So just what are crews looking for?

According to Randy Claramunt, Lake Huron Basin coordinator, surveys fall into three categories:

- Evaluating management actions.
- Understanding status and trends.



A Michigan DNR crew conducts a stream survey with electrofishing gear. Such surveys are one way DNR fisheries manager gather key data about fish populations, habitat health and more. (courtesy of DNR)

Finding answers to new questions or concerns. “Each management unit is responsible for determining if actions, like fish stocking or habitat improvement projects, had the desired effect,” Claramunt said. “For example, last year the DNR stocked more than 21 million fish

across Michigan. Surveys help us evaluate whether stocking resulted in better recreational fishing in certain areas or improved a lake’s overall health.”

Other annual surveys help managers track the status and trends of fish communities and important aquatic habitat on different lakes, providing a picture of these lakes geographically and over time.

Claramunt said streams throughout the state are handled a little differently, through two types of status and trends surveys: fixed sites and random sites.

“At fixed sites, we annually estimate fish population abundance – usually trout in coldwater streams and small-mouth bass in warmer waters – on a three-year rotation, while random site surveys are intended to give a species snapshot and show relative

abundance,” he said. “We collect in-stream habitat data at all our status and trends sites.”

Fisheries managers use that third category, discretionary surveys, to answer questions or address current concerns, perhaps something raised by a local biologist, an angling group or a lake association. Such surveys might be conducted to assess habitat suitability for a threatened and endangered fish species.

No matter the type of survey, DNR fisheries managers use the resulting information to strategize their actions, detect early indicators of invasive species, recognize developing threats to fish and habitat health, and much more. If you’d like to learn about the DNR’s lake and stream surveys, especially in your part of the state, contact the fisheries management unit in your area.

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