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One year later: NW MI Health Department administered more than 61,000 COVID vaccines

It has been one year since the first COVID-19 vaccine was administered by Health Department of Northwest Michigan officials and since then, more than 129,000 doses have been provided to area residents in the four-county jurisdiction by all vaccination providers.

As of December 18, the health department has given 61,424 of those COVID-19 doses across its service area of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties. "I was privileged to be among the first immunized and am overwhelmed with gratitude to our staff for administering these life-saving shots, and to all those resi-

dents across our region who have rolled up their sleeves for the vaccine," said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director with the health department.

With Christmas just days away and many of us traveling, Dr. Meyerson reminds us we are once again seeing high rates of community transmission for COVID-19 that inevitably leads to exposures in our households, social groups, and workplaces.

"Although fully vaccinated individuals are far less likely to be infected than unvaccinated, we are seeing many cases in vaccinated persons. Although these cases tend to be very mild, the infected in-



Dr. Meyerson's first vaccine
 individual can spread the virus to close contacts, especially in their household and to those they spend a lot of time with," Dr. Meyerson said.

"The Delta strain that now predominates has proven to be far more contagious than the previous strains encountered last winter and spring, and the latest variant of concern, Omicron, that will likely soon predominate in our area is even more contagious, even in the vaccinated."

So how do we navigate through this as community members?

1. Vaccination is still the best tool we have to moderate the impact of this pandemic. Vaccines protect us from severe disease. Booster doses have shown to further reduce the risk of disease and reduce infection rates. Every-

one is encouraged to get vaccinated, including your booster dose, as soon as you are eligible.

2. Continue to practice mitigation measures including masking at work/school and indoor public places.

3. Stay home if you have symptoms such as chills, fever, or mild respiratory/flu-like illness. Get tested and return to work/school/socialization once your test is negative and you're feeling better.

4. If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 (i.e., a close contact) take precautions even if you are vaccinated.

SEE **ONE YEAR LATER**—PAGE 2A

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. Chil-



The staff at the Gaylord Regional Airport always provides a warm welcome to Santa and his team as they make a "refueling stop" on Christmas eve. Left to Right Matt Barresi, Dave Diemert, Santa, Shari Rivest and let's not forget Dasher! Photo courtesy of Gaylord Airport



LOGO COURTESY OF NORAD PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

dren, (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.

On a possibly related note, rumor has it that "Representatives from the North Pole" have secured Gaylord Regional Airport as a potential refueling station for a "Special Air Cargo Mission" on Christmas Eve or early Christmas morning. Beyond the normal refueling requests, the airport

SEE **SANTA**—PAGE 5A

Boyne Valley Lions Club serves up a holiday meal for local seniors

Through the philanthropic generosity of Liesel Litzenburger-Meijer, the Boyne Valley Lions were able to partner with the Boyne City High School Hospitality Class under the direction of Chef Cole Thornton and serve up a delicious holiday meal for seniors at Litzenburger Place and Deer Meadows located in Boyne City. The holiday meal consisted of fresh rolls with butter, salad with spring mix, apples, red onion, cranberries, parmesan, candied walnuts and apple-cider vinaigrette, honey glazed ham with creamy Dijon sauce, and eggnog cheesecake with caramel sauce. The Boyne Valley Lions Club packed the meals, cutlery, a special gift, and delivered each meal to directly to each resident and staff of both facilities.

The original plan was to host a full dinner service for the residents, but the plan was discarded due to an

SEE **SENIORS**—PAGE 5A



Charlevoix Man Arrested For Carrying a Concealed Handgun

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY, MI. On Monday, December 20, 2021, at approximately 4:06 p.m. troopers from the Michigan State Police (MSP) Gaylord Post stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation on M-66 near Family Fare in Charlevoix. The driver, a 29-year-old Charlevoix man, had a loaded 9mm handgun inside the vehicle. He did not have a concealed pistol license. The driver was placed under arrest and lodged in the Charlevoix County Jail pending arraignment.

Have a wonderful winter weekend!



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weather forecast

THURSDAY



HIGH: 33
LOW: 27

FRIDAY



HIGH: 38
LOW: 33

SATURDAY



HIGH: 36
LOW: 27

SUNDAY



HIGH: 32
LOW: 26

snowfall

| 2020-21 | AMT" | CITY | 2021-22 | AMT" | CITY |
|----------|------|-------------|----------|------|-------------|
| 12/21/20 | .2 | ATLANTA | 12/20/21 | .2 | ATLANTA |
| 12/21/20 | .1 | BOYNE FALLS | 12/20/21 | .7 | BOYNE FALLS |
| 12/21/20 | .3 | CHARLEVOIX | 12/20/21 | .14 | CHARLEVOIX |
| 12/21/20 | .6 | CHEBOYGAN | 12/20/21 | .15 | CHEBOYGAN |
| 12/21/20 | .7 | EAST JORDAN | 12/20/21 | .30 | EAST JORDAN |
| 12/21/20 | .26 | GAYLORD | 12/20/21 | .68 | GAYLORD |
| 12/21/20 | .23 | KALKASKA | 12/20/21 | .63 | KALKASKA |
| 12/21/20 | .13 | MIO | 12/20/21 | .20 | MIO |
| 12/21/20 | .4 | ONAWAY | 12/20/21 | .25 | ONAWAY |
| 12/21/20 | .12 | PETOSKEY | 12/20/21 | .25 | PETOSKEY |

record temps

| DAY | AVG LOW | AVG HIGH | RECORD LOW | RECORD HIGH |
|--------|---------|----------|----------------|--------------|
| DEC 24 | ..17° | ...31° | ...-14° (1969) | ..52° (1994) |
| DEC 25 | ..17° | ...31° | ...-15° (1958) | ..58° (1982) |
| DEC 26 | ..16° | ...31° | ...-9° (1993) | ..49° (1982) |
| DEC 27 | ..16° | ...31° | ...-18° (2004) | ..50° (1994) |
| DEC 28 | ..16° | ...30° | ...-31° (1976) | ..57° (1984) |
| DEC 29 | ..16° | ...30° | ...-21° (1976) | ..56° (1984) |
| DEC 30 | ..15° | ...30° | ...-24° (1976) | ..46° (2004) |
| DEC 31 | ..15° | ...30° | ...-14° (1948) | ..58° (1965) |
| JAN 1 | ...15° | ...30° | ...-9° (1968) | ..48° (1952) |
| JAN 2 | ...15° | ...30° | ...-7° (1999) | ..49° (1998) |

OBITUARIES

Thomas Edward Follette, 49

(NOV. 7, 1972 - DEC. 19, 2021)

Thomas Edward Follette of Boyne City passed away on Sunday, December 19, 2021 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City.

A full obituary will follow.

Judith (Anderson) Planck, 82

(MAY 1, 1939 - DE. 17, 2021)



Judith Ann Planck of Walloon Lake died December 17, 2021.

Judith was born on May 1, 1939 in Petoskey, the daughter of Lloyd and Ann (Krchak) Anderson and grew up in Walloon. She graduated from Petoskey High school with the Class of 1957.

On August 28, 1965, Judith married Willis E Planck, Sr. in Petoskey and the two made their home all over the United States, following Willis' Naval career. These places included Alameda, CA, Norfolk, VA and Glenview, IL. Following Willis' retirement from the Navy, they returned to Walloon Lake Village and have lived there since. Judith went to work as the Librarian at the Boyne Falls Public Library and worked there until her retirement. She loved doing her part in building up the Boyne Falls Library to being the community asset it is, instituting adult and her much loved children's programs, where she would read to the kids. Willis preceded Judith November 23, 1997.

Judith was a member of the Walloon Lake Community Church and served on their Prayer Chain for many years. She loved going to the beach, and enjoyed going to the casino, shopping, traveling, and going out to dinner. She was a good person, loved her family, and made a contribution to the lives of others in the life she lived.

She is survived by 3 children, Willis Planck, Jr. of Walloon Lake, Glenn Planck of Petoskey, and Pamela Planck of Harbor Springs; 2 grandchildren, Krista (Mike) deGuzman and Kimberly Planck; 4 great grandchildren, Kai, Sophea, Caleb, and Gianna; a sister, Barbara

(Wesley) Laughbaum of Pellston; and by a sister-in-law, Wilma Socia.

Judith was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Willis, Sr.; a brother, Arthur Anderson; and by her best friend and sister-in-law, Glenda Planck.

Funeral services celebrating Judith's life was held on Wednesday, December 22nd at 11am at the Walloon Lake Community Church. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery.

Those wishing to honor Judith's memory are asked to make a donation to the Boyne Falls Community Library.

Christina Helen (Whitney) Skop, 82

(NOV. 10, 1939 - DEC. 16, 2021)



Christina H. Skop of East Jordan died on Thursday, December 16, 2021, in Charlevoix.

She was born on November 10, 1939, in Flushing, the daughter of Jesse and Florence (Ardill) Whitney.

On September 27, 1958, in Elmira, she married Richard R. Skop. They made their home in Elmira and later in East Jordan, and raised six kids.

Christina is survived by three sons, Terry (Brenda) Skop of East Jordan, Duane Skop of East Jordan and Scott Skop of East Jordan; three daughters, Sherry Roof of East Jordan, Cindy (Ken Warren) Skop of East Jordan and Debbie (Jim) Cesaro of East Jordan; twelve grandchildren and eight great grandchildren; two sisters, Carrie (Bill) Hoover of Kingsley and Vera (Joe) Herington of Bitely; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Christina was also preceded in death by her husband, Richard Skop on June 11, 2017; one granddaughter, Dana Skop Phipps; her parents; four brothers, Vern Whitney, Ray Whitney, Stuart Whitney and Clayton Whitney; and three sisters, Hazel Grant, Martha Loree and Joyce Whitney.

A special thank you to Munson Charlevoix Hospital and staff for your great care and thank you to Grandvue Medical Care Facility and all the staff for your care and love you gave to our mom.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, Decem-

BANKS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 20, 2021

Fix the darn road

Residents on Lake Shore Drive asking for action

BY TINA SUNDELIUS

Ellsworth-Fire Department appointments, meeting dates set, and a long discussion on road conditions were the focus of the Banks Township Board December 20 meeting.

Supervisor Alex Busman reappointed Mark Groenink as Fire Chief to the Banks Township Volunteer Fire Department. Groenink has been Chief for 27 years and some of the firefighters have been volunteers since before he took office. "You won't find a more dedicated and caring team than the Banks Township Fire/Rescue personnel. We are so very fortunate to have these local men and women willing to serve the community," said Township Clerk Donna Heeres.

Meeting dates for the Banks Township planning commission were approved for the second Tuesday of each month and meeting dates were set for the board for the third Monday of each month. The dates can be found on the township website.

A representative from a neighborhood on Lake Shore Drive attended the



Christmas lights adorn the Community Square in Ellsworth.

meeting asking for some action to get repairs on the gravel road. Supervisor Busman reported that he has requested bids for borings that he hopes will give direction on how to repair the road's issues. He also has requested that the road be graded at a steeper angle to facilitate water runoff. "We'd just like to see some progress, even if it's incremental," said Lake Shore Drive resident Tom Richards. Although the township can add money to complete road projects, the

road is ultimately the county's responsibility. Richards has brought the issue to the County Road Commission Manager. "He's been nothing but dismissive if not contentious," he said. According to the Michigan Township Association website, "the state transportation fund doesn't provide sufficient financial resources for road commissions to perform their responsibilities at a level acceptable to everyone. Consequently, township boards voluntarily con-

tribute over \$150 million per year to their county road commissions to support road projects in their respective townships. "We recognize this is a problem. We're investigating measures to improve the quality of the road," said Heeres.

The placement of covered posts was approved to stop cars from driving over graves at the Atwood Cemetery.

Health Department shares holiday season food safety tips

This holiday season do not let unwanted guests – food poisoning – spoil your holiday parties. We all play a role in keeping food safe for family, friends, and yourself.

"By taking a few simple steps such as proper hand washing, properly storing raw meat, and taking care of leftovers, we can significantly reduce the risk of getting sick from food poisoning," said Dan Thorell, Director of Environmental Health Services with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in six Americans get sick from food poisoning each year. This holiday season is a perfect opportunity to review safe food handling practices. Each of us plays a role in keeping food safe, wholesome, and nutritious. This means:

- Paying close attention to personal hygiene like hand washing,
- Keeping food preparation and storage areas clean

- and sanitized,
- Maintaining temperature control for safety; and,
- Properly discarding food that is no longer wholesome or past its expiration date.

Whether you grow your own food, shop at a grocery store, or if you have groceries or meals delivered, it is important to follow safe food handling practices using these four steps:

1. Clean: Wash hands, utensils, and surfaces often.
2. Separate: Don't cross-contaminate. Use separate cutting boards and plates for produce, meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs.
3. Cook to the right temperature. Food is safely cooked when the internal temperature is high enough to kill germs that can make you sick.
4. Chill: Refrigerate and freeze food properly.

For more information, visit www.FoodSafety.gov. The health department urges all of us to do our part to keep food safe during the holiday season.

Rep. Borton: Resources will combat COVID-19 in Northern Michigan communities

End-of-year spending plan also includes support for snowmobiling

State Rep. Ken Borton, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, today voted for legislation to provide additional resources for the COVID-19 response and other important projects in Michigan.

"When people come down with COVID-19, early treatment is so important," said Borton, of Gaylord. "Our plan will support monoclonal antibodies and other treatments to help people recover from COVID-19 and reduce the risk of serious symptoms or death. Resources for health care workers will also help treat COVID-19 in our Northern Michigan communities."

House Bill 5523 would allocate \$134 million for early COVID-19 treatments, including monoclonal antibody treatments. A \$300 million appropriation would help health care fa-

cilities recruit and retain employees. Another \$90 million would support vaccinations. Both HB 5523 and another spending plan, HB 4398, propose resources for COVID-19 testing.

Borton also highlighted \$3.5 million in HB 4398 for snowmobile trail development and maintenance, which he said will support recreational opportunities for Northern Michigan residents and tourists.

"Snowmobiling is almost a way of life for many Northern Michigan residents and visitors, and funding will support this winter recreation," said Borton.

HBs 5523 and 4398 now advance to the Senate. The Senate is expected to concur in HB 4398 in a timely manner.

SENIORS

FROM PG. 1

abundance of caution associated with the continued concern surrounding the pandemic. Residents were overwhelmed with the meal delivery and expressed

heartfelt appreciation for their holiday meal and gift.

The Lions are also known for:

- Diabetes education and free screening initiatives
- KidSight screening for early onset visual impairments
- White Cane fund-raising for the visually impaired

Participate and serve volunteers in "Buff up Boyne"

Serve hungry elementary school students at Field Days and school carnival

Project WAVE Lions initiatives

Financial support to Girl Scouts, PAWS with a Cause, Boyne District Library, Alzheimer's Fund, Crop

Hunger Walk, Humane Society, other

The Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the Boyne District Library at noon. For more information on becoming a Lion contact Eleanor Sutliff, Membership Chairman at oesutliff@yahoo.com

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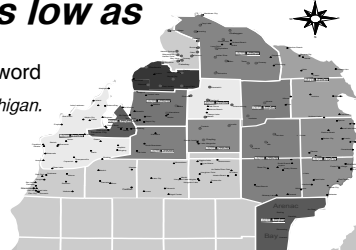
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Boyne Valley Lions Club serves up a holiday meal for local seniors

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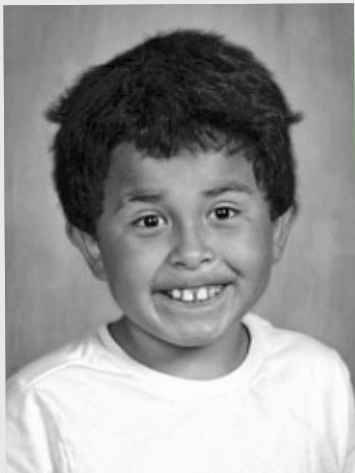
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Sutliff, Membership Chairman at oesutliff@yahoo.com



Boyne Falls Public Schools **STUDENT OF THE WEEK**



Sabastian Goff

Grade: 2nd

Parent's Name(s): Laura and Frank Steinhoff

What do you want to be when you grow up?: He wants to have a YouTube channel about video games.

Favorite Book: The Dog Man series by Dav Pilkey

Hobbies and Interests: At home, Sabastian likes making and playing with slime. He also likes playing video games and having snowball fights.

School Activities: Sabastian's favorite subject in school is math. He also participates in the grade school basketball program.

Staff Comments: Sabastian is a new addition to Boyne Falls School this year and we are so happy he's here. His bright and engaging personality brings a smile to everyone's face. He follows the Logger Agreement every day in the classroom and on the playground. Sabastian is a hard worker and always tries his best. He doesn't give up easily and likes to challenge himself. Keep up the great work, Sabastian!

Submitted By: Ms. Pedigo

CHRISTMAS FUN FACTS

What is most popular Christmas movie?

There have been a number of popular Christmas movies made through the years, including the vintage Christmas Story from 1983 featuring the bespectacled young boy Ralph and his tale about Christmas with his family in Ohio set in the 1950s.

The most popular Christmas movie, though, is still the classic from 1946 featuring Jimmy Stewart and Clarence the guardian angel (Harry Travers) who visits him on Christmas Eve. It's a Wonderful Life starring Stewart as George Bailey and Donna Reed as his wife is still shown more frequently than any other Christmas movie each December.

Another old classic, Miracle on 34th Street, made in 1947 and starring the venerable Edmund Gwenn as Santa on trial, is also annually listed among the top Christmas movies along with the 1950 classic A Christmas Carol starring Alistair Sim as Ebenezer Scrooge in addition to the 1984 remake of the Dickens' classic starring George C. Scott as Scrooge. More recent movies such as Home Alone, The Santa Clause, and National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation also make the list of top Christmas movies each year. White Christmas, made in 1954 and featuring the singing-and-dancing duo Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye, is also perennially on the list.

As far as Christmas TV specials go, there are four that are listed on everybody's list every year in various orders but always near the top: Rudolph; A Charlie Brown Christmas; Frosty the Snowman; and How the Grinch Stole Christmas.

There are a number of classic Christmas songs that are popular every year, partly because they remind the listeners of happy memories from years past. "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby is al-



The 1946 classic It's a Wonderful Life featuring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed is still at the top of the list of Christmas movies.

ways near the top of the list along with "The Christmas Song" by Nat King Cole, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," by numerous artists, "Holly Jolly Christmas" by Burl Ives, "The Little Drummer Boy," and "Most Wonderful Time of the Year" by Andy Williams.

In recent years, "All I Want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey and "Last Christmas" by Wham have been quite popular.

As far as Christmas carols go, "Joy to the World" is always among the favorites along with "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "Silent Night," and "Come All Ye Faithful."

Here is some other interesting Christmas trivia:

* 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 traditional three colors of Christmas are green,

red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty, represents Christ. The "two turtledoves" represent the Old and New Testaments.

* 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.

* 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 history.

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

* The poinsettia plant was brought into the United States from Mexico by Joel Poinsett in the early 1800s.

* Mistletoe was chosen as Oklahoma's state flower in 1893 and later changed to the state floral emblem.

* In 1843, Charles Dickens wrote "A Christmas Carol" in just six weeks.

* The first state to recognize the Christmas holiday officially was Alabama.

* Christmas became a national holiday in America on June, 26, 1870.

* Clearing up a common misconception, in Greek, X means Christ. That is where the word "X-Mas" comes from. Not because someone took the "Christ" out of Christmas.

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

—Compiled by Mike Dunn

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EAST JORDAN

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Lions Tree Sale at True Value

IRONTON

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Looking for an old fashioned Christmas service? One with all your favorite carols and cookies? We invite you to our candlelight Christmas Eve service on December 24th at 7pm. Join us in singing traditional hymns and celebrating the birth of the baby Jesus. Fellowship follows with coffee and cookies before heading back out into the crisp evening air. Located at 3805 Washington Street in Ironton

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COVID-19 VACCINES AVAILABLE TO HOMEBOUND

RESIDENTS

The Health Department and EMS services in Charlevoix County have begun offering Covid-19 vaccinations to the homebound population in Charlevoix County. This service is intended only for individuals unable to travel to an established vaccine location—the Office of Emergency Management schedules appointments for home visits. The Johnson & Johnson single-dose vaccination shots will be given during these visits. Please note that EMS paramedics will not show up at your residence in an ambulance but another fully equipped vehicle. Paramedics will be prepared to provide medical service immediately in the rare event of an adverse reaction to the shot. They would dispatch an ambulance only if one

is needed for transporting a patient to the hospital. Persons who are homebound or otherwise unable to travel but want a vaccine are encouraged to contact Emergency Management at 231-541-4461 (Sheriff's Dept Office Line) to schedule an appointment.

EAST JORDAN HIKE

Wagbo Farm and Education Center is excited to announce a family-friendly trail series to get community members outdoors and enjoy the winter months. Supported by a generous gift from Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F), the new Stroll & Sip series offers interactive trail activities while hiking, skiing or snowshoeing the various 1-2 mile loops through the fields and forests of the 212-acre property. Upcoming hikes will be the first Sunday of each month, through May, from 1 PM to 5PM.

EAST JORDAN

CHRISTMAS LIGHTED VILLAGE

The East Jordan Lion's Club will once again be hosting the Christmas Lighted Village at the East Jordan Tourist Park. Everyone is welcome to build a display so gather your co-workers, friends, family, club or organization members and have some fun. The village is scheduled to open early this year so get your registration form in to the Lion's Club as soon as possible to secure your spot.

CHARLEVOIX PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB CALENDAR AVAILABLE

The Best of the Charlevoix Photography Club 2022 Calendar is hot off the press today! This calendar, which is locally printed, features wonderful photographs from 12 separate club members. Visit www.Charlevoixphotographyclub.org to place an order, or visit the Charlevoix Circle of Arts at 109 Clinton St. The selling price is \$25.

CHARLEVOIX CIRCLE MARKET

Charlevoix Circle of Arts will host its annual Charlevoix Circle Market from November 19 to December 30 featuring local handmade items, original art, and locally produced specialty treats. Charlevoix Circle of Arts exhibit gallery turns into a festive handmade shopping experience for all with handmade gifts for everyone on your list, yourself included! Items from dozens of local crafters, makers, artists, jewelers and more will be for sale through December 30.

BOYNE CITY

FREE GIFT WRAPPING STATION

During the month of December the Boyne District Library will have a station set-up in our small meeting room for you to wrap your gifts. All paper, tape,

bows, tags, table surface, and yule provided by the library. Also accepting any material donations if you have extra

BOYNE CITY

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

On Christmas Eve, the Episcopal Church of the Nativity service will be at 6:00pm, with carol singing and Holy Communion. The church is located at 209 E. Main Street.

CHARLEVOIX BLOOD DRIVE

Community Blood Drive Hosted by Charlevoix Elks, December 27, 11-6 pm. Join the Charlevoix Elks Club #2856 for a community blood drive. Your donation could save up to three lives this holiday season. Appointments are preferred and walk-ins are welcome. Call 1-866-Mi-Blood. All donors will receive a \$10 certificate as a thank you gift.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY NEW YEARS EVE BUS

Charlevoix County Transit is offering New Years Eve bus service from 6pm until 2am. Pre-schedule to get the best time slot. 231-582-6900. Holiday Closures: Closed for the Christmas Holiday on Friday December 24 and for the New Year's Holiday, Friday, December 31st (for regular, daytime service). Open 6pm - 2am for New Years Eve service.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY SNOW REMOVAL FOR SENIORS

The Charlevoix County Commission on Aging will have our Senior Snow Removal Programs available again this year! Packets can be picked up curbside at all of our Senior Center Locations or at the COA offices.

BOYNE CITY

BOYNE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GALA

The Boyne Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting our Annual Gala on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at Boyne Mountain Resort.

BOYNE CITY

FAT & FLURRIOUS FAT TIRE RACE

First race in the 2022 Short's Fat Bike Race Series, Saturday, January 15, 10:00am at Avalanche. Come race Northern Michigan's most challenging fat bike race! Warm up after the race sampling different types of chili at Stigg's annual Chili Cook Off and 5th Anniversary Party. Race proceeds go toward building more advanced trails with the Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association (TOMMBA). This race will help fund the first pro-built advanced downhill trail at Boyne Forest Trail, continuing everyone's favorite mountain bike trail system just north of Boyne City.

Sport Class: One lap around Avalanche.
Open Class: Two laps around Avalanche.

Join the fun at the 4th Annual Fat & Flurrious Fat Tire Bike Race, the first stop on the Short's Fat Bike Race Series. Fat & Flurrious starts 10 am Saturday 1/15/22 with a police escort from Stigg's to Avalanche. For information and to register at <https://fatandflurrious.com/>

TRAVERSE CITY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Northern Michigan Policy Conference

January 14, Noon-4PM, Hagerty Center, Traverse City. Hear from our legislators, key policy leaders, State departments and more as we shape advocacy efforts for a prosperous northern Michigan region.

EAST JORDAN ANNUAL DINNER

The East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner, Meeting, Awards, Auction at Castle Farms on Saturday, January 29th, 2022.

CHARLEVOIX ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Charlevoix Public Schools is planning our Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony this spring! Forms are due on February 28, 2022. Criteria: The nominee must be a graduate of Charlevoix High School and have achieved one or more of the following: *Advanced degree such as Ph.D., M.D., D.O., D.D.S., O.D., J.D. *Significant life achievement, honor, or award *Significant contribution toward improving the lives of others.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILING

State-designated trails are open Dec. 1 through March 31 and grooming occurs when there is enough snow on the ground. The snowmobile program is 100% funded with your trail permit dollars. Be sure to bookmark Mi.gov/Snowmobiling so you can keep up with trail closures, find trail etiquette refreshers, view maps and print trail segment maps. Special thanks to the volunteer snowmobile clubs and groups who assist with trail signage and grooming on state-designated snowmobile trails throughout the season. The snowmobile program is 100% funded with trail permit dollars.

EAST JORDAN

THE DEPOT JORDAN VALLEY TEEN CENTER

The Depot Jordan Valley Teen Center are in their new location. The Teen Center is now located in the lower level of the St. Joseph Parish Hall, 207 Nicholls Street, East Jordan

BOYNE CITY

FARMERS MARKET

Join us Saturday for the

indoor market season in the Veterans Park Pavilion. Each Saturday from here on out we will be there from 9am - NOON.

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.

EAST JORDAN

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Cancer and Caregiver Support group meets at 10am the 3rd Saturday of each month at Lighthouse Missionary Church

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Have you experienced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis? Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (NMCAA) has funding from the federal CARES Act to assist with various needs (utility help, car repairs, housing costs, diapers, baby formula, phone bills, etc.). You may be eligible for assistance if you meet income guidelines and live in NMCAA's service area (Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Missaukee, Roscommon, and Wexford Counties). To apply for help, please contact our CARES Intake Specialist at 800-632-7334.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY ADVERTISING FUNDS THE CHARLEVOIX COUNTY NEWS

We love to run community announcements and news releases about all the things happening in Northern Michigan in the Charlevoix County News. We help publicize hundreds of events and activities all across our area. Readers love the fact that the Charlevoix County News is distributed by mailed subscription or at tons of locations throughout Boyne City, Boyne Falls, Charlevoix, East Jordan, Ellsworth and Petoskey. However, it is expensive to publish this newspaper each week filled with positive news and sports. Our main source of revenue comes from advertising. If your business or organization has an advertising budget, be sure to include the Charlevoix County News in your plans. While other local newspapers are quickly fading, the Charlevoix County News is growing. Our newsstand prices and advertising rates are far less than any other paper and your message will reach readers all across the area. Contact us at Office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com or call 989-732-8160. Locally owned and operated.

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Charlevoix County News
VOLUME 13 ISSUE 27

E-Mail News Releases and Announcements to Office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com

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We hear from readers every week how much they appreciate all the local coverage. We appreciate all the positive response from both readers and advertisers to our newspapers that we hear so frequently.

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The Weekly Choice is distributed free every Thursday at almost 600 locations around Northern Michigan.

The Charlevoix County News is distributed every Thursday in Boyne City, Boyne Falls, Charlevoix, East Jordan and Ellsworth to subscribers and on newsstands and wherever newspapers are sold. Cost is still just 75 cents (not \$1.25 or \$2.00).

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BOYNE CITY COMMISSION MEETING, DECEMBER 14, 2021

New Director of Public Works appointed as Faas retires

BY TINA SUNDELIUS

Boyne City - Updates on short term rentals in the city and the Marine Expansion grant application were presented and Derek Rasmussen was appointed as the new Director of Public Works replacing retiring Director Tim Faas at the December 14 City Commission Meeting in Boyne City.

Planning Director Scott McPherson gave an informative presentation on the Short Term Rental situation within the city. In 2019 the city established a goal to increase housing availability. McPherson explained that examining the issues arising from short term rentals and their impact on the community is one of the steps to

meet that goal. In July the city signed a contract with Granicus, an organization that provides real time data on the short term rental listings. One hundred and forty-one short term rental units have been identified, that's 5.8% of the 2,411 housing units in the city. "Any given night there could be 300 people staying in town," said McPherson. Twenty-nine of the identified short term rentals are homesteads. ... "they aren't taking away from the available housing stock," said McPherson. Police Chief Kevin Spate was asked to speak on the impact short term rentals had on law enforcement. "There are very few complaints we get from Short term rentals," he said. He specified that complaints

are usually about parking, noise, and trash. Spate stated that he felt educating guests could eliminate those complaints. He concluded with "...short term rentals in Boyne City has not had an impact on law enforcement. For the list of the short term rentals we have, we have an extremely low complaint list that's been compiled." The presentation was very detailed and can be found on the city website.

Harbormaster Barb Brooks presented a revised project plan for the Marina Redevelopment Grant Application that includes 126 feet of shoreline reduction. "The cost is a wash. It's going to cost less of course because you're eliminating some of these slips but we're picking

up slips elsewhere," she said. The Original plan attracted a great deal of opposition from residents. The city was applying for 67% funding of the construction costs of a \$3,210,043 project. Brooks presented a revised plan to shrink B dock by almost half and extending E and D docks. She also addressed the question of the expansion interfering with the 4th of July fireworks display with a draft letter of understanding addressed to the fireworks committee, stating that the city would not create a negative impact on the 4th of July by renting any slip that would interfere with the fireworks. She also addressed the question of just repairing what is already there stating that it is not viable without grant

funds. "Replacing exactly what we have is approximately \$2.1 million dollars. Without a large grant there is just no way, the numbers just don't add up," she explained. Changing the grant application will bring added issues with the grant application board. "We are crossing our fingers that regulatory will be ok with these final changes within the interior," she concluded. "I feel that a majority of the community does support this," said Commissioner Nemecek who would like to see the public surveyed. Commissioners passed a motion for Brooks to move forward with the grant application under the revised plan. She expects to have the application ready for submission by the end of the month.

Director of Public Works, Tim Faas received a heartfelt farewell from the Commission. Faas is retiring on Dec 30. "He has done a wonderful job working for the city, he is a community person," said Mayor Conklin. Derek Rasmussen was appointed as Director of Public Works for the City of Boyne City. "I feel that Derek's going to do well in this position it's definitely a position that he can grow into," said Faas. The motion passed 4/1 with Moody opposed. "I'm confident that Derek is the right person for this job," said City Manager Michael Cain.

House Bills keeping kids safe in school, lowering housing costs for Michiganders, cutting taxes

Nearly \$1 billion supplemental includes COVID testing for kids, rental assistance for families, safe water for communities, advocacy for nursing home residents, funds for law enforcement

Monday, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed HB 4398, a nearly \$1 billion supplemental bill that invests federal funds from the American Rescue Plan to keep kids safe and learning in-person, protect seniors in nursing homes, and ensure Michiganders can stay in their homes. She also signed HB 5376, which cuts taxes for small businesses, and SB 103, which will simplify planning and development of electric transmission lines. The governor was joined by Speaker Jason Wentworth and Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, who were instrumental in the passage of all three bills.

"Today, I signed a bipartisan supplemental bill that will help keep our kids safe and learning in-person, help families stay in their homes, and cut taxes for small busi-

nesses," said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. "For months, legislative leaders and I have been working together in good faith to find the most effective way to spend the federal dollars sent to Michigan by the American Rescue Plan. Today, we took another big step forward when I signed a nearly \$1 billion investment that will help kids safe and learning in school, recruit and retain more teachers, protect seniors in nursing homes, help communities tackle lead in their drinking water, and get vaccines out the door even faster. I am grateful to the committee chairs, the caucus leaders, and the legislators for the hard work they put in to deliver critical aid to families, communities, and small businesses as we continue building our economy back stronger than ever. Our progress is a testament to what's possible when we work together, and this bill will build on progress we made earlier this year to enact the largest education investment in state history

and pass a balanced, bipartisan budget that made game-changing investments in skills, bridges, childcare, and so much more."

- Supplemental Investments
- \$150 million for COVID school testing to keep kids safe and learning in-person.
- \$140 million for rental assistance to help Michiganders stay in their homes.
- \$36.3 million to help communities tackle lead, fund water distribution, inspections, blood testing, and more.
- \$14.1 million for a Nursing Home Strike Teams grant to help older Michiganders stay safe in nursing homes.
- \$10 million to support teacher recruitment, training, development, and retention.

\$6.9 million for Michigan State Police to help them continue protecting public safety.

Education Investment
In July, Governor Whitmer signed a bipartisan funding bill that made the largest investment in pre-K-12 education in Michigan history. The bill closed the funding gap between schools in Michigan, enrolled 22,000 kids and counting in free preschool through the Great Start Readiness Program, and helped schools to hire more nurses, counselors, and social workers.

Bipartisan Budget
In September, Governor Whitmer signed the Fiscal Year 2022 budget bill that includes game-changing in-

vestments in childcare and delivers on the kitchen-table issues that matter most to families, communities, and small business. The budget puts 167,000 Michiganders on a tuition-free path to higher-education or skills training, repairs or replaces 100 bridges while creating 2,500 jobs, and made a \$500 million deposit into our rainy day fund, the largest one-time ever, bringing its balance to nearly \$1.4 billion, the highest ever.

Michigan's Nursing Homes through COVID-19
Michigan put seniors first during the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Whitmer acted quickly, followed the science, and listened to experts to slow the spread of the virus in our communi-

ties. Michigan worked around the clock to secure PPE and required testing for residents and staff. The administration put nursing home residents and staff first when it came to vaccinations, vaccinating over 264,000 nursing home residents of all races across Michigan.

Independent experts and senior advocates agreed that Michigan's nursing home policy was "right on," with the former head of the AARP praising the state's actions to keep Michiganders safe in nursing homes. An independent expert from the University of Michigan said that "found the governor's strategy to be reasonable and appropriate."

COVID-19 CASE COUNTS

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting the following case information:

- On Friday, Dec. 17, 43 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Antrim (7), Charlevoix (10), Emmet (10), and Otsego (16).
- On Saturday, Dec. 18, 32 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Antrim (2), Charlevoix (9), Emmet (14), and Otsego (7), and one new COVID-19 associated death in Charlevoix County.
- On Sunday, Dec. 19, 13 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Antrim (3), Charlevoix (2), Emmet (5), and Otsego (3), and two new COVID-19 associated deaths in Antrim County (1) and Otsego County (1).
- On Monday, Dec. 20, 62 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Antrim (9), Charlevoix (8), Emmet (30), and Otsego (15), and five new

COVID-19 associated deaths in Antrim County (1), Charlevoix County (1), Emmet County (1), and Otsego County (2).

As of 4 p.m. December 20, the cumulative case count information for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (3,084), Charlevoix (3,338), Emmet (4,417), and Otsego (4,236).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (2,680), Charlevoix (2,824), Emmet (3,679), and Otsego (3,594).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (48), Charlevoix (50), Emmet (58), and Otsego (77).

On December 20, the State of Michigan reported 1,434,837 cases and 25,984 deaths.

cinated or otherwise do not

ONE YEAR LATER

FROM PG. 1

need to quarantine. These include self-monitoring for signs of illness, limiting your social gatherings, always wearing a mask while at work and other indoor settings, and getting tested 4-6 days after exposure. Household exposures are the highest risk for infection, followed by those in close contact for prolonged periods while unmasked at work, while eating, or in athletic or other indoor activities where there is close contact. Please be extra cautious to reduce close contact if you are a confirmed close contact as you are at high risk for getting COVID-19. "All of us must decide

what risk is acceptable when choosing activities to attend. With holiday gatherings upon us everyone must consider not only their own health but the health and safety of their friends and relatives, including those they may care for and those they may visit," Dr. Meyer-son said. "We all need to balance the desire to be careful with the need for social interaction and time with loved ones," he said, adding he wishes everyone a warm, healthy, and happy holiday.

COVID-19 vaccinations – including booster shots – are widely available at pharmacies, health care providers and health department clinics. A parent/guardian must accompany anyone younger than 18 to a COVID-19 clinic. Please bring an insurance card to the appointment. Anyone with questions or unable to find.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mingle & Jingle – Jubilee of Trees for 501-C3's

The East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce presented checks to the recipients of the first ever Jubilee of Trees for 501-C3's held at the beautiful Boathouse on Lake Charlevoix. Special thank you to owners Rebecca & Rick Gotts and Manager Anora O'Connor for their sponsorship and hospitality. Jubilee of Trees for 501-C3's raised \$3,050.00 for ten (10) local 501-C3's in its first year. They included Little Traverse Conservancy, Charlevoix County Humane Society, Training Wheels Childcare Center, Raven Hill Discovery Center, Charlevoix County Commu-

nity Foundation, St. Joseph Catholic Church, South Arm ORV Club, Kiersten's Ride, Camp Quality, and Helping Hearts.

Twenty six beautifully decorated trees in a number of creative themes were donated by the following individuals, businesses and organizations. Crossroads Ecumenical Resale Shop, Sole Sisters Group, Willem Roelofs Carpentry, Charlevoix Area Humane Society, Inner Structure Interior Design, Bergmann Center, The Insurance Shop, Training Wheels Childcare Center, East Jordan Lion's Club, Billie's Floral and

Boutique, Grace Battista – EJ Shoppe & Mary's of Boyne, East Jordan Girl Scout Troop #4455, Debbie Peck, The Maple Tree, Denise Micallef, Girl Scout Troop #4378, Cellar 1914, Charlevoix County Democratic Party, East Jordan Historical Society, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Munson Healthcare Jordan Valley Rehab Center, Wendy Warren, Jordan Valley Community Band, Jordan Valley Late Bloomers Garden Club, Gunther's General Store, Gretchen Peck.

A huge thank you and much appreciation for their support and enthusiasm

which made this new event such a huge success for so many. Also, five (5) additional groups received a donation from a local benefactor to support their organizations. Those groups include, Jordan River Arts Council, Jordan Valley Community Band, Leadership Charlevoix County, Friends of the Jordan River Watershed and Paddle Antrim. Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 26th for the Second Annual Mingle and Jingle and Jubilee of Trees for 501-C3's

SANTA

FROM PG. 1

officials have been asked to have five bales of hay, two large bags of carrots, two boxes of sugar cubes ready

and waiting, and it is reported that the "pilot" has a fondness for cookies and a glass of milk.

Gaylord Regional Airport Director, Matt Barresi, relates, "Being located on the 45th Parallel, which is halfway between the North Pole and the equator, Gay-

lord Regional Airport has been deemed an excellent refueling spot for this special Christmas Eve mission. The advance team coordinator with the Special Air Carrier Service had many demands but aviation fuel was not one of them. Instead they wanted "5 bales of hay, 2

bushels of sugar beets and 2 bags of carrots." We were also asked to leave cookies in the pilot lounge."

As of press time, the time of this special refueling mission was not available.

Have a very, merry Christmas!

News

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

House bills supporting first responders and emergency services

LANSING, Mich. - Governor Whitmer today signed House bill 4172, 4247, and 5026 to put Michigan first by supporting Michigan's first responders and emergency services.

First Responders

House Bill 4172 will amend the Worker's Disability Compensation Act to include current and former part-time, paid on-call, or volunteer firefighters under the First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund. This enables firefighters who develop certain cancers to claim worker's compensation benefits from the First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund.

"Michigan's firefighters--whether they are full time, part-time or volunteer courageously sacrifice their time and health to serve our communities and keep us safe," said Governor Whitmer. "First responders and their families should know that the state of Michigan will support them during their time of need. House Bill 4172 will expand the options for firefighters to receive benefits for cancer treatment. We owe our state's firefighters endless thanks for their selfless acts of service."

"Our first responders put

their lives on the line every day to protect us - that's why it's important we ensure they're taken care of when their work leads to injury and illness," said Rep. Jeff Yaroch R-Richmond. "I appreciate the bipartisan support for taking care of firefighters."

"Firefighters are exposed every day while on the job to cancer causing toxins," said Mark Docherty, President of Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union. "They have much higher rates of cancer both occurring while still active and once retired. We are grateful to Reps. Allor and Rep. Yaroch for introducing this legislation and for Governor Whitmer's signature. House Bill 4171 and 4172 will mean that all fire fighters will have the same access to the First Responders Presumed Coverage Fund in their greatest time of need."

House Bill 4172 was sponsored by Rep. Jeff Yaroch R-Richmond

House Bill 4247 will change the calculation of the Survivor Tuition Grant, a program that provides tuition assistance to children whose parents were killed in the line of duty in Michigan. Under current law, a person is not eligible for tuition grant assistance through the



123RF.COM

Survivor Tuition Grant unless their school's financial aid office determines that the student has financial need. House Bill 4247 would eliminate that requirement, allowing more surviving children to access the funds.

"Michigan police officers and firefighters have served our communities with honor and dedication, and the Survivor Tuition Grant is crucial

in honoring the children of our fallen first responders," said Governor Whitmer. "This bill will streamline benefits under the Survivor Tuition Grant, helping alleviate the financial burden for the families of those who have sacrificed so much to keep us safe."

"Our police officers, firefighters, and their families give so much for us," said

Rep. Matt Koleszar D-Plymouth. "With this action, we're honoring the memories of all of those who made the ultimate sacrifice by honoring their commitments to their families after they pass. I'm thrilled to see this bill signed into law."

House Bill 4247 was sponsored by Rep. Matt Koleszar D-Plymouth. Emergency Services

House Bill 5026 will amend the Emergency 9-1-1-Service Enabling Act to continue funding until December 31, 2027. The bill will also streamline 9-1-1 system capabilities, increase the prepaid wireless 9-1-1 surcharge, and make other changes to improve the 9-1-1 system.

"Maintaining and expanding public safety is a responsibility of our government," said Governor Whitmer. "When an emergency occurs, our state's first responders are ready to take action. Funding our state's critical 9-1-1 services is necessary to equip our state in times of need."

"Public safety is one of the core responsibilities of government," said Rep. Julie Calley R-Portland. "If we fail to take action, we'd be shirking our responsibility and letting down every single Michigander who relies on 911 to be at the ready when an emergency occurs. The software and technology we have today to support the trained experts on the line is truly incredible - but it's not free. It's absolutely essential to make sure this fund is sustainable long into the future."

House Bill 5026 was sponsored by Rep. Julie Calley R-Portland

Interested in becoming a DNR conservation officer?

Anyone seeking a career as a Michigan conservation officer may get the opportunity to pursue it next year, as the DNR will be recruiting for a 2022 academy. While dates and locations are still being planned, interested candidates should start the application process now by signing up for an upcoming Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards physical fitness test.

"The department wants to provide interested candidates with as much notice as possible so they can begin the hiring process," said F/Lt. Jason Wicklund, DNR Law Enforcement Division. "The best way to begin is to sign up for a physical fitness test, because test dates and locations tend to fill up quickly and may require travel."

A passing MCOLES physical fitness test score is mandatory for resident and out-of-state applicants to apply for the 2022 academy.

Every Michigan conservation officer is provided a DNR patrol truck to take home so they can start and end each day without reporting to an office. The officers also have access to off-road vehicles, boats, snowmobiles and other equipment to safely and successfully patrol Michigan's most beautiful - and often hard-to-reach - destinations. Conservation officers make their own schedules, often splitting shifts throughout the day, and receive continuous professional development opportunities to advance their careers.

Interested? Contact a recruiter who can answer questions and help prepare serious candidates for the process.

Refer back to the DNR website and social media channels for the upcoming hiring announcement, which will include dates and information about the academy locations.

MICHIGAN'S AMAZING ANIMALS:

Stupendous Sandhill Cranes

BY PATRICK BEVIER

One of Michigan's most elegant, entertaining, and enigmatic bird species are Sandhill cranes. Here are some terrific tidbits about those plump, powerful, and prehistoric birds:

NAME GAME:

The scientific name of Sandhill cranes is *Antigone canadensis* (formerly *Grus canadensis*). The Greek word *Antigone* is straight from mythology. *Antigone* was the daughter of *Oedipus* and stars in the play written by *Sophocles*. The species name, *canadensis*, denotes the area where it was first described by prolific classification scientist *Carolus Linnaeus* in 1758. The genus *Antigone* is a rather exclusive "club" with only four species found worldwide. The common name, *Sandhill*, refers to a preferred habitat-type including Nebraska's Sandhills on the American Plains. Up to 500,000 of these birds - almost 75% of the total population - migrate through that area annually!

DOWNRIGHT

DINOSAUR-ISH:

In structure and relative proportions cranes resemble the group of dinosaurs known as *Theropods* (which, remarkably, includes *velociraptors*!). In reality, they are living dinosaurs, with discovered crane fossils dating back over 10-million years! This gives them one of the longest fossil history of any extant bird.

COLOR CHARACTERISTICS:

The plumage of both male and female adult cranes is largely dark gray with brownish-tan overtones. These lanky birds have black legs, red foreheads (which is a featherless area of exposed skin), white cheeks, and long, dark pointed bills. Immature birds are lighter with reddish-brown backs and wings and grayish bellies. Crane chicks, called *colts*, are usually cinnamon brown with white and orange patches.

SIZING UP SANDHILLS:

These birds are Michigan's largest avian species. Male cranes are heavier than females and tip the scales from 10 to 14 pounds while the females weigh in at 6 to 10 pounds. The males tower up to 5-foot tall while females are slightly shorter and stretch the tape measure to about 4-½ feet. Their impressive wingspan, that may reach 7-½ feet, makes cranes skilled soaring birds similar to



(COPYRIGHT PHOTO BY JONI ROBERTS)

A group of Sandhill cranes dance while tossing around a corn cob on one of their migration layovers.

hawks and eagles. They ride thermal updrafts and can stay aloft for hours with only occasional flapping necessary.

CRANE CUISINE:

Sandhill cranes are omnivorous and devour a wide-variety of foodstuffs with herbaceous offerings such as roots, aquatic plants, berries, seeds, and wheat ranking up there in preference. Leftover corn in farm fields is important to Sandhills preparing for migration, providing them with nutrients for the lengthy journey. Breeding birds are more apt to be carnivorous with worms, insects, snails, amphibians, fish, and small mammals on the menu. The extremely dotting parents are relentless at catching worms, grubs, insects, and other "meaty" items to feed their fast-growing colts.

LENGTHY LIFESPANS:

Sandhill's are among Michigan's longest lived birds and survive up to 40 years, with 20 years being the average lifespan.

NURSERY NEWS:

Sandhill crane pairs mate for life and raise one brood of young per year. Both members of a breeding pair build the nest using mostly aquatic plant material, usually in marshes, bogs, or other wetland habitats. Females deposit one to three (usually two) pale-colored eggs with brown markings in April or May. Crane dads are far from chauvinistic as both parents take turns incubating the eggs for about 30 days. The chicks are born "good to go" (precocial) as they are covered with down, with their

eyes open, and are able to venture from the nest on the first day! The parents feed the colts extensively for the first few weeks and gradually let up until the young reach independence at 9 to 10 months old. Mated pairs stay together year round, and migrate south as a group with their offspring. Young cranes remain with the family until one to two months before the parents lay the next clutch of eggs the following year, remaining with them for 10-12 months. After leaving their parents, the juveniles form nomadic flocks - also known as *chasses* - until they find their own mate at two and seven years old.

TREMENDOUS TRUMPETS:

Sandhills have a unique saxophone shaped trachea. With it they give a loud, trumpeting call that can be heard for very long distances, especially when flying in groups. The call resembles a deep, rolled "r" in the throat and mated pairs display a "unison calling" behavior where they stand together calling in a synchronized chorus.

SNOWBIRDS:

Sandhill cranes fly south for the winter and often migrate in flocks of over 100 birds in the sky together. During their migration they may stop over in areas where their numbers are enormous. Case in point, in some fields in Indiana tens of thousands of cranes congregate as a stopover on their southern migration (photographer friends have actually captured shots of cranes playing catch with corn cobs in these fields!). In their wintering areas, they may form flocks

of over 10,000 birds.

FABULOUS FLIERS:

During migration, cranes may travel more than 300 miles a day. They're fleet fliers, reaching speeds of up to 35 miles per hour.

FESTIVAL FOR FEATHERED-FRIENDS:

An annual Sandhill Crane Festival is held each November at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge south of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The event typically brings together thousands of crane-lovers and thousands of cranes!

DANCING WITH THE CRANES

The cranes undulating mating dances were imitated by Neolithic people in Turkey in 6500 B.C. as part of their marriage rituals. Many other civilization's dance forms are attributed to imitating these birds. Some historians believe that dance, in general, was invented to pattern the movements of cranes. Animated cranes are also found in hieroglyphs dating back as far as 4,000 years!

MICHIGAN MIGRATIONS:

The Mitten State is smack dab in the center of one of the Sandhill cranes migratory flyways with substantial numbers of birds making our habitats their breeding grounds from spring until fall each year. We are considered in the mid-continental migratory route where birds from as far north as Canada migrate to the southern US and Mexico.

COMEBACK CRANES:

Nationally, crane numbers approached extinction in the 1930's when many factors brought them to the brink of being wiped off the face of the Earth. Concerted conservation efforts - like hunting regulations and habitat restoration - have been extraordinarily successful at increasing bird densities. These are important interventions when you consider usually only one colt survives each year per mating pair. Sandhills are now the most numerous of the crane species while their close relatives, the whooping cranes, are on the endangered species list.

MAKING WHOOPY:

Occasionally, Sandhill cranes and Whooping cranes will mate. One famous Wisconsin baby that resulted from such a pairing was given the catchy name of, "Whoopsie!"

PLETHORA OF PREDATORS:

As a conspicuous ground-dwelling species, Sandhill cranes are at risk from myriad predators. Depending on the crane's size and life stage, foxes, coyotes, cougars, bobcats, hawks, eagles, crows and snapping turtles are frequent predators in the Great Lakes State.

DEFENSIVE DUDES:

Sandhill cranes are formidable when defending themselves and their young. They ward off aerial pursuers by jumping high and kicking their strong legs. Actively brooding adults are more likely to react aggressively to potential predators to defend their colts. Defensive behaviors include them moving forward while hissing, with their wings open and bills pointed. If the predator persists, the crane stabs with its powerful bill that's capable of piercing the skulls of smaller carnivores.

KARATE CRANES:

Made popular in the *Karate Kid* movie, "the crane" stance is used in karate but has a different name. It involves a one-legged position that launches into a flying jump kick. Karate aficionados claim that the movie caused a noticeable uptick in martial arts students in the US!

There are just a few fun facts about those phenomenal, feathery females and fellows, the Sandhill cranes. With good luck you will happen across one or more on your adventures in the woods or on the waters of the Wolverine State!

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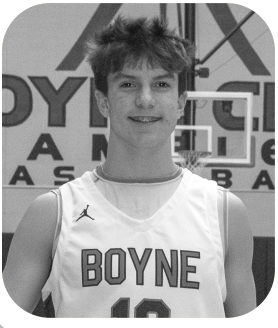
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athlete of the week



Alex Calcaterra
Rambler Basketball

Alex Calcaterra lit it up with 33 points in the win over the East Jordan Red Devils.

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Anna Richards
Red Devils Basketball

Anna Richards had a great night against in county rival Boyne City last week with 14 points.



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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Red Devils beat Ramblers for much needed win

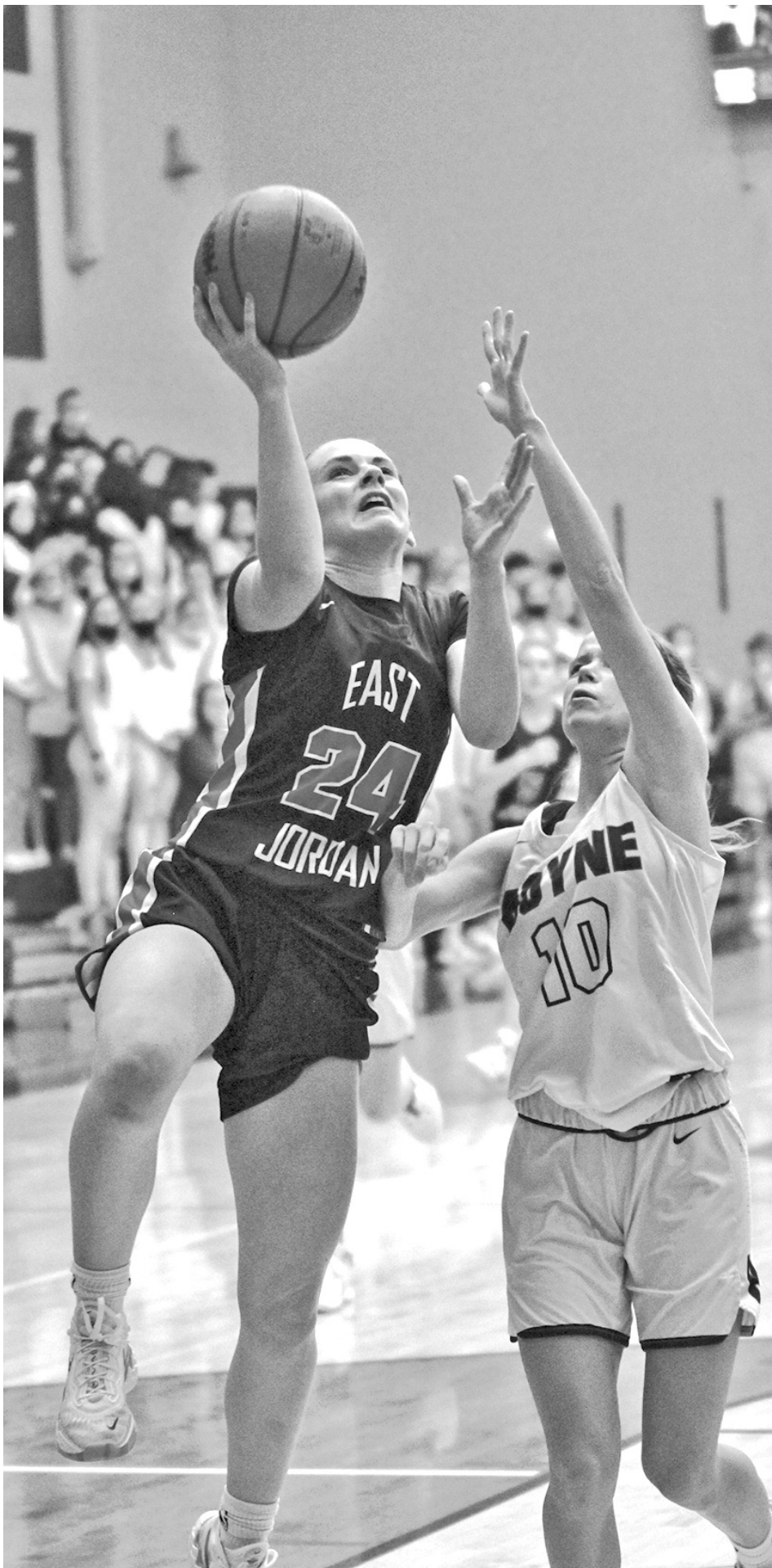
BY: DOM SANTINA

Boyne City would host East Jordan on Friday, December 17 for a rivalry battle and a game that could possibly get a team going in the right direction. The Ramblers came into the game with a 0-3 record. While the Red Devils came into the game with a 1-4 record. The Red Devils opened the season with a win over Mancelona, but then dropped a matchup with Johannesburg-Lewiston in overtime. Then they would lose to Pickford, Elk Rapids and Cheboygan.

The Red Devils would jump out to a slim 4-1 lead after the first quarter. The second quarter would be a bit more productive, as the Red Devils would still lead 17-11 heading into the break. The Red Devils would be able to expand the lead in the third quarter, out scoring the Ramblers 10-6. The Red Devils would use a 8-2 fourth quarter to lock up a 34-19 win.

The Ramblers would be led by Morgan Deming with 11 points. The loss moves the Ramblers to 0-4 on the season and to 0-2 in the Lake Michigan Conference. They will be off till after the holiday break, where they will look to turn their season around.

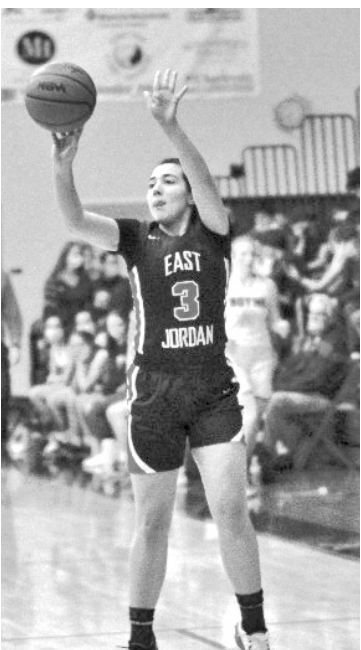
The win moves the Red Devils to 2-4 on the season and 1-1 in the LMC. The Red Devils were led by Anna Richards with 14 points and Mycah Heise with 8 points. The Red Devils will also be off till after the holiday break.



Mycah Heise (24) of East Jordan drives to the hoop for a basket against the Rambler defense of Elly Day (10). (Photo by Chris Fiel)



Boyne City's Brook Williams drives against the defense of East Jordan's Lindsey Cross (20). (Photo by Chris Fiel)



Red Devil senior, Anna Richards (3), launches a triple late in the second half against the Ramblers. (Photo by Chris Fiel)



Rambler junior Braylyn Rincon takes a baseline jumper over the Red Devil defense early on in the contest. (Photo by Chris Fiel)

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Sports

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WRESTLING

Rayders beat Rogers City and Frankfort

BY: DOM SANTINA

The Rayders Wrestling team competed against Rogers and Frankfort on Wednesday, December 15. The Rayders would end up taking team wins against both teams as they would beat Rogers City 51-6 and Frankfort 48-9.

In the matchup, there were a couple highlights, as Sam Fry would continue to stay undefeated going 2-0 in the 130 lb class. Landon Swanson defeated the third ranked wrestler Anthony Paul from Rogers City at 189 lbs. While Bray Jess defeated the twelfth ranked Isaac Paul of Roger City.

The rest of the Rayders would finish out as follow :

Jimmy Descamps, Junior, 112 lbs. 2 and 0

Sam Fry, Junior 130 lbs., 2 and 0
Jamie Parrish, Sophomore, 140 lbs., 1 and 1

Ellery Smith, Junior, 145 lbs., 2 and 0

Rick Wise, Freshman, 152 lbs., 1 and 1

Brady Jess, Freshman, 160 lbs., 2 and 0

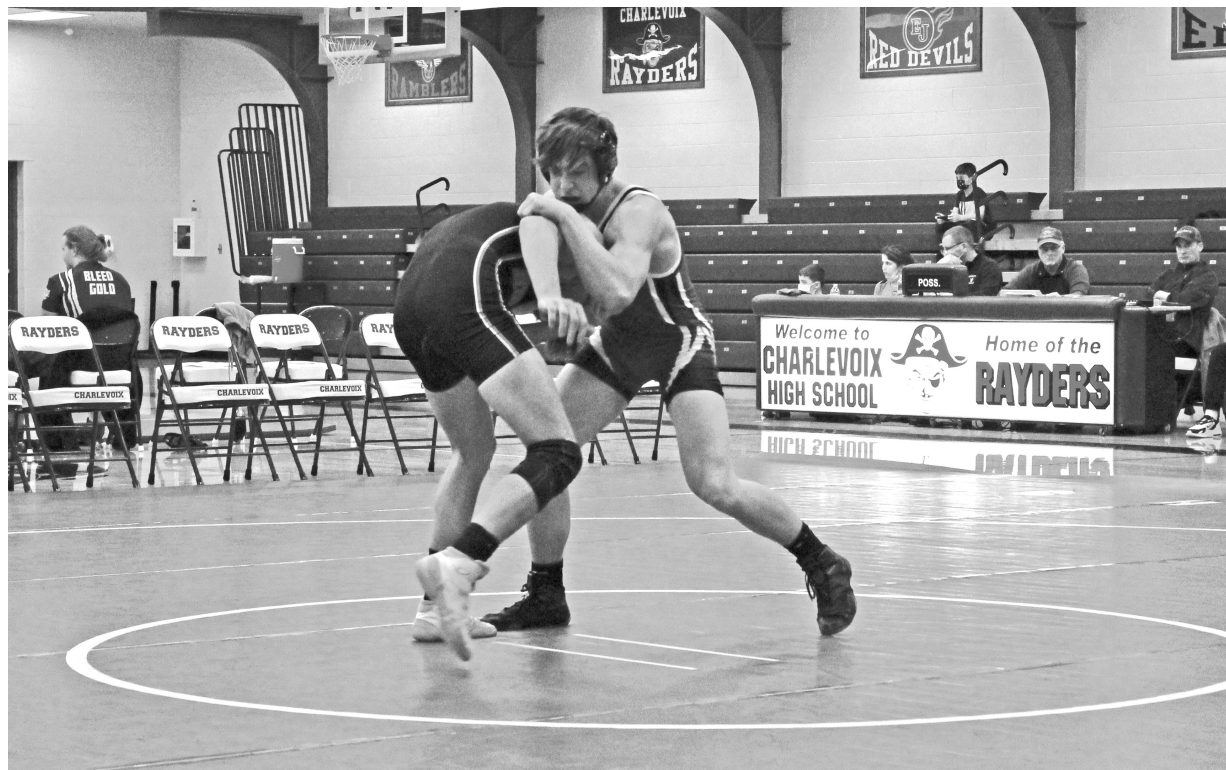
Trevor Streeter, Freshman, 171 lbs., 2 and 0

Landon Swanson, Sophomore, 189 lbs. 2 and 0

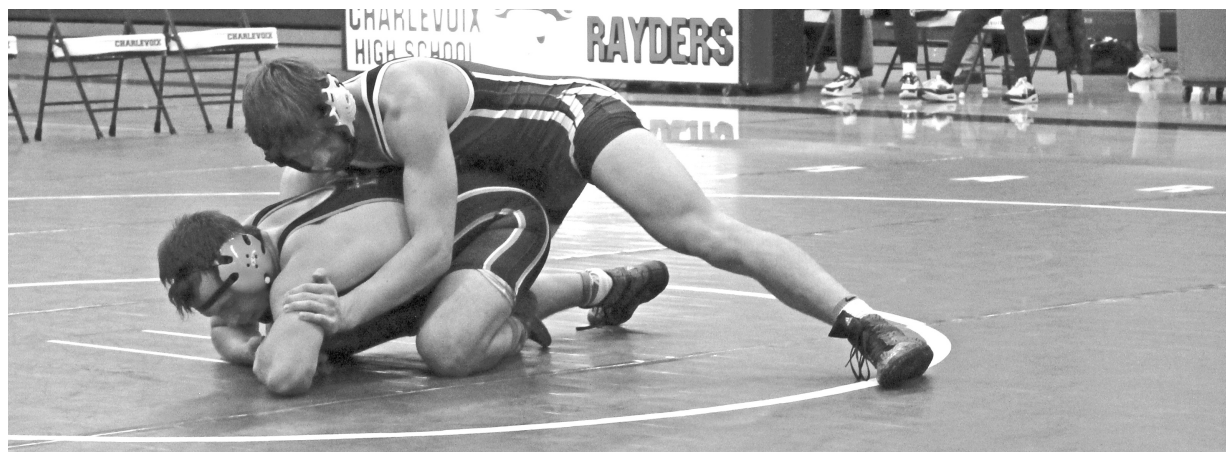
Adam Streeter, Sophomore, 215 lbs., 1 and 1

Conner Ortiz, Freshman, HWT, 2 and 0

In an exhibition matchup, Ben Matter, 189 lbs., 2 and 0 on his day. The team will be off until after the holiday break.



Brady Jess vs. Isaac Paul of Rogers City. Courtesy Photo



Landon Swanson vs. Anthony Paul of Rogers City. Courtesy photo.

BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS

BIG NORTH CONFERENCE

| Team | Conf | Ovr |
|------------|------|-----|
| Cadillac | 2-0 | 3-1 |
| Petoskey | 1-0 | 2-1 |
| Alpena | 0-1 | 3-1 |
| TC Central | 0-0 | 1-2 |
| TC West | 0-0 | 1-3 |
| Gaylord | 0-2 | 0-3 |

LAKE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|
| Boyer City | 1-0 | 3-0 |
| St Francis | 1-0 | 2-0 |
| Kalkaska | 2-0 | 2-1 |
| Elk Rapids | 1-1 | 1-1 |
| East Jordan | 0-1 | 3-1 |
| Harbor Springs | 0-1 | 3-1 |
| Charlevoix | 0-2 | 2-2 |
| Grayling | 0-1 | 2-2 |

STRAITS AREA CONFERENCE

| | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|
| Rudyard | 2-0 | 3-0 |
| Cheboygan | 1-0 | 1-1 |
| Sault | 1-1 | 1-3 |
| St Ignace | 0-1 | 2-2 |
| Newberry | 0-2 | 0-2 |

SKI VALLEY CONFERENCE

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|
| Onaway | 1-0 | 1-0 |
| Gaylord St Mary | 2-0 | 2-1 |
| Manclona | 2-0 | 2-2 |
| Inland Lakes | 1-1 | 1-2 |
| Joburg-Lewiston | 1-1 | 1-2 |
| Central Lake | 0-1 | 1-1 |
| Bellaire | 0-1 | 1-2 |
| Forest Area | 0-1 | 0-1 |
| Pellston | 0-2 | 0-4 |

NORTH STAR - LITTLE DIPPER

| | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|
| Hillman | 3-0 | 3-0 |
| Hale | 1-2 | 1-3 |
| Au Gres-Sims | 0-0 | 2-1 |
| Posen | 0-0 | 2-1 |
| Atlanta | 0-0 | 2-3 |
| Fairview | 0-2 | 0-4 |

NORTH STAR - BIG DIPPER

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|
| Oscoda | 1-0 | 2-3 |
| Rogers City | 2-2 | 2-2 |
| Alcona | 1-1 | 2-2 |
| Charlton Heston | 0-0 | 2-1 |
| Mio | 0-0 | 1-3 |
| W-P | 0-2 | 1-3 |

NORTHERN LAKES CONFERENCE

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|
| Ellsworth | 1-0 | 2-0 |
| Boyer Falls | 0-0 | 1-0 |
| Harbor Lt Chr | 0-0 | 1-1 |
| Mackinaw City | 0-0 | 1-1 |
| Alanson | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Alba | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| North Mich Chr | 0-1 | 0-3 |
| Vanderbilt | 0-0 | 0-1 |
| Wolverine | 0-0 | 0-1 |

GIRLS BASKETBALL STANDINGS

BIG NORTH CONFERENCE

| Team | Conf | Ovr |
|------------|------|-----|
| Gaylord | 1-0 | 3-1 |
| Cadillac | 1-1 | 2-2 |
| TC Central | 0-0 | 4-1 |
| Petoskey | 0-0 | 3-1 |
| Alpena | 0-1 | 3-3 |
| TC West | 0-0 | 2-2 |

LAKE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|
| Harbor Springs | 2-0 | 6-0 |
| St Francis | 3-0 | 5-1 |
| Elk Rapids | 2-0 | 3-1 |
| East Jordan | 1-1 | 2-4 |
| Charlevoix | 1-2 | 1-6 |
| Grayling | 0-2 | 2-3 |
| Boyer City | 0-2 | 0-4 |
| Kalkaska | 0-3 | 0-5 |

STRAITS AREA CONFERENCE

| | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|
| Rudyard | 2-0 | 2-1 |
| Cheboygan | 1-0 | 4-2 |
| Sault | 1-1 | 5-3 |
| St Ignace | 0-1 | 3-1 |
| Newberry | 0-1 | 0-4 |

SKI VALLEY CONFERENCE

| | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|
| Posen | 0-0 | 3-0 |
| Atlanta | 0-0 | 1-1 |
| Hillman | 0-0 | 2-3 |
| Fairview | 0-0 | 1-2 |
| Hale | 0-0 | 1-3 |
| Au Gres-Sims | 0-0 | 0-1 |

NORTH STAR LEAGUE- LITTLE DIPPER

| | | |
|--------------|------|------|
| Posen | 10-0 | 13-1 |
| Hillman | 7-2 | 10-7 |
| Fairview | 6-4 | 7-5 |
| Hale | 4-5 | 7-7 |
| Atlanta | 1-9 | 2-11 |
| Au Gres-Sims | 1-9 | 2-15 |

NORTHERN LAKES CONFERENCE

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|
| Boyer Falls | 1-0 | 1-0 |
| Mackinaw City | 1-0 | 2-0 |
| Wolverine | 1-0 | 1-0 |
| Harbor Lt Chr | 2-0 | 3-2 |
| Vanderbilt | 1-1 | 1-1 |
| North Mich Chr | 1-1 | 1-2 |
| Alanson | 0-0 | 0-1 |
| Alba | 0-1 | 0-1 |
| Ellsworth | 0-4 | 0-5 |

NORTH STAR LEAGUE- BIG DIPPER

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|
| Oscoda | 0-0 | 2-0 |
| Rogers City | 0-0 | 2-2 |
| W-P | 0-0 | 2-2 |
| Alcona | 0-0 | 2-3 |
| Mio | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Charlton Heston | 0-0 | 0-3 |

HOCKEY STANDINGS

BIG NORTH CONFERENCE

| Team | Conf | Ovr |
|------------|-------|-------|
| Alpena | 3-0 | 5-4 |
| Petoskey | 2-1 | 7-2 |
| TC West | 1-1-1 | 5-1-1 |
| TC Central | 1-1-1 | 4-2-1 |
| Cadillac | 0-2 | 4-5 |
| Gaylord | 0-2 | 3-5-1 |

Bowman, McBee Join the 100 Win Club

BY: DOM SANTINA

The Boyne City Wrestling team would welcome Petoskey and Traverse City St. Francis to town for their first home match of the season. As a team the Ramblers would end up splitting the day going 1-1, with a 37-10 win over the Gladiators. They would then fall to the Northmen 54-30.

As individuals, Tim Bowman would remain perfect picking up two more wins to move to 7-0. Jordan McBee, Bobby Hoth and Morgan Erickson would all finish 2-0 on the day. Aron Markovics, Curtis Yang, Collin Schoolcraft and Jacob Bush would each go 1-1. The rest of the team would be rounded out by Lydia Krauss going 0-1 and Wailand Smith going 0-2.

A big moment on the day would be Jordan McBee and Tim Bowman being honored as part of the 100 win club. Boyne City would travel to Chippewa Hills for a wrestling invite on Saturday, December 18.

JOE LOREN MEMORIAL INVITATIONAL

The Ramblers would end up having eight wrestlers and be able to post a 10 place finish out of 24 teams.

At the 125lbs weight class, Tim Bowman once again secured a tournament championship for the Ramblers. After beginning as the number one seed, he won his first and second matches. In the semis he took a victory by decision, and in the finals earned an overtime victory to win the tournament/ This is Bowman's second championship in as many weeks this season.

Also at 125lbs Aron Markovics finished the day 1-2, earning 1 win, before falling in two straight matches to be eliminated.

At the 130lbs weight class Jordan McBee brought back a 2 place finish, receiving the number 1 seed, he took his first match and his semifinal match, before falling in the finals to Midland.

At the 145lbs weight class Curtis Yang went 0-2 on the day.

At the 152lbs weight class, Lydia Krauss competing in the boys varsity division, brings back an 8 place finish. She won her first round match, which guaranteed her placement. She finished the day with a couple of hard fought matches.

At the 171lbs weight class Jacob Bush brought back our second tournament championship of the week-end. He won his first and second



Ramblers wrestlers Bowman and Bush won their division, while Krauss takes eighth and McBee earning a second place finish. Courtesy photo.

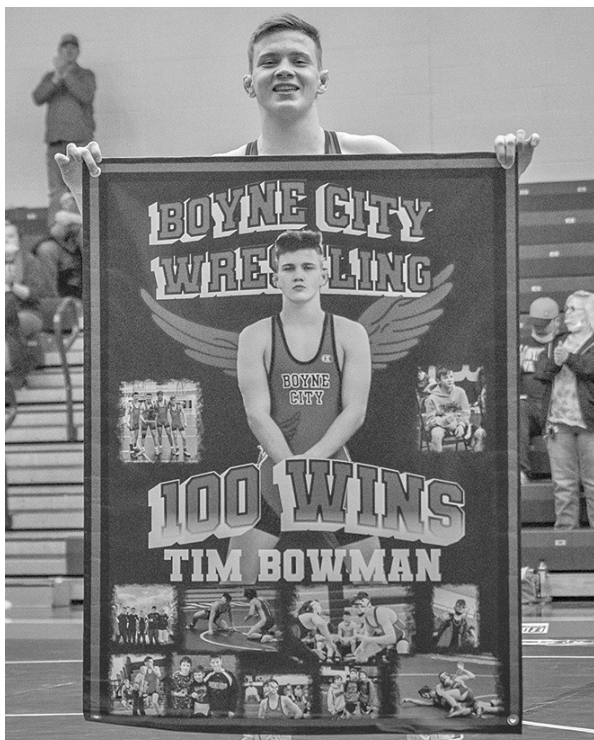


PHOTO BY KIM CULVER

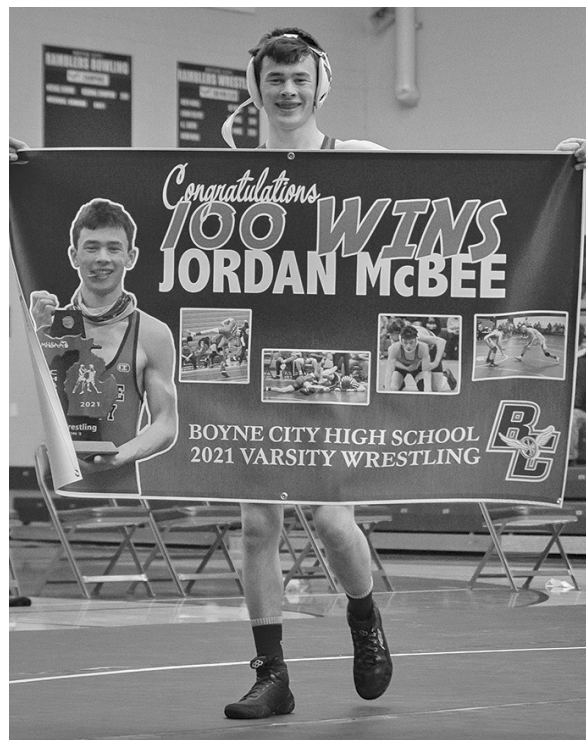


PHOTO BY KIM CULVER

match. In his semifinal opponent injury defaulted out sending Bush into the finals, where he wrestled last year's 152lbs wrestler-up and took him out via overtime decision.

At the 189lbs weight class Bobby

Hoth had to take an early injury default, prematurely ending his tournament.

At the 285lbs weight class Collin Schoolcraft put up some good fight, but ended 0-2 on the day.

The Ramblers are off now until after the holiday break.

Sports

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Lancers get first conference victory

BY: DOM SANTINA

After an opening game win against Bellaire last week. The Lancers of Ellsworth traveled to Burt Lake Northern Michigan Christian Academy on Monday, December 14 to start conference play.

It would not take long for the Lancers to find the offense they had all last season. As they would open the game with a 25 point first quarter and hold a 25-6 lead. The second quarter would look very similar to the first, as the Lancers would put up another 22 points. The defensive effort would hold the Eagles to just five points and would give the Lancers a 47-11 lead at halftime.

In the second half, the foot would come off the gas pedal for the Lancers as they would put up 19 points, while holding the Eagles to only 2 points. That would give them a very comfortable 66-13 lead heading into the fourth quarter. The Eagles would get to see their most productive quarter come in the final minutes. They would put up 8 points, while holding the Lancers to just 4.

The lead would have the game well out of hand by that time though and give the Lancers their second win of the season by a final of 70-21. The Lancers would get 25 points from Kelan Pletcher and 22 points from Brayden Steenwyk, Jacob Jenuwine would also chip in 11 points.

The Lancers are now 2-0 on the season and 1-0 in the Northern Lakes Conference. The next game will be Tuesday, December 21 against Harbor Light Christian at home before the holiday break.

Loggers open season with convincing win over Vanderbilt

BY: DOM SANTINA

The Boyne Falls Boys Basketball team opened their season against Vanderbilt for a Northern Lakes Conference opener.

The Loggers would get off to a good start as they would hold the Yellow Jackets to only a single point in the first quarter, while the Loggers would put up 18. The 17 point lead for the Loggers would only grow before halftime. A 13-5 second quarter for the Loggers gave them a 31-6 lead heading into the break.

In the second half nothing would be any different, as the Loggers would stretch the lead to 52-8. The lead would be enough for the Loggers to cruise the rest of the way, only outscoring the Yellow Jackets 11-5 in the fourth quarter, to finish with a 63-14 victory.

The Loggers were led by Ashton Spang with 16 points. While getting 13 points from Daniel Powers and 12 points from Gab Zarzycki. The Loggers would also have Zarzycki grab 11 rebounds as well.

“It was a good start everybody got lots of playing time. Now we know what we have to improve on for the next game,” said Head Coach Frank Hamilla.

The Loggers started the season off 1-0 overall and 1-0 in the NLC after the win. They will host Cadillac Heritage Christian on Tuesday, December 21 for their second game of the season and the last before break.



Boyne's Mason Wilcox (4) puts the ball on the floor and drives against the tight EJ defense. (Photo by Chris Fiel)

Calcaterra goes for 33, Ramblers go to 3-0

BY: DOM SANTINA

The Boyne City Boys Basketball team started their conference games against rival East Jordan on Friday, December 17. After a 2-0 start against upper peninsula teams, the Ramblers would look to get a win in the northern lower.

As is custom with rivalry games in Charlevoix county and the Lake Michigan Conference, the game would be played in front of a very strong turnout on both sides of the matchup. The Ramblers would use what turned out to be a home crowd to their advantage early. The game was scheduled to be played in East Jordan on

Thursday, but due to loss of power during the wind storm the game had to be moved to Boyne City.

The Ramblers would hold a 19-8 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Ramblers would see the lead close a little bit, but would still hold a 35-25 lead at halftime. The Ramblers would have the lead grow by 3 points in the

third quarter and have 52-39 heading to the fourth quarter. That is when the game would be in hand as the Ramblers would secure the win 73-57.

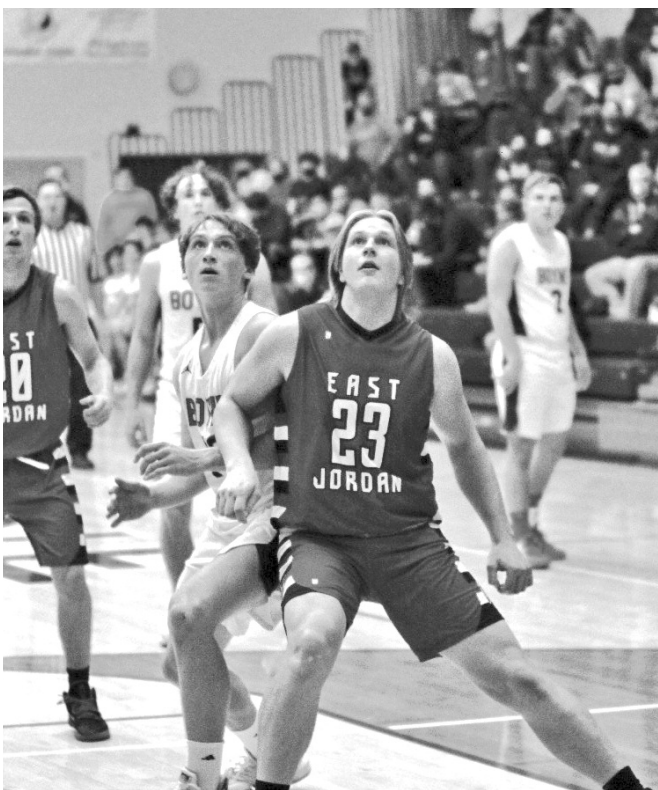
The win has their record go to 3-0 on the season and now 1-0 in the Lake Michigan Conference. The Ramblers were led by Alex Calcaterra with 33 points.

Jack Neer would be able to add in 14 points and Mason Wilcox would add 11 points.

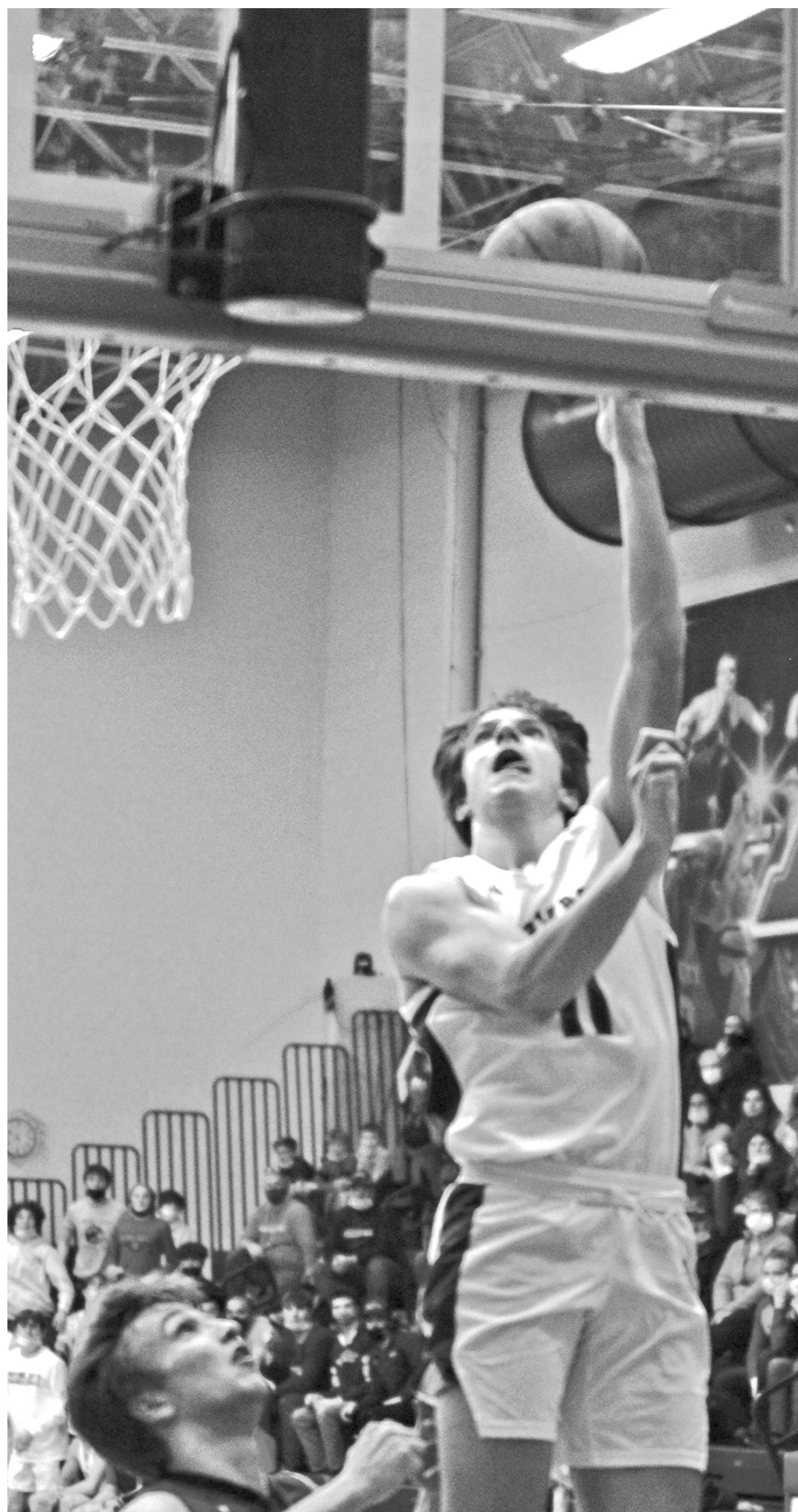
The Ramblers will host Cheboygan on Tuesday, December 21. This will be their last game before the holiday break.



East Jordan's Preston Malpass (4) powers up a basket during second half play vs Boyne City. (Photo by Chris Fiel)



EJ's Lee Nemecek (23) gets position for a rebound against Boyne's Will Brown. (Photo by Chris Fiel)



Rambler guard, Alex Calcaterra (11) explodes to rim for two of his 33 points on the night against the Red Devils. (Photo by Chris Fiel)

Sports

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Rayders drop first two conference matchups

BY: DOM SANTINA

CHARLEVOIX - The Charlevoix Boys Basketball team started the season off with a win over Gaylord in their first game of the season. They would then play their first conference matchup of the year as they would host Traverse City St. Francis on Tuesday, December 14.

TC ST. FRANCIS

The Rayders would be in a rough matchup as they would be beat on second chance opportunities. As the Gladiators were able to get over 20 points on the second chance opportunities. The Rayders would have some good scoring chances early, but would not be able to convert. While Evan Solomon would give a good effort with 17 points to lead the way. It would not be enough as the Rayders would fall 59-40.

Another big factor in the loss would be the rebound battle, which went in favor of the Gladiators as well. The Rayders would get 12 points off the bench from Hudson Vollmer, Max Ostrum would add 5, while Jack Gaffney chipped in 4 and

Caleb Stuck would have 2.

The loss put the Rayders record at 1-1 on the season and 0-1 to start Lake Michigan Conference play. They would have another conference matchup come to town, just two days later, as Elk Rapids would come to Charlevoix on Thursday, December 16.

ELK RAPIDS

After taking a tough loss to open conference play the Rayders would look to get back on track early in the season. The Rayders' struggles rebounding would continue against the Elks. As Stuck would be able to rip down 14 boards, no one else would be able to come anywhere close.

While the game was close in the first quarter, a big run by the Elks in the second put Rayders down 17 heading into the half. In the second half, the Rayders would be able to hang with the Elks and even chip into the lead. However, the second quarter run was too much to overcome for the Rayders and they would drop their second straight game 55-45.

Stuck would lead the way with 14 points to go with his 14 rebounds and Solomon would

add another 12. The Rayders are now 1-2 on the season and will host Royal Oak Shrine Catholic on Monday, December 20.

ROYAL OAK SHRINE CATHOLIC

The Rayders would find themselves down early to their opponent who had a long drive for the matchup. The Rayders would turn a three point deficit after the first quarter into a ten point lead heading to halftime, 24-14.

The third quarter would produce a big run and a chance for the Rayders to pull away and give themselves a 18 point cushion, as they led 44-26. That would be more than enough for the Rayders to be able to secure a 53-37 victory.

Part of the success came from being able to take care of the basketball. The Rayders would only have a total of 7 turnovers in the game. The offense would also be helped out by Solomon scoring 26 points and Stuck adding in 15 points.

The Rayders will be after until January 4, when they will host Maple City Glen Lake after the holiday break.

Red Devils head to break at 3-1

BY: DOM SANTINA

The Red Devils have got off to an undefeated start against Mancelona and Gaylord St. Marys.

CHEBOYGAN

They would host their biggest test on the season so far against Cheboygan on Tuesday, December 17.

The Red Devils would get off to a great start to the game, but would find the basket would go dry late in the first quarter and into the second quarter. After Hayden Peck and Granger Kitson got their offense rolling again, JJ Weber would knock down two threes to give the Red Devils the lead heading into halftime.

With the lead now in their hands, the Red Devils came out on the attack in the second half. Weber would continue to have a big night, not only shooting but on the defensive side of the ball as well. That big game would pay off in the end, as the Red Devils would hold on for a 61-49 overall victory.

The Red Devils would be led by Weber with 23 points and 12 rebounds. Preston Malpass would add 11 as would Mason Malpass.

The win moves the Red Devils to 3-0 on the season and 1-0 in the Lake Michigan Conference.

BOYNE CITY

The Red Devils would look to take their undefeated season into conference play and take on rival Boyne City to open conference play. The Red Devils would come out of the gates a little slow and against the Ramblers that is trouble.

The team would be helped out though right before halftime as Weber would sink a half-court shot to make the deficit 3 points lower. However, the Red Devils would find themselves down 10 at halftime. In the second half of the game, they would be able to stick with the Ramblers but would never be able to close in to try and get the win. They would suffer their first loss of the season by a final score of 73-57.

The Red Devils would be led by Weber and Preston Malpass both with 19 points. Their overall record moves to 3-1 on the season, while their conference record goes to 0-1 on the season.

The Red Devils will now be off for holiday break, they will resume after break with another rivalry matchup against Charlevoix.

BOWL GAME SCHEDULE, SCORES

Friday, Dec. 17

BAHAMAS BOWL

Middle Tennessee 31, Toledo Rockets 24

CURE BOWL

Coastal Carolina 47, Northern Illinois 41

Saturday, Dec. 18

BOCA RATON BOWL

Western Kentucky 59, App State 38

CELEBRATION BOWL

South Carolina State 31, Jackson State 10

NEW MEXICO BOWL

Fresno State 31, UTEP 24

INDEPENDENCE BOWL

UAB 31, BYU 28

LENDINGTREE BOWL

Liberty 56, Eastern Michigan 20

LA BOWL

Utah State 24, Oregon State 13

NEW ORLEANS BOWL

Louisiana 36, Marshall 21

Monday, Dec. 20

MYRTLE BEACH BOWL

Tulsa 30, Old Dominion 17

Tuesday, Dec. 21

FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO BOWL

Kent State vs. Wyoming 3:30 p.m. | ESPN
Albertsons Stadium in Boise, Idaho

FRISCO BOWL

No. 24 San Diego State vs. UTSA 7:30 p.m. | ESPN
Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22

Armed Forces Bowl
Missouri vs. Army 8 p.m. | ESPN
Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas

THURSDAY, DEC. 23

Frisco Football Classic
Miami (Ohio) vs. North Texas 3:30 p.m. | ESPN
Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas

GASPARILLA BOWL

Florida vs. UCF 7 p.m. | ESPN
Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida

Friday, Dec. 24

HAWAI'I BOWL

Memphis vs. Hawai'i 8 p.m. | ESPN
Clarence T.C. Ching Athletics Complex in Honolulu, Hawai'i

Saturday, Dec. 25

CAMELLIA BOWL

Ball State vs. Georgia State 2:30 p.m. | ESPN
Cramton Bowl in Montgomery, Alabama

Monday, Dec. 27

QUICK LANE BOWL

Western Michigan vs. Nevada 11 a.m. | ESPN
Ford Field in Detroit, Michigan

MILITARY BOWL

East Carolina vs. Boston College 2:30 p.m. | ESPN
Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland

Tuesday, Dec. 28

Birmingham Bowl
No. 20 Houston vs. Auburn 12 p.m. | ESPN
Protective Stadium in Birmingham, Alabama

FIRST RESPONDER BOWL

Air Force vs. Louisville 3:15 p.m. | ESPN
Gerald J. Ford Stadium in Dallas, Texas

LIBERTY BOWL

Texas Tech vs. Mississippi State 6:45 p.m. | ESPN
Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium in Memphis, Tennessee

HOLIDAY BOWL

No. 18 North Carolina State vs. UCLA 8 p.m. | FOX
Petco Park in San Diego, California

GUARANTEED RATE BOWL

Minnesota vs. West Virginia 10:15 p.m. | ESPN
Chase Field in Phoenix, Arizona

Wednesday, Dec. 29

FENWAY BOWL

Virginia vs. SMU 11 a.m. | ESPN
Fenway Park in Boston, Massachusetts

PINSTRIP BOWL

Virginia Tech vs. Maryland 2:15 p.m. | ESPN
Yankee Stadium in New York, New York

CHEEZ-IT BOWL

No. 19 Clemson vs. Iowa State 5:45 p.m. | ESPN
Camping World Stadium in Orlando, Florida

ALAMO BOWL

No. 14 Oregon vs. No. 16 Oklahoma 9:15 p.m. | ESPN
Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas

THURSDAY, DEC. 30

Duke's Mayo Bowl
North Carolina vs. South Carolina 11:30 a.m. | ESPN
Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina

MUSIC CITY BOWL

Tennessee vs. Purdue 3 p.m. | ESPN
Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tennessee

PEACH BOWL

No. 10 Michigan State vs. No. 12 Pittsburgh 7 p.m. | ESPN
Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia

LAS VEGAS BOWL

Wisconsin vs. Arizona State 10:30 p.m. | ESPN
Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, Nevada

Friday, Dec. 31

GATOR BOWL

No. 17 Wake Forest vs. No. 25 Texas A&M 11 a.m. | ESPN
TIAA Bank Stadium in Jacksonville, Florida

SUN BOWL

Washington State vs. Miami (FL) 12 p.m. | CBS
Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas

ARIZONA BOWL

Central Michigan vs. Boise State 2 p.m. | Barstool Sports

Arizona Stadium in Tucson, Arizona

COTTON BOWL

(College Football Playoff semifinal)
No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 4 Cincinnati 3:30 p.m. | ESPN
AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas

ORANGE BOWL

(College Football Playoff semifinal)
No. 2 Michigan vs. No. 3 Georgia

7:30 p.m. | ESPN
Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida

Saturday, Jan. 1

OUTBACK BOWL

No. 21 Arkansas vs. Penn State 12 p.m. | ESPN2
Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida

CITRUS BOWL

No. 15 Iowa vs. No. 22 Kentucky 1 p.m. | ABC
Camping World Stadium in Orlando, Florida

FIESTA BOWL

No. 5 Notre Dame vs. No. 9 Oklahoma State 1 p.m. | ESPN
State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona

ROSE BOWL

No. 6 Ohio State vs. No. 11 Utah 5 p.m. | ESPN
Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California

SUGAR BOWL

No. 7 Baylor vs. No. 8 Ole Miss 8:45 p.m. | ESPN
Caesars Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana

TUESDAY, JAN. 4

TEXAS BOWL

Kansas State vs. LSU 9 p.m. | ESPN
NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas

MONDAY, JAN. 10

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

8 p.m. | ESPN
Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana

Here's a complete list of scores from the College Football Playoff since its first season in 2014:

College Football Playoff: Scores

2014 season
Rose Bowl: No. 2 Oregon 59, No. 3 Florida State 20
Sugar Bowl: No. 4 Ohio State 42, No. 1 Alabama 35
CFP National Championship Game: No. 4 Ohio State 42, No. 2 Oregon 20
2015 season
Orange Bowl: No. 1 Clemson 37, No. 4 Oklahoma 17
Cotton Bowl: No. 2 Alabama 38, No. 3 Michigan State 0
CFP National Championship Game: No. 2 Alabama 45, No. 1 Clemson 40
2016 season
Fiesta Bowl: No. 2 Clemson 31, No. 3 Ohio State 0
Peach Bowl: No. 1 Alabama 24, No. 4 Washington 7
CFP National Championship Game: No. 2 Clemson 35, No. 1 Alabama 31
2017 season
Rose Bowl: No. 3 Georgia 54, No. 2 Oklahoma 48 (2OT)
Sugar Bowl: No. 4 Alabama 24, No. 1 Clemson 6
CFP National Championship Game: No. 4 Alabama 26, No. 3 Georgia 23 (OT)
2018 season
Orange Bowl: No. 1 Alabama 45, No. 4 Oklahoma 34
Cotton Bowl: No. 2 Clemson 30, No. 3 Notre Dame 3
CFP National Championship Game: No. 2 Clemson 44, No. 1 Alabama 16
2019 season
Peach Bowl: No. 1 LSU 63, No. 4 Oklahoma 28
Fiesta Bowl: No. 3 Clemson 29, No. 2 Ohio State 23
CFP National Championship Game: No. 1 LSU 42, No. 3 Clemson 25
2020 season
Rose Bowl: No. 1 Alabama 31, No. 4 Notre Dame 14
Sugar Bowl: No. 3 Ohio State 49, No. 2 Clemson 28
CFP National Championship Game: No. 1 Alabama 52, No. 3 Ohio State 24
The 2019 season marked the first time the No. 1 team in the final CFP rankings has won the title. The No. 1 has now won two in a row, however, with Alabama routing Ohio State in the 2020 season.

The No. 2 team has been the most successful this far, as that team has won three times: Alabama (2015 season), Clemson (2016 season) and Clemson (2018 season).

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ADVICE FROM GOD

The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.' Matthew 1:23 (NLT)

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APS Mini-Warehouse of Gaylord has 5x10 units for just \$39 a month. No long term contract necessary. In town, safe storage. Larger units may also be available. Call 989-732-8160.

NEW STORAGE UNITS available at Meyer Ace Hardware, corner of McCoy Road and Old 27 South Gaylord. 12x30. Call David, 989-732-1394.

SUV

2005 GMC Yukon Denali. Loaded. As low as \$275 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2007 Toyota Highlander. 4x4. As low as \$399 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2008 Ford Edge SEL. AWD, leather. As low as \$249 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2009 Chevy Tahoe LTZ. AWD, leather, 3rd row seat. Sale Price \$9,995. As low as \$219 a Month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2018 Chevy Equinox. 144k, backup camera. Sale Price \$22,995. As low as \$399 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

Help Wanted:

ANCHOR LAMINA IN BELLAIRE, MICHIGAN CURRENTLY HAS AN OPENING FOR A 3RD SHIFT WATCHMAN.

With this position you would be responsible in monitoring and maintaining the security of the plant with the off-shifts and on the weekends. Schedule would be a four day work week of Monday and Friday from 10pm-6am and Saturday and Sunday 6pm-6am. This position is full-time with benefits to include vacation, personal days, paid holidays, quarterly gain share bonuses, health insurance, life and disability insurance and 401K with a company match along with an employee tuition reimbursement program. You will qualify for an hourly increase after completing your first 90 days of employment and every 90 days until you reach your first year. Apply in person at: 3650 S. Derenzy Road, Bellaire, MI 49615.

Help Wanted:

ANCHOR LAMINA IN BELLAIRE, MICHIGAN CURRENTLY HAS AN OPEN POSITION FOR A 2ND SHIFT QUALITY TECHNICIAN.

Applicants will preferably have math and mechanical aptitude, be familiar with print reading and basic GD&T, understanding of quality and inspection plans, knowledge of precision gage use, CMM experience is a plus. This position is full-time with benefits to include vacation, personal days, paid holidays, quarterly gain share bonuses, health insurance, life and disability insurance and 401K with a company match along with an employee tuition reimbursement program. You will qualify for an hourly increase after completing your first 90 days of employment and every 90 days up to your first year. Apply in person for an immediate interview: 3650 S. Derenzy Road, Bellaire, MI 49615 or call 231-350-5731.

NOTICE OF HEARING OF NORWOOD TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

TO: Property Owners in Norwood Township, Charlevoix County, Michigan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Norwood Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider updates to their existing Master Plan in accordance with Section 39 of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008, MCL 25.3839.

The hearing will be held at the Norwood Township Hall, 00640 Lakeshore Dr., Charlevoix, MI 49720 on **January 10, 2022 at 7:00 PM.**

A copy of the proposed amended Master Plan can be viewed in person by appointment at Township Hall or on our website norwoodtpw.org

Written comment can be submitted to Norwood Township Planning Commission, PO Box 113, Charlevoix, MI 49720 or via email to zoning@norwoodtpw.org

NORWOOD TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Publish: December 23, 2021



NMCAA Early Head Start Child Family Specialist – Emmet County

Preferred: Associate Degree in Child Development and experience working with the birth-three age group.

Applicant must demonstrate a strength-based approach working with families, a commitment to confidentiality, strong computer skills, and the ability to be a strong team player.

Proof of COVID vaccination required, unless approved for a medical or religious exemption. Masks are required for all over the age of 2 unless medically unable.

FT, \$17.00/hr. EOE Apply by 1/3.

Visit www.nmcaa.net for details.

TRUCKS

2003 Chevy Avalanche. 4WD. As low as \$239 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2004 Chevy Avalanche. Sale price \$5,499. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2005 Ram 2500. Bighorn, 5.7L Hemi, double cab, spray-in bedliner. Sale Price \$6,795. As low as \$219 a Month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2006 Lincoln Mark LT. Club cab, tow pkg, bedliner. As low as \$399 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

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Charlevoix County News

REAL ESTATE FEATURE



LARGE BUILDING SITE WITH POLE BUILDING NEAR EAST JORDAN

BY JIM AKANS

Complete with a large 40x80 foot pole building, this nearly three-and-a-half acre property just a few mile from East Jordan is ready to accommodate your storage needs and is an excellent spot to build your dream home.

The setting is absolutely gorgeous, featuring a hilltop panoramic view of the surrounding northern Michigan countryside. There is electricity, well and septic already on site.

The 40x80 foot building on this site has a 14-foot ceiling and a 24x32 foot portion of the space is both insulated

and heated. This is an ideal place to store your boat or RV and set up a workshop. It would also make a perfect "base camp" while building your new dream home on the site.

This approximately three-and-a-half acre site with panoramic hilltop views and a 40x80 foot pole building is located at 5433 Kidder Road near East Jordan and it is listed at \$174,900. For additional information or to arrange for a tour, please call Mike Stark or Holly Stark, Associate Brokers, at EXP Realty - 109 Mill Street, East Jordan, at 231-536-7700 or email HollyUpNorth@gmail.com



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How Can Two Similar Homes Vary in Price by More Than \$10,000?

Forgetting, for a moment, the interior improvements that set one home apart from another, there are exterior factors that also influence price. For instance, homes on primary ingress and egress streets-(that is, the main streets that lead in and out of a tract)-generally appreciate more slowly than those within the tract that are not on primary streets.

Primary ingress/egress streets generate more traffic and are therefore, generally less desirable. Thus, they have lower prices.

Within a tract, a home on a cul-de-sac may generate a higher price for the same reason-less traffic. Cul-de-sacs are frequently like a maze and they discourage drive-throughs, which is, of course, a definite benefit to residential privacy.

Even properties on one side of a street can be worth more than a similar property across from it. Why? Certain communities, because of their name, are more prestigious than others. Beverly Hills, California, of course, is one. It is known worldwide for its high-end shopping, expensive housing and impeccable name. In sections where Beverly Hills is divided from other cities and/or communities by a street, the homes on the Beverly Hills side of

the avenue command a higher price than those in the non-Beverly Hills city across from it.

Existing homes may differ radically in price for another reason-one homeowner wants to sell, and the other has to sell. The motivation for each is quite different, and so may be the pricing strategies.

Some other factors that influence price: What commercial developments are adjacent to the tract? How (un)desirable are they? And, don't forget supply and demand.

The wise buyer checks one other thing-a community's master plan. This is a must, especially if a tract (or home) is surrounded by vacant land. Most communities have one. It is usually drawn up by planners within the city of county and approved by a local planning commission. Find out what is going to be built nearby and determine how it might impact the value of the tract. All this, of course, takes time and homework. But, it is well worth it, especially when you consider that the purchase of a home is usually going to be the largest, single financial investment most people make in a lifetime.

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| What's the difference between a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose and an additional dose? | booster dose | additional dose |
|--|--|---|
| For | People aged 65 years and older, residents aged 18 years and older in long-term care settings, and people aged 56-64 years with certain underlying medical conditions should get a booster dose. | People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should get an additional dose. |
| Based on individual benefits and risks, people aged 18-49 years who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 due to certain underlying medical conditions and people aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure because of occupational* or institutional setting may get a booster dose. | | |
| A booster is the next dose in a vaccination series to likely boost immunity that has waned over time. | | |
| The risk of severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age, and can also increase for adults of any age with underlying medical conditions. Please contact your primary care provider to see if you need an additional or booster dose. | | |
| Minimum time after 2 nd dose | 6 months | 28 days |
| Initial vaccine | Pfizer | Pfizer or Moderna |

*Per CDC, occupations at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission include frontline essential workers and health care workers.

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