



HAPPY NEW YEAR



50 cents

Vol. 6 No. 14

Wednesday, December 31, 1997

EAST JORDAN Journal

East Jordan, Michigan

BOYNE MOUNTAIN'S SNOW GUNS MAKE UP FOR MOTHER NATURE

Make it and they will come

Forget El Nino. Forget Mother Nature. Boyne Mountain has taken matters into its own hands and produced the snow which covers its many runs with from 12 to 45 inches of white gold.

"We have our typical holiday crowd," said General Area Manager Ed Grice. "We feel blessed. When Mother Nature doesn't (produce snow), we have the ability to do it," he said.

Boyne turns on the snow guns at 28 degrees, any time of the day or night as long as no skiers are endangered by the manufactured snow. Six thousand gallons of water per minute do Mother Nature's job while other winter sports enthusiasts are sidelined. Even the infamous El Nino weather patterns haven't stopped Boyne.

"Regardless of El Nino, our conditions are as good as they get."

--Ed Grice

"Regardless of El Nino, our conditions are as good as they get," Grice said. He said ticket sales are on par with last year, and Boyne Mountain may be the only resort with 15 K of cross country trails open. Grice said dump trucks and front end loaders manually haul the snow for cross country trails from the bottom of the hill.

So, while outside his office window, Grice sees the same traces of grass as the rest of us, he knows that just over his shoulder, it's business as usual on the slopes.

"People know if there's a tough year, they're going to ski at Boyne," he said.

And, if you're still making last minute plans for the new year, Boyne is putting on its annual Snowball Extravaganza in the Civic Center. The cost is \$30 per person and the party features food and entertainment from two bands. Call 1-800-GO-BOYNE for reservations.



The holiday rush is on at Boyne Mountain and skiers are finding excellent conditions at the resort. Other winter businesses may also begin to smile if a predicted storm moves through the area as predicted.

EVERYONE WELCOME TO JOIN 'GRAND SWEEP'

Church begins one-year Bible study

The congregations of the United Methodist Churches in Boyne Falls and Boyne City are making a commitment to truly understand their faith in 1998. Pastor Gary Bondarenko is organizing a program through which his church family can study the Bible from cover to cover over the course of a year.

"A lot of folks are thinking about making changes in their lives," Bondarenko said of the approaching new year. "What better resolution than to read through the Bible in the year?"

Bondarenko said virtually the entire Boyne Falls congregation and more than three quarters of the Boyne City congregation have expressed an interest in participating. He also is reaching out to people who do not have a church home but have an interest in reading the Bible.

"Anybody that wants to be part of it can,

especially if they don't have a church of their own," Bondarenko said. "The Grand Sweep" covers the Bible from Genesis to Revelation in one year by assigning three or four chapters to read per day. Individuals or groups can choose a self-study program, or discussions can be organized on a weekly or monthly basis. Bondarenko plans to incorporate the high points into his sermons from week to week.

The program is organized around two workbooks. One references chapters of the Bible and offers topics for discussion. The other is a

commentary which interprets the message of the chapters in a few paragraphs. Anyone who is interested can purchase the books for \$20 from the United Methodist Church. A family may share one set, he said, or, if you simply want to study alone, knowing many members of your community are studying along with you, the United Methodist Church will provide you with a list of the weekly readings.

Bondarenko hopes having a number of people

"What better resolution than to read through the Bible in the year?"

--The Rev. Gary Bondarenko

Please see 'GRAND SWEEP' on page 2

EJ pool needs new roof

Repairs to the roof of the East Jordan pool were expected to be completed this week, but the work is only temporary and a new roof will be installed sometime next spring.

Problems with the roof were discovered recently during a routine maintenance check of the pool. The problems were significant enough that an engineering firm was called to do an inspection and it recommended the roof be replaced, according to East Jordan School Board president Mary Jason.

"We knew there was rusting, so we had an engineer check it and he said it was not good," Jason said.

"We are fixing the problem so the pool will be safe, then in the spring we will replace the roof."

The pool, which is closed during the holidays, is expected to open next week on schedule with the repairs complete.

School officials do not have an estimate on the cost of replacing the roof. Engineers also recommended a fan system be installed to stop condensation from building up and causing the rust.

The repairs are being done by Bloxson of Traverse City to fix rust spots caused by condensation from the pool.

COMMUNITY PORTRAIT

Pat Smith has seen all sides of education

He's lived in downstate Michigan, New York state, California and Maine.

He's been a high school counselor and district curriculum director, a middle and high school principal, a university dean, a college vice president and president, and a professor.

He has a bachelor's degree in history, a master's in guidance and counseling, a doctorate in guidance and personnel services, and a master's in education administration.

So what's he doing in Boyne Falls, Michigan?

Patrick Smith, Boyne Falls Public School Superintendent, said he is asked that question all the time, and the answer is simple.

"I'm a hunter, fisherman and outdoors person," he said. "My wife and I had traveled in this area, and it's a natural fit for us. We like the outdoors."

Although Smith's wife, Marcia, is a fifth-grade teacher in Richland and has been teaching too long to give up her position there, the Smiths do plan to live here permanently in the future.

"Our intention is to live here," he said. "That was our purpose in coming up here."

This is Smith's fourth year as superintendent of Boyne Falls School District, and so far, he and Marcia have been taking turns commuting to and from Boyne and Richland, which is near Kalamazoo.

"It's not a comfortable thing," he said. "I've always been involved in the districts I've been in. I've served on more than 30 boards, but I haven't done that here because of the commuting thing."

"We plan to volunteer in the community after we retire."

Actually, Smith did retire — from his career in higher education. But he was still young and decided to start another career in K-12 education.

So a little more than 20 years after he completed his doctorate's degree, he went to Western Michigan University to earn his master's in education administration. And that was while he was working full time as a high school counselor and curriculum director.

"I came into K-12 education because I felt this



Boyne Falls Superintendent Pat Smith

would be an exciting time in education, and I was right," he said. "Even though there are problems, I see a major shift taking place. By 2004, education will have made a big turn."

"There will be some bruises, and we have to protect ourselves in the human aspects of it."

About Michigan's recent fundamental shift in funding, Smith said, "The intent behind Proposal A was to bring some kind of parity between the schools. I think the shift itself is important, though it hurts small schools and schools on the lower end."

In addition to the funding changes, Smith sees many other changes in the educational process.

"I see a revolution almost taking place in teaching methodology — in curriculum, philosophy, teaching styles, personality of teachers and how they're being taught to teach."

"More options are available in K-12," he said.

"For a long time it's been 12 years of school, 8 a.m.-

Please see SUPERINTENDENT on page 10

OPINION

A MOM'S LIFE

User friendly was the theme this Christmas

By CINDI PLACE

I can remember when Christmas was the most traditional of holidays. We brought the outdoors inside with trees, plants and wreaths. Holly and evergreen boughs were abundant in our home.

We also celebrated the more simple things in our lives. Friends and family members gathered together to exchange homemade, or at least practical gifts. What would Christmas have been without new pajamas from Grandma and underwear from Mom and Dad? Walks after dinner and listening to Christmas carols on the radio were all traditions that we looked forward to with anticipation.

By no means was this special holiday time relaxing, even years ago. Meals had to be prepared and gifts purchased and wrapped. But, in retrospect, life seemed much simpler than it is today.

I knew that this Christmas would be different and much less simple as soon as our children presented us with their "Santa" lists. Trust me, pajamas were not even listed! In fact, I don't think any of the requested items came without either batteries or at the very least an AC adapter. But the most popular gift choices involved accessories for our newly re-formatted, upgraded and user-friendly home computer.

Our youngest son had asked for a new educational game. The child is wise beyond his years — he knows that if it has the word "educational" in it, it's as good as wrapped and under the tree Christmas morning! Minutes after the new program had been loaded into the computer, my husband came into the living room, eyes wide and an astonished look on his face. Our 6-year-old son had just used the word "nocturnal" in a sentence. Correctly.

Watching our children communicate with others all over the world has been an interesting experience. They can e-mail computer users in countries I haven't even heard of yet. It's an especially awesome experience to watch a child who still hasn't a clue how to work the dishwasher, manipulate those computer keys and connect to cyberspace as if he's been doing it all his life.

But by far, the most telling experience that we encountered this Christmas proving that technology is part of our lives for good, was the gift that our eldest son gave to us. Downloading pictures and music from the Internet, he made a web page for our family. Each of us had a picture of a gift box which we clicked on, and when unwrapped, the gift revealed pictures and music specifically chosen for the individual family member. He "gave" his sister a connection to the web page of her college of choice. Dad got a picture of a sports car with the music to a popular spy movie. And to his littlest brother, he took pictures of little toy cars and added a link to the "Beanie Baby" web site.

I'll be the first to admit that entering the world of technology has not been an easy one for at least the double digit members of our family. Stories about having everything in our lives accessible to whomever is interested can be a bit frightening. So the best thing about our son's gift was he managed to open up a whole new world for us. And make it truly user friendly.

BOYNE CITY CITY HALL NEWS

By SUE HOBBS

CITY STAFF is beginning the budgeting process for the 1998/99 year. Department Heads talk to staff, consider the goals set in the City Wide Goal Setting meeting in early November, and review the six year CIP which is part of each year's budget. Citizens are encouraged to contact City Hall to offer information on sidewalks, streets, etc. which you have noticed as being in need of repair.

ACCORDING TO Mike Anderson of the street department, this is only the second time since 1978 that he and the rest of the department did not have to plow snow and were able to spend all of Christmas Day with their families.

THE PARKS DEPARTMENT has been trying to get winter activities started at Avalanche. They need a good base of snow to hold the water in order to make ice, otherwise it just soaks away and makes mud. The decision has been made to open the warming house for sledgers in order to provide some activity for the kids during their school vacation time. Hopefully the predicted Alberta Clipper will bring more snow. The warming house will open daily at noon and will close each day when Gene Mont, the attendant, determines there is not enough use to remain open.

(Sue Hobbs is city clerk for Boyne City.)



Snow bladers

Sure they did a lot of slipping and sliding, but the light snow on the basketball courts at the Boyne City Middle School didn't bother these boys. They were enjoying a game of street hockey Monday afternoon with their new sticks, and for some new roller blades, delivered by Santa. Playing were, from left, Mitchell Chipman, John Chipman and Coty Johnson. Andy Chipman was also trying out his new gear.

LETTERS

Decorations light up the holidays

TO THE EDITOR:

Wow, Boyne City! Thanks.

Who could imagine the community support received by starting a light contest and trolley tour. Only in Boyne City, "Home town feel, small town appeal." Visitors experience this when they arrive in Boyne City and see the spectacular light displays. Many areas decorate beautifully with lights. It seems to catch on. Each house that decorates, even with one strand of lights, shows community support.

I started this Tour of Lights contest so people would decorate and it would attract visitors from surrounding

towns and impress our winter tourists with hopes the result would be more business and traffic for downtown Boyne City.

The contest has been a success and many people are decorating. Thank you!

The free trolley rides are sponsored by the Lions and Rotary clubs of Boyne City. I hope you will all take advantage of the trolley rides that will take you through the light display in 1998.

Thanks again for all your support to make the trolley and the contest a success. I truly believe we all benefit in the end result.

Julie Wellman

Christmas chefs thank all who helped

TO THE EDITOR:

Thanks to all the volunteers and donations, our first Christmas Dinner at the First Presbyterian Church of Boyne City was successful and very much appreciated by those in attendance.

Having so many people willing to help made the whole affair joyous, and the tasks easily distributed. People were there to help, from prep time through clean up, and we even had a couple of pianists filling the air with Christmas music.

What a wonderful outpouring of the giving, community Christmas spirit we experienced. We are already planning for next year when we hope even more people will come to enjoy Christmas dinner with us on Christmas Day. All are welcome.

Once again, many thanks to all you "angels," who gave of your time, talent and support in any form. May God bless you and may you all prosper in the New Year!

Al and Jenny Lawson
First Presbyterian Church of Boyne City



'A small token of my appreciation'

Mel Howard recently donated a Heart Start automatic defibrillator to the Boyne City Ambulance Department. The defibrillator has a \$4,000 value and is intended for the department's third ambulance unit. "This town has been awfully good to me, and this is a small token of my appreciation," said Howard, who recently sold his business, Mel's Service. Pictured from left are Bill Stanley, Henry Erber, Mel Howard, Jack Bush and Dennis Amesbury.

'Grand Sweep'

Continued from page 1

studying together will motivate people who have the interest in knowing the whole Bible but just haven't had time.

"It's a fairly large book," he said of the Bible. "If you break it down it's very manageable." Bondarenko said there are parts that read like a narrative and are easy to understand. But, with some parts, it's tougher to understand how the message applies to modern life. "It all applies, but some parts are tougher than others to understand," he said.

Bondarenko said many people understand the New Testament and can see its application to their lives. The Old Testament, however, can be more of a challenge.

"In 20th Century America, it's hard to understand why they need a savior. They have a job. There's relative peace in America. We live in a nice community. A lot of folks without a church wonder what they need to be saved from. The Old Testament helps us to understand even better why we do need a savior.

"The primary standard of God is the Ten Commandments," Bondarenko said. "If we were able to keep those completely, we wouldn't need a savior." Through this program, the application of the Old Testament message will become clear, and the understanding for the New Testament will grow as well, he said.

"I believe it's God's word to us," Bondarenko said of the Bible. "It's truth and we can base our lives on it. This study program will help participants to follow Him and do His will.

"I'm real excited about it. I'm excited about how well people have responded to it already. I'm excited about what it will do for me personally. I kind of look at it like a teacher — you have to know your material so you can pass it on to someone else. I'm excited about people knowing God's word from cover to cover. There's direction and truth there to live our lives that gives us a peace even in the midst of a confusing world."

Bondarenko said a Traverse City church started the program this fall and is having great success with it. "You don't have to be a Bible scholar to get a lot out of this," he said. "Everyone starts from the beginning and proceeds together."

Anyone who is interested in the program, purchasing the workbooks, or simply getting the schedule of reading assignments may call the United Methodist Church at 582-9776. The United Methodist Church families will begin reading Jan. 1. However, anyone may join in the study groups at any time.

The Citizen and East Jordan Journal

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Mail subscription rates: Within Charlevoix County, \$22 per year; elsewhere in the United States, \$32 per year.

Periodicals postage paid at Boyne City, Michigan, 49712 (USPS 396480).

The Citizen and Journal are independent newspapers published by Husan Publishing of Boyne City. Copyright 1997, Husan Publishing. The papers published Wednesdays. Deadline for news, public notices, display advertising and classified advertising is 10 a.m. Mondays. Office hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday.



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PLAID PETUNIAS OPENING IN EAST JORDAN

First friends, now business partners

By JANE BROCK

Cathy Cohen and Jeannie Alward sat in a coffee shop talking about their plans for a shop on Main Street in East Jordan.

Jeannie wore a green sweatshirt with a design painted in gold around the collar, and Cathy dressed in a plaid, flannel shirt and denim overalls. Cathy was animated and talkative, while Jeannie smiled a lot and talked less, but with a matching enthusiasm.

They both clearly love the city of East Jordan, and their plans are for its improvement, as much as their own evident enjoyment. They sat easily together, finishing each other's sentences like sisters, or friends from so far back that their friendship fit them like Cathy's flannel. They are building a store to complement Cathy's brother-in-law's fly fishing shop. It is going to be a gift shop, they have finally decided.

They had thought a great deal about the type of store that they should open, not wanting to compete with other local stores, but to add to their value by making East Jordan's downtown area a more appealing place to shop. Finally they decided that this could best be done by opening a business capitalizing on their own gifts, skills and interests, and these involved folk art style crafts and



Jeannie Alward, left, and Cathy Cohen stand in the rubble of the old building that was demolished on the property where their new store will be in downtown East Jordan. The back of the store will house the Jordan River Fly Shop, run by Cathy's brother-in-law, Bob Cohen.

gifts, and Jeannie's penchant for flowers.

They both like old things, things with history, and a feeling of connection with people who have gone on before. As a result of this affection, it was with sadness that they had to tear down the building they had chosen to locate their store, but they were somewhat mollified by the opportu-

nity to rummage through the rubble. They found an old store sign, a wagon, some scraps of ancient timber that Cathy will paint on, perhaps, or Jeannie will find a way to bring back to life with flowers.

"We dig in the trash a lot, don't we?" Cathy says to Jeannie. They speak fondly of East Jordan's trash pick up days—they cheerfully admit

to scavenging. Recycling, they call it.

But these old friends are relatively new friends. They met two and a half years ago after Jeannie and her husband Jerry sold their motel and moved across Lake Charlevoix to Hillcrest. Cathy and her husband Larry were recently relocated to East Jordan, and were living in Hillcrest also, waiting for their home to be constructed. They found themselves frequently staring at each other through their kitchen windows — "we really checked each other out," says Cathy, laughing.

Soon they were walking together and discovering about each other similar interests in a variety of areas. Cathy had a craft supply store many years earlier, and while she had gotten out of the business, she had never given up crafts, often doing shows. Jeannie also was a crafter but had been kept so busy with the motel that she was not able to concentrate on these interests as much as she would have liked.

Both women were suffering from the "empty nest." They both liked primitive folk art—the art of the Common Man, Cathy says. The idea for the store evolved. Their husbands were supportive; Larry believed that East Jordan was a town on the edge of a big change, and he believed that his wife and her friend had the capacity to make a shop that would enhance the community.

The next step was a name. They had a friend suggest Plaid Petunias, and it stuck. Jeannie said she is the

petunia — plain and common. She says that Cathy adds the plaid. Cathy disagrees — she says the petunia is representative of Jeannie's love of flowers. They both agree that Plaid Petunias is like folk art — a common thing made uncommon by dressing it up.

Plaid Petunias will feature Cathy and Jeannie's own work as well as art work purchased through Professional Crafters of the United States—a wholesaling enterprise that features the work of artists across the country, which supplies dealers with authentic, original pieces of American folk art. They will also stock a few antiques to sell — and there will probably be an old sign, and a perhaps a wagon salvaged from the rubble of the old building.

But it is likely that these things will not be for sale. Cathy and Jeannie need the connection to the old building, and the people that occupied it long ago.

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Hosmers win Boyne City's Tour of Lights contest

With so many beautiful Christmas decorations, it's not easy selecting a winner for the annual Boyne area Tour of Lights contest.

But the votes have been tabulated and Brian and Nancy Hosmer of 511 Groveland St. are the winners.

Second place went to Gayle and Richard Bouters on 126 W. Cedar, while Dave and Annette Wilson on 602 E. Main were third.

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POLICE REPORT

The Boyne City Police Department responded to 70 complaints during the past week. Among them were:

- The department issued a misdemeanor citation of Dec. 26 to an Indian River woman for leaving the scene of an accident which occurred on Dec. 12 in the Country Star parking lot.
- Officers confiscated some illegal fireworks on Christmas Day and issued a citation.
- Officers handled two separate domestic trouble calls on Dec. 24.
- A report of Christmas lights torn down was reported on Dec. 24.
- A larceny of mail and payroll check from a vehicle was reported on Dec. 23 from a vehicle parked downtown.
- A purse was reported stolen from the Tannery on Dec. 23.
- Officers investigated a report of a youth with a knife at the playground on Wenonah St. on Dec. 22.

Jordan Valley Library starting reading program for preschoolers

Jordan Valley District Library will hold a preschool story time program every Friday beginning Jan. 9. This program, which runs from 9:30-10 a.m., is designed for children ages three to five.

Robin Moyer will be reading stories that pertain to a library theme and will introduce the children to the library.

During the week of Jan. 16, Carol Wells will read stories that have a mouse theme.

No registration fee is required. Everyone is welcome to bring their children.

If you have questions, call 536-7131.

New EJ fly shop plans to open in time for first hatch in spring

By JANE BROCK

Picture this: a log cabin with a low porch overlooking the South Arm of Lake Charlevoix, boats rocking lazily in their slips. The long pier stretches out into the water which sparkles in pinks under the morning sky. Under the glinting ripples fish lurk, alert for the first hatching of spring flies.

Behind the porch, in the log cabin, Bob Cohen works on a custom fly rod case he's making, talking intermittently with customers there. Some gather at a fly tying bar, working under magnifying glasses on the intricate flies, and others browse with their morning cups of coffee, dreaming of the fish they'll catch, speaking of the trophy fish that decorate their memories.

For many of us, our fly fishing experience ends with "A River Runs Through It," but for those who have dreamed of the perfect cast — wading out on a wide river, the expert wrist, the supple rod — the Jordan River Fly Shop waits to be realized.

For now the log cabin is just a gap in the buildings on Main Street

in East Jordan. But Bob Cohen plans to have it built and welcoming customers in time for that first hatching.

Hailing from Montana, where he lived and fished for 16 years, Cohen spent the last eight years designing and creating custom fly fishing gear. When he moved to East Jordan, he saw plenty of opportunity for the sport to flourish, and he felt that a shop where he could ply his trade would be a welcome complement to Bruce the Barber, himself an avid fisherman and medium of fish tales.

He does not worry about having competition; he points out that a town with many pizza places is indicative of a town whose residents like pizza. Cohen believes that the Jordan River could be a world class fishery with the right support from the community, and he is determined to give it his.

His shop will stock a variety of his own creations, which include soft sided rod cases, chest packs (similar in design to a fanny pack, but which would replace a vest in some instances), and luggage, as well as rods, reels, fly tying supplies and flies. He

hopes to incorporate an area where fishermen can tie their own, but mostly he wants to help the sport flourish in an ideal location, and provide its enthusiasts with a place to come to get supplies and camaraderie.

He wants his shop to have home town ambiance. Cohen expects his clientele to be a mix of local people, who will be long time fishermen, largely replenishing existing supplies, and out-of-towners who are taking advantage of guide services. He has done his research in the field, both as a fisherman and a businessman, but Cohen is finally content to consider himself a typical customer, and will stock his store with the products he himself has tried and found true.

He will offer guide services, with Billy Belanger Jr., of the Jordan Valley, and Bob O'Brian of Charlevoix being experienced guides in this area. Lessons will come with the gear as needed. Look on Main Street for the little log cabin to fill in — not one, but possibly several — gaps in the community.

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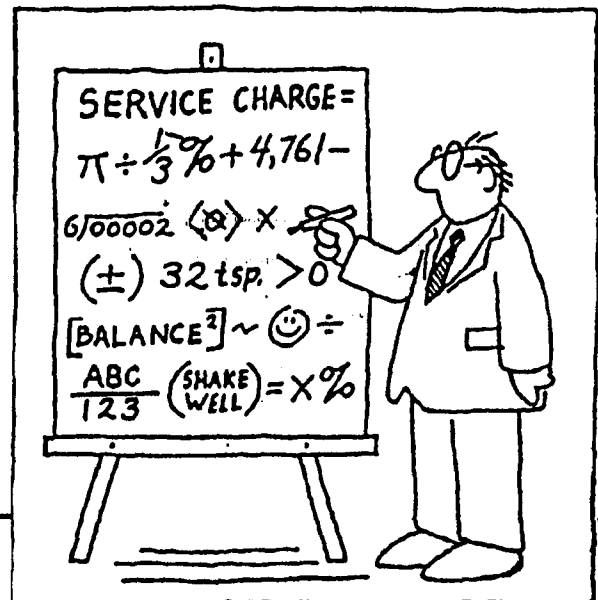
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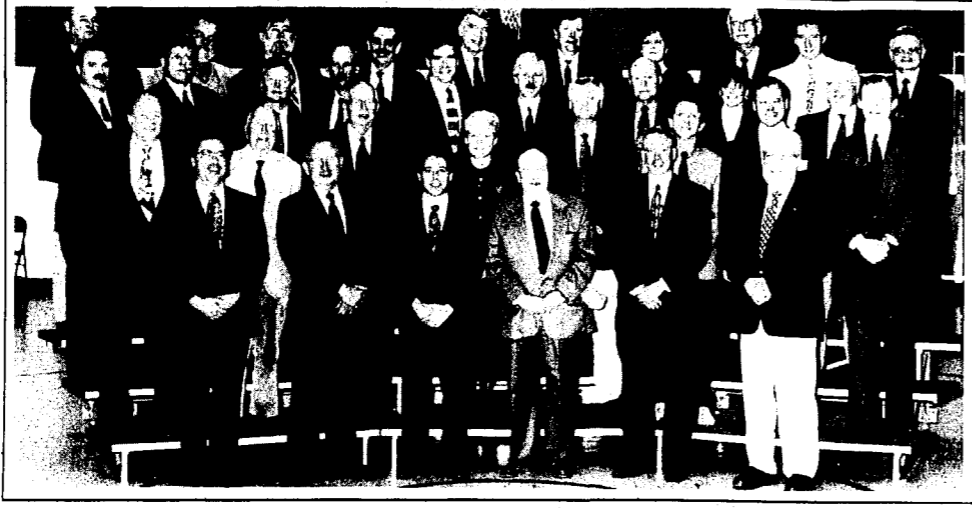
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Mel Howard was all smiles as his family and friends came to wish him well at his retirement party in September. Mel sold Mel's Marathon to Johnson Oil of Gaylord. Among the well wishers was his look-alike, a creation of his employees.



Marie Zoberski had the holiday spirit for Boyne City's annual 4th of July celebration.



The Boyne City Rotary Club celebrated its 75th anniversary in April.

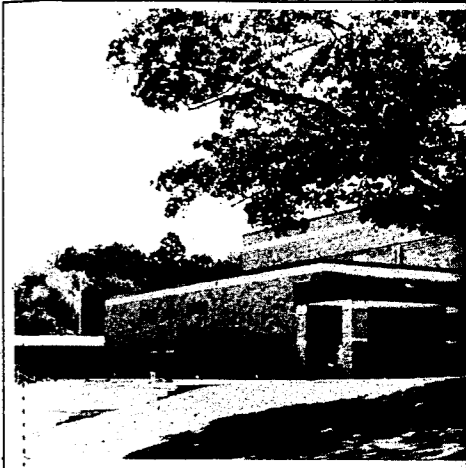


Bob Pawlus in late June was doing a high-wire act on his boat docked at the Boyne City marina.

EAST JORDAN



East Jordan Middle School students welcome their new school.



Boyne City's new middle school gym opened in August. The project also included site improvements.



An addition was made to the Boyne City marina facility during the construction of the new marina facility/light tower.

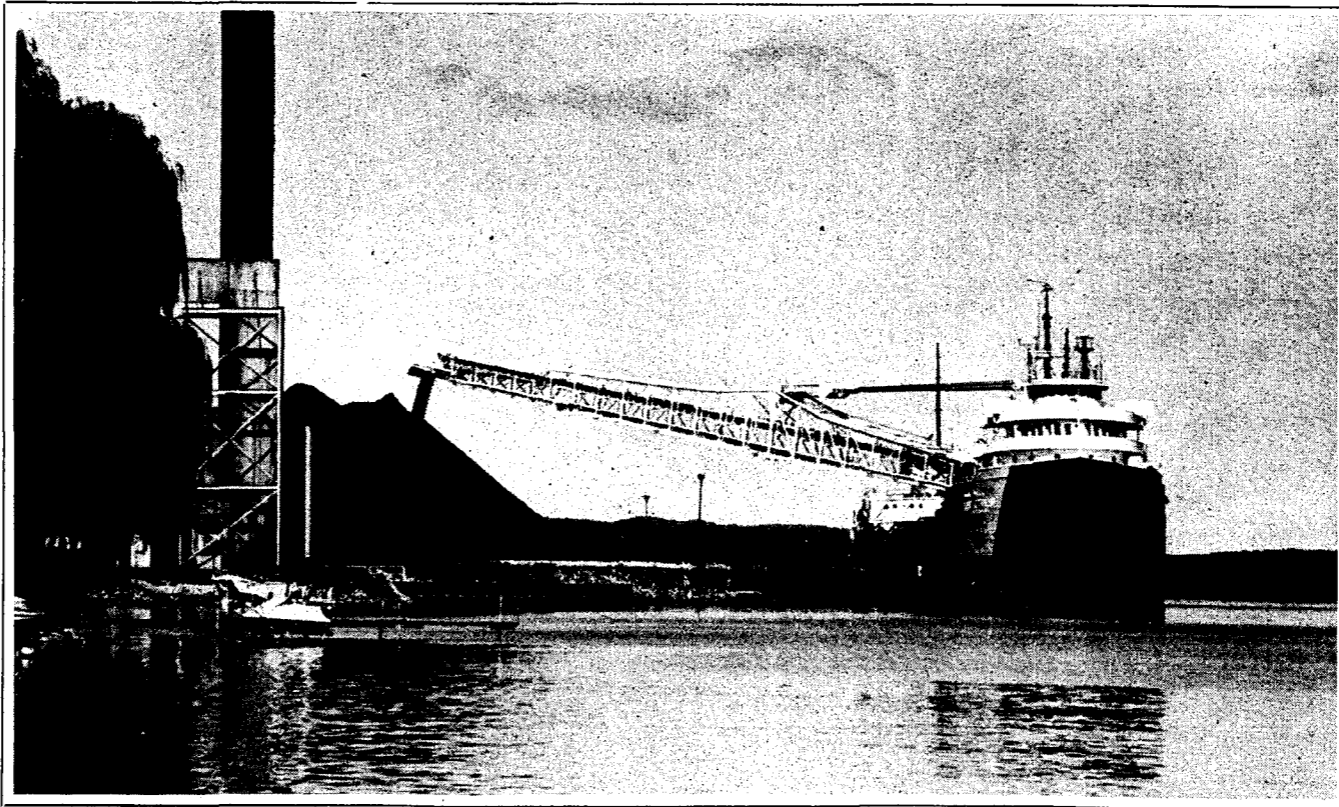


In his 16 years on the Boyne City Commission, Glen Moody said the city's greatest achievement was the park. Grimm recently retired from the commission. Moody was elected in November as his successor.

A look back at 1997 THE YEAR IN REVIEW



With the tower hanging in the air, workers carefully guided it into place on the new Tower Center in downtown Boyne City. The building has been renovated into four retail businesses and is home to Roast & Toast of Boyne and Kilwin's.



With the closing of the Advance Power Plant in January, visits from Great Lakes freighters, like the Myron C. Taylor, will be few and far between. Wolverine Power, owner of the plant, has not yet found a buyer for the facility or the stockpile of coal.



After many years, the old city clock, which once towered above Boyne City, is again the property of the city. Huntington Bank, formerly FMB Northwestern, donated the clock to the city in the fall. The clock is still located at the bank while the Downtown Development Authority and city commission discuss plans for a new permanent location. Among the spots under consideration is the Tower Center.

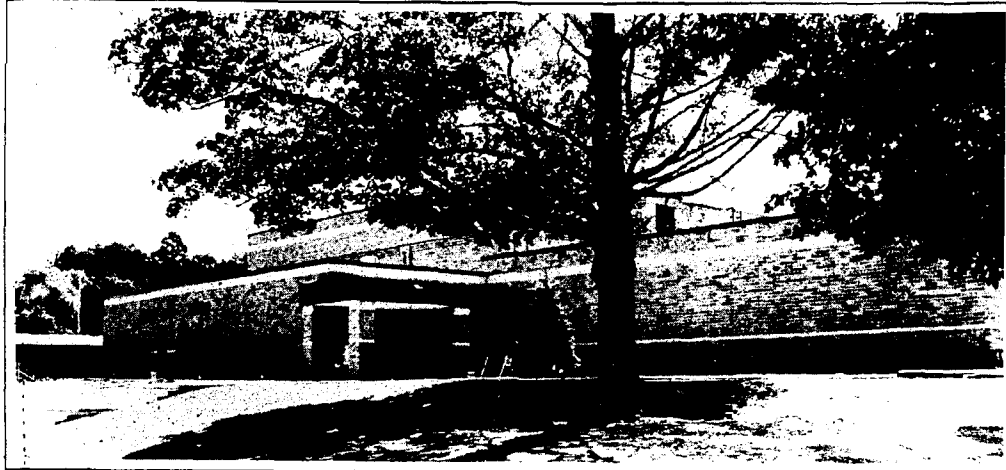


The Big Buck got a big bear after Glen Moody and his crew carved a bear and cubs for the Auburn Hills, which opened in October. The bear was donated by Glen Moody. Included Richard Fish, Carlton Howie and...

EAST JORDAN MIDDLE SCHOOL



East Jordan Middle School students were a happy bunch as they started the year in their new school.



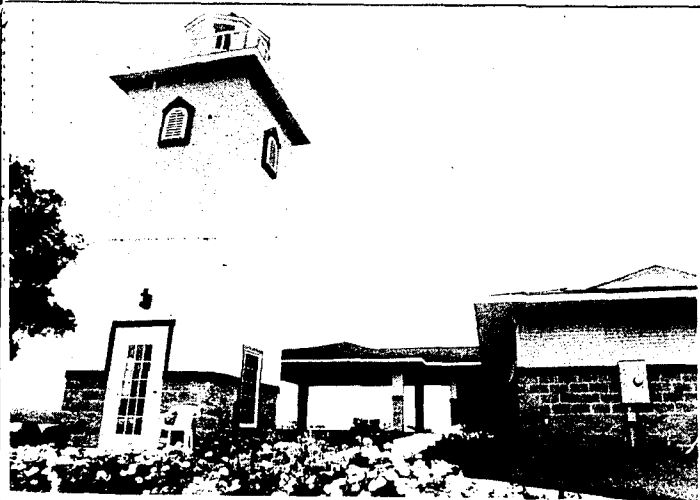
Boyne City's new middle school gym and cafeteria was completed on schedule in late August. The project also included site improvements to the school grounds.



The old Wilson Township Hall found a new home at Raven Hill Discovery Center. The greatest challenge moving the hall in October was navigating the steep hill on Fuller Road.



He was doing a high-wire act on his boat city marina.



An addition was made to the Boyne City lakeshore with the construction of the new marina facility/lighthouse.



After 40 years on the job, 19 of them as director, Bernie Hammond retired last spring from East Jordan's ambulance service. Jay Peck is the new director.



Projects got underway in downtown East Jordan as the Downtown Development Authority began implementing its long-range plan. The city will also be getting a new police department building in the coming year.



In his 16 years on the Boyne City Commission, Bill Grimm said the city's greatest achievement was the air-industrial park. Grimm recently retired from the commission. Steve Moody was elected in November as his successor.



Camp Quality, a camp for children with cancer, celebrated its 10th anniversary this past summer. The camp is made possible through the support of local residents and businesses.



The Big Buck got a big bear after Glen McCune, at left, and his crew carved a bear and cubs for the new brewery in Auburn Hills, which opened in October. McCune's crew included Richard Fish, Carlton Howie and Carl Beal.



As usual, there were plenty of construction projects this summer, but none more appreciated than the renovation of State Street in Boyne City, which was completed in August.



Freighters, like the Myron C. Taylor, found a buyer for the facility or the



Formerly FMB Northwestern, donated commission discuss plans for a new

NEIGHBORS

By NANCY NORTHUP

THE WELL ORGANIZED first-time venture was truly a great success and a "much-needed affair," the comment of many! They were talking about the Christmas Day dinner at the Boyne City Presbyterian Church. There were many, who might have been alone on this special day, if it had not been for this kind invitation to a very good meal of turkey or ham, with all the "fixin's" prepared by "Chef" Al Lawson, and the church ladies for the dessert varieties and the hospitality towards all who came in. For those needing a ride, Oral Sutliff provided transportation on the transit bus. The church folks are planning on "doing dinner" again next year.

RUTH YAHR returned to her Litzenger Place apartment, after having spent four days of an early Christmas in Lapeer with her daughter Kathy and Dave Dagley and family.

MARLENE PETERSON of Manistique enjoyed the Christmas holidays in Boyne City at the home of her daughter Colleen Smith, husband Doug and family.

BILL AND ROBBIE SCHILLER of Richmond were here before the Christmas weekend and took her mother, Mrs. Alta Fluckey home with them for awhile.

ORALAND ELEANOR SUTLIFF moved into their new home on a nearby hillside in Boyne City a couple of weeks before Christmas. Their son Scott, who had been home for the holidays and celebrating in the new house, returned to Berkeley, Calif., this past Friday.

THE COMMUNITY ROOM of Litzenger Place was the scene of the annual Christmas Eve Party for Betty Bradley and her family. There were 24 members present, including her children and their spouses, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Christmas carols were sung, gifts were exchanged and a pot luck dinner, made for a very Merry Christmas for all!

CHRISTMAS EVE dinner and family gift

exchange at the Advance home of Frank and Ann Shaler included Frank and Connie Shaler and children, Michelle and Becky, Jeff and Karen Lindsay and children, Natalie and Connor, and Frank's sister and new neighbor, Sally and Ed Pasque.

HILDA JOHNECHECK of Greenwood, Ind., spent about a week of the holidays on Camp Daggett Road with her mother Irene and family.

U.S. NAVYMAN Glenn Plank is here from California, visiting the Walloon Lake home of his mother, Judy Plank and family until Jan. 7.

A WARM "WELCOME to our world" goes out to Jasmine Lynn Williams, the daughter of Shawn Williams and Tricia Langerman of Pickarel Lake Road in Petoskey. Jasmine was born at Northern Michigan Hospital on Dec. 24. She weighed nine pounds, one ounce and measured 21 inches in length. She has a sister, Maria, age 2 1/2. Grandparents are Larry and Irene Williams of Boyne City.

ON CHRISTMAS DAY, Ed and Sally Pasque of Boyne City hosted a family dinner, their first since moving back to Boyne, where Sally grew up. Guests were Frank and Ann Shaler, Frank and Connie Shaler, Michelle and Becky, and Frank David Shaler and friend, Richard Danforth and sons Chad and Nicholas came from Detroit on Christmas Day to spend the week. In the afternoon, Darla and Don and son Douglas came from Royal Oak to spend the holidays here.

MR. RICHARD DUBIN was transferred this past week from Petoskey's Bortz Health Care to East Jordan's Grandvue.

LES CRANDELL and wife and mother, Evelyn Stocker, all of Boyne City, joined a family gathering of 26 for Christmas dinner and gift exchange and games at the Harbor Springs home of their sister and daughter and former Litzenger Place resident, Dorothy Crandell Daniels and husband Elmer. Recent newlyweds, the happy couple welcomed them all in their beautiful home.

BILL AND DEB KORTHASE and daughters Brienne and Andrea have returned from spending a week of holiday vacation time in Jamaica.

A THANKS AGAIN! goes out to Don Nesson, driver and "tour guide" of the Charlevoix County Trolley for a beautiful tour of the lights on Sunday night. Even though some folks have taken their outside holiday lights down, the group still enjoyed some spectacular blazing lights around the downtown area and out and around Boyne City.

NANCY AND BRUCE LAWSON of Rochester were here for the holidays visiting her mother, Jean Korthase and other relatives. Sister Heide Connor of Grand Rapids was here until Tuesday. On Christmas Day, Roger Korthase and daughter MacKenzie and Jean joined a dinner table of nine at the Norval and Alma Korthase home.

LINDA STOLT of Hollywood, Calif., flew to Ann Arbor to the home of her brother, Don and Julie Stolt and children Amanda and Adam. They all motored to Boyne City to join parents Robert and Marie Stolt and family for the holidays. This was Linda's "first Christmas home" in 12 years. Dale and Martha Stolt and daughter Katelyn of Traverse City were also there. Linda will be going home on Jan. 3.

ROSE REINHARDT has returned from spending the week of the holidays in Grand Rapids with her daughter, Carol Hessington.

RESIDENTS OF Litzenger Place, home of Litz Place Community Life Links, are so very pleased and a little awed at the many kind deeds of the holidays, by the school, the community, the churches, the Boyne City Rotarians, the Xi Gamma Sorority, the Boyne Valley Garden Club and also the Boyne Valley Slim & Trim Club. We feel truly blessed and somehow hope we can return this special feeling of caring and sharing, if only by our hospitality, throughout 1998!

(To submit items to Nancy, please call 582-9174.)

OBITUARIES

Robert Burrows

Robert "Bob" Burrows, 35, of Leighton, Ala., died Dec. 27, 1997. His funeral was held Tuesday, Dec. 30, at Bettie Preuit Evans' residence, with burial at Preuit Oaks Cemetery.

He was a native of Michigan, having lived in the Tri-Cities area for the past 10 years.

He was employed as an industrial painter for the E.A. Nelston Co. He attended the Grace Episcopal Church of Sheffield.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran. Survivors include his parents, Ed and Cynthia Burrows of East Jordan; a sister, Jamie B. Lynch of Florence, Ala.; a brother, E. Stokes Burrows of Florence, Ala.; his grandmother, Bettie P. Evans of Leighton, Ala.; a niece, Jordan Lynch and a nephew, Creighton Lynch.

Memorials may be made to the charity of choice or the local humane society.

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December 27th

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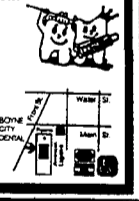
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Rambler Press

Volume 3

Issue 3 December

Editorial

Take Boyne Pride in our cafeteria

By Chris Winkler

Boyne Pride. It's not only taking pride in school activities. It's also about our school, and all facets of it. Specifically, there has been a problem in our high school cafeteria.

The recent cafeteria situation has been discussed by administrators, listing these problems: silverware and trays being thrown in the trash receptacles, refuse left everywhere, food theft from the ala carte line, taking cuts in line, and damaged seats. Coordinator of Auxiliary Services Kirk Kujawski has become con-

cerned by the recent problems, and thinks it all comes down to a pride issue (Boyne Pride). "It just takes a few moments to take care of your refuse properly."

The acts could be described as immature. At last count, eight seats have been damaged on tables in the cafeteria, and for no apparent reason but to destroy school property. Kujawski mentions that it is students' parents (taxpayers) are funding the school and the services it provides.

Solutions include putting up reminder signs on the tables, having more adult supervision,

one at a time in the ala carte line, magnetic panels in trash containers, among other ideas.

Webster's Dictionary defines pride as "delight or satisfaction in one's own or another's achievements, in associations, etc." Obviously, some students aren't taking much pride when the idea of surveillance cameras has come up as a possible solution to the problems.

To my fellow students and cafeteria users: have some pride in your school. It is *your* school just as much as it is anybody else's. Think before you act, in this case, in the cafeteria.

Useless classes? You decide

By Katie VanTreese

At some point in their academic career, many students feel that at least one of their classes is irrelevant and a waste of time. These negative feelings are usually instigated by the difficulty of the class or the boredom of the student; however, some seniors feel that they have a valid claim when they say that two of the required senior classes are unnecessary.

The first of these classes is Current Affairs. It is a one semester class that is intended to increase the awareness of seniors to their social environment. Despite the good intentions of the teacher, most people in the twelfth grade can read newspapers and magazines, watch the news, and rationally discuss the recent happenings, and are bored in this level of class. The fact that this class is offered is not what is troublesome for most students, it is the fact that it is required for graduation. If people take an elective such as Current Affairs, many insightful conversations may develop, but when every senior is forced to take it, the willingness to participate and the interest in the class drops

drastically.

The second class is Consumer's Education, another one semester class, and one that is intended to prepare students for life after high school. Some of the sections in this class are indeed important, but many are redundant and obvious. Students need to know the types of contracts and a brief synopsis of the basics of economics, but the portion that covers decision making is completely non-essential. Whether to buy an expensive product or an inexpensive product is basic knowledge that does not require a mandatory class.

The problem with these classes is not only that they are pointless, but that they interfere with strongly academically-inclined students. It is difficult to take the Advanced Placement or College Preparatory courses that one may wish to take when three required classes must also fit into the schedule.

Another obstacle that these courses present, is for those who are dually enrolled. Dually enrolled students attend classes at Boyne City High School, along with North Central Michigan Col-

lege. These college credits are often sponsored by the high school and are usually transferable to the student's college of choice. This program is an excellent opportunity for driven students to save time and money and to further challenge themselves. At least one eligible student is not able to participate because of conflicts between the possible college courses and Consumer's Education. The fact that a student could be held back because of such a minor class is an atrocity that should be addressed.

Some suggestions for the remodeling of these classes include: combining Consumer's Ed. and Current Affairs to make a single one semester class, eliminating Current Affairs and/or Consumer's Education entirely, or demoting one or both classes to electives. Any of these changes would be beneficial to all students and appreciated by many.

Note: Although many students dislike these classes, it is to be understood that no hard feeling or blame is to be placed upon the fine teachers of these classes. It is not their fault in any way.

LSSU trip tradition continues

During the school year, teachers or students will put together non-school related trips to take a breather and have some fun with their classmates and teachers. On Friday, the Dec. 5, math teacher Dale Parsons took a bus load of BCHS students to a Lake Superior State University hockey game against the fighting Wolverines from the University of Michigan, costing everyone only \$11. Even though the Lakers lost, it was an exciting trip for everyone.

This hasn't been the first time the students have taken the trip to Sault Ste. Marie. It all started with Spanish instructor Steve Edwards some years back. Parsons decided to take over with Edwards' inspirational turnout. Mr. Parsons says, "It's neat for the



kids to do. They enjoy it, I enjoy watching it, and it's nice that Joe Howie will drive the bus for free!"

Some of the students that went on the trip found it not only fun, but also family-like for every person who participated. Joe LaCombe says, "This was very fun. I wish we could do trips more often. It's a nice break from teachers and family, bringing friends closer." Mike

Houser, a Laker fan in most cases, replied with, "The trip was a lot of fun, but the goalie is worthless after giving up seven goals to U of M. The Lakers team had no defense and was too inexperienced. But, it's nice to see different groups of people becoming closer to each other by rooting for the same team!"

Student council in holiday spirit

By Molly Bricker

Boyne City High School students are spreading the holiday cheer by sponsoring two needy families this Christmas. The BCHS Student Council has constructed a "Giving Tree" that is decorated with colorful light bulbs that are labeled with gift ideas for the children of these families. Students are very eager

to take part in this event. The tree was filled with many bulbs and is now bare. This will be the second year in a row that Boyne City High School students have taken part in helping the community by sponsoring needy families at Christmas time, and this is also the second year that it has been successful.

An innumerable amount

of gifts have been provided for the children of these families that are sure to bring smiles to the faces of these kids. Just knowing this has brought much joy to the lives of those generous students at Boyne City High School who have found enough goodness in their hearts to give to these children during the season of giving.

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON FROM THE JOURNALISM CLASS AT BCHS!

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Senior Feature Writers:
Katie VanTreese
Katie Kujawski
Molly Bricker

Feature Writers:
Laurie Ford
April Roberts
Katie David
Sara Bargas

Advisor:
Rick Fowler

Drama gains a new face

By Amy Place

Boyne City High School added a new addition to the drama department this season. Her name is Bridget Foltz, and she is the new dance choreographer for the upcoming spring play *Crazy for You*. She has taken the place of last year's choreographer, Jody Adgate, who is expecting a new addition to her family in February.

Ms. Foltz became in love with the drama department when she was invited to attend the Boyne Meets Broadway's Camp Quality benefit. She introduced herself to the directors, Bob and Jackie Wollenberg. They hit it off and Bridget became the dance di-

rector.

She went to college at the University of Michigan, received her degree in biology, and her masters in physical therapy. Foltz is married, lives in Boyne, and works in Petoskey for a physical therapist.

Dance is her first love. She has danced all her life, and taught two years at a dance studio in Saginaw. She dances a little bit of everything. For the spring musical, she has been teaching the cast how to tap dance.

"I'm honored to work with such a talented and fun group," says Foltz.

NHS volunteers busy during holidays

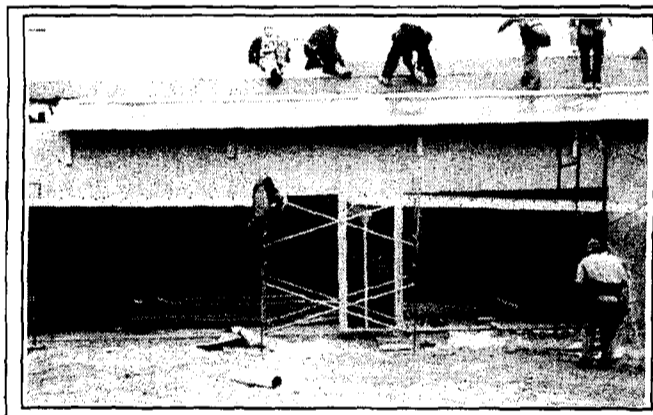
By Travis Garrett

The last week before Christmas break was a busy one for those who chose to volunteer, especially the Boyne City chapter of the National Honor Society.

Thursday night, NHS members walked around the streets of Boyne City, singing Christmas carols to those who were willing to listen. On the ensuing day, students filled Christmas baskets for the needy.

Silent night, holy night, all is calm; Dashing through the snow, in a one-horse open sleigh. They've all been heard before, but those who hung around the streets of Boyne Thursday night heard them sung by the best. They were engulfed in the Christmas spirit.

Christmas basketing consisted of filling baskets with turkey, stuffing, canned goods, and toys for tots. They were delivered by National Honor Society students throughout the day.



The BCHS building trades house is located on Court Street, and is making good progress.

Students are refs in Legacy program

By Derek Price

A growing interest among high school students is becoming a sports official after they graduate. A great way to do this is by taking part in the Mentor Legacy Student Official Program. The program is designed to attract young people to become MHSAA officials. The student officials gain knowledge and experience by refereeing middle school contests. In order to take part in the program you must be 17 years old and a senior in an MHSAA member high school.

There are many benefits of becoming a registered MHSAA official. First, it is an opportunity to give something back to the sport they enjoyed. Second, it is a way to stay involved in sports. Next, it is physical activity and exercise.

Another benefit is that it is a chance to work with kids. Last, it is an easy way to earn extra money.

Last year, Heather Erber was the first person from BCHS to take part in the program. Bill Case and Dylan Mandeville are the current students taking part and their mentor is Kirk Kujawski. The mentor teaches the students and is responsible for actively critiquing the student officials' progress throughout the year. Both Case and Mandeville have started officiating seventh and eighth grade basketball games and each of them hope to move on to football after they graduate.

Good luck to Case, Mandeville, and whoever else is interested in becoming a registered official.

Upcoming Events

January	5	School resumes from Christmas break
	21	Financial Aid Workshop 6 p.m. Media Center
	23	Teacher inservice - Half-day for students
	23	End of first semester
	26	Proficiency test retakes begin

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WILSON TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Wilson Township will be reviewing proposed amendments to their Zoning Ordinance during a Wilson Township Planning Commission Public Hearing, Jan. 6, 1998, 7:00 p.m., Wilson Township Hall. The amendments are proposed for sections dealing with Cellular Towers and Private Roads and Drives. The specific sections to be amended may be viewed at the Wilson Township Hall, or by contacting Timothy O'Leary at 582-0337.

EVANGELINE TOWNSHIP CHARLEVOIX COUNTY CELLULAR TOWERS

Public Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Evangeline Township Planning Commission at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 22, 1998, in the Evangeline Township Hall located on Wildwood Harbor Road, Boyne City. This hearing will consider additions to the Evangeline Township Zoning Ordinance regarding cellular towers. Copies of the proposed revisions can be picked up at the Township Planner/Zoning Administrator's office, 319 N. Lake Street, Boyne City Hall, Boyne City, MI 49712 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

BOYNE CITY COMMISSION SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES

Dec. 16, 1997, 12:00 noon meeting - The Commission approved lot reconfigurations on seven parcels along North Street, and on a parcel off Crozier Crest; held a first reading on amendment no. 61 regarding the Municipal Civil Infraction portion of the Zoning Ordinance; authorized the City to collect one half of the Boyne City Public School taxes during the summer of 1998; amended an appointment to the Boyne District Library Board; approved reappointments to the Parks and Recreation Commission; and canceled the Dec. 23, 30 and Jan. 6 City Commission meetings.

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF BOYNE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to rules and regulations as outlined in the Boyne City Zoning Ordinance A-28, Public Hearings will be held at the regular meeting of the Boyne City Planning Commission on Monday, Jan. 19, 1998 at 5 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers, 319 N. Lake Street, Boyne City, Mich., and on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 1998 at noon in the City Manager's office, 319 N. Lake Street, Boyne City, Mich., to review and consider the following:

1. Amendment 66 to the Zoning Ordinance regulating placement and construction of cellular towers. A first reading will be held on Jan. 20, 1998. A second reading is scheduled to be held on Feb. 24, 1998. The Amendment would become effective on March 11, 1998.
2. A request for an additional interior illuminated sign for Nu-Vision, which will become Pearl Vision.

More details and a copy of the proposed ordinance are available for review at the Boyne City Planning Department. Copies of the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment are available at City Hall during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. All interested persons are encouraged to attend the Public Hearings and participate in discussion. Any input for or against this amendment will be received by the City Planner's office until 5 p.m. on the day of the Public Hearing or at the Public Hearing. For further information contact the City Planner's office at 319 N. Lake Street, Boyne City, Mich. 49712 or call (616) 582-0337.

Timothy O'Leary
Planning Director

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Robin L. MURPHY and Larry MURPHY, wife and husband to OLD KENT MORTGAGE COMPANY I/K/a Old Kent Bank, Mortgagee, dated July 13, 1996 and recorded on July 24, 1996 in Liber 303, on Page 365, Charlevoix County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty

Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Six And 48/100 dollars (\$80,276.48), including interest at 8.75% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, at the main Lobby of the Charlevoix County Courthouse, Charlevoix, Michigan at 11:00 o'clock a.m., on January 30, 1998.

Said premises are situated in TOWNSHIP of HAYES, Charlevoix County, Michigan, and are described as: The North 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 25, Town 34 North, Range 7 West.

The redemption period shall be 12 month(s) from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 17, 1997
OLD KENT MORTGAGE COMPANY

For information, please call:
(248) 642-4202
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for
OLD KENT MORTGAGE COMPANY,
30150 Telegraph Suite 100
Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025
File #97119327

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
50TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY
PUBLICATION/POSTING AND
NOTICE OF ACTION
CASE NO. 97-3042-DO

Court address: Courthouse, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Court telephone no.: (906) 635-6300

Plaintiff:
Shirley Wisner
Route 48 Box 3AD
Eckerman, MI 49728

Plaintiff's attorney
Mark L. Dobias (P35160)
903 Ashmun Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Defendant:
Abe Wisner
401 4th Street
East Jordan, MI 49727

TO: Abe Wisner IT IS ORDERED:

1. You are being sued by plaintiff in this court to obtain a Judgment of Divorce. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before December 29, 1997. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.

2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in The Citizen and East Jordan Journal for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

Dated Nov. 18, 1997
Hon. Nicholas J. Lambros P16368
Circuit Court

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Ski team ready to hit the slopes

By CHRIS WINKLER

Despite the lack of snow so far this winter, the Boyne City ski team has its sights set on its opening meet, the Petoskey Invitational on Tuesday.

Both the boys and the girls teams enjoyed success last year. While the girls season ended at regionals, the boys went to the next level. By placing third out of 14 schools in the region (possibly the most competitive region in the state), the team moved on to the state meet. There, with a strong slalom performance, it finished third.

For the girls, Missy Fruge returns as a senior captain. Also returning are senior Abbey Roberts and sophomore Maggie Doherty. Andrea Gerling, who shined in the first part of 1997, but struggled with illness in mid-season, is healthy and ready to

Teams return to action next week

After the long break for the holidays, area athletic teams return to action Tuesday.

The Boyne City Ramblers, who are off to a good start with a 3-1 record, travel to Johannesburg for their last tune-up before the conference season opens Friday, Jan. 9, when they host Charlevoix.

The East Jordan Red Devils travel to Central Lake Tuesday, then have another week off before they square off with the Ramblers on Jan. 13 at Boyne City. The Red Devils, who had a tough opening schedule, are 1-3.

The Boyne Falls Loggers, off to a 3-1 start, host Gaylord St. Mary's on Tuesday, then travel to Wolverine on Jan. 9.

In volleyball action, the Lady Ramblers host Mancelona on Monday at 6 p.m. and travel to Charlevoix on Jan. 8.

The Lady Red Devils host Gaylord St. Mary's on Monday and Mancelona on Jan. 8. Matches start at 6 p.m.

ski. Three seniors on last winter's squad were named to an all-state team, and carried the boys through its accomplishments. That puts the load on the shoulders of current se-

niors and co-captains Matt Davis and Corey Hall. Backing them up will be juniors Andy Douglas and Nick Riehl, along with many new freshmen.

"Both teams have a chance to win a conference championship," said coach Bob Simpson.

Simpson has been active in the ski program, but this is first year as head coach. He is assisted by Kathleen Ruhs.

"It is really hard to say," Simpson said. "Skiing is such a wide-open sport. Anything can happen from day to day. We will build on last year's success with a lot of hard work, and be fired up to ski well. The girls have a very good chance of going to the state meet."

Simpson will look to Tuesday's invitational as more of a warm-up than anything.

"Due to not much training, the meet will be a good learning experience, and I'll race a lot of different kids. We never do well in the first meet, because we race so many."

Though Simpson is not one to predict outcomes, he does say that Boyne City will be right up there in the first conference meet.

That meet is Wednesday at Boyne Mountain, with Elk Rapids, Charlevoix, and a newcomer to the high school racing scene, East Jordan. The meet begins at 2:30 p.m.

"Personally, I'm looking for steady improvement," Simpson says of his teams. "And hopefully we will peak at conference time."

The team from last winter peaked at just the right time, and it's just a matter of time before the 1998 team finds out where it stands.

Superintendent

Continued from page 1

3 p.m., seven hours. There will be more kids in school-to-work programs, vocational education, college classes starting as early as the sophomore year, cooperative programs between districts, school partnerships where we will share students and more distance learning.

"And charter schools will play a role. It's not a bad thing that people have choices. It's terrific that we're opening up the bag and allowing options in our educational process."

"That should not be threatening. The whole thing about options will be positive, but the process is hard."

Smith's experience with difficult processes go back to his childhood and making career and life choices.

He was born in Bay City and grew up on a farm in Owosso. His family moved to California when he was 12, but at the age of 15, Smith came back to Michigan to live on the farm with his aunt and

uncle.

"I loved Michigan, and I loved the farm," he said. "I really had two sets of parents."

As parents themselves, Pat and Marcia have been married for 31 years and have four children, all of whom have followed a path in pursuit of education.

Cristyn is a clinical psychologist in Detroit, Jeanette is a market analyst in Charlotte, N.C., Brian is a student of industrial design in Phoenix, and Erin is a junior at Michigan State University, working toward a dietitian degree with a

double major in psychology.

Now Smith is in the middle of another difficult process — helping Boyne Falls School District meet the economic and philosophical challenges it faces.

"I don't want the issue to become Pat Smith's issue. I am an employee of the school board and district," he said. "I'm obligated to give my expertise and knowledge, but I'm a public employee, and I'm comfortable with that."

Smith's philosophy includes what he calls "the hub concept," meaning the school is the center of

the community.

"I can't imagine this community without an educational presence," he said. "It gives a sense of community."

"I don't get discouraged," he said of Boyne Falls Schools' economic outlook. "It's nice to be a part of this and help Boyne Falls through it. I don't feel threatened or have any ego involved here."

Smith admits next year will be a pivotal one for him.

"I miss my wife," he said. "I would rather she retire and come up here, but she has a career and I can't ask her to do that. So I would rather be there with her while I wait for her to retire."

"Next year will be my fifth, and five years is a good time for a superintendent."

"I like my job. I really enjoy what I do, and I wouldn't leave Boyne Falls in the middle of this problem. I'd like to see it through."

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