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## Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund board recommends projects totaling \$41.7 million to boost outdoor recreation

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board recommended Wednesday that the Michigan Legislature approve 68 recreation development projects and 17 land acquisitions totaling \$41.7 million be funded in 2025.

The board this year considered a total of 122 applications seeking over \$53.4 million in funding. In a competitive process, all eligible applications were evaluated based on scoring criteria approved by the Trust Fund board.

The panel recommends funding to state and local agencies for development projects and land acquisitions aimed at furthering access to public outdoor recreation.

This year, the board recommended \$22.5 million for development project grants and \$19.3 million for acquisition grants.

Inside those amounts, there were 58 development grants totaling \$18,913,000



and nine acquisition grants totaling \$7,412,600 recommended to be awarded to local units of government. In addition, 10 development projects totaling \$3,590,000 and eight acquisition purchases totaling \$11,850,000 were recommended for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

"From fantastic land purchases like a \$4.2 million property that will connect additional Michigan Highlands habitats to Craig Lake State Park in Marquette County to a \$400,000 project to develop the Nakwema Trails in

Charlevoix County, these grant recommendations by the board will make significant improvements to outdoor recreation across our state," Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director Scott Bowen said.

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is a restricted fund that was established in 1976 to provide funding for public acquisition of lands for resource protection and outdoor recreation, as well as for public outdoor recreation development projects. It is funded through interest and earnings on funds derived from the revenues of state-owned oil, gas and minerals.

Over the past 48 years, the Trust Fund has granted more than \$1.3 billion to state and local units of government, across 2,930 allocations, to develop and improve recreation opportunities in Michigan.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## State lawmakers demand accountability over proposed DNR solar farms

State Rep. Ken Borton on Monday joined 52 of his Republican and Democrat colleagues in sending a bipartisan letter to Department of Natural Resources Director Scott Bowen demanding answers on a recently exposed proposed solar farm near Gaylord. DNR officials said they plan to allow the destruction of 420 acres of state forest, located just west of Gaylord, to clear the way for solar panel installations.

"Any person who thinks swapping trees for solar panels is a good idea has no business being employed by the department tasked with responsibly managing and protecting our natural resources," said Borton, R-Gaylord. "DNR staff either completely forgot their job or were entirely corrupt from the start. Whatever the truth is, it's inexcusable and nothing short of a fireable offense. The people involved in these decisions shouldn't be out of the job for too long considering how cozy they are with the solar farm industry."

Public outrage has exploded since the project plans were uncovered last week. In response, RWE Clean Energy, which operates a solar field adjacent to the public land, reversed course and said it would not be pursuing expansion onto the state forest. Staff with RWE Clean Energy initially requested the DNR make the land available for the installation of solar farms.

The legislators also demanded the DNR release any information on other

locations where the DNR has agreed to lease public land for private green-energy use. Since the proposed project near Gaylord became public, Borton has received messages from hundreds of people expressing concern and sharing stories of similar projects in different areas.

"The curtain is coming down on these terrible ideas and House Republicans aren't going to stop digging until we uncover every single place the DNR plans to kill wildlife to further the radical green energy agenda," Borton said. "I've already been made aware of similar projects in Otsego and Roscommon counties. I'm sure the buck doesn't stop there. The DNR has lost the public trust and failed at managing conservation efforts; there is no way we're going to let them find new ways to screw up energy production, especially at the expense of our natural resources."

The project near Gaylord was only exposed after quality reporting by Mlive. However, the DNR continues to roadblock a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, filed by reporters in October, to learn more about the proposal.

"The cat is out of the bag, and it's not happy. Yet, instead of facing the music, the DNR would rather try and stuff the poor thing right back in there," Borton said. "But that's the thing about secrets; you can't unlearn them. It's time the DNR come clean on this disastrous plan."

## Inside this week!

### NEWS

- Weather - Page 2
- Obituaries - Pages 2 & 6
- News Briefs - Page 8

### SPORTS

**RD SPORTS PHOTOS TOP 10 PHOTOS OF THE YEAR**  
Pages 10 & 11

**IN MOTION IMAGES 10 TOP TEN PHOTOS OF THE YEAR**  
Page 12

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Boyne Lady Ramblers open new year with pair of wins - Page 9
- EJ girls play to win over St. Philip in contest held at Crisler Center - Page 13

### BOYS BASKETBALL

- East Jordan drops game with St. Philip at Crisler Center - Page 9
- Charlevoix boys defeat previously unbeaten Bellaire - Page 15

### BOWLING

- Boyne City Boys Bowling start season - Page 15

### WRESTLING

- Rayders beat Inland Lakes, Soo and TC Central at Petoskey Tourney - Page 14

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2024-25	AMOUNT	
1/6/2025	21.3	Alpena
1/6/2025	10.4	Atlanta
1/6/2025	50.5	Boyne Falls
1/6/2025	29.3	Charlevoix
1/6/2025	19.3	Cheboygan
1/6/2025	71.4	East Jordan
1/6/2025	108.8	Gaylord
1/6/2025	83.5	Kalkaska
1/6/2025	18.4	Mio
1/6/2025	56.7	Petoskey

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1/8/2024	14	Boyne Falls
1/8/2024	9	Charlevoix
1/8/2024	7	Cheboygan
1/8/2024	16.8	East Jordan
1/8/2024	30.3	Gaylord
1/8/2024	41.2	Kalkaska
1/8/2024	6.6	Mio
1/8/2024	22.5	Petoskey



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# News

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## weather forecast

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	record temps
							Day .....Avg HIGH .... Avg LOW .... Record HIGH .... YEAR .... Record LOW .... YEAR
<b>HIGH: 27</b> <b>LOW: 23</b>	<b>HIGH: 29</b> <b>LOW: 25</b>	<b>HIGH: 27</b> <b>LOW: 21</b>	<b>HIGH: 27</b> <b>LOW: 23</b>	<b>HIGH: 24</b> <b>LOW: 15</b>	<b>HIGH: 18</b> <b>LOW: 15</b>	<b>HIGH: 19</b> <b>LOW: 17</b>	Jan 9.....25.....12 .....44..... 1965..... -24 ....1977
							Jan 10.....25.....12 .....43..... 2018..... -32 ....1982
							Jan 11.....25.....12 .....49..... 2018..... -22 ....1984
							Jan 12.....25.....11 .....51..... 2013..... -13 ....1966
							Jan 13.....25.....11 .....46..... 2005..... -21 ....2015
							Jan 14.....25.....11 .....45..... 1961..... -21 ....2009
							Jan 15.....24.....11 .....47..... 1952..... -31 ....1984

## OBITUARIES



**Reva Jean Spencer (Brooks), 72**  
Sept. 24, 1952–Dec. 29, 2024  
BOYNE CITY

Reva Jean Spencer (Brooks) of Boyne City passed away on December 28, 2024, at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey. Reva was born on September 24, 1952, in East Jordan, to Leonard and Zola (Vermillion) Brooks. She grew up in Boyne City and spent most of her life around the natural beauty of northern Michigan.

Reva was known for her selfless nature, always ready to lend a helping hand to those around her. Her infectious smile and laugh could light up any room. Reva had a passion for the arts, such as: interior decorating, antiques, and spent a lot of her time refinishing them. She also had a deep love for animals, especially horses, and her three shih tzus.

She is survived by her daughter Ashley (Jackson) Jones; her two grandsons; her mother and father Zola and Leonard Brooks; sister Debbie (David) Shetterly; and brother Bruce Brooks.

A memorial service will be held at a later date in 2025 to celebrate Reva's life. Arrangements are in the care of Stackus Funeral Home.



**Myrna Curtis, 83**  
June 25, 1941–Jan. 4, 2025  
CHARLEVOIX

Myrna Ann (DeYoung) Curtis died peacefully January 4, 2025, at Munson Medical Center. The oldest of seven children, she was born June 25, 1941, in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, to Oliver and Lottie DeYoung. She met the love of her life, Tracy Curtis, when she was fourteen. The couple married in June 1959. After brief periods living in Oakland, Cali-

fornia, and Grand Rapids, Michigan, they settled permanently in Charlevoix, Michigan, where they raised their four children. Once her children were all in school, Myrna returned to school herself to obtain her nursing degree and fulfill her passion of caring for children. During her long career she worked in pediatrics and the NICU.

Myrna loved traveling, on water and land. She and Tracy spent many summer days boating the Great Lakes and Lake Charlevoix. Her grandchildren, nieces and nephews have many stories of boating adventures. She was a roller coaster enthusiast and her annual trips to Cedar Point with a careful of young relatives are legendary. She got out her passport and visited England, Ireland, Scotland, Italy, Belize, Jamaica, Canada, and Mexico. She was able to visit almost all the 50 U.S. states. One memorable trip took her and Tracy on an Alaskan adventure which included a cruise of the inland passage, visiting Denali National Park, and a bush plane flight to Galana, in the Yukon Territory. She lived in Galana for a year when she was five while her father was working on a project for the Army Corp of Engineers. On her return visit, she laughed that they chose to stay in the Bed and Breakfast that had indoor plumbing. In recent years, she and her sister did many road trips to Texas to visit their brother and his family, to Montana and Colorado, to Florida, Virginia and South Carolina.

Myrna was dedicated to her children, grandchildren and extended family. An accomplished seamstress, she constructed countless Christmas and Easter dresses and magnificent Halloween costumes. Every year, her grandchildren, young nieces and nephews, and godchildren eagerly awaited the custom-made Christmas ornament that magically arrived from Nana/Aunt Myrna. Though she claimed she didn't know anything about gardening, she was meticulous about her lawn and flower gardens, especially her angel-filled rose garden. There was never a weed that could escape her grasp.

An affirmed dog lover, whether at home in Charlevoix or on her many travels Myrna would stop to pet every dog she met and chat with its owner. Her grand-dogs would sometimes sneak through the woods for a clandestine visit to Nana's house. She raised, loved and spoiled many of her own dogs throughout her life, especially Diva-dog Sadie Rose. Myrna was a wonderful mother, Nana, sister, aunt and friend. She will be greatly missed.

Myrna was preceded

in death by her husband, Tracy Curtis; her daughter, Suzanne Jo Curtis; her parents, Oliver and Lottie DeYoung; her father and mother-in-law, Russell and Gertrude Curtis; and her brother, Gary DeYoung. She is survived by her children Tracine (Travis) Hummel; Kathrine Curtis; and Russell (Tobi) Curtis; all of Charlevoix; her grandchildren Gordon Desch, Charlevoix; Molly Desch, Youngstown, Ohio; Matthew Desch, Grand Rapids, Michigan; David Hummel, Charlevoix; Suzanne Curtis, Englewood, Colorado; Lily Curtis, Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Chloe Curtis, Charlevoix; her great-grandchildren Kaylee and Kayden Brennen, Youngstown, Ohio; her sister Charlene Lydick, Charlevoix; her brother Patrick (Nadine) DeYoung, Whitesboro, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will take place at 1 p.m. followed by a funeral service at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at Bethany Lutheran Church (Genesis Church), 11906 Old US 31 Hwy N, Charlevoix, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Charlevoix Humane Society.

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

Sign her online guestbook at [www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com)



**John Calvin Lamoreaux, 88**  
Oct. 6, 1936 - Dec. 31, 2024  
CHARLEVOIX

John Calvin Lamoreaux passed away quietly in the comfort of his home December 31, 2024 surrounded by his wife and daughters.

Born October 6, 1936 in Banks Township, Michigan, he grew up on the family farm. John was the fourth oldest child of Raymond and Hazel (Arnold)Lamoreaux. When it was time to attend school he joined his older siblings at Central Lake Public School where he would later receive his high school diploma.

During high school John met his future wife, Lynn Hair, whom he married in 1956. They made their home in the Petoskey/Charlevoix Area.

John spent most of his career at The LexaLite International Corporation, where he was employed for decades. He wore many hats while working at LexaLite such as, plastic molding specialist, safety director and foreman. During those years John and Lynn raised four daughters. John designed and built an amazing home and used his ingenuity to create faster, easier and better ways to be successful at whatever he was working on at the time.

His daughters would be the first to tell you they were raised as if they were boys. John took time to teach them about cars, engines, chopping, stacking, as well as hauling the winter's wood. There was farming, fishing, snowmobiling, camping, hunting, mini bikes and go carts, learning to drive, having fun and all the things boys should know. He was very proud of his girls. In his spare time John loved working on his antique Farmall tractors, his Case backhoe and spending time tinkering in his garage. He was a jack of all trades. If he couldn't fix it or didn't have the part he would make it out of all his "treasures" from over the years. He was also quite the puzzler. John and his family put together hundreds of puzzles with John always saying as soon as the box was opened, "I think there are a lot of pieces missing."

John is survived by his wife, Lynn, daughters, Karen Lamoreaux of Petoskey, Pamela(Mark) Lamoreaux-Gregory of Petoskey and Cindi(Travis) Lamoreaux of Elk Rapids. He also leaves behind his greatest joys, his grandchildren, Olivia Brown, Morgan (David) Kaczmarczyk, Grant Gregory, Chase (Taylor) Gregory, Brenton (Jenna) Evans, and Cameron Evans. He is also survived by his sister Linda McDaniel, brother-in-law William Hair and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his eldest daughter Barbara K. Lamoreaux, his parents, Raymond (Elizabeth) Lamoreaux and Hazel (Arnold) Lamoreaux, brothers, Richard(Rita), Russell (Lois), Marland (Carol), sister, Janet (Jim)Johnson and brother-in-law Gary McDaniel as well as best friend, David Shively.

A huge heartfelt thank you is extended McLaren Hospice team. Donations in remembrance of John may be sent to McLaren Hospice and Palliative Care of Northern Michigan at 1 Hiland Drive, Petoskey, Michigan 49770.

A graveside service will take place on May 17, 2025 at Lakeview Cemetery in Eastport, Michigan.

Arrangements are in the care of Mortensen Funeral Homes. Sign his online guestbook at [www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com)



**Louise Bergmann, 81**  
Nov. 19, 1943 - Dec. 31, 2024  
CHARLEVOIX

Louise Ann Bergmann of Charlevoix passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 31, 2024, at her home surrounded by her husband of 57 years and loving family. She was born on November 19, 1943, in Central Lake, MI, the daughter of Christopher and Catherine (Weisler) Hebden.

Louise graduated from Central Lake High School in 1962, where she passionately participated in basketball, softball, and cheerleading, along with being the 1961-62 fall Homecoming Queen. She attended Central Michigan University and later Cosmetology School, leading her to a lifelong career as a successful salon owner and stylist. Her career as a stylist allowed her to combine her passion and joy with helping people look their best, while nurturing kindness into the lives of others!

Louise was first married to William J. Taylor III (East Jordan, MI) on September 4, 1965, who immediately left for Vietnam and was KIA on November 20, 1965. They had one son, William J. Taylor IV.

Douglas (Doug) C. Bergmann and Louise later met and married on May 4, 1968, her loving husband of 57 years, and they had a son, Douglas M. Bergmann, and Doug became stepdad to William. The family resided in Charlevoix, MI, and were committed residents of the community and schools as avid supporters of the community and Rayder Nation.

Louise and Doug's son Douglas M. Bergmann married Julie (Bush) Bergmann and had two children, Louise's adored grandchildren Annie and Emmett, residing in Charlevoix, MI. Her passion and commitment to her grandchildren was beyond compare, and for her GRAND years the center of her joy and energy. Their son William is engaged to Susan Gilchrest and resides in Colleyville, TX.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Christopher and Catherine Hebden, in laws William D. and Mary Ellen Taylor, in laws Ted and Rose Bergmann, her brothers Roy Hebden (wife, Louise, deceased),

John (wife, Ruth Ann) Hebden, James (Jim) Hebden, her sisters Martha (Hebden) Moore (husband, Mike, deceased), Margaret (Hebden) Murphy (husband, Morris), brother in laws Bruce Bergmann (wife, Sue), Charles Bergmann (wife, Sherry), and Jim Bergmann (wife, Dianna, deceased).

In addition to the members of her immediate family, she is survived by her brother Christopher Hebden, Sr (wife Francis, deceased), sisters Betty (Hebden) Chaney (husband Bob, deceased), Dorothy (Hebden) Drenth (husband Larry), sister-in-law Judie (Taylor) Vivian (husband Jim), brother in laws Jack Bergmann (wife Sherrel), Ken Bergmann (wife, Sue), and sister in law Lois (Bergmann) Michelin (husband Paul, deceased), numerous nieces and nephews, and many great nieces and nephews.

Louise's passions were many such as her Nashville and Gatlinburg, TN music trips and events, dancing at any opportunity, outdoor pursuits around camping, boating, and tending to her yard and flower gardens as the consummate farmer's daughter. Her contagious smile and passion can be found in the beauty of the flowers she tended to around her home. However, her strongest love language was cooking for her family and extended family of her children and grandchildren. Mom or Grandma Louise was known for her excellent photography skills, being the Number #1 unofficial (official) Rayder Nation team documentarian for many years, and number one fan of all things Charlevoix Rayders.

The Doug Bergmann family would like to acknowledge all the health professionals of Munson Hospital of Traverse City and Charlevoix, your commitment and personal care of Louise will be forever remembered. In addition, the excellent services and care from Hospice of Michigan, and the angel among us, her personal care giver, Lisa Smith. Lisa will forever be part of our family!

A funeral service was held on Monday, January 6th, 2025, at the First Congregational, 101 State St., Charlevoix, MI 49720.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Memory of Louise Ann Bergmann can be made to Hospice of Michigan or Pete Spieles Cross Country Scholarship Fund (housed at the Charlevoix Community Foundation).

Arrangements are in the care of the Charlevoix Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes. Please sign her online guestbook [www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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## COMMUNITY LEADER

# HEATHER ELZINGA

## FROM PASSION TO BUSINESS – A WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS JOURNEY

BY JOHN KEYSER

When I met Heather, I felt certain that she would be a great person to highlight as a community leader, as she is! She grew up in East Jordan where she met her husband, Brandin. Heather went on after high school to North Central Michigan College where she earned her Associate Degree in Business Management.

During college, Heather worked at the hospital and several of our restaurants, including Kelsey B's, JAX and The Flap Jack, which was a local staple here in Charlevoix for 33 years. In fact, Heather and I met at Harwood Gold and after she left, a gentleman at a nearby table said that he recognized her from The Flap Jack, that she was the manager, an extremely hard worker, and clearly detailed oriented.

Heather and Brandin live in Charlevoix and have a daughter (6) and a son (5) who attend at the Charlevoix Public School.

It is clear to me that Heather is a natural leader, driven by a strong desire to keep learning and help others grow. She has started her own baking company, Crazy Kake A Holics, here in Charlevoix, MI.

Baking had been her



HEATHER ELZINGA

hobby and passion for years and she decided to take a leap and fulfill her dream of being a business owner. Furthering her career, Heather attended Augusta Escoffier School of Culinary Arts and obtained a diploma in Professional Pastries. She is now creating custom confections such as cakes, cupcakes, and dessert bars for weddings, holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, and really, any occasion. She is highly known within the community, and will accommodate various requests such as gluten and or dairy free, allergies, etc.

I am impressed that Heather is getting direction and coaching for her new

business from SCORE, a national resource of the U. S. Small Business Association connected with the Petoskey Chamber of Commerce and SMBDC, i.e., Small Michigan Business Development Center. In addition, Heather is actively sharing Crazy Kake A Holics and her capabilities on social media and through her website at [www.crazykakeaholics.com](http://www.crazykakeaholics.com). As a vendor at The Charlevoix Farmer's market this year, she was able to bring awareness of the services and goods she provides. Children were encouraged to visit her booth where they had the opportunity to decorate cookies or cupcakes and

add their creative touches to their treats.

Very importantly, she volunteers at local schools to share career options in professional baking, inspiring the next generation of chefs. She generously donates her time and provides gifts and door prizes to local charity events like The Charlevoix Christmas Project, The Tip of the Mitt Invitational, supporting worthy causes in the community. Additionally, she provides large celebration desserts for local establishments, including the 10-year anniversary of The Joppa House and the 25th anniversary of Charlevoix Ace Hardware. To spread joy through desserts, she also offers decorating classes, sharing her skills and passion with others. Heather is committed to do more with our local nonprofits and our Chamber of Commerce.

Given the Heather's exceptional skills, dedication, and passion for perfection, she is sure to continue making a lasting impact in Charlevoix County and beyond. We are fortunate to have someone like Heather as a resource in our area, and her future in this community looks as sweet as the creations she bakes.

## LEADERSHIP

# Great Examples Of Caring Leadership

BY JOHN KEYSER

A few years ago, I wrote two short articles about a bus driver and the positive influence he had on a great many people. He was truly a model leader. Some who read these articles expressed their appreciation to me for writing about him and how he made a difference in so many lives.

Basically, the messages were about humility and serving and caring about others, everyone in our communities. It is so important to let people know "we are there for them", there to listen, truly listen, to be encouraging, to let them know they are special and have special gifts, and that we are rooting for them.

Well, by my good fortune, I got to know another bus driver who exemplifies effective leadership.

He knows it is important for him to be a respected presence in the community, to lead a life that people of all faiths admire. He is friendly and out-going, which is important for any community leader.

Some years ago, there was a need for school bus drivers here. The opportunity appealed to him as it is an important role in our community, and he could get to know a lot of children and their parents, which is important to him as someone who loves the community in which he grew up.

He values relationships dearly, as we all should.

He feels being a school bus driver is rewarding as he could well be the first responsible adult that some kids may see in the morning. So, if he greets them warmly and shows that he cares about them and wants them to succeed even that day, it may help them develop a better perspective of themselves. With many broken homes today, kids are the true victims and they may suffer behind the



John Keyser

scenes, which can go unnoticed. If we understand that, it helps us help them, even if it is just with respect and care with our warm smile and hello in the morning, and offering "have a great rest of your day".

Our respect and warm greeting similarly can mean a lot to children who are fortunate and are not from broken homes. We all benefit from knowing we are cared for.

He also drives our sports teams. He feels he is also contributing by helping our student athletes feel proud they are representing our school and giving them kindness and respect to and from the games.

We are here on earth to serve and love one another. Our school bus driver exemplifies this, for sure.

Highly effective leaders, lead with humility and empathy. Leaders "are there for others". It is their DNA. We care about our team members and their well-being, and we are encouraging and helpful so they achieve success.

John was a senior executive in the corporate world in NYC, Chicago and DC, then founded Common Sense Leadership, a leadership coaching and consulting practice, helping senior people in the business, academic, and religious worlds improve leadership, their own and their team's. John is a graduate of Georgetown's Institute for Transformational Leadership and Life Purpose Institute. His wife, Kerry, teaches at St. Mary School in Charlevoix and heads Encounter School of Ministry, Charlevoix campus.

# North Country Community Mental Health Launches 30 Days of Kindness Campaign

## Encouraging Acts of Kindness to Promote Mental Health and Community Connection • January 17 – February 17, 2025

PETOSKEY — North Country Community Mental Health (NCCMH) is excited to announce the launch of its 30 Days of Kindness Community Campaign, running from January 17 through February 17, 2025.

The initiative is designed to inspire acts of kindness, foster deeper connections, and raise awareness about mental health resources within our region.

The campaign will culminate on National Random Acts of Kindness Day (February 17, 2025), with a variety of community activities aimed at spreading positivity and promoting mental wellness.

### A Month of Meaningful Engagement

Throughout the 30 Days of Kindness, participants will have the opportunity to engage in numerous activities, including:

- **Kindness Rocks:** Paint and distribute uplifting "Kindness Rocks" around the community. Community members who find the rocks are encouraged to take one if they need it, share a photo on social media using the hashtag #KindnessRocksNCCMH, or leave it for someone else to discover.
- **Kindness Bingo:** Complete simple acts of kindness and possibly win a prize. Tasks

include everything from holding the door open for a stranger, to donating blood, to reaching out to someone in need. The goal is to spread kindness while raising awareness about mental health and community well-being.

- **Self-Care and Kindness Tips:** Throughout the campaign, NCCMH will share helpful tips for being kind to others and to yourself, fostering both emotional resilience and connection.

### How to Get Involved

- **Kindness Bingo:** Anyone can participate! Simply pick up a bingo card at any North Country CMH office or visit [norcccmh.org/kindness](http://norcccmh.org/kindness). Complete 4-5 kindness tasks to earn a prize. Tasks are easy and accessible for all ages and abilities.
- **Paint and Hide Kindness Rocks:** Join NCCMH staff and clients in creating and distributing Kindness Rocks around the community. If you find a rock, take a photo and share it on social media to help spread positivity. Don't forget to tag @NCCMHHealth and use the hashtag #KindnessRocksNCCMH to join the movement.



Rocks from Kalkaska. Courtesy photo

"We know that kindness has a ripple effect," said Brian Babbitt, CEO of NCCMH. "Simple, everyday acts of kindness not only benefit others, but they also enhance our own well-being. Research shows that acts of kindness can boost self-esteem, reduce stress, and improve mood. At NCCMH, we're committed to helping create a stronger, more connected community by fostering kindness and understanding."

### The Power of Kindness and Community

"Kindness isn't just about doing something nice for someone else—it's also about being kind to yourself," Babbitt added. "When we take the time to show kindness, we contribute to a culture of compassion that strengthens relationships, reduces isolation, and pro-

motes mental health. This campaign is a reminder that everyone deserves to feel valued, and through these simple acts, we can make our community a better place for all."

For additional details, resources, and ideas for participating in the 30 Days of Kindness Campaign, please visit [norcccmh.org/kindness](http://norcccmh.org/kindness). North Country Community Mental Health provides services to residents of Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Kalkaska, and Otsego Counties experiencing a serious mental illness, severe emotional problem, or intellectual/developmental disability, including individuals with co-occurring substance use disorder. Persons wishing to know more about NCCMH are encouraged to visit [norcccmh.org](http://norcccmh.org) or to access services call 877-470-7130.

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# News

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## Camp Daggett Celebrates 100 Years of Inspiring Adventure and Community

WALLOON LAKE — Camp Daggett proudly announces its 100th year of operation in 2025, marking a century of fostering growth, adventure, and lifelong connections.

Guided by its enduring motto, “The Other Fellow First,” Camp Daggett has stood as a pillar of community and character development since its founding in 1925 by Walter Mac-Millan on the picturesque shores of Walloon Lake.

What began as a boys-only summer retreat has grown into an inclusive, co-educational camp and year-round destination, offering programs for campers and the community alike. From overnight summer camps to day camps, adventure education programs, team-building and facility rentals, Camp Daggett continues to create meaningful experiences that build character and foster connection.

As Camp Daggett celebrates its centennial, it proudly embraces the theme, “Honoring the Past, Building Our Future,” a tribute to its storied history and a commitment to continue fostering growth and connection for generations to come.

To honor this extraordinary milestone, Camp Daggett has planned a year full of celebrations and events that will feature a blend of cherished annual traditions and exciting new events, including:

- Torchlight Snowshoe Evenings:** In partnership with Bearcub Outfitters, these magical, family-friendly snowshoe adventures under the stars will take place on January 25 and February 22, both taking places from 5:00pm-8:00pm.
- Father-Son Weekend:** A cherished tradition, this February weekend offers bonding opportunities through outdoor activities and shared experiences.



- Centennial Celebration:** The highlight of the year, this grand event on August 23 invites Camp alumni, families, and the community to come together for a day of festivities, storytelling, and reflection on 100 years of impact. In addition to these marquee events, Camp Daggett will continue to host its signature programs while introducing new opportunities to engage campers, families, and supporters. “We are thrilled to embark on this incredible milestone—100 years of

Camp Daggett,” said Julie Joles, Development Director at Camp Daggett. “This centennial is not just a celebration of our history but also a chance to honor the values that have guided us as we look ahead to building a future full of adventure, growth, and community.”

Camp Daggett expresses heartfelt gratitude to the countless individuals—campers, staff, families, and supporters—who have shaped its journey. Their dedication has made Camp Daggett a place where adventure and connection come to life.

To learn more about Camp Daggett’s centennial events and programs, visit [www.campdaggett.org](http://www.campdaggett.org).

### About Camp Daggett

Located on the scenic shores of Walloon Lake in Northern Michigan, Camp Daggett has been a beacon of adventure, education, and community since 1925. With a commitment to character development, teamwork, and a deep appreciation for nature, Camp Daggett has inspired generations of campers and families for 100 years.

## ASK LAURA YOUR DOSE OF POSITIVITY AND INSPIRATION Embracing Possibility: A Fresh Start for 2025!

Dear Readers, as we step into 2025, I can’t help but reflect on the magic of a fresh start. There’s something about turning the calendar to January that inspires us to dream a little bigger, set bold goals, and believe in the possibility of something new. It’s a reminder that no matter where we’ve been, the future is a blank page waiting for us to write our story.

I’ve always loved this time of year, not for the resolutions (which, let’s be honest, can sometimes feel like pressure!) but for the opportunity to align with what truly matters. It’s a chance to ask ourselves: What do I want more of in my life? What am I ready to let go of? The answers don’t have to be grand or dramatic—sometimes they’re as simple as choosing joy, prioritizing health, or spending more time with loved ones.

This year, I’m focusing on the idea of intentional growth. Instead of aiming for perfection, I’m embracing progress. Whether it’s taking small steps toward a big goal, nurturing meaningful relationships, or being present for the little moments that make life beautiful, it’s all about showing up and doing our best each day.

One of my favorite quotes comes from Maya Angelou: “Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know



Laura Jasurda

better, do better.” It reminds me that growth is a journey, not a destination. Each choice we make has the potential to move us closer to who we want to be.

So, as you step into this new year, I encourage you to dream big but also to start small. Celebrate each win, no matter how tiny it seems. And if you stumble along the way (because we all do!), give yourself grace and keep moving forward.

Here’s to a year filled with possibility, progress, and purpose. Let’s make 2025 one to remember—together.

Laura Jasurda is not just a writer and columnist; she’s also a certified John Maxwell Leadership Trainer and Mentor, as well as a highly accomplished global business development executive and entrepreneur. Her passion lies in spreading positivity, nurturing personal growth, and fortifying our community bonds. Laura’s mission is to empower you to unlock your full potential and lead your best life, both individually and as an integral part of your community.

## NEW LAWS IN MICHIGAN FOR 2025

As we begin the new year of 2025, there are some new laws you may not know about that will go into effect on January 1st, or later on in the new year.

**Minimum wage increase**  
Michigan’s minimum wage will increase twice in 2025.

The state’s minimum wage is currently \$10.33. On Jan. 1, 2025, it will increase to \$10.56. On Feb. 21, 2025, it will increase to \$12.48.

The tip credit, or sub-minimum wage for tipped workers, will be phased out over the next five years. On Feb. 21, 2025, tipped workers will be paid 48% of the minimum hourly wage.

**Earned sick time**  
Michigan’s reinstated Earned Sick Time Act will go into effect on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025.

The Earned Sick Time Act requires employers to grant employees one hour of paid sick time for every

30 hours worked each week.

**Unemployment benefit extension**  
The amount of time Michigan residents can receive unemployment benefits will be extended from 20 to 26 weeks.

The maximum weekly benefit increases from \$362 to \$614.

**Automatic voter registration**  
Beginning on June 30, 2025, qualified voters who

apply for a driver’s license or ID will be automatically registered to vote.

**CPR in high schools**  
All high school coaches in Michigan will be required to have a valid certification for CPR and the use of AEDs.

**Income tax credit for organ donation**  
Starting Jan. 1, 2025, live organ donors in Michigan can get a tax credit of up to \$10,000.

## Northern Michigan lawmakers call for firings after DNR sells out to solar farm industry

State Reps. Ken Borton and Mike Hoadley and State Sen. Michele Hoyten on Thursday called for mass firings within the Department of Natural Resources after recent reporting exposed a DNR plot to destroy more than 400 acres of forest, located just west of Gaylord, to clear the way for solar farms. The legislators said that any person involved in this decision should be fired, arguing that this proposal was made in complete contrast to the DNR’s responsibility to protect Michigan’s wildlife and forests.

“Mind-numbing decisions like this are absolute proof that the DNR is completely rotten to its core,” said Borton, R-Gaylord. “This deforestation will destroy habitats and effectively kill wildlife. Let me make that clear, the DNR is choosing to kill wildlife so they can build solar panels. “We’ve all read the Lorax. If he thought like the DNR, he’d only be speaking for trees for as long as it took to fill his chainsaw with gas after the solar industry waved a fat wad of cash in his face.”

The legislators questioned whether the DNR even had the authority to lease public land for private use, especially when that decision leads to the destruction of wildlife and forests.

“The people who made this absurd decision signed up for a job to protect our natural resources. Their department is supposed to stand up for outdoor enthusiasts; instead, they sold us out,” said Hoyten, R-Manton.

“Just as the state rightfully holds citizens accountable for their use of unethical conservation actions—likewise, people are demanding accountability from the government for their unethical conservation management practices.”

In fall 2023, legislative Democrats rammed through radical green energy legislation mandating 100% “clean” energy by 2040, closing reliable natural gas plants and increasing dependence on less reliable wind and solar power. An expert analysis projects that average monthly electric bills could nearly double because of the new laws.

The plan also gave the Michigan Public Service Commission, a three-member panel of state bureaucrats, authority to approve green energy projects, taking away local communities’ discretion over the placement of wind turbines and solar farms.

“It was clear that Democrat-backed laws enacted during the most recent term would strip local control and lessen local input when it came to these decisions,” said Hoadley, R-Au Gres.

“Unfortunately, we are seeing the results of that with this project that’s being forced onto northern Michigan. Rural areas were always going to bear the brunt of this government overreach, even when a lot of rural areas don’t want these projects and their elected officials voted against bills that pushed them. What good is so-called green energy when we’re cutting down hundreds of acres of trees to put in the infrastructure that will support it?”

## Reminder: No One is Perfect... Including Parents

BY ALISON NEIHARDT

We all mess up. We are all human. Parents, this includes you. Parents have bad days too. Kids have bad days. We all have bad days. Parents lose it with their kids. Kids know how to push their parent’s buttons like no one else.

Just because you mess up and yell at your kid or get angry at them doesn’t mean you are a bad parent. It just means you are human with emotions. What matters is what you do after you mess up. Do you apologize to your kid for messing up or yelling at them when need be?

Sometimes yes, yelling

at a kid is the only way to get their attention. When yelling becomes an issue is when it happens on a regular basis. Also, what are you yelling about.

Are you as the parent extra stressed and your kid is pushing you over the edge? When you feel yourself getting angry as the parent, maybe you need a break? Talking to your child about what is frustrating you about their behavior instead of just yelling. Is there stressors you as an adult need help with?

Maybe you have your own trauma that you need to deal with? If this is the case, I recommend finding a therapist to help you with not only your trauma but also helping you parent better. When parents have their own issues and trauma, they could very easily take these

things out on the people around them, including their kids.

If it is simply an issue that your child isn’t listening to you then maybe you need to find ways to better communicate and react to your child instead of just yelling. Kids get to a point when they are yelled at so much, they tend to tune you out and ignore you, or they are scared of you. Neither situation is good. Maybe a change in routine at home to help make things flow better needs to be tried. Whatever it is, just yelling isn’t solving the problem.

Parents, it is your job to make the changes necessary to correct the problem. Learn different ways to be a parent or communicate with your child. Having different routines in the house to get things done could help. For

example, no one gets any screen time until the necessary chores are done, adults included. The key to this is consistency.

When you mess up as a parent, own your mistake. You want your kid to do the same thing. Apologize when needed. Work it out with your kids. They need to see that you are human and make mistakes too. The key is to admit it and fix the problem. Parents are called to lead by example. Parents are not always right, most of the time yes, but not always. Remember, no one is perfect, including parents.

Alison Neihardt is a local child therapist at her private practice Helping Kids Counseling Services, LLC located in Kalkaska, MI. If you would like to reach out to her she can be contacted via email at [hknporth@gmail.com](mailto:hknporth@gmail.com)

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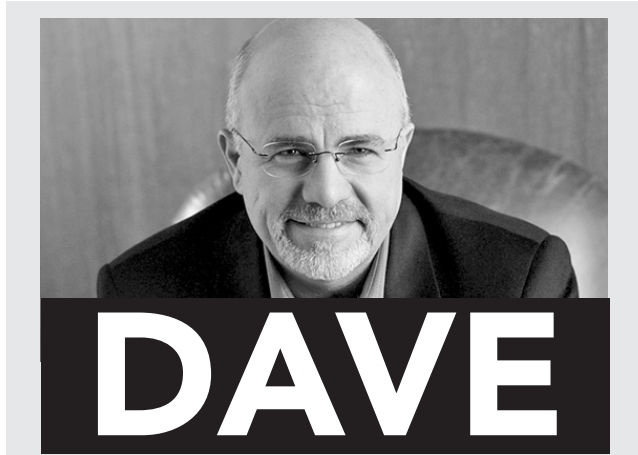
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## Northern Michigan Chorale inviting new members to spring session

Join the Northern Michigan Chorale, a choir group for adults, college and high school students. No auditions required. Rehearsals for our spring concert are Mondays 7 - 9 PM starting January 20th at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 1450 E. Mitchell Rd. in Petoskey. New members come early to register. Spring concert is at the Great Lakes Center for the Arts May 3rd and 4th, featuring music from Broadway, cinema, pop classics and more. Visit [nmchorale.org](http://nmchorale.org) for more info.



# DAVE

## Says...

By Dave Ramsey

### Honor Your Obligations

Dear Dave,  
I can't afford my student loan payments. Is the best approach to send them what I can afford, even if it's not the minimum payment, or not send anything at all until I'm in a better financial position?  
—Sydney

Dear Sydney,  
Here's the deal. Those guys aren't going to stop calling and bugging you, no matter which of those options you choose. But then, you probably already know that. The benefit, however, of sending them \$20 or \$25—if the minimum payment is \$50—is you're forcing yourself to start thinking in terms of planning and living on a budget. My advice? Do everything you can to honor your commitments. That's the moral, legal and spiritual thing to do in these kinds of situations.

You know, lots of times when people say they can't afford something, what they're really saying is they don't want to give up fun stuff in order to honor their obligations. If that's the case, I'm not the guy you need to be talking to or want on your team. You accepted the responsibilities that came with borrowing money. That means if you don't get to eat in restaurants, go on

vacation or buy cool new gadgets until you repay the debt, that that's how it is.

However, if you're already living on a crazy-tight, rice and beans budget, and \$20 is literally all you can squeeze out, then give them \$20 a month. That way, at the very least, you're trying to honor your obligation. And you can tell them with a clean conscience it really is all you can afford. But there's a bright spot in all this. If you're already scrimping and saving and paying all the money you have—first toward running your household, then secondly to your creditors—you'll find an amazing thing starts to happen. Your dollars start to stretch a little bit further. This will help you clean up your student loan mess and enable you to have a little better life in the process.

Good luck, Sydney.  
You can do this!  
— Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.

### State Police Launch Cold Case Team in Northern Michigan

OTSEGO COUNTY – The start of a new year brings something new to the Michigan State Police (MSP) in northern Michigan, the formation of the MSP Seventh District Cold Case Team, which will operate out of the district headquarters located in Gaylord within the Special Investigation Section. The purpose of this new team is to review, organize, and maintain the MSP Seventh District cold cases and associated property as well as further the investigations. The team will be led by Detective Sergeant Matt Wilt and will include two detective troopers who

have yet to be assigned. The team will evaluate the MSP cold cases in northern Michigan and determine their solvability based on a metrics system. With the advancement of DNA analysis and other investigative techniques we want to take a fresh look at some of our older cases. We want the public and the families to know we have not forgotten about them. There is no statute of limitations for homicide so if we can further the investigations and get suspects charged, we hope to bring closure to the families of the victim.

### Lake Superior State University Unveils 2025 Banished Words List

SAULT STE. MARIE – A new year brings the promise of fresh beginnings, but it is also the perfect moment to reflect on the words and phrases that may have worn out their welcome. Lake Superior State University (LSSU) proudly reveals the 2025 edition of its Banished Words List, a quirky tradition that dates back to 1976, when former LSSU Public Relations Director Bill Rabe and his colleagues delighted word enthusiasts with the first “List of Words Banished from the Queen’s English for Mis-Use, Over-Use and General Uselessness”.

Each year, this light-hearted list shines a spotlight on words and terms that are overused, misused, or simply unnecessary. It offers a moment to laugh, pause, and consider how we can be more mindful of the language we use every day. “Words matter! Old habits can be hard to break and we’re happy to serve as a resource for the court of public opinion on what should continue to be part of the English language and what needs to be put to rest,” says Lake Superior State President, Dr. David Travis.

LSSU received submissions from across the globe this year, including entries from Canada, Australia,

Denmark, Germany, India, South Africa, and the United States. The fact that some of the same banished word suggestions came from different parts of the world underscores the universal struggle of dealing with challenging words and phrases.

Here are the 2025 words and phrases selected for banishment, along with the reasons they made the list:

**Cringe**  
While “cringe” once packed a punch, it has now overstayed its welcome. Overuse has dulled its impact, and ironically, using it might now cause the very reaction it describes. “Saying someone ‘caused you to cringe’ or stating that ‘you cringed at something’ is a pretty easy and proper way to use the word,” writes Ash from Newton, Alabama. “Hearing someone say ‘someone is so cringe’ makes me cringe!”

**Game Changer**  
How many times can a game change before it is no longer recognizable? This phrase, often used to describe anything remotely innovative, is as tired as a well-worn cliché. “Nothing is a game changer if everything is a game changer,” writes Patrick of Washington, DC.

**Era**  
Unless you are Taylor Swift, it might be time to leave “era” behind. The term’s overuse has made every fleeting moment feel like it demands a historical marker. Leah of Holland, Michigan submits, “Thanks to the name of Taylor Swift’s tour, now there is an ‘era’ for everyone and everything! ‘He’s in his fatherhood

era,’ ‘She’s in her pottery-making era,’ etc., etc.. It’s overused and tiring.”

**Dropped**  
Once edgy and cool, “dropped” has become more of a letdown. Whether it is an album, a trend, or a product, this term has fallen flat. “Books, music, and all kinds of unnecessary things are currently being ‘dropped’ rather than introduced, released, or offered for sale. Banished for overuse, misuse, abuse, and hurting my head when all that “dropping” stuff lands on me!” laments Susan of Littleton, CO.

**IYKYK (If You Know, You Know)**  
Internet slang and texting abbreviations are often fan-favorites of Banished Word submitters each year. Cryptic and exclusionary, this phrase offers little clarity or substance. If you know, you might agree it is time to let this one go. Amy from Redford, MI feels this phrase should go for being both irritating and nonsensical.

**Sorry Not Sorry**  
A half-hearted apology masquerading as bold honesty, this phrase feels as disingenuous as it sounds. Banished Word enthusiasts recommend just saying what you mean or in at least one case showing a little kindness. Sabrina from Wrenshall, MN writes, “It is really tiring to hear, and it is giving people another reason to be jerks to one another.”

**Skibidi**  
This viral word may have resonated with a younger crowd, but for many it is just noise. Agatha from Denmark explains, “Nobody cares about a Skibidi toilet, Skibidi fizz, or Skibidi Ohio fanum tax. At this point, nobody even knows what it means

and it just annoys people.”

**100%**  
Is it possible to be over-enthusiastic about retiring the phrase “100%”? Absolutely! Its overuse has left no room for nuance or doubt. A phrase predominantly nominated for its overuse, some felt it was simply not applicable. “Since when should a percentage be used to describe your agreement in a conversation?” asked Stephen from Sudbury, Ontario.

**Utilize**  
A classic offender, “utilize” proves that longer is not always better. Why complicate things when “use” works just fine? Everett from Cumby, Texas encourages readers to “Write like you talk,” and added, “Lord, I hope you don’t talk like that.”

**Period**  
Yes, we understand your point—no need to verbally punctuate it. Overuse has turned this into a period we are ready to end. Theresa from Detroit, MI, recommends that we banish this word by putting it in a bottle and sending it out to sea.

As LSSU celebrates the 49th year of this playful tradition, the whimsical Banished Words List continues to highlight the dynamic nature of communication and how words and phrases strongly affect our everyday life.

To nominate a word or phrase for the 2026 Banished Words List, or to learn more about the tradition, visit [lssu.edu/traditions/banishedwords](http://lssu.edu/traditions/banishedwords)

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Each year, the board is presented with a wealth of deserving projects and acquisition plans that we must assess for funding,” said Trust Fund Board Chairman William R. Rustem. “With so many worthwhile endeavors, it makes our job to score and decide which projects to fund tougher all the time.”

Brad Garmon, senior strategic advisor and executive director of the Michigan Outdoor Recreation Industry Office, at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, said his office is happy to join in celebrating this latest round of transformative outdoor recreation land acquisitions and development projects.

“Outdoor recreation is not only vital to our state’s health and well-being – providing more access to restorative places and local parks – but it also supports the state’s efforts to attract and retain talent; support small businesses; and fuel

innovation and economic prosperity,” Garmon said. “The Michigan Outdoor Recreation Industry Office is excited to continue to partner closely with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to connect people, places and projects to the resources, collaborations and funding opportunities that make Michigan a world-class, four-season outdoor recreation destination; a beautiful place to access a healthy and adventurous outdoor life; and home to several of the biggest outdoor lifestyle brands in the country.”

The Trust Fund board’s recommendations will go to the Michigan Legislature for review as part of the appropriations process. Upon approval, the Legislature will forward a bill to the governor for signing.

A list of the final recommendations made by the Trust Fund board is available at [Michigan.gov/MNRTF](http://Michigan.gov/MNRTF).

Grant recommendation in our area include:

- Village of Central Lake Lake Street Fishing Pier Development - Antrim County - \$237,500
- Village of Central Lake Thurston Park Improvements - Kayak Launch - Antrim County - \$193,700
- DNR - Parks and Recreation Division - Nakwema Trail Development - Charlevoix County - \$400,000
- City of Boyne City - Boyne City Open Space Project - Charlevoix County - \$322,000
- DNR - Michigan Historical Center - Hartwick Pines: Old Growth, New Interpretive Life - Crawford County - \$400,000
- DNR - Parks and Recreation Division - Black River Bridge Replacement - High Country Pathway - Otsego County - \$400,000
- Presque Isle County - Accessible dock & path development at Ocqueoc Outdoor Center - Presque Isle County - \$144,300

There are two grants recommended for Charlevoix County.

The Nakwema Trail Development project will close a 45-mile gap between the Little Traverse Wheelway in Charlevoix and the TART Trails network in Acme. The trail will link Traverse City, Elk Rapids, Eastport, Norwood and Charlevoix, creating a continuous 415-mile trail system that will include the statewide Iron Belle Trail.

Previous grant funding allowed for initial improvements to a former manufacturing site and eyesore along 600 feet of frontage of Lake Charlevoix, including walkways, landscaping, a sprinkler system and shoreline enhancements of the Boyne City Open Space Project. The \$322,000 in new funding will support further enhancements, such as pervious paving for the parking lot, additional walkways and a rain garden to filter runoff before it reaches Lake Charlevoix.

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# News

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## OBITUARIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2



**Anne Fiedler, 88**

**July 22, 1936 - Dec. 28, 2024**  
**CHARLEVOIX**

Anne Fiedler, a longtime Charlevoix Township resident, was released to the arms of her Lord and Savior on Dec. 28 at Charlevoix's American House.

She was born July 22, 1936, to Elmer and Signa (Anderson) Johnson at the family's home in Mancelona.

She graduated in 1954 from Mancelona High School as valedictorian. On Sept. 1, 1956, she married James Fiedler, of Charlevoix, when both were students at Michigan State University. Anne graduated magna cum laude in 1958 with a bachelor's degree in English. She and her husband were raising their four children when they helped establish Charlevoix Church of the Nazarene, which opened in 1967.

Anne served there as a pianist and organist, Sunday school teacher, board member and treasurer, and was active in the church's missionary society. She received a Distinguished Service Award in 1987. She began substitute teaching in 1970 and was hired in 1975 as a teacher assistant

at Charlevoix Elementary School. She retired in 1999. Beginning in 1997, Anne and her husband joined short-term Work and Witness mission trips through the Church of the Nazarene. For about 15 years, they traveled nearly annually to Central America, including Belize, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama. They also served at Sun Valley Indian School in Arizona. At the various sites, they participated in construction projects and children's ministry. The couple received a Good Samaritan Award from Nazarene Compassionate Ministries in 2018 for supporting needy children. Anne volunteered at the Rainbow Shoppe, a Charlevoix thrift store, and served as secretary of its board. She also served as a local election official.

She was devoted to family, Bible reading, prayer and hospitality. Her children are grateful to American House and caregiver Jane Thelen for fostering her well-being in her final years.

Anne was preceded in death by her husband, two brothers and three sisters. Surviving are: four children, Lisa (Ken) Norberg of Santa Maria, Calif., Kris Fiedler Way of Charlevoix, Erik (Brenda) Fiedler of Melvindale, and Andre Fiedler of Chicago and Charlevoix; a sister, Milly (Mark) Fiedler of Battle Creek; six grandchildren, Kelly (Chris) Way Davis of Gainesville, Georgia, Stephanie Way of Park City, Utah, Jonathan Way of Masterton, New Zealand, Benjamin (Jacki) Way of Kewadin, Aaron Stevens of Newport, and

Aubrey Smialkowski of Pickerington, Ohio; and 10 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Jan. 4, at Charlevoix Church of the Nazarene, 12023 Waller Road and U.S. 31. Contributions may be made to Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, 17001 Prairie Star Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66220, www.ncmi.org. Arrangements are in the care of the Charlevoix Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes.

Sign her online guest-book at [www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com)



**John Frederick Stevens, 75**

**May 6, 1949 - Jan. 5, 2025**  
**EAST JORDAN**

John Frederick Stevens of East Jordan passed away on January 5, 2025. John was born on May 6, 1949, in Rogers City to Robert Stevens and Shirley (Sigsby) Stevens. He grew up in Ortonville, MI and graduated from Brandon High School in 1967. He then went to college with a cross country running scholarship. On December 6, 1980, he married Denise Forget in Davison, Michigan.

John served his country in the Army for a tour of duty as a rifleman and infantryman during the Vietnam war, where he received a bronze star for heroism in battle, along with other awards for heroic service.

After his time in the military John became a lead lineman in the energy sector and retired from Consumer's Energy in 2005. He went on to become a tow boat captain and divemaster and opened a scuba diving store in East Jordan. He worked on lakes all around Michigan doing tow boat work, salvage, and mooring jobs for many years with his son John, Jr.

"Captain John" loved being a boat captain, scuba diving and he enjoyed backyard mechanic work and being in the outdoors, but most of all he loved being on the water. He was a wonderful husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend to many people.

He is survived by his wife Denise (Forget) Stevens; children Sarah Stevens (Jesus Santos), John Stevens, and Luke Stevens; siblings; nieces; and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents as well as several brothers and sisters.

A committal service will be held at Greenwood Cemetery in Petoskey, MI at 11:00 AM on Thursday January 9, 2025. The Reverend Dave Behling will be presiding. A Celebration of Life service will be held in the spring of 2025 to honor his life.

Memorial donations may be made to the Little Traverse Conservancy.



**Lee Karl Ekstrom, 86**

**June 21, 1938 - Jan. 4, 2025**  
**BOYNE CITY**

Lee Karl Ekstrom, at the ripe old age of 86, is off to explore parts unknown. Not an easy transition because it means leaving the love of his life, Mary, and numerous friends.

Lee began his life journey on June 21, 1938, near northwest Chicago, Illinois, and eventually ended near Boyne City, Michigan. Like all of us, his path took many twists and turns. He attended Roosevelt Elementary, Lincoln Jr. High and Maine Township High School. Lee received his bachelor's degree in forestry at Michigan State University and worked for the U.S. Forest Service at Ant Flat Ranger Station in Fortine, Montana the summers of 1957, 1958, and 1951. He was then drafted in the United States Army and 82nd Airborne from 1961 to 1963. After his military service he attended Michigan State University's graduate school for one term in watershed management in 1964.

In 1997, Lee married Mary Hausbeck.

For over 50 years he roamed the woods with his dogs as a forester.

He loved the peace and seclusion it brought to him. He worked for the Michigan D.N.R. forestry in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and Boyne City. Lee also owned and retired from Lee Ekstrom, Consulting Forester in Boyne City. Besides walking the woods he loved building rustic furniture, carving game fish, and writing an annual Christmas card.

Skiing brought him great joy. There was nothing better than carving figure "8s" in twelve inches of powder on a cold, sunny morning. Oh, what memories.

Growing up Lee was a loner. Not until he met Bill Marks and Danny On while at Michigan State did he develop lasting friendships. These friendships brought joy and meaning to his life.

Lee is survived by his loving wife Mary Ekstrom; stepsons Christopher (Carey) Hausbeck and Eric (Liz) Hausbeck; grandchildren Wren and Graham; brothers Peter and Jack Ekstrom; and sister Jill Hinrichs.

He is preceded in death by his parents Roy and Bernice Ekstrom.

Those wishing to make a charitable donation in Lee's memory are asked to consider the Charlevoix Area Humane Society.

No services are planned at this time.

As he stepped aboard the eternity express to a destination unknown, he turned and said, "My life can be summed up in two words... Thank you." Arrangements are in the care of Stackus Funeral Home.



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 <b>2022 RAM 1500</b> Double cab, tow pkg, bedliner.	 <b>2015 SILVERADO 1500 LS</b> 4x4, double cab, tow pkg, 121 K miles.	 <b>2019 SUBARU CROSSTREK</b> AWD, 111 K miles.	 <b>BUY HERE PAY HERE</b> BUY. FINANCE. DRIVE ON.			2251 US HWY 31 N., PETOSKEY, MI (231) 347-3200 <a href="http://www.byrider.com">www.byrider.com</a>	

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# News

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**Ice fishing on Black Lake: The 2025 lake sturgeon fishing season on Black Lake in Cheboygan County, Michigan, will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1. All anglers must register online to participate in the season.**

## 2025 Black Lake sturgeon season begins February 1

The 2025 lake sturgeon fishing season on Black Lake in Cheboygan County, will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1. All anglers must register online in advance to participate in the fishing season, and those age 17 or older must have a valid Michigan fishing license.

The harvest limit for the 2025 season on Black Lake is six lake sturgeon. Officials will close the season when one of two scenarios occurs:

- The sixth fish is harvested.
- Five fish have been harvested at the end of any fishing day.

Fishing hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day of the season. The season will end either at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, or when one of the above scenarios is met, at which point anglers will be notified via text message and on the ice by DNR personnel that they must immediately stop fishing for lake sturgeon.

Anyone who wants to participate this year must register online by Jan. 31.

Get more registration and season information at Michigan.gov/Sturgeon.

Participating anglers must bring their own bright red flags (1-foot diameter or larger) to hang on their fishing shanties. Season officials emphasize that anglers are required to hang one or more flags in highly visible locations on their shanties so DNR personnel can readily identify which anglers are sturgeon fishing. Anyone harvesting a lake sturgeon must immediately contact DNR personnel on the ice. Official registration of each harvested fish will take place at a DNR trailer located on or near the ice at the end of Zollner Road in the northwest part of Black Lake. Harvest registration may include an examination of the fish's internal organs and removal of a piece of fin tissue for DNA analysis or aging.

Lake sturgeon rehabilitation efforts in Black Lake over the last two decades have been a successful collaboration between the DNR, Sturgeon for Tomorrow,

tribal agencies, Michigan State University and Tower-Kleber Limited Partnership. This population has increased in the past 20 years due to lake sturgeon rearing and stocking efforts and research and protection of spawning adults, and this trend is expected to continue.

Ice conditions may vary greatly, and anglers should always use extreme caution when ice fishing. The Black Lake sturgeon season start date will not be postponed due to weather or other conditions. The season may be canceled up to 48 hours prior to the start of the season if circumstances pose a significant safety risk to anglers and staff (per Fisheries Order 240). The DNR will post any updated information to the department website and notify anglers via text message and email if any changes occur.

Visit Michigan.gov/Ice-Safety for tips to stay safe on the ice.



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# News Briefs

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## CHARLEVOIX COUNTY SUBSCRIBE TO THE ONLY LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER IN THE COUNTY

Local news, local sports, locally owned. 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. While other newspapers in the area are quickly fading, the Charlevoix County News is growing. Our newsstand prices, subscription rate 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. One of the few Locally Owned and Locally Operated newspapers in the state.

## CHARLEVOIX GLCO'S CHILDREN'S LIBRARY MUSIC PRO- GRAM

Petoskey District Library and Charlevoix Public Library are hosting "Little Waves," a young children's music program. Free and open to the public and sponsored by the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra (GLCO), the program is designed to introduce young children (ages 4 - 10) and their families to music in an entertaining setting. Each drop-in event takes place at 10:30 am in Petoskey and 1 pm in Charlevoix. Each session features a multimedia story, an opportunity to hear one or more GLCO musicians demonstrate and explain how their instruments work, and fun music-related activities for kids. Don't miss the fun. Next program is Jan. 11.

## CHARLEVOIX SAFETALK: SUICIDE ALERTNESS FOR EVERYONE

January 11th at Community Reformed Church, 109 Elm St. safeTALK is a 3.5 hour evidence-based training where participants learn how to:

- Notice and respond to situations where suicide thoughts might be present

- Recognize and address invitations for help
- Move beyond the common tendencies to miss, dismiss, or avoid suicide
- Learn how to apply the steps of TALK (Tell, Ask, Listen, KeepSafe)

At the end, participants will receive a certificate of completion. [kiersten-sride.org](http://kiersten-sride.org)

## CHARLEVOIX PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Unlimited pancakes by donation at St. Mary Parish Center to support St. Mary School. Sundays, 9am - Noon. January 12, Feb. 9, May 4.

## BAY HARBOR SENSORY FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE

On January 18, Great Lakes Center for the Arts, in partnership with Great Start Collaborative, welcomes Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia as they present a live, puppet-based performance of Margaret Wise Brown's children's classics "Good-night Moon and The Runaway Bunny." Great Lakes Center for the Arts proudly offers the community two opportunities to experience this thoughtfully designed show at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

## CHARLEVOIX BERGMANN CENTER PLAY AND WORK CAFE SURVEY

We are thinking of different way to help the community. We are considering opening a work and play cafe. A work and play cafe is a unique space designed to support both parents and their children. It offers a clean, safe, and comfortable environment where parents can enjoy a cup of coffee, connect with other parents, or work while their children play and explore. The cafe is equipped with comfortable seating, free Wi-Fi, and plenty of power outlets, making it an ideal spot for parents to catch up on tasks. Would you be interested in bringing your child to a play and work cafe where you can work or socialize while your child plays? Please take our survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/X8T265G](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X8T265G)

## NORTHERN MICHIGAN DO YOU LOVE TO SING

Join the Northern Michigan Chorale, a choir group for adults, college and high school students. No auditions required. Rehearsals for our spring concert are Mondays 7 - 9 PM starting January 20th at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 1450 E. Mitchell Rd. in Petoskey. New members come early to register. Spring concert is at the Great Lakes Center for the Arts May 3rd and 4th, featuring music from Broadway, cinema, pop classics and more. Visit [nmchorale.org](http://nmchorale.org) for more info

## EAST JORDAN ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER AUCTION

The East Jordan Chamber annual meeting, dinner, auction & awards presentation is Saturday, January 25 at the Boathouse, 204 Water St. Social hour and silent auction begin at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 followed by live auction and awards. \$65 person. Reserve your ticket by January 17. No phone reservations. Mail your reservation with payment to East Jordan Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 137, East Jordan, Michigan 49727

## EAST JORDAN WINTER OPEN HOUSE AT THE DON & EILEEN KLEIN TRAIL

January 24, 5-7 PM. Join Little Traverse Conservancy and Friends of the Jordan River Watershed Center along with other partners who brought the Don & Eileen Klein Nature Trail to reality this past summer. Light refreshments will be offered and the solar lanterns will lure you to explore the trail as darkness falls. You can either walk the trail by yourself or with a local guide leaving on the half hour.

## BOYNE CITY BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

February 15, 5:30 PM - 7 PM. You're invited to an evening of networking at Great Lakes Energy's new office building, home to the programs and services offered by Great Lakes En-

ergy and Trustream, their amazing fiber internet business. Great Lakes Energy is a long-time community supporter and this event will be co-hosted by Boyne City Public Schools and Char-Em ISD.

## BOYNE CITY ICE RINK IS OPEN

We're excited to announce that the ice rink is now open for this season at Avalanche. Winter Season Warming House Hours: Monday-Friday: 4 PM - 9 PM, Saturday & Sunday: 11 AM - 9 PM. Weekend hours apply on holidays and school snow days. Come enjoy the rink and kick off the winter season with us!

## EAST JORDAN SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Please come and join the East Jordan Trailblazer club, 5586 Mt. Bliss Rd on Sunday morning for breakfast now thru March 30 from 7am-Noon. Adults \$10, Children 6 and under \$6.

## BOYNE CITY MARKET AT THE PAVILION

Join us every Saturday at Veterans Park Pavilion from 9am-12pm to shop local vendors. Northern Michigan's most talented farmers, bakers, entrepreneurs and artists create a market unlike any other in the region. Live music brightens up the morning starting at 10am

## EAST JORDAN ROTARY CLUB MEETINGS

The Rotary Club of East Jordan has updated dates and times for their monthly meetings. The Rotary Club will meet the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month at 12:15 PM and the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month at 5:15 PM. Both meeting times and dates will be at the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed Building (FRJ). The club is always looking for new members. If you are new to the area or have always wondered how to get involved with Rotary, contact the Chamber Office and we will get you the contact information. 231-536-7351.

## CHARLEVOIX FREE BREAKFAST CLUB TEAMS UP WITH COA

Collaboration between the Free Breakfast Club & Commission on Aging has begun. Anyone can come to the Shirley Roloff Center (old Elementary School on Division), between 8-9am and get a free breakfast sponsored by Safe Haven and prepared for you by COA chefs and our volunteers. You may dine in, take out or get curbside pick-up. This will happen at the Shirley Roloff center every Tuesday and Friday for all ages at no cost.

## NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHILD CARE PROGRAM

The MI Tri-Share Child Care Program help companies retain their employees by participating and pay 1/3 of the cost of childcare, the OCEA (Grant from the State of MI) pays 1/3, leaving the parent only to pay 1/3 of the childcare cost. We are looking for smaller businesses that want to help their employees. Right now, some of the companies participating are Treetops Resort, Albies Foods, Gaylor Insurance. We can help self-employed families by paying 1/3 of the cost. They would be responsible for 2/3 of the cost. Non-Profits can participate with this program to help their employees. For more information call 989-731-7510 or email Brandy@Gaylord-Otsego.com

## EAST JORDAN TEEN CENTER

The Depot Teen Center Located in the Teen Zone at 214 Main St. Serving 6th-12th Graders throughout Northern Michigan Wednesdays & Fridays after school until 6pm. EJDepot.org. (231) 222-2224. DepotJVTenCenter@gmail.com

## CHARLEVOIX MONTHLY ADULT GRIEF, LOSS & BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

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 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 tons of local 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 newspapers in the area 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. One of the few Locally Owned and Locally Operated newspapers in the state.

# PETS OF THE WEEK PEACH & DAISY



**Meet Peach & Daisy**  
These beautiful girls are Peach and Daisy. They are redbone/coonhound puppies. They love to play with toys, and they like play-fighting with each other. They're a little hyper and have a bit of an attitude, being puppies, and we're not sure how they'd do with cats. Peach and Daisy seem to love every person they meet, and would likely do well with older children, probably 12 or older. They're not potty-trained, and tend to pee a lot out of excitement.



**If you're interested in one of these beautiful girls, fill out an application online or in person!**

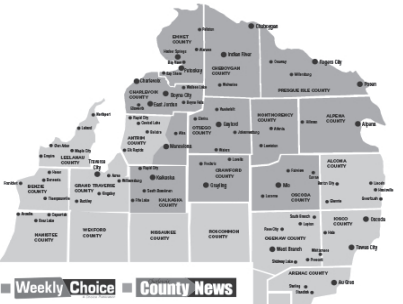


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The Weekly Choice and Charlevoix County News are locally owned newspapers. We are independently owned newspapers based in Gaylord, Michigan. Dave Baragrey and the staff of news writers, sports writers, photographers, graphic designers, delivery people and sales people all live and work here and care about our local communities we serve. 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. So many newspapers in the area have dropped 30% and as much as 50% in circulation over the past year. Our newspaper distribution has remained steady and in many towns has grown in circulation. We of course REALLY appreciate the advertisers. That is our primary source of revenue that allows



tising that is costing you way too much while reaching way fewer readers, you should try our newspapers. You will likely pay less money for far more circulation and reach readers in a much larger area. The FREE distribution Weekly Choice newspaper is now distributed in 50 towns including Gaylord, Petoskey, Cheboygan, Alpena, Grayling, Indian River, Onaway, Rogers City, Kalkaska and everywhere in between. 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). If you want to reach more consumers with your advertising and pay less money for advertising, give Dave Baragrey a call or email. You can even stop into our office (we still have our office open).

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# Charlevoix County News

## VOLUME 16 ISSUE 30

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The Charlevoix County News is published weekly on Thursdays  
Published by Michigan Media, Inc., 112 East Sixth St., Gaylord, MI 49735

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
Charlevoix County News, 112 East Sixth St., Gaylord, MI 49735

Distributed to Boyne City, East Jordan, Charlevoix, Boyne Falls, Walloon Lake, Ellsworth and Atwood  
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# athlete of the week



**Jackson Crouse**  
Charlevoix Rayders Boys Basketball

The Rayders defeated previously unbeaten Bellaire 45-34 last weekend. The Rayders were led by Jackson Crouse who had a solid performance, getting a double-double with 14 points and 14 rebounds.

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**Elly Wilcox**  
Boyne City Ramblers Girls Basketball

In a 47-31 win over Mancelona last Friday, The Lady Ramblers were led by Elly Wilcox who had 20 points. That was the Ramblers 2nd win in two days after they defeated Plymouth Christian Academy, 43-39 at Little Caesars Arena on Thursday.

# Charlevoix County News Sports

CALL (989) 732-8160 EMAIL SPORTS@CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

## BOYS BASKETBALL

### East Jordan drops game with St. Philip at Crisler Center

BY BEN MURPHY

The East Jordan boys basketball team played at a college venue for the third straight season on Friday. This year might have been the best one of them all as they played at the Crisler Center on the campus of the University of Michigan. The Red Devils lost the game to Battle Creek St. Philip, but the venue made the experience more than worth it.

“Our third annual Campus Clash outdid itself in the environment this year as the programs played down at Crisler Arena at the University of Michigan,” head coach Nate Dzwik said.

“While the actual court was the same size as our first campus clash at Ferris State, and the rims were the same height as last year at Western Michigan in our second campus clash, neither can compare to the playing at Crisler Arena. The staff at the arena treated our teams like they were college athletes. All the teams and coaches went on tours of the basketball locker rooms (which included a barbershop), their practice facilities, and overall tours. While the scoreboard didn’t end in our favor last night, the experiences and memories for this team will last for a lifetime.

These teams and coaches will never forget the time we spent not just at the Crisler Center but also the breakfast from the parents and trivia to start the morning, the charter bus, and all the snacks from the parents. Going to Zingermans Deli for lunch, getting a commemorative key chain from Brian Snyder, and the pizza dinner after.”

As for the game, E-J was able to take a 10-9 lead after the first quarter and was still in front at the half, 26-24. St. Philip grabbed momentum in the third though, and held a 40-35



Korbyn Russell



Max Beal



Ryder Malpass

lead entering the fourth. “We started really hot, and controlled the tempo of the game,” Dzwik said. “We were making some shots and playing as a unit. They made a defensive change that slowed our tempo down and got us out of what we wanted to do. You could tell we had two weeks off and they have kept a regular schedule of games for the break. Korbyn Russell played really strong on both ends and Max Beal had a whale of day. There is learning to be done from the film of this game as we head back into conference play.”

The Red Devils had Russell finish with 15 points and six rebounds. Beal added 10 points, seven rebounds and one block, Ryder Malpass had seven points, seven boards and two steals and Ellis Malpass also had seven points, while getting five rebounds and two assists. William Webb was good for four points, four assists and three steals and Brenden Aenis chipped in with four points, five rebounds and two assists.

E-J (3-3 overall) played a Ski Valley Conference game at Inland Lakes on Wednesday. They host Pellston on Friday in more league action and will head to Ski Valley foe Onaway on Tuesday, Jan. 14.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Boyne Lady Ramblers open new year with pair of wins

BY BEN MURPHY

Playing on back-to-back nights isn’t always a recipe for success. It worked out well enough for the Boyne City girls basketball team on Friday, when they defeated host Mancelona 47-31 for a non-conference win the second day in a row.

“The team showed great resilience, refusing to let the challenging atmosphere affect their performance,” head coach Mike Wilson said. “The coaches were especially proud of their composure and determination throughout the game.”

According to Wilson, the team was able to use their full effort defense to keep the Lady Ironmen from getting much going offensively.

“Known for (our) relentless full-court defense, (we) stayed true to form, taking control of the game and earning a win,” Wilson said.

The Lady Ramblers were led by Elly Wilcox who had 20 points, with Delaney Little netting nine. Sidney Bush, Addy Burns and Braydin Noble all had six points each.

On Thursday Boyne



Mancelona's Lucy Griffore defends around Boyne City's Elly Wilcox Friday, January 3 at Mancelona. Photo: Joanie Moore

City had the chance to play down at Little Caesars Arena, where they defeated Plymouth Christian Academy, 43-39.

“The varsity girls and their never quit approach to the game got them a victory against Plymouth Christian,” Wilson said. “The girls never let up on their full court pressure, wearing down PCA.”

Eight different players scored for the Ramblers, led by Burns with 10. Noble was able to score nine and Wilcox put in eight.



Mancelona senior Sara Baker (11) attempts a shot around Boyne City defender (22) Sidney Bush in a game at Mancelona Friday, January 3. Photo: Joanie Moore

Boyne (3-3 overall) played at home against Kalkaska on Tuesday, hosts Charlevoix on Friday and heads to Cheboygan on

Tuesday, Jan. 14. All three of those contests are Northern Shores Conference games.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Lady Rayders open new year with loss to Petoskey, 65-24

BY BEN MURPHY

Ahead of a busy slate of league games, the Charlevoix girls basketball team had a solid non-conference tune-up on Friday. They were playing at Petoskey, and while they lost 65-24, there were still some good things to take away from it.

“I thought we started

slow but picked things up in the second quarter and had lots of good moments for us,” head coach Reece Koepke said. “Petoskey is a good strong team and well coached. Always a good experience for us playing tough teams. Will help us as we start conference play.”

The Lady Northmen were able to take a double

digit lead early on, and carried a 21-10 margin after the first quarter. That swelled to 39-18 at the half and 51-22 entering the fourth.

The Rayders had Ayla Kemp get seven points while adding four points apiece was Hanna Miller and Sarah Wyglendowski. Charlevoix (1-5 over-

all) is set to play in three straight Northern Shores Conference games. They played at Kingsley on Tuesday, makes the trip to Boyne City on Friday and will host Kalkaska on Tuesday, Jan. 14.



## Otsego County Food Drive Weekend

January 18th & 19th, 10AM-6PM • Treetops Resort

We are raising awareness, and asking for help raising funds to help feed hungry people in Otsego county!

The Otsego County Food Pantry volunteers will be onsite at Treetops Resort in Gaylord to collect funds and non-perishable food items. We will be stationed in our cozy 2024 Jayco Sizemic 359 Toy Hauler. It is also available to tour!! If you decide to purchase, a portion of the profit will go directly to the Otsego County Food Pantry.

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# RD SPORTS PHOTO TOP 10



BY DAVE BARAGREY

Rob DeForge of RD Sports Photo has been shooting photos for the Weekly Choice and Charlevoix County News for more than 10 years. He is a fixture in local sports having been involved as a sports broadcaster and photographer for almost 30 years.

Rob has been recognized nationally winning awards for his quality photography.

Recently, as requests for great quality photos of local sports and events have increased, Rob made the decision to take his photography business full time.

Here are Rob's Top Ten photos he selected from 2024.

Many of Rob's photos are on Facebook at RD Sports Photo - Rob DeForge. His website is www.RDSportsPhoto.com



The Gaylord Blue Devil girls soccer seniors in a team & individual photo shoot. This is the first time a T&I photo has made #1, and the first time a larger group since a 2015 Blue Devil football photo. I was taking photos for banners early in the year, and we tried this photo, but it was cold and windy and it just did not work for me. A little later when taking all of the team photos, we went back for another try. My simple instructions were to all do something different, and they did without having to make any adjustments. Then I went lower for the photo.....and BAM.....loved it right out of the camera. I just kept coming back to this photo. Each time I was narrowing the photos to pick out 10. It is the one that grabbed my attention each and every time, so it became the #1 photo I liked of 2024. These are such a great group of players, all of them, on the Blue Devil soccer team, and were very fun to photograph on what turned out to be a district championship game.



Finally. The Gaylord Blue Devil soccer team defeated Petoskey 2-1 in a shootout to win the district championship over their rival in Petoskey. Gaylord had lost the 2 regular season games vs the Northmen, but was able to capture the district after a save on goal to win the shootout. This photo was the start of the celebration as the team reached the goal tender. I was in Petoskey taking photos of youth soccer and figured this game would be over when I finally arrived there, but walked in with just a few minutes remaining in regulation, so I was lucky to watch and photograph the 2 overtimes, shootout, and more important the celebration afterwards, which lasted a long....long time.



Hockey and scoring a goal is quite the feeling in sports. You can see the joy of Braylon Madsen of the Northern Michigan United 9U team as he works for me with the goal, puck, goalie, and the complete team to celebrate this goal.



Addyson Patton of the Bellaire Eagles lays down a bunt from a district game this spring in Bellaire. What captured my attention on this photo was between the ball and the bat. This photo was just after the ball was hit, and you can see the dust trail between the ball and bat. Also Addy's foot right at the front of the box, arms extended.....it was perfect form on a bunt.



Brady Shepherd of the Gaylord Blue Devils takes flight after the ball in a fall match vs Cadillac. Another photo I was able to get the camera up in time to snap a photo at the peak action moment of this play. I liked how high he was in the air, and his foot just about to strike the ball. You have to commit to a play like this knowing contact may be coming. I would have liked eyes wide open, but you see this a lot with the eyes closed right at the contact point. I notice this with hockey goalies a bunch...just a natural reaction.

# SPORTS PHOTO TOP 10 OF THE YEAR



**#2 RD TOP 10**  
SPORTS PHOTO

Sports photography 'rules' will always tell you if you do not capture a face, or take photos from the back, they are worthless. This one breaks those rules. A father and son walking off the field after a Blue Devil JV home game. This player scored his first 2 high school touchdowns in this game, but what makes this photo for me is the nameless, faceless, and non-location tagged aspect of this photo. It represents fathers and sons and the bond of sports.....it was very powerful to me, and thus came in at #2 in 2024.



**#8 RD TOP 10**  
SPORTS PHOTO

This photo represents the importance the varsity athletes have on the ones that will follow them. Here, Haden Janes of the Petoskey Northmen after a district championship win over Mt Pleasant signs a football for a young man wearing a Petoskey sweatshirt. The youth see these varsity players as big as can be under those Friday night lights. It leaves an impression on them, and hopes that it will guide them in their athletic sports now, or if they choose to play in the future. I was lucky to snap this photo. I had my camera shut off and the lens cap on, but was able to turn it on just in time as Haden was finishing his autograph.



**#7 RD TOP 10**  
SPORTS PHOTO

You see it on the reactions of players that score. Here, Gibby Rose reacts after putting the puck in the net. This photo captures the elation from Braylon as he makes his way to find his



**#3 RD TOP 10**  
SPORTS PHOTO

Gibby Rose of this Northern Michigan United hockey team does a glass smash celly after scoring a goal in game at the Sportsplex. What makes this photo are the 2 men on the other side of the glass. They are both Gibby's Grandfathers who are celebrating along with him. I would like to tell you I set this up, but it was completely random that I captured all 3 of them in this photo. It takes this photo to another level, and the 3rd favorite of 2024.



**2024 RD TOP 10**  
SPORTS PHOTO



**#9 RD TOP 10**  
SPORTS PHOTO

Volleyball has the most expressive reactions during a match. No other sport can come close to the photo opportunities it gives you. Here Gaylord Blue Devil Nevaeh Smith turns to her team on the court and reacts to a winning point. Loved the number 1's, the expression, and the school name off to the left. This one slots in at #9 of 2024.



**#10 RD TOP 10**  
SPORTS PHOTO

It was senior night for the Gaylord Blue Devil girls basketball team, and senior Addison Wangler broke out a cartwheel as she was introduced. Glad I was paying attention and able to capture this moment that was only there for a second. Hands down.....most unique introduction I have ever seen.

# Sports

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# TOP 10 PHOTOS OF THE YEAR

BY DAVE BARAGREY.

One of our premier photographers for more than two years is Kenny Rivers of In Motion Images.

Ken does excellent work and loves photographing sporting events.

He travels all around Northern Michigan and provides lots of photos for the Weekly Choice & Charlevoix County News sports.

Many of Kenny's photos are on Facebook at **In Motion Images, LLC**



Gaylord St. Mary's Kabe Quick Hoist Robbie Amterburg after a victory over Onaway



Gaylord Blue Devil Kaven Cole after a tough loss at Petoskey.



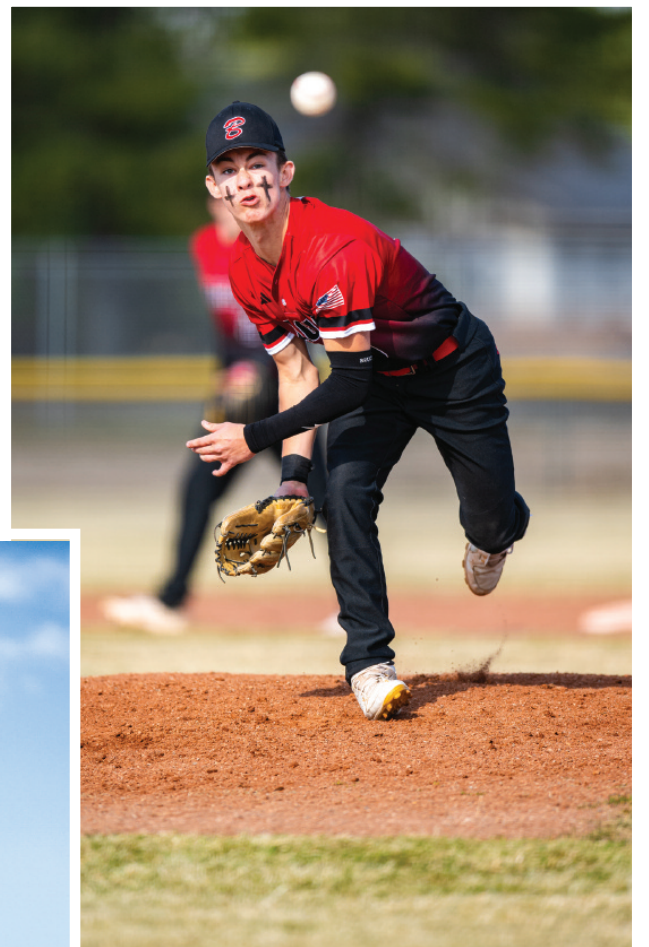
Snowbird Daniel Jacobson Celebrates in the endzone on a touchdown at Inland Lakes



Boyne City Rambler QB Drew Neer narrowly escapes a sack



Johannesburg-Lewiston's Cash Cunningham makes an amazing catch at Mancelona.



Colin Bearup of Bellaire working the mound while visiting the Snowbirds.



Petoskey's Caitlyn Matelski Celebrating after an incredible play.



Gaylords Aubrey Jones puts a ball into the parking lot.



Grayling Senior Corbin Allen leaps over a Boyne City's Tanner Kelley in a hard-fought loss homecoming night.



Gaylord's Lucas Green Stands Proudly Prior to the National Anthem at Gaylords valor game.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# EJ girls play to win over St. Philip in contest held at Crisler Center

BY BEN MURPHY

Playing at the Crisler Center at the University of Michigan on Friday was a fantastic experience all around for the East Jordan girls basketball team. The Lady Red Devils were taking on Battle Creek St. Philip, a contest they won 47-25; and they made some lasting memories along the way.

“We had a tremendous experience and the events people where awesome, giving our kids an experience they will never forget,” head coach Tim Smith said.

“We need to give a special thanks to our athletic director Phyllis Olszewski for putting this all together and to all of our supporters who helped make this a successful trip. I thought with all the excitement of the day the girls played real focused especially early in game I think it was our best execution of the year. It was nice to see everyone get a chance to get onto the floor.”

The Red Devils were able to get off to a nice start, leading 14-2 after one. That grew to 26-11 at the half and they led comfort-



Sydney Guerriero pops a 3-pointer. In Motion Images

ably entering the fourth as well, 36-21.

They were led by June Kirkpatrick, who had a solid 29 point performance. Jo Kirkpatrick netted five points.

Addi Dzwik was able

to score 19 points for St. Philip.

E-J also played Harbor Springs on Dec. 27, in a contest held at North Central Michigan College.

They lost this one 51-23. “We played like we have

been away for break and traveling, we had some sickness come through team combined with Harbor having a real nice team it was a bad formula,” Smith said. “They also played us a box-and-one which not having much practice time over break we definitely weren’t prepared for but we won’t make that mistake again.”

E-J only trailed 10-8 after the first quarter, but that jumped to a 30-14 deficit at the half. After three it was 39-18.

June Kirkpatrick led the way for the Red Devils, netting eight points. Madison Bearden put in seven and Avari McCoy added five.

E-J (5-2 overall) was at home against Johannesburg-Lewiston on Tuesday and will play at home with Gaylord St. Mary today (Thursday). On Wednesday they are scheduled to make the trip to Inland Lakes. All three of those contests are Ski Valley Conference games.



Lily Pinney looks for an open teammate. In Motion Images



Avari McCoy dribbles around a defender. In Motion Images



June Kirkpatrick has been the Red Devils leading scorer this year. In Motion Images



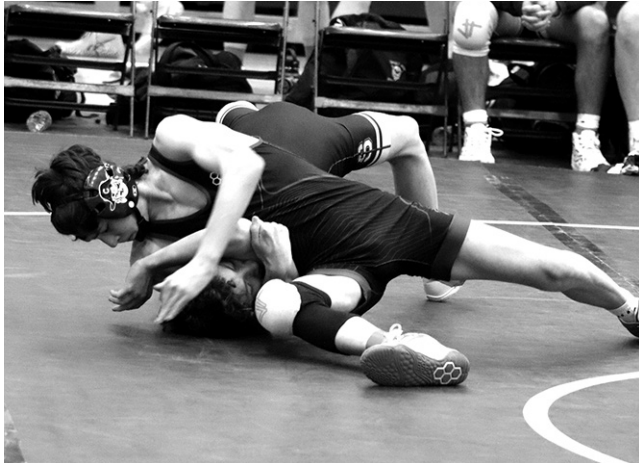
Jo Jo Kirkpatrick finds an open teammate. In Motion Images



Lily Snyder shoots a long two. In Motion Images

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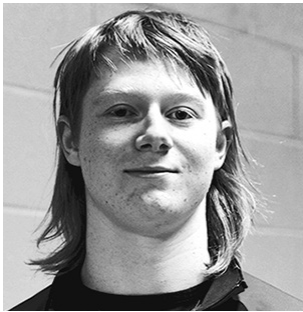
## WRESTLING

### Rayders beat Inland Lakes, Soo and TC Central at Petoskey Tourney

On January 4th, the Charlevoix Varsity Wrestling team competed in Petoskey's Annual Carl Vanderwall Team Tournament.

The Rayders were 3 and 2 for the day defeating T.C. Central, Inland Lakes and Sault St. Marie.

The Rayders fell to Petoskey and Linden.

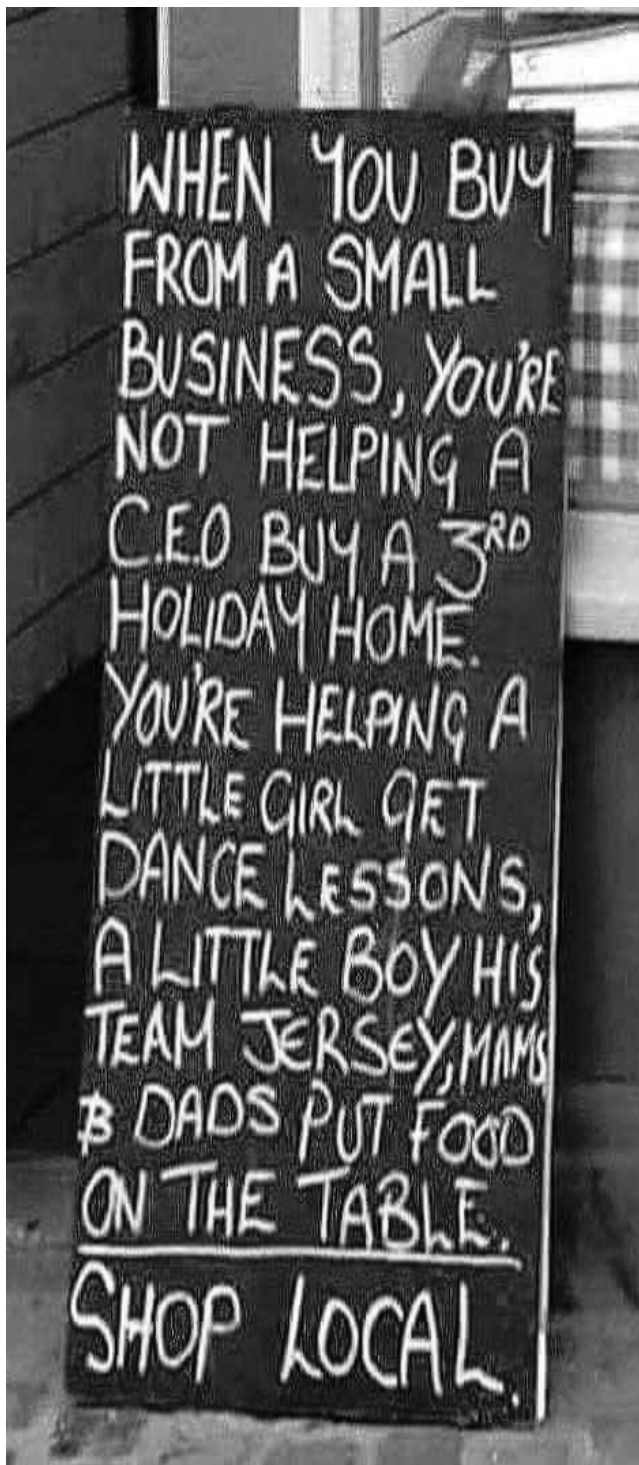


**Logan Wilks went 5-0 in at 165 lbs. at Carl Vanderwall Team Tournament**

Individual results were as follows:

- Eva Noirot, Freshman, 106 lbs. – 1 and 3
- Huntley Thorson, Freshman, 120 lbs. – 2 and 3
- Raigan Swadling, Freshman, 126 lbs. – 3 and 2
- Kalen Titus, Freshman, 132 lbs. – 3 and 2
- Max Reynolds, Junior, 138 lbs. – 3 and 2
- Collin Jess, Freshman, 150 lbs. – 4 and 1
- Logan Wilks, Senior, 165 lbs. – 5 and 0
- Brady Warchol, Senior, 175 lbs. – 3 and 2
- Ryan Glass, Sophomore, 190 lbs. – 1 and 0
- Sawyer Blaszczyk, Junior, 215 lbs. – 4 and 1
- Connor Ortiz, Senior, Hwt., - 4 and 1
- Exhibition:
- Kate Matter, Sophomore, 138 lbs. – 0 and 1
- Lauralee Rhode, Freshman, 144 lbs. – 0 and 1
- Phat Nguyen, Freshman, 215 lbs. – 1 and 1

Next up, on January 8th, the Rayders travel to Grayling for a Tri-meet with Grayling and Cheboygan.



## TRAVERSE CITY WEST GIRLS HOLIDAY CLASSIC DECEMBER 27, 2024



**Eva Noirot, Freshman, 115 lbs., - 3 and 0, First Place**



**Kate Matter, Sophomore, 140 lbs., - 3 and 1, Third Place**



**Lauralee Rhode, Freshman, 145 lbs., - 2 and 3, Third Place**

### CONFERENCE STANDINGS BOYS BASKETBALL 1/6/25

Big North Conference			Northern Lakes Conference		
Team	W-L (Conference)	W-L (Overall)	West Division		W-L (Overall)
Traverse City West	2-0	7-1	Team	W-L (Conference)	W-L (Overall)
Cadillac	3-1	5-3	Harbor Springs Harbor	1-0	5-2
Gaylord	1-1	3-3	Light Christian	1-1	4-4
Traverse City Central	0-0	5-2	Ellsworth	1-1	4-4
Petoskey	0-1	6-3	Alba	0-0	0-0
Alpena	0-3	2-6	Boyer Falls	0-1	0-4
			Petoskey St Michael	0-0	0-0
Northern Shores Conference			Northern Lakes Conference		
Team	W-L (Conference)	W-L (Overall)	East Division		W-L (Overall)
Cheboygan	2-0	7-0	Alanson	2-0	4-3
Harbor Springs	2-0	7-1	Burt Lake Northern	1-1	5-2
Elk Rapids	2-0	5-3	Michigan Christian	1-2	3-5
Charlevoix	1-1	5-3	Mackinaw City	1-2	3-5
Boyer City	1-1	2-5	Wolverine	0-1	1-3
Grayling	0-2	5-2			
Kalkaska	0-2	4-4	North Star League-Big Dipper		
Kingsley	0-2	0-7	Rogers City	1-0	6-1
			St Helen Charlton	0-1	5-1
Ski Valley Conference			Heston Academy	0-0	5-2
Team	W-L (Conference)	W-L (Overall)	Tawas	0-0	3-2
Bellaire	6-0	7-1	Oscoda	0-0	3-3
Gaylord St Mary	3-1	3-2	Whittemore-Prescott	0-0	1-7
Mancelona	3-1	3-4			
Onaway	2-1	2-3	North Star League-Little Dipper		
Indian River	3-2	3-4	Hillman	2-0	5-3
Inland Lakes	1-2	1-6	Au Gres-Sims	2-0	4-3
Central Lake	1-3	2-5	Mio	1-0	4-3
Pellston	0-2	3-3	Fairview	2-1	4-7
East Jordan	0-5	1-6	Hale	0-2	1-6
Fife Lake Forest Area	0-5	1-6	Posen	0-2	1-6
Johannesburg-Lewiston	0-2	0-6	Atlanta	0-2	0-5

### CONFERENCE STANDINGS GIRLS BASKETBALL 1/6/25

Big North Conference			Northern Lakes Conference		
Team	W-L (Conference)	W-L (Overall)	West Division		W-L (Overall)
Traverse City Central	2-0	2-5	Team	W-L (Conference)	W-L (Overall)
Cadillac	2-1	3-3	Ellsworth	3-0	5-3
Petoskey	1-1	5-2	Harbor Springs Harbor	1-2	2-4
Traverse City West	1-1	2-5	Light Christian	1-3	1-3
Alpena	1-2	3-4	Boyer Falls	0-3	0-3
Gaylord	0-2	2-4	Petoskey St Michael	0-0	0-0
Northern Shores Conference			Northern Lakes Conference		
Team	W-L (Conference)	W-L (Overall)	East Division		W-L (Overall)
Harbor Springs	1-0	5-2	Burt Lake Northern	3-0	4-4
Elk Rapids	1-0	4-3	Michigan Christian	2-1	2-5
Grayling	0-0	5-0	Mackinaw City	2-2	3-3
Cheboygan	0-0	3-2	Alanson	2-2	3-3
Boyer City	0-0	3-3	Wolverine	0-2	0-4
Kalkaska	0-1	2-2			
Kingsley	0-0	1-4	North Star League-Big Dipper		
Charlevoix	0-1	1-5	Rogers City	1-0	4-2
			Oscoda	0-0	5-0
Ski Valley Conference			Tawas	0-0	4-1
Team	W-L (Conference)	W-L (Overall)	Whittemore-Prescott	0-0	2-4
Johannesburg-Lewiston	3-0	4-0	Alcona	0-0	0-6
Gaylord St Mary	4-0	5-1	St Helen Charlton	0-1	0-5
Indian River	3-0	4-1			
Inland Lakes	3-0	4-1	North Star League-Little Dipper		
East Jordan	4-0	5-2	Hillman	2-0	6-2
Onaway	3-1	3-2	Au Gres-Sims	2-0	4-2
Bellaire	1-3	3-3	Mio	1-1	3-1
Central Lake	1-3	2-3	Hale	1-1	3-3
Pellston	0-4	1-4	Atlanta	1-1	1-3
Fife Lake Forest Area	0-4	1-5	Posen	0-2	3-4
Mancelona	0-4	0-7	Fairview	0-3	1-5

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## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Ellsworth takes third in Christmas Tournament

BY BOB DELONG



**Hannah Essenberg**

The Ellsworth High School girls' varsity basketball team was "oh so close" to maybe winning the first annual Central Lake Christmas Tourney last month. After a tough 44-43 overtime loss to Bear Lake in the opening game, the lady Lancers took third with a great second half to capture third place with a 45-28 victory over Suttons Bay. The host Trojans won their own tourney by

beating Bear Lake in the Championship game after they won over Suttons Bay in their semi-final. Against Bear Lake, Ellsworth trailed most of the game before a late rally sent the game into overtime. The Lakers led 12-2 after one quarter and 19-12 at halftime as the Lancers

just could not get a shot to drop. Ellsworth made only two baskets in the first half and they made eight of 12 free throws for their dozen points at intermission. After halftime, Hannah Essenberg scored nine points and Roby Pletcher added eight as the Lancers rallied to tie the game up after regulation. Ellsworth used an 14-6 scoring advantage by playing great defense in the final frame to knot the score. The Lakers edged the Lancers by a 6-

5 score in the four-minute overtime to pull out the win. Ellsworth certainly had its chances in this game. One of their largest opportunities was the fact that they converted on only 11 of 24 free throws on the night including missing nine of their last dozen attempts over the second half and overtime period. Pletcher had a nice game with a game high 15 points for the Lancers, Hannah Essenberg was also in double figures with 13, Bella Es-

senberg scored eight points, Nora Puroll had seven and Sam Pallman added a basket to complete the scoring. The lose ended a three-game winning streak for Ellsworth. Two days later the Lancers got back on the winning track with a solid second half rally to beat Suttons Bay 45-28 to win the consolation game. After losing both the first and second quarters by identical 10-9 scores to trail 20-18 at halftime, Ellsworth

used a dominating 27-8 advantage in the second half to win going away. The Lancers outscored the Norsemen 15-5 in the third period and 12-3 in the final frame. Both Hannah and Bella Essenberg led the way with 14 points each, Pletcher added eight, Puroll had 5 points and Pallman rounded out the scoring with four points. Ellsworth, now 5-3 on the season travel to Wolverine to play the Wildcats this Thursday.

## BOWLING

# Boyne City Boys Bowling start season with 2 wins

Varsity boys kicked off the Conference Season with a 2-0 record! The season opener was held in Gaylord today at The Landing Star Lanes. The boys had a great start to the season by winning the first match play against Petoskey 28 to 2. In match two they competed against Gaylord and took the win 21 to 9.

Zac Karlskin = 182  
Grant Piper = 175  
Ben Mathers = 163  
Zach Piechan = 234  
Jonathan Shepherd = 203  
**Match 2 against Gaylord**  
High Baker Game = 212  
**High Individual Games**  
Sidd Vanslambourck = 156  
Zac Karlskin = 137  
Grant Piper = 118  
Ben Mathers = 209  
Zach Piechan = 186  
Jonathan Shepherd = 194  
Saturday our matches will be at Nautical Lanes in Rogers City.

**Match 1 against Petoskey**  
High Baker Game = 162  
**High Individual Games**  
Sidd Vanslambourck = 142

## GIRLS BOWLING

# Rambler girls team open season with wins

Gaylord hosted the season opener for Boyne City girls bowling team on Saturday, January 4. The two words that would best describe the day for the girls would be grace and determination. Big goals for this year were definitely carried out in our performance today. This year's team is led by senior captains Lauren LaBute and Victoria McGeorge, followed by seniors - Marlee Fischl, Brynn Sero and Whitney Root and freshman Audrey Joyner. Our ladies started

the day with a win over Gaylord 23.5 to 6.5 points. High scores for the match were Victoria McGeorge 216, Lauren LaBute 197, Brynn Sero 156, Audrey Joyner 151 and Whitney Root 150. Second match of the day against Grayling brought a victory of 23 to 7 points. High scores for the second match were Victoria McGeorge 226, Whitney Root 190, Lauren LaBute 163, Marlee Fischl 141, Brynn Sero 137. The girls will be at Nautical Lanes in Rogers City on Saturday, January 11.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Charlevoix boys defeat previously unbeaten Bellaire, 45-34

BY BEN MURPHY



**Logan Wadkins**

Bellaire entered Saturday's boys basketball game at Charlevoix undefeated through their first six contests. The Rayders used a solid second half effort to pull away from the Eagles, handing their non-conference foes their first loss of the season, 45-34.

"We came out a little flat and dug ourselves a hole but I am proud of how we battled back," head coach Anthony Troshak said. "We relied on our defense. Logan Wadkins did a good job on Jayden Hanson, Joe Gaffney, and Vitale Collins played tough defense on Drake Koepke. Bellaire is a good team, well coached and we were able to grind out a victory."

Charlevoix faced a 10-6 deficit after the first quarter, but they were able to get things going in the second, and held a slim 20-18 advantage at the half. Another solid frame in the third allowed them to take a 32-23 lead with just the fourth left to play. The Rayders were led by Jackson Crouse who had a solid performance, getting a double-double with 14 points and 14 rebounds. Logan Wadkins had eight points and four assists and Joe Gaffney was able to net seven points. For the Eagles, Drake Koepke scored 12 points and Jayden Hanson added 10. On Friday, Charlevoix pulled off a thrilling road win at Traverse City St. Francis, 42-41. "It was a defensive

and held a slim 20-18 advantage at the half. Another solid frame in the third allowed them to take a 32-23 lead with just the fourth left to play. The Rayders were led by Jackson Crouse who had a solid performance, getting a double-double with 14 points and 14 rebounds. Logan Wadkins had eight points and four assists and Joe Gaffney was able to net seven points. For the Eagles, Drake Koepke scored 12 points and Jayden Hanson added 10. On Friday, Charlevoix pulled off a thrilling road win at Traverse City St. Francis, 42-41. "It was a defensive

battle," Troshak said. "St. Francis plays sound defense, rotates well and are well coached. Joe Gaffney played with a lot of grit, he even ended up with six offensive rebounds and made some huge plays for us. Jackson Crouse has knack for making big plays when they are needed. I thought Vitale Collins and Logan Wadkins pressured well for us and forced some turnovers down the stretch. Ryan Pearl battled inside all night, his leadership helped us fight back in the fourth. We feel fortunate to come out of there with a victory." The Rayders were behind much of the contest; facing holes of 17-12, 25-24 and 35-32 at the quarter breaks. They were still behind by five points with under two minutes to play. A three pointer by Pearl cut the lead down to two and after a St. Francis turnover,

Gaffney was able to drain a go-ahead three with about a minute to play. The Gladiators swung back in front with a lay-up at 41-40, but with five seconds to play Crouse was able to fit for a tip-in and 42-41 Charlevoix lead. The Glads' final shot rimmed off, allowing Charlevoix to escape with the win. The Rayders had Gaffney finish with 14 points and six rebounds. Wadkins scored 11 points and Collins added seven. For St. Francis, Isaiah Millward scored 12 points and Mason Hoelscher added eight. Charlevoix (5-3 overall) played a home Northern Shores Conference game with Kingsley on Tuesday and will play at Boyne City on Friday. On Tuesday, Jan. 14 they'll make the trip to Kalkaska for more league action.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Ellsworth wins Consolation Game vs Trojans in the First Annual Central Lake Christmas Tourney

BY BOB DELONG



**Ezra Wallis**

In the first, soon to be annual Central Lake Christmas Tourney, the Ellsworth boys' varsity team beat the host Trojans 54-29 for third place in the consolation game. The Lancers dropped a close 60-57 decision to Alanson in one semi final and Central Lake lost 56-44 to Suttons Bay on the other side of the bracket. Suttons Bay went on to win the Championship with a 61-51 victory over Alanson. Against Alanson,

Ellsworth led most of the game, including 34-26 at the half before being nipped at the end of the game by only four points. Ezra Wallis scored 19 points, Evincio LaCount had 16 points and 10 rebounds and both Billy Hopp and Jakob Paehler both scored six points to lead the Lancers. In Central Lakes semi-final loss to the Norsemen, Riley Shafer led the way with 13 points and Grant Miller was also in double figures with 11. In the Consolation game, Ellsworth won every quarter in route to the win. Wallis led all scorers with 15 points and added seven boards; Paehler scored 11 points and swiped six steals; LaCount scored 10 points; Cam Snyder had seven points and a game high 12 rebounds; Jack Puroll had nine points and Billy Hopp had a basket.

Central Lake was led by Shafer's 11 points, Brady Roggenbeck had eight; Miller and Nolyn Whisler both scored four points and Jamieson Pringle added a two-point hoop. Ellsworth travels to both Alcona and Wolverine this week while the Trojans play at Gaylord St. Mary on Wednesday and Inland Lakes on Friday evening. (NOTE: Central Lake does not have a JV team, please ask the school for the starting times).

## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Boyne City handles home game with Clare, 55-39

BY BEN MURPHY



**Ryan Spate**

A day after dropping a road game, the Boyne City boys basketball team was able to bounce back with a home win over Clare on Friday. The Ramblers took down the non-league Pioneers on a score of 55-39. "(We) delivered a strong, all-around performance tonight, defeating Clare in a tough non-conference matchup," head coach Rob Jensen said. "The team played consistently and focused across all four quarters, showcasing their

ability to execute and close out a solid win." Boyne led from the get-go, taking a 12-4 lead after one. They were also in front 27-14 at the half and 42-28 entering the fourth. The Ramblers had Ryan Spate lead things with 14 points and Jaden Alger added 13. Drew Neer was able to score 11 and Luke Van-

Zee and Ben Stanek were able to score six apiece. On Thursday, Boyne City had the opportunity to play at Little Caesars Arena down in Detroit. On the home court of the Pistons, they took on Plymouth Christian, a contest they narrowly lost, 58-52. "We put up a valiant effort but came up short," Jensen said. "We showcased our determination, keeping the game competitive throughout." The Ramblers fell behind early, trailing 17-5 after one. They trimmed that to

26-18 at the half and 42-38 entering the fourth, but they weren't able to complete the comeback in the closing minutes. Alger had a solid 17 point game in this one. Hewitt was able to score 12 and Spate added eight. Boyne (2-5 overall) had a Northern Shores Conference game at Kalkaska on Tuesday, hosts Charlevoix on Friday and will welcome in Kingsley for another league game on Tuesday, Jan. 14.

## CONFERENCE STANDINGS

### HOCKEY 1/6/25

#### Big North Conference

Team	W-L-Tie (Conference)	W-L-Tie (Overall)
Alpena	5-0-0	11-4-0
Petoskey	4-2-0	9-2-0
Traverse City Central	2-1-0	7-6-0
Traverse City West	1-2-0	3-8-0
Cadillac	1-4-0	6-6-0
Gaylord	0-5-0	1-10-0

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2010 Jeep Wrangler. 4x4, automatic, removable hard top, 223 K miles. Sale Price \$9,995. As low as \$249 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

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2014 Ford F-150. STX 4x4, club cab, soft tonneau cover, 165 K miles. Sale Price \$13,995. As low as \$299 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

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2015 Jeep Cherokee Limited. 4x4, rear camera, leather, 184 K miles. Sale Price \$8,995. As low as \$199 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

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## ADVICE FROM GOD

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:13-16

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you looking for something more? God has a plan for you. Encouraging, Uplifting and Challenging. Join us Sunday morning at 11am for great music and ministry and discovering what the Bible says. Pigeon River Baptist Church, 2 blocks south of the blinker in Vanderbilt. If you can't attend, Watch on Facebook Live Sundays at 11AM, search Pigeon River Baptist Church.

**DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING NICE TO SAY?** We would like to hear something nice you have to say about businesses or people in Northern Michigan. Send us a note in the mail or by e-mail. Each week we will publish positive comments from our readers in the Weekly Choice, Charlevoix County News and Michigan MoneySaver. Mail to Weekly Choice, PO Box 382, Gaylord, MI 49734 or e-mail to Office@WeeklyChoice.com. Negative notes may be sent elsewhere.

**JANUARY 24. 6-11 pm.** \$60 for individual, \$100 for couple. \$400 for sponsor table. Hot Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Event for the celebration of inauguration of Donald Trump. Northern Michigan Event Banquet Center, 7784 Stone School Rd. Houghton Lake. www.crawfordcountyrepublishers.org for tickets. Also sponsored by Faith, Family & Freedom PAC.

**LOCALLY OWNED, LOCALLY OPERATED, LOCAL NEWS, LOCAL SPORTS.** The Weekly Choice and Charlevoix County News and Michigan MoneySaver are locally owned newspapers. We are independently owned newspapers based in Gaylord. Dave Baragrey and the staff of news writers, sports writers, photographers, graphic designers, delivery people and sales people all live and work here

and care about our local communities we serve. 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. **CHOICE PUBLICATIONS AND MICHIGAN MEDIA.** Publisher of the Weekly Choice, Charlevoix County News, Michigan MoneySaver and APS - Advertisers Postal Service. 112 E. Sixth St., Gaylord • Office - 989-732-8160, Cell - 989-350-9235 • Office@WeeklyChoice.com

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## AUCTIONS

January online auctions bidding open. Sports memorabilia, cards, rings, jerseys and more. Estate auction, muzzleloader, snowblower, appliances, furniture, collectibles and more! To bid, see entire catalogs visit Bid.SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com. Questions? Call 800-835-0495

**Johannesburg Firearm Timed-online Auction.** Bidding ends Jan. 20. Over 600 fine firearms, ammo, and hunting accessories. Bid@JohnPeckAuctions.com. Offices Gladwin & Charlotte. Selling guns? Call 989-345-4866. Michigan's premier firearm auctioneers since 1979.

## NOTICE

### The City of Boyne City is seeking applicants for an open position on the Board of Review

The Board is comprised of three members, each serving a three-year term. Members are responsible for examining, reviewing and correcting the assessment roll developed by the City Assessor as well as hearing and considering appeals from property owners who feel their property has been incorrectly assessed. The Board meets in March, July, and December. Two sessions in March are full days. If you are interested in getting involved or learning more about helping to make sure that property taxes are levied correctly, please contact City Clerk/Treasurer Jessica Puroll at 231.582.0334 or jpuroll@boynecity.com or submit an application. Application forms are available online at www.cityofboynecity.com or at Boyne City City Hall. Deadline to apply is Monday, February 3, 2025.

## PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT CITY OF EAST JORDAN

The City of East Jordan is accepting applications for the position of Public Works Superintendent. This position is a non-union Department Head position and serves as a working superintendent under the direction of the City Administrator.

Applicants must have a thorough knowledge of water distribution and wastewater treatment systems; street maintenance and design; cemetery regulations; equipment maintenance and other public works operations. Applicant must have skill in operating a variety of heavy equipment, hand and power tools and testing equipment. The ability to communicate effectively and present ideas orally and in writing is a plus. Computer skills preferred.

Education requirements include a high school diploma or equivalent, with additional course work in equipment maintenance, safety practices and related fields. Experience requirements include a minimum of seven years of public works experience including two years supervision in a municipal public works environment. A valid Michigan commercial driver's license is required. Salary is dependent upon qualifications.

Complete job description is available on the City's website at www.eastjordancity.org. Send letter of interest and resume to: City of East Jordan, Attn: Cheltzi Wilson, City Clerk, PO Box 499, East Jordan, MI 49727 or submit to cwilson@eastjordancity.org by February 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

The City of East Jordan is an equal opportunity employer.

## Housing Opportunity: Volunteer Board Member Position

The Boyne City Housing Commission is seeking a dedicated individual to fill an opening on its five-member Board of Commissioners. This is a volunteer role with a chance to make a significant impact on housing opportunities in Boyne City and Charlevoix County.

The Housing Commission manages Litzenburger Place and Deer Meadows apartments, individual homes in Boyne City, as well as overseeing future developments and administering housing vouchers to support individuals and families with housing costs in the area.

### Position Requirements:

- Candidates must reside within the Housing Commission's service area (Charlevoix County), preferably in Boyne City.
- The commitment will be for a full 5 year term, ending January 1, 2030.
- Board members typically meet once a month (currently the fourth Wednesday at 8 AM), with additional meetings as needed. Alternative dates are available upon request.

For more information about the Boyne City Housing Commission, please contact Bethany Hedgepath, Executive Director, at 231-582-6203 or via email at bethany@boynecityhc.com

To apply, visit the City of Boyne City's website to download the *Volunteer Board Member Application*: www.cityofboynecity.com/boards--commissions-231/.

Completed applications should be returned to Boyne City Clerk/Treasurer Jessica Puroll at 231-582-0334 or by email at jpuroll@boynecity.com

**Application Deadline: Monday, February 3, 2025, at 12:00 PM.**

## JOHANNESBURG FIREARM ESTATE AUCTION BIDDING ENDS: Monday, January 20, 8 p.m.

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**SITE LOCATIONS: CHARLOTTE 48813 & GLADWIN 48624**

Note on location - Items are home based in Gladwin & can be transported free of charge to Charlotte for pickup. Buyers must request this service at the conclusion of the auction.



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### SALE PICKUP DAYS

**GLADWIN - Wednesday, 1/22 and Thursday, 1/23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**CHARLOTTE - Friday, 1/24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

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based in Gaylord, Michigan but we distribute our weekly papers in 100 towns in 19 counties in Northern Michigan. I need great salespeople in various areas in Northern Michigan. Send your resume to Dave Baragrey 1. E-mail to Office@WeeklyChoice.com

ALPENA. NEWS FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHER AND WRITER. We are expanding our coverage in the Alpena area and have an opening. We are adding a writer/photographer to our staff of the Weekly Choice. Nice extra income for a few hours of work. You will need dependable transportation and a digital camera. Writer/Photographer will attend local events in Alpena, Hillman, Rogers City, Atlanta and nearby for photos and report on local events. This is an independent contractor position. E-mail Office@WeeklyChoice.com or call Dave at 989-732-8160. Weekly Choice

ALPENA. SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER. We are expanding our coverage in the Alpena area and have an opening. We are adding a photographer to our staff of the Weekly Choice. Nice extra income for a few hours of work. You will need dependable transportation and a digital camera. Sports photographer will attend local high school sporting events in Alpena, Hillman, Rogers City, Atlanta and nearby for game action photos. This is an independent contractor position. E-mail Office@WeeklyChoice.com or for more information call Dave at 989-732-8160. Weekly Choice

FEATURE STORY WRITER. Writing experience preferred. The Weekly Choice, a Locally owned "Positive News" weekly paper is distributed all around Northern Michigan including Alpena, Gaylord,

Petoskey, Cheboygan, Grayling, Indian River, Mackinaw City, Onaway, Lewiston, Mio, Mancelona, Kalkaska and everywhere in between. Freelance writer will supply articles and photos. \$35 per story plus \$10 for photo(s). Email Resume Dave Baragrey. Office@WeeklyChoice.com

IMMEDIATE OPENING - BOYNE CITY, EAST JORDAN, CHARLEVOIX. LOCAL NEWS WRITER. We have an immediate opening in this area. We are adding a writer to our staff of Charlevoix County's popular local newspaper. Nice extra income for a few hours of work. You will need dependable transportation and a digital camera. Attend local government meetings, feature local people, events and businesses. This is an independent contractor position. E-mail Office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com or call Dave at 989-732-8160. Charlevoix County News

INDIAN RIVER, PETOSKEY. ADVERTISING SALES. We are expanding our coverage in the Petoskey and Indian River area and have an opening. We are adding a display advertising salesperson to our staff of the Weekly Choice. Nice extra income for a few hours of work. You will need dependable transportation and enjoy working your own schedule. This is an independent contractor position. 20% Commission. E-mail Office@WeeklyChoice.com or call Dave at 989-732-8160. Weekly Choice

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transportation and a digital camera. Attend local government meetings, feature local people, events and businesses. Sports writer will attend local high school sporting events for photos and a game report. This is an independent contractor position. E-mail Office@WeeklyChoice.com or call Dave at 989-732-8160. Weekly Choice

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**CITY OF EAST JORDAN  
SPECIAL MEETING**

The City Commission will hold a special meeting on **Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.** for the purpose of review and approval of the deficit elimination plans for Tourist Park and Internal Service-Equipment Fund.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**City of East Jordan to hold OPEN HOUSE on proposed ORV/Snowmobile route along M-66**

The City of East Jordan has scheduled an open house for Tuesday, January 14th, 5:00 pm at the East Jordan Snowmobile Clubhouse (5586 Mt. Bliss Rd) to gather public comment on an off-road vehicle route connector within South Arm Township and the City of East Jordan.

The proposed route would begin at Rogers Rd/M-66 and continue along M-66 north into city limits which are regulated by ordinance for snowmobile/ORV usage.

This route proposal has been initiated by the East Jordan Trailblazers ORV Club and supported by the City of East Jordan as an "ORV friendly community."

**NORWOOD TOWNSHIP  
Ordinance No. 3 of 2024**

At their regular meeting December 17, 2024, the Norwood Township Board adopted an ordinance to amend the Township Zoning Ordinance regarding Short-Term Rental Licensing.

**Effective Date** - This Ordinance shall become effective seven (7) days after publication.

A complete copy of the amendments and Zoning Ordinance are available at Township Hall by appointment and on our website at: <http://www.norwoodtp.org>

Brenda Freds, Township Clerk

**Marion Township  
Notice Of Public Hearing**

The Marion Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 27, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Marion Township Hall located at 03735 Marion Center Road, Charlevoix, Michigan for the purpose of receiving public comments on a proposed amendment to the Township's Future Land Use Plan Map.

The proposed amendment can be reviewed by going to [www.mariontownshipmi.gov](http://www.mariontownshipmi.gov), or by contacting Timothy Matchett, Township Clerk @231 547 2154 or emailing [timmatchett@hotmail.com](mailto:timmatchett@hotmail.com).

**CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SYNOPSIS JANUARY 2, 2025**

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on January 2, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Four Commissioners were present. Excused: Commissioner Christensen and Commissioner Kenney.

Motion approved the agenda as presented.

Resolution #25-001, Establishing the Term of the Chairperson - No action.

Motion approved to elect a Board Chairperson for a two-year term.

Motion withdrawn to appoint Annemarie Conway as Vice-Chair.

Motion approved to elect Joshua Chamberlain as Vice-Chair.

Motion approved the 2025 meeting schedule as presented.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Audit Committee** 2nd Wed. prior to the day Board meeting 8:30 a.m.  
4th Wed. prior to the night Board meeting, 5:00 p.m.

**Board of Commissioners:** Second Wed., monthly, 9:30 a.m.  
Fourth Wed., monthly 6:00 p.m.

**Committee of the Whole:** As necessary (no set schedule)

**Public Safety/Judicial/Building & Grounds Committee:** First Wed., monthly, 9:30 a.m.

**Personnel/Internal Government Committee:** Third Wed., monthly, 9:30 a.m.

Motion approved the Audit schedule times, dates, and place, as presented.

Motion approved the 2025 Committee and Liaison Roster as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #25-002, Adopt Rules of Procedures.

Motion approved Resolution #25-003, Depository Resolution.

Motion approved Resolution #25-004, Publications.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:45 a.m.

Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website, [www.charlevoixcounty.org](http://www.charlevoixcounty.org).

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**WILSON TOWNSHIP  
CHARLEVOIX COUNTY**  
02530 Fall Park Road  
PO Box 447  
Boyne City, Michigan 49712

**Regular Meeting Schedule for 2025**

Meetings are held at the Wilson Township Hall, 2530 Fall Park Road, Boyne City.

- Planning Commission meets the 1st Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM (beginning February 2025).
- Board of Trustees meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 5:00 PM.
- Zoning Board of Appeals meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 PM (if an appeal has been submitted).

The 2025 meeting schedule does not include the call of special meetings that may be necessary during the year.

s/Marilyn L. Beebe, Clerk  
Wilson Township, Charlevoix County

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CITY OF EAST JORDAN  
2025 MEETING SCHEDULE**

All meetings are held in City Hall unless otherwise noted

City Commission Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tuesday of Month at 5:30 p.m.  
Planning Commission: 2nd Thursday of Month at 5:30 p.m.  
Board of Appeals: 4th Monday of Month at 5:15 p.m.  
Housing Commission: 2nd Tuesday of Month at 4:30 p.m. at Lakeview Manor  
Board of Review: March 10th & 13th, July 22nd and December 9th  
DDA Board: 2nd Monday of Month at 5:30 p.m.  
Parks & Recreation Committee: Meets on an as needed basis

The City of East Jordan will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at a public meeting or hearing upon 10 days notice to the City of East Jordan.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of East Jordan by writing or calling:

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**FINAL NOTICE** to dispose of contents to established final lien on storage. Renters: Pamela Westover, Unit 53; Brenda Rehkopf, Unit 3. Storage unit contents will be emptied or sold on January 24, 2025. If this account is not paid in full at Sled Shed Storage, 2646 S Otsego Ave., Gaylord, MI 49735. 989-731-2858

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Acculevel.** Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to \$600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 844-700-4986

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a fast, free vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 877-691-4117 today.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 844-369-2501

**LOWEST COST IN MICHIGAN!** CLASSIFIED ADS ARE JUST \$2 for an 8-word ad in the Weekly Choice, Charlevoix County News or Michigan MoneySaver. The area's widest distribution paper and the lowest cost for advertising. E-mail your ad to Office@WeeklyChoice.com or call 989-732-8160. The Weekly Choice is distributed weekly from Mackinaw City to Grayling. 11 zones of the Michigan MoneySaver distributed from Traverse City to Tawas City. Northern Michigan's best choice for buying and selling.

**New Sheds Just Arrived.** New styles. As low as \$3,499. Purchase or Rent to Own. Financing available. Free delivery within 30 miles. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a free 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 855-922-0420 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Various styles of Utility Sheds. Finance for 48 months or Rent to Own. Free Delivery within 30 miles. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

## MOTORCYCLES

2009 Honda Shadow Motorcycle. One owner, 18 K miles. Sale Price \$3,500 cash. 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.

## MUSIC

Buying used vinyl LP records. Top dollar paid by local buyer. All genres. Leave message 586-773-6050.

## NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Positive Notes of Encouragement are free in the Weekly Choice, Charlevoix County News and Michigan MoneySaver. Birthday, Anniversary, Wedding, Congratulations or just a Positive Note all are free. E-Mail your Note of Encouragement to Office@WeeklyChoice.com

## PETS

**PUPPIES.** Cocker Spaniel puppies. Shots, wormed, vet checked. 989-426-3866. 989-965-4278. Karen

## RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

2024 Apex Nano 213RDS Travel Trailer. Slideout, 200-watt solar panel, outdoor shower. MSRP \$38,084. Save \$11,089. Model Year Closeout Price \$26,995. As low as \$269

a month. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700. www.NorthernMichiganRV.com. MON-SAT: 9AM - 5PM. Closed Sunday

2024 Coachmen RV Catalina Trail Blazer 26TH Travel Trailer Toy Hauler. Sleeps 4, outside shower, Wi-Fi booster & extender, optional party deck. MSRP \$39,431. Sale Price \$29,995. Save \$9,436. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700.

2024 EAST TO WEST Tandara 26RD Fifth Wheel. Slideout, Theatre Seating, Universal Docking Station, automatic leveling, Four Seasons Package that will keep you protected during all seasons. MSRP \$61,753, Save \$19,758. Model Year Closeout Price \$41,995. As low as \$395 a month. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700. www.NorthernMichiganRV.com. MON-SAT: 9AM - 5PM.

2024 EAST TO WEST Tandara 26RD Fifth Wheel. Slideout, Theatre Seating, Universal Docking Station, automatic leveling, Four Seasons Package that will keep you protected during all seasons. MSRP \$61,753, Save \$19,758. Model Year Closeout Price \$41,995. As low as \$395 a month. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700. www.NorthernMichiganRV.com. MON-SAT: 9AM - 5PM. Closed Sunday

2024 Jayco Eagle 312BHOK Travel Trailer. 3 Slideouts, bunkhouse sleeps 9, outdoor kitchen, fireplace. SALE PRICE \$57,495. MSRP \$91,435. SAVE \$33,940. As low as \$558 a month. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700. www.NorthernMichiganRV.com. MON-SAT: 9AM - 5PM.

2024 Jayco Jay Feather 27BHB Travel Trailer. Slideout, bunkhouse sleeps 8, outdoor kitchen, 21' power awning. SALE PRICE \$36,995. MSRP \$56,716. SAVE \$19,721. As low as \$359 a month. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700.

www.NorthernMichiganRV.com. MON-SAT: 9AM - 5PM. Closed Sunday

2024 Jayco Jay Flight 264BH Travel Trailer. Bunkhouse sleeps 8, front bedroom, enclosed underbelly. SALE PRICE \$24,500. MSRP \$37,726. SAVE \$13,226. As low as \$302 a month. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700. www.NorthernMichiganRV.com. MON-SAT: 9AM - 5PM. Closed Sunday

2024 Jayco Seismic Luxury Series 4113 Fifth Wheel. Toy-hauler, 2 Slideouts, sleeps 9, 2 awnings, triple axle, 2 patio party decks, lots of room and a ton of features. SALE PRICE \$116,295. MSRP \$177,822. SAVE \$61,527. As low as \$999 a month. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700. www.NorthernMichiganRV.com. MON-SAT: 9AM - 5PM. Closed Sunday

2024 Jayco White Hawk 26FK Travel Trailer. 2 Slideouts, front kitchen, full bath, dual entry doors, fireplace. SALE PRICE \$42,995. MSRP \$67,989. SAVE \$24,994. As low as \$417 a month. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700. www.NorthernMichiganRV.com. MON-SAT: 9AM - 5PM. Closed Sunday

2025 Jayco Seismic Luxury Series 4113 Fifth Wheel Toy Hauler. This luxury Fifth Wheel Toy Hauler is the top of the line. 2 Foldout decks, 2 Slideouts, 46 feet long, sleeps 9. Luxury furniture, luxury appliances, luxury everything, plus the garage is large enough to haul all the toys you want. MSRP \$174,995. Sale Price \$137,995. Save \$37,000. As low as \$1,195 a month. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700.

Apex Ultra-Lite 243FKS Travel Trailer. 2 Slideouts, fireplace, exterior camp kitchen. MSRP \$52,592. Save \$14,597. Model Year Closeout Price \$35,995. As low as \$389 a month. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700. www.NorthernMichiganRV.com. MON-SAT:

9AM - 5PM. Closed Sunday

Used 2015 Starcraft AR-ONE 25BHS Wide Body Travel Trailer. Bunkhouse sleeps 8, slideout, One-piece, seamless rubber roof, Regular \$13,995. BLOWOUT PRICE \$12,995. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700. www.NorthernMichiganRV.com. MON-SAT: 9AM - 5PM. Closed Sunday

Used 2019 Forest River R Pod RP-171 Travel Trailer. Wert bath, Easy to tow, only 2,342 lbs. For a sturdy one-of-a-kind travel trailer, choose the R-Pod by Forest River. Regular \$14,995. BLOWOUT PRICE \$13,995. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700. www.NorthernMichiganRV.com. MON-SAT: 9AM - 5PM. Closed Sunday

Used 2024 Jayco Seismic 359 Toy Hauler Fifth Wheel. 2 Slideouts, Party Deck with steps, fireplace. The Jayco Seismic 359 is a toy hauler RV that can sleep up to 8 people. It has a 102-inch wide body, two slideouts, two awnings, and two air conditioners. The Seismic is designed for all-weather camping and has been tested in zero-degree temperatures. MSRP if new \$120,234. BLOWOUT PRICE \$69,995. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700. www.NorthernMichiganRV.com. MON-SAT: 9AM - 5PM. Closed Sunday

Used 2024 Jayco White Hawk 26FK Travel Trailer. 2 Slideouts, dual entry doors, rear private bedroom. MSRP if new, \$54,801. Regular \$40,995. BLOWOUT PRICE \$38,995. Northern Michigan RV. 277 Expressway Court, Gaylord. 989-448-8700. www.NorthernMichiganRV.com. MON-SAT: 9AM - 5PM. Closed Sunday

## SERVICES

Allen's Handyman Services. Painting, drywall, repair, outdoor maintenance. Call 231-330-8535. Cheboygan area.

CONCRETE CONTRUCTION. Poured walls and flat work. Call Jim. 231-360-4043.

## SNOWBLOWERS

ARIENS MODEL 8524, electric start, reverse, \$450, Vanderbilt. 231-549-3446

## SNOWMOBILES

2015 DK1-DOO MXZ. Adult owned and ridden. Very good condition. Well maintained. \$3,800. Gaylord. 586-839-3449

## STORAGE

A&L Storage. Best price guaranteed. 800-669-9533

APS MINI-WAREHOUSE of Gaylord has double unit just open up. 20x20 is the size of a 2 car garage for just \$179 a month. 5x10 units for just \$39 a month. No long term contract necessary. In town, safe storage. Call 989-732-8160.

## SUV

2010 Ford Flex SEL. AWD, double moon roof, 3rd row seat, leather, tow pkg, 155 K miles. Sale Price \$7,995. As low as \$179 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2011 Chevy Tahoe. Z-71 4x4, leather, rear camera, 175 K miles. Sale Price \$11,495. As low as \$269 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.

2011 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited. 4x4, 6 speed, leather, tow pkg, rear camera, 132 K miles. \$14,500. As low as \$279 a month. Not exactly as shown. Petoskey Auto Sales & Rental, Byrider. 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2012 Honda CRV. AWD, rear camera, leather, moon roof, 219 K miles. Sale Price \$7,995. As low as \$179 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

## HELPING A LOVED ONE DEALING WITH MENTAL AND/OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

You may suspect or discover your loved one is dealing with a mental illness, drinking too much, or using drugs. As a family member, you can play a central role in getting them the help they need.

### REMEMBER MENTAL AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS ARE TREATABLE

People can, and do, recover. Family support can make all the difference. For more information, visit [www.SAMHSA.gov/families](http://www.SAMHSA.gov/families).

### TALK TO YOUR LOVED ONE

Express your concern and tell them that you're there to help. Create a judgement-free and loving environment to foster conversation and openness.

### SEEK SUPPORT

If you or a loved one needs help, call 1-800-662-HELP (4357) for free and confidential information and treatment referral.

### BE OPEN

Discuss your family history of mental illness or drug and alcohol use, if relevant. It may help your loved one feel less alone.

### BE SURE TO CARE FOR YOURSELF TOO

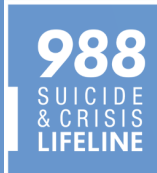
Being a caregiver can be highly stressful and emotionally draining.

### SHOW COMPASSION

Be patient as you help your loved one locate resources and treatment services.

## Questions?

Reach out to our Intergrated Behavioral Health Team



If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat [988lifeline.org](http://988lifeline.org)



601 Bridge St., East Jordan  
Health Center: (231) 536-2206  
Pharmacy: (231) 222-2235

Help Us Help You.

[EJFHC.org](http://EJFHC.org)



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**Marc Anderson** **231-547-0742**

## MUSICAL

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**FEATURING THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHORALE**

**REHEARSALS START:**  
JANUARY 20, 2025 | 7:00-9:00PM  
+REHEARSAL EVERY MONDAY EVENING

**LOCATION:**  
CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1450 E MITCHELL RD  
PETOSKEY, MI 49770

**SHOW DATES AT THE GREAT LAKES CENTER FOR THE ARTS:**  
MAY 3, 2025 | 7:00PM  
MAY 4, 2025 | 3:00PM  
DRESS REHEARSAL: THURSDAY, MAY 1ST AT 6:00PM

**COST:**  
\$15 MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR THE SEASON | \$15 MUSIC DEPOSIT FOR NEW MEMBERS (REFUNDABLE)

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**SUV (continued)**

2013 Jeep Grand Cherokee. 4x4, leather, double moon roof, 131 K miles. Sale Price \$8,995. As low as \$189 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.

2014 Kia Soul. Rear camera, 106 K miles. Byrider - 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2015 Nissan Murano Platinum. AWD, leather, double moon roof, 141 K miles. Sale Price \$9,995. As low as \$199 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2016 Buick Encore. AWD. Leather, 181 K miles. Sale Price \$8,995. As low as \$189 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2016 Ford Escape SE. 4WD, 100 K miles. Sale Price \$7,995. As low as \$179 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2016 Ford Escape SE. Rear camera, 169 K miles. Sale Price \$8,995. As low as \$199 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2016 Ford Explorer. Leather, 3rd row seat, rear camera, 132 K miles. Sale Price \$12,995. As low as \$286 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2019 Chevy Equinox LT. 126 K miles. Byrider - 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2019 Subaru Crosstrek. AWD, 111 K miles. Byrider - 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2020 Chevy Equinox LT. Rear camera, 31 MPG hwy, 118 K miles. Byrider - 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2020 Ford Escape SE. AWD, rear camera, 187 K miles. Sale Price \$12,995. As low as \$289 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2021 Buick Encore. AWD, rear camera, 81 K miles. Byrider - 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2021 Volkswagen Tiguan. \$21,075. As low as \$449 a month. Petoskey Auto Sales & Rental, Byrider. 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2022 Ram 1500. Double cab, tow pkg, bedliner. Byrider - 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

**TRAILERS**

2008 Haulmark 8x24 v-nose trailer. Two ramp doors, dual axle, electric brakes. Good condition. 24 foot length plus 5 feet v-nose. \$6,600. Gaylord. 989-350-9235

**TRUCKS**

2006 Ram Mega Cab. 1500, topper, tow pkg, 8' box, regular cab, 250 K miles. Sale Price \$5,995. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2011 Ford F-250 Super Duty. 6.7L Power Stroke Diesel, soft tonneau cover, tow pkg, 296 K miles. Sale Price \$16,495. As low as \$350 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2014 Chevy Silverado 1500. 4x4, tow pkg, double cab, 250 K miles. Sale Price \$9,995. As low as \$249 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2015 Chevy Silverado 1500 LS. 4x4, double cab, tow pkg, 121 K miles. Byrider - 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2015 Chevy Silverado 1500. ARE topper, roof rack, slideout tray in box, 167 K miles. Sale Price \$11,595. As low as \$269 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2017 Chevy Colorado. 4x4, Diesel, club cab, rear camera, hard tonneau cover, tow pkg, 200 K miles. Sale Price \$16,995. As low as \$379 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2017 GMC Sierra 1500. 4x4, quad cab, soft tonneau, tow pkg, bedliner, 223 K miles. Sale Price \$15,995. As low as \$359 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2019 Ford F-150. Reg. cab, 8 foot bed, tow pkg, bedliner, rear camera, 111 K miles. Byrider - 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2019 Ram 1500. 4x4, 5.7L Hemi, Leer topper, quad cab, tow pkg, double moon roof, 136 K miles. Sale Price

\$23,495. As low as \$419 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2020 Ford F-150 XLT. 4x4, club cab, tow pkg, soft tonneau cover, rear camera, 140 K miles. \$25,995. As low as \$399 a month. Petoskey Auto Sales & Rental, Byrider. 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2021 Ram 1500 Classic. 4x4, double cab, rear camera, 5.7 L Hemi, 96 K miles. \$34,995. As low as \$519 a month. Petoskey Auto Sales & Rental, Byrider. 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

**VANS**

2010 GMC Savana Van. Stabilitrak, extra long, high miles. Sale Price \$5,995. As low as \$199 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2012 Chrysler Town & Country Handicap Van. Braun Ability pkg, 73 K miles. Sale Price \$8,995. As low as \$199 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VFW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2014 Ford Transit Connect XLT. Roof rack, 3rd row seat, rear camera, 134 K miles. Byrider - 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2017 Chrysler Pacifica Limited. Leather, seats 8, 147 K miles. Sale Price \$12,995. As low as \$289 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.

2017 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT. Leather, captain chairs,

remoter start, 105 K miles. Byrider - 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2017 Dodge Grand Caravan. Remote start, 105 K miles. Byrider - 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2019 Chrysler Pacifica. 4 captain seats, Stow-N-Go, rear camera, leather, 96 K miles. Very Nice! \$21,595. As low as \$339 a month. Petoskey Auto Sales & Rental, Byrider. 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2019 Dodge Grand Caravan. 4 captain chairs, 7 passenger, Stow-N-Go seats, 107 K miles. Byrider - 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2021 Chrysler Voyager. Cash Price \$20,995. As low as \$345 a month. Petoskey Auto Sales & Rental, Byrider. 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

2021 Chrysler Voyager. Leather, Stow-N-Go seats, rear camera, 93 K miles. \$23,995. As low as \$369 a month. Petoskey Auto Sales & Rental, Byrider. 2215 US Hwy 31 N, Petoskey. Call 231-347-3200. Buy. Finance. Drive On.

**WANTED**

Buying used vinyl LP records. Top dollar paid by local buyer. All genres. Leave message 586-773-6050.

Cash Paid for US, German, and Japanese military items. Our museum is paying cash

for guns, swords, daggers, documents, helmets, hats, medals, patches, uniforms, field gear, scrapbooks, photo albums and other interesting items, We have a special interest in obtaining Purple Heart medals and paperwork awarded to veterans who were killed in action during our wars, We will buy one item or a 1000 items, No collection is too large for us to purchase. Please call or text the Michigan Traveling Military Museum at 989-798-8709 or e-mail us at mtmm1@yahoo.com. To learn more about us please visit our museum website at mtmm.us.

Museum is paying cash for military firearms. Our museum wants to buy US, German, and Japanese military rifles and pistols. We will also buy military firearms from all the different countries around the world. We will buy one firearm or an entire collection, Please call or text the Michigan Traveling Military Museum at 989-798-8709 or email us at mtmm1@yahoo.com. To learn more about our museum please visit our website at mtmm.us,

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**REAL ESTATE FEATURE**



## CUSTOM HOME ON NEARLY 20 ACRES NEAR EAST JORDAN

BY JIM AKANS

This week's feature is a gorgeous custom home on nearly 20 acres, conveniently situated between East Jordan and Charlevoix.

This four-bedroom, three bath home offers approximately 3,251 square feet of exquisitely designed and appointed space on two levels. Among the many interior highlights is a large, open concept living, kitchen and dining area filled with natural light and stunning outdoor views.



Amenities include elegant hardwood flooring, granite countertops and center preparation island, tongue and groove wood cathedral ceilings, upper hallway that overlooks the main living area, main level utility/laundry room, central air

conditioning and much, much more.

A wrap-around covered porch overlooks the incredible grounds and provides a perfect spot to relax or entertain. There is a detached two car garage with an attached two bedroom guest

space plus several outbuildings including a two stall pole barn and a four stall horse barn. This is Northern Michigan beauty at its best! This custom home on nearly 20 acres is located at 2319 M-66 North Highway near East Jordan and is listed at \$799,900. 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 HollysUpNorth@gmail.com



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## Over Pricing Property?

A high price conveys the message that the seller may not really be interested in selling. And, when a home is priced too high, agents and buyers usually just cross it off their list and move on. After all, there are plenty of other listings.

Of course, deciding the value of a home isn't an exact science, so it's understandable that a seller might put their home on the market with an asking price that is on the high side.

Additionally, most of us believe that our homes are really "worth more" than the one down the block, around the corner or the one next door that was just sold. And, if we are wrong, we can always drop the price later, can't we?

Yes, but by then, the seller may have not only lost potential buyers, but they may have also driven off interested Realtors-and Realtors are the prime source of buyers. Generally, they bring the buyers.

When a property is put up for sale, the first 30 days are the most critical. Statistics show that's when most buyers (and

Realtors) see the property. Interest is highest at this time. But, the higher price the property is on the market, the fewer the prospects (and Realtors) will view it. Thus, the initial period is critical with the proper pricing.

Some sellers, however, believe that if someone is really interested they will counter-offer. Some will, some won't. Some well-qualified buyers may just walk away.

The bottom line is a high priced listing will turn many buyers off.

Still, a seller wants to be confident he or she is getting the best price for their home.

The way to accomplish this is by talking to a real estate agent before listing the property. Ask for a comparative market analysis-that is, research what similar homes in the area have sold for recently. Compare your property to those, and have the agent help you calculate a fair market value.

Be objective-even though it is your home.

Remember, an overpriced listing will usually result in an unsold property.



# THE CHARLEVOIX AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JANUARY 2025

Our mission is to support commerce and provide leadership to enhance the quality of life.

CHARLEVOIX CHAMBER  
*Business After Hours*



Wednesday, January 15 | 5-7pm  
at The Happy Troll

Join us for the first  
Business After Hours of 2025!



Charlevoix CHAMBER  
**2025 EVENTS**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <u>Indoor Sidewalk Sales</u><br>February 14-17             | <u>Apple Fest</u><br>October 10-12   |
| <u>Annual Meeting &amp; Awards</u><br>February 20          | <u>State of the Community</u><br>November 7  |
| <u>Business Expo &amp; Taste of Charlevoix</u><br>March 12 | <u>Holiday Parade &amp; Tree Lighting</u><br>November 28                               |
| <u>Easter Egg Hunt</u><br>April 19                         | <u>Holiday Open House</u><br>December 6  |
| <u>Golf Outing</u><br>June 5                               | <b>PLUS</b>  |
| <u>Summer Open House</u><br>June 12                        | <u>First Friday Coffee Connection</u><br>First Friday of the Month                     |
| <u>Summer Art Show</u><br>June 28 & 29                     | <u>Business After Hours</u><br>Third Wednesday of the Month                            |
| <u>Art &amp; Craft Show</u><br>July 12 & 13                | <u>First Fridays Downtown Charlevoix</u><br>First Friday of the Month<br>January-April |
| <u>Summer Sidewalk Sales</u><br>August 14-16               | <u>Gift Local Holiday Shopping Contest</u><br>November 28-December 24                  |



THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Over \$180,000 was spent in downtown Charlevoix this holiday season!



- 1st Place**  
Andrea Bercich
- 2nd Place**  
Maureen Schopp
- 3rd Place**  
Bea Wollam

**DOWNTOWN CHARLEVOIX'S FIRST FRIDAYS**  
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AND HELP SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES YEAR-ROUND!

**FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH**  
4:00 - 8:00 PM | JANUARY - APRIL

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*Save The Date*

Thursday, February 20  
5:30pm | Castle Farms



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