

COMING EVENTS

Chorale accepting grant applications

PETOSKEY—The Northern Michigan Chorale is announcing the availability of vocal music grants for summer music study. These grants are for anyone of high school age or older in Emmet, Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties.

Letters of application are due by Friday, April 21, and should include name, address and telephone number. Also, specify the planned use for the grant, such as vocal lessons or music camp assistance. High school applicants should provide a letter of recommendation from their music instructor.

Auditions will take place on Monday, May 1. Applicants will be notified of time and place. Successful applicants will be invited to perform in the Northern Michigan Chorale's fall or spring concerts.

Send letters of application to the Northern Michigan Chorale, Box 51, Petoskey, MI 49770.

Parenting workshop to be held in Petoskey

PETOSKEY—A parenting workshop, based on the best-selling book, *How To Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk*, starts Wednesday, April 26, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Women's Resource Center in Petoskey.

Parents will learn proven skills, such as how to set limits while maintaining goodwill, cope with their child's negative feelings, express anger without hurting, engage their child's willing cooperation and help their child become caring and responsible. Parents will also learn how to resolve conflicts peacefully and create a family atmosphere of love and respect.

The six-session workshop is sponsored by the Women's Resource Center and will be led by Joann F. Townsend, ACSW. The cost of the workshop is \$80 per person or \$85 per couple. Materials are included.

The dates of the sessions are Wednesday, April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Certificates of completion will be awarded at the conclusion of the program. Advance registration and payment is requested. Space is limited.

"Parents are on the firing line seven days a week. Yet few of them have had any training for this demanding job. No wonder even the most well-intentioned parents often find themselves feeling frustrated, bewildered, guilty or alone," said Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish, award-winning authors of the book and program.

Hundreds of thousands of parents and professionals have benefited from the workshop. In studies in Wisconsin, Colorado and North Dakota, researchers found that dating parents developed skills that significantly and lastingly improved the quality of their family life. They also found these newfound skills worked equally well with children of all ages.

To register, please call the Women's Resource Center at 231-347-0067.

County seeks funds for Whiting Park

BY B. J. HETLER
 Contributing Writer

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY - Every summer for more than 50 years, families pack picnic baskets, beach balls and blankets, then pile into the car to head for Whiting Park where they join others who play for the day or camp.

Located on Lake Charlevoix between Boyne City and Ironton, the county park is a popular place for weddings, company picnics and fam-

ily reunions. Now it is slated for major improvements, including an observation deck, handicapped provisions, a paved parking lot and separate entrances to the beach and the campgrounds.

"We're looking at reconfiguring the area and making substantial changes and improvements to the recreation area," said county planning director Larry Sullivan.

County commissioners directed

Sullivan to submit a recreation grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at the commission meeting on Wednesday, March 22. A public hearing was held earlier, but no comments were made.

The improvements are projected to cost approximately \$333,300. The grant application will request \$246,600 of that amount. The county is required to contribute \$86,700 to be eligible for the grant. County funds

would pay an additional \$10,000 for surveying, soil borings and topographic elevation work.

Whiting Park is located on approximately 115 acres of forest. The site has 58 campsites, a building for gatherings that accommodates 300 people, a 1940s log cabin for community use for up to 60 people, and two pavilions. It is named for Perry Whiting who gave the land to the county in the 1920s.

Handicapped provisions include paved trails and access to the beach and campsites. Other planned improvements are paving the parking area, constructing separate entrances to the beach and campgrounds, a paved boat launch for small watercraft, and electrical hookups to some campsites.

The application for state funding will be submitted by the end of March and the county expects to have an answer from the state by December.

Sled Storm



Snowmobile snarls and spraying snow were thick in the air at Boyne Mountain this weekend during the US Open Snow X Championships. The snow-cross open is the main event of the Michigan Snow Cross Racing Association, Michigan's oldest and largest snow-cross circuit.

PHOTOS BY VIC RUGGLES

Church plans free clinic

BY JANE BOOZE
 Contributing Writer

BOYNE CITY - When the Lakeshore Community Church bought the Boyne Valley Medical Center, Rev. David Crumbaugh wanted to see the clinical side, which was not in use since Dr. Richard Mansfield left it, put to good use. In fact, he wanted to see it put back to use as a medical clinic.

And who better than Doc Mansfield to provide medical services at a church-run free clinic?

Mansfield was contacted and

agreed to donate his day off, so Fridays he will be providing patient care, free of charge, and without compensation.

Crumbaugh contacted Mansfield because the doctor has always been extremely involved in, and loves this community. He wants to help it any way he can, Crumbaugh said, and both men see the need for the free clinic in the community.

There is work to be done before the clinic can open. Things are needed from carpet to carpentry, and Lakeshore is looking for volunteers

and donations to get the clinic off the ground.

The clinic, which will offer general family medicine by appointment only on a first-come, first-served basis, will be open Fridays. The sooner the work gets done, the sooner the clinic can open, but Mansfield and Crumbaugh are hoping for May or June.

"We intend to eventually open six days a week when we have more staff, more money and more resources," Crumbaugh said. They would even

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Boyne City marina seeks increase in rates

BY B. J. HETLER
 Contributing Writer

BOYNE CITY - The Boyne City marina may increase its boat slip rates if a request by the city to charge the premium rate instead of the standard rate is allowed by the state. The rate increase would lower the approximate \$20,000 per-year deficit under which the marina currently operates.

City projections show that the premium rates would bring in an additional \$12,021 per year to the marina, city manager Michael Cain told city commissioners at a March 14 meeting at City Hall. The marina has 52 slips, 27 of which are seasonal.

The Michigan State Waterways Commission sets both the standard and premium rates for marinas each year. A city must show the state a necessity for charging the higher rate. Cain cited the marina deficit, the high demand

See MARINA on Page 2

'The Cousins' hard at play

BY JANE BOOZE
 Contributing Writer

EAST JORDAN - The original "Cousins" were a group of three actual cousins who played together for their own enjoyment - including one who never would play for an audience.

That was Dan Wright, but his more outgoing relatives, Ed Clark and Bud Barnes, liked to head down to Ray's Guitar in Boyne City on Saturday mornings to play with their friends.

Ray's Guitar, owned by Ray Miller, was the weekend home of many a picker and plucker. But in 2002, Ray sold the store and the merry band of musicians was left homeless.

Clark, an East Jordan native, was unwilling to disband, and so he and some other Saturday morning regulars decided to form a group.

"I thought it would be good, with such a pool of talent ('And friend-

ship,' his wife Sandy said), to keep some semblance of a group going," Clark said. At first they tried to find a place like Ray's, just a spot to gather together and play for entertainment and enjoyment, but there was none to be found.

"It came to mind to do service work," Clark said, and out of the humble beginnings of three cousins, the unrelated version, "The Cousins Music Group" was born.

Listen to the Cousins, and phrases come to mind, like "down home," "joyful noise," "old-timey," and "having a ball." These men and Ginny Carey, and their faithful "roadies"—a.k.a. spouses—are having the time of their lives, playing strictly for the public welfare.

They play for nursing homes, senior housing facilities, county senior centers, local public schools, art and historical societies (including the

State of Michigan's Black Iron Days at Hartwick Pines), public welfare, food pantries, "and similar places where volunteers are normally utilized." They will also play for church-related fundraisers and events, though they prefer these to be outside the sanctuary when possible.

The Cousins are asked to do a great deal more than they are able to, so the group members get a tentative schedule and vote on the events they are available for, and which they believe are "qualifying" benefits.

"I don't want to say we're good, because that's probably not right," Clark said. "But we sure are sincere, and we love making music."

To an outsider, listening to the Cousins, they might be mistaken for being good, too.

They're a diverse group. Leonard

See COUSINS on Page 2

Singing Sensations



Boyne City's "Hello Dolly" musical debuted last week, as did East Jordan's "Music Man." Here, a Boyne City chorus member sings during a number early into the musical. For more photos and reviews of both productions, see page 10.

PHOTO BY VIC RUGGLES



Living in the lap robe of luxury

EAST JORDAN - Louise Moore doesn't even know how many quilted lap robes she has given away. One year alone it was 200, but she has tried to make at least 100 a year for more years than she can keep track of.

Born Violet Louise DeForest, Moore was raised in Central Lake and graduated from Central Lake High School. Now she lives in East Jordan where her own four children were mostly raised.

She has spent the interim years moving around and working hard, and when she finally retired on Oct. 30, 2004, from her job at Ben Franklin in Traverse City, it wasn't to sit still.

So twice a month she volunteers at Crossroads Resale in East Jordan, and when the Cousins music group is playing at the Senior Center she makes sure she gets to hear them (daughter Virginia Carey is a cousin). And the rest of the time, she sews, she knits (a little), she crochets and she walks when she doesn't feel like doing any handwork. She likes to read, and she loves music. But she isn't musical like Virginia.

"Oh, no, not me. I love music, but others don't want to hear me sing," said Louise with a laugh.

Currently she has several bags of neatly folded multicolored quilted lap robes,

which she packages up in plastic grocery bags and loads into the trunk of her car. She lived near Traverse City for nearly 40 years, and over the last several she developed a circuit of elder care homes who are the lucky recipients of her robes.

"I'll put them in the trunk of my car and when I get near one of the places I will stop and ask if they want them," Louise said. Twice in all these years a facility has said they didn't need any lap robes, but mostly they are pretty happy to get them.

"I always ask before I start unloading them," she said. She is proud of the bright robes, which are de-

signed more to provide coverage and modesty than for warmth - though they contribute to that, too, but are not heavy. She said that older people typically like bright colors, but that she is careful not to use too much red, which she said can have an inflammatory effect.

Moore makes hundreds of lap robes and then drives hundreds of miles to deliver them, by the time she has made round trips. She doesn't get paid, she just wants to do it. She is modest about her contribution.

"Mostly it's knowing you're doing something to help somebody. I think people need to feel like they're doing something

worthwhile," she said. "For me - I'm glad they're going to be used."

She admits as much as anything, though, she just wants to be busy, and she is glad her business can

bring someone else a little comfort or cheer.

"It's all fun - it's not work. It's fun. I while away a lot of time - which I need - and it doesn't cost me anything," she said.

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Marina

continued from front

from boaters (92 boaters are on the seasonal waiting list), the plans for a fund balance for improvements, and the intent to reduce or eliminate marina costs to taxpayers who do not use the marina, as eligibility for premium rates.

"Given that we have a deficit and a (boater's) waiting list, and want to begin to build a fund balance for future renovations, it's important to apply," Cain said. He noted that funds raised from marina fees go back to the marina and boat launch and are not used for anything else.

Of the projected \$12,021 that would result from

charging the higher rate, \$8,219 would come from seasonal boating fees, and \$3,802 from transient fees. Using a 38-foot boat as an example, a seasonal standard rate for 2006 is \$2,752, while the premium rate is \$3,255, or \$503 more under the stated criteria. A transient slip rate for a 38-foot boat has a standard rate of \$36, and a premium rate of \$40, or \$4 more.

Commissioners directed city staff to apply to the Waterways Commission for permission to charge the premium rates this season. A decision is expected following the Waterways Commission's April meeting.

Also at the county

commission's March 14 meeting, a developer of a proposed condominium resort and marina on the site of the former Wolverine Power plant in Advance presented a request to the city for sewer and water extensions to the development.

Fred Taylor's Sommerset Pointe in Eveline Township plans for 84 condominium units. In a letter to the city dated Feb. 3, Taylor proposed a fee of \$300 per unit for hook-up and a \$1,500 fee for its marina and guardhouse, for a total of \$26,700. An estimate to run lines from Boyne City to Sommerset Pointe is up for negotiation.

"We're at the point to

come before the commission to see the interest and feasibility of getting lines out there," Taylor said.

But concern was expressed by a couple of audience members at the meeting about city efforts towards a project outside city limits at this time.

Commissioner Chuck Vondra asked about the excess capacity of Boyne City's sewer and water plants. Dan Meads of the Department of Public Works said there was not a great deal of excess, but there was some, and added there was enough capacity for the city at 100-percent occupancy.

The city manager was directed to meet with Taylor to discuss the concerns expressed.

Clinic

continued from front

now consider adding services if they had another doctor willing to donate time. In addition, Crumbaugh would like to add dental services in the future.

The clinic will be open to anyone, without financial guidelines, and it will not accept insurance. However, patients will be able to, and are encouraged to donate for services rendered.

Other financial backing

for the clinic is expected to come from grants, local church support, service groups, and private donations.

"We are a church clinic," Crumbaugh said. "We expect eventual church support in the clinic."

He added that the clinic's estimated annual budget of about \$300,000 "can be done."

There will be Christian reading material, but otherwise Crumbaugh does not

envision the clinic as a place for sermonizing.

"We will not be preaching, but we will be identified as a Christian clinic," he said. "Every church has some goals it wants to accomplish. We believe in health and healing, and we want to make it available. We will pray with people if they want us to."

"Every church has different goals. This is ours. We want to help this community where there is a need,"

Crumbaugh said. "I think it will go over really well; I think it will be good. Charlevoix County really needs it."

Crumbaugh said the more volunteers they get to clean, paint and outfit the clinic, the sooner they will be able to open the doors.

"If we had the people we could get done in no time flat," he said. "We are shooting for May or June, but probably June is more realistic."

Cousins

continued from front

Brooks, who sings, and plays harmonica and the guitar, is "almost retired" from Brooks Auto Body in Boyne City, of which he is the owner. He loves to restore antique cars in his spare time, too, when he's not working or making music, but never let it be said that he is an amateur.

Winfield Sluyter, who plays the five-string banjo, was a graphic artist (he recently painted a sign for the Cousins, and hasn't lost his touch), and is still a pilot at 82. Right now he is working on a 1914 Model T Ford. He owns and flies a 1943 Aeronca L-3.

Duane Vorce - the man behind the special effects, as well as a well-rounded musician, playing violin and the harmonica - is a retired G.M. skilled tradesman, and electrician. He is also involved with the Flywheelers in Walloon Lake. He also loves wood-working and cooking.

Gordon Howie, a retired Boyne City Elementary School teacher, a vocalist who plays the tenor guitar, ukulele and percussion, is

an avid ice-boater in the spring, and a sailor in the summer.

Ginny Carey, who is the administrator for the East Jordan Housing Commission and plays piano, organ and accordion for the Cousins, as well as providing the sole female vocals, is so busy in her "free time" that Clark says he doesn't know how she finds time to sit down to eat.

"Her whole life is a hobby," he said with admiration.

Norm Haustler, a log home builder (not retired) plays both guitar and bass guitar and provides vocals.

And: "They have a fantastic garden, yes they do," said Clark.

John Fichtner sings and plays the guitar and bass, and is retired from the Central Lake Schools where he was principal. He is a woodworker, and made his own steel guitar (you may add that to his stable of instruments).

Finally, there's Ed. He sings, plays the guitar, violin, mandolin and dulcimer, and MCs events. He was a skilled tradesman for G.M., an engineering test

technician. He also taught music, but has retired from that as well. For fun, he volunteers for the National Weather Service, reporting precipitation levels. He is also a ham radio operator. Sandy said he never slows down.

And the music doesn't slow down much either. Playing an average of once a week since 2002, The Cousins music group performs selections of old country, gospel, swing, pop, polka, and waltzes.

Their stated purpose is to support their nation, keep it "under God," and help their counties, and states by performing for worthy causes.


"We have different backgrounds, but we're all Christians, we all believe in God, and have that underlying foundation," Clark said. "We are not doing this for reward here or in heaven, but because it's what we do - it's how God made us." He added, though, that he did have a sense of duty about playing music. He believes a musical ability is a gift from God, and that they need to be good stewards of the

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Also Sat & Sun at 2 & 4:15
V FOR VENDETTA - R
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MARCH 31-APRIL 6

WEEKLY Health Tips
By Steve Czerkes Pharmacist
Trouble Breathing? It might be your heart.
A study of almost 18,000 people taking standard stress tests discovered the participants with dyspnea (shortness of breath) but no other symptoms had double the risk of cardiac death than those with angina (chest pain). Angina has long been regarded as the primary symptom of cardiac trouble and patients are quick to mention it. However, study leader Dr. David Bernman says that with shortness of breath, "the patient often doesn't think of it as a symptom." The idea that dyspnea may be a better indicator of heart problems than angina means it's vitally important that patients mention it to their doctors.
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Move to ban smoking riles some

BY B. J. HETLER
Contributing Writer

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY - The county-wide smoking ban issue returned to the board of commissioners and once again a controversy erupted.

When the ordinance banning smoking in public and private buildings and businesses was presented to the boards of Antrim, Emmet and Otsego counties, it was benignly passed.

But in Charlevoix County, the resolution lit up a debate at the March 22 county commission meeting, when strong opinions were voiced until the matter was sent to the internal government committee for a review.

Resident Shirlene Tripp, who said she doesn't smoke, was concerned about too much government control.

"They'll say I can't drink, I can't smoke," Tripp said. "Now are they going to tell me I can't eat?"

Commissioner Ron Reinhardt, who represents Boyne City's third district, said he thinks there is too much government control and that people should be left alone.

The smoking ban resolution was created by the Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency and was first brought before the county commission late in 2005. At the time commissioners adopted it so that it could take effect

in the other three counties, with a clause exempting Charlevoix County from the ban.

But when 1st District Commissioner Connie Saltonstall of Charlevoix was elected in February, she resurrected the resolution to ban smoking. It was on the March 22 meeting's agenda and up for discussion when county prosecutor John Jarema advised commissioners that no action could be taken on the matter because proper procedure had not been followed. That is, the smoking ban must go through the appropriate committee for review before commissioners take any action.

Saltonstall explained that the resolution will not regulate hotels, restaurants or bars. Where smoking is prohibited, the resolution permits smoking in a designated area of the building provided that the area is ventilated and approved by the health department.

Outdoors, smokers must be a reasonable distance from entryways.

Residences are regulated only if a day care is in operation. "It's been scientifically proven that secondhand smoke is harmful," Saltonstall said. "The resolution means that someone who works with smokers has recourse."

The resolution will be addressed by the commissioners when it comes out of the internal government committee, probably in April.



Marcia Newkirk, right, president of Eta Nu Women's Club presents a check for the Boyne District Library to librarian Nannette Miller in the club's continuing support of the library.

Ellsworth seeks grant for park

BY STEVE KLOOSTERMAN
Editor

ELLSWORTH - The village of Ellsworth is pursuing a grant to build a park near the downtown area on the old industrial and abandoned railroad property they own on the south-east side of Ellsworth. The park would include a playground area, boat docks on Ellsworth lake, a nature trail, an archery range, boat docks, a fishing pier, a sledding hill, parking and a picnic shelter.

In 2004, the village submitted a grant application for the park that was rejected.

"There is a great demand for money," said John Rowe of U.P. Engineers and Architects, who is re-writing the grant application, "so competition for grants

is very great."

Although Ellsworth's Pavilion Park and Wooden Shoe Campground currently overlook Ellsworth Lake, neither one is easily accessible from the downtown, making park-users less likely to stroll into town for a meal or souvenirs.

In 2004, U.P. Engineers was responsible for developing the Chain of Lakes Downtown Economic Enhancement Study, a major study of policy for downtown business enhancement in the Bellaire, Central Lake, Ellsworth and East Jordan communities. The study listed one of Ellsworth's problems as that it didn't use its natural resources to the downtown as well as it should.

"Any time you can improve a community, it will

have an economic advantage," said Rowe.

The application will be submitted April 1 and will be returned to U.P. engineers in the fall with a preliminary scoring, so that the engineers can tweak the application for better scoring. The village of Ellsworth will know if their grant has been accepted in the spring of 2007.

The new grant will be a Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant, which is managed by the Department of Natural Resources. The village's choice of a grant will allow them to develop the grant application with special attention to the use of the site's waterfront.

"We want to exploit the natural resources that we have available down there with Ellsworth lake," said Rowe. "They're looking for

things that give better education and access to the natural resources."

Features at the park will include a non-motorized nature trail, an archery range with an elevated platform to simulated deer hunting from a tree stand, volleyball courts, public boat docks, a fishing pier, a parking lot and a picnic shelter. The boat launch and labyrinth currently on the site will remain intact.

"Where are we going to put the big dutch windmill for our heritage?" said Ellsworth resident Dave Heeres, among the laughter of other attendees.

"It's just something to think about," he said later.

Those with questions about the project may contact Ellsworth Village Clerk Hellen Allen at (231) 588-7411.

'Crazy Days' not too crazy

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY - Charlevoix County Sheriff George Lasater released the total law enforcement statistics from Boyne Mountain's annual "Crazy Days" celebration held over the St. Patrick's Day weekend.

Total statistics for the sheriff's office and the Michigan State Police for Friday, March 17, and Saturday, March 18, are as follows:

Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office arrests: 13
Charges:

- Operating while intoxicated: 5
- Minor in possession: 5
- Furnishing to minors: 1
- Delivery of a controlled substance: 1
- Possession of a controlled substance: 14
- Driving while suspended: 1

Michigan State Police Post #78 arrests: 9
Charges:

- Disorderly person: 1

- Operating while intoxicated: 9
- Transporting open intoxicants: 1
- Operating while intoxicated, second offence: 1

The Michigan State Police Post #78 made 138 traffic stops and had a large contingent of troopers assigned due to a grant from the Office of Highway Safety and Planning.

Both Sheriff Lasater and Lt. Aaron Sweeney complimented Boyne Mountain for their efforts to make this a safe weekend by cooperating with the sheriff's office and state police and adding safety proactive measures, such as providing a shuttle and taxi service for those without a designated driver.

Sheriff Lasater complimented Boyne Mountain security coordinator David Beyer for his efforts to make the carnival weekend a safe holiday.

Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement was present along with several undercover officers from both the state police and the sheriff's office.

Ecumenical Good Friday service changed

BOYNE CITY - The Boyne Christian Ministerial Association will be sponsoring the annual Good Friday service for the area churches, on April 14 at noon. This year will find the service at a new location, as the Bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord has called for a Roman Catholic only service to be held separately at St. Matthew.

Therefore, the Protestant churches of the area will be holding a brief 40-minute service at the United Methodist Church, located at 324 S. Park St. in

Boyne City. All are welcome to come and reflect on the great gift of the passion and crucifixion of Jesus Christ in a service of remembering, giving, and commitment.

The Good Friday Message will be given by Rev. Dave Crumbaugh, president of the Boyne Christian Ministerial Association.

There will be an offering received for the association's benevolence fund, administered by the deacons of the First Presbyterian Church in Boyne City, which helps those in need in the area.

Program will help find lost kids

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY - Sheriff Pete Wallin of Emmet County Sheriff's Office and George T. Lasater of Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office have initiated a new program in Emmet and Charlevoix counties. The sheriffs believe it will be a tremendous asset for law enforcement if a child is missing, or an Alzheimer patient has walked away from a care home or facility, and will also assist if a challenged

citizen is lost or missing.

The program is initiated when the missing person is reported to law enforcement. The respective agency contacts the "A Child Is Missing" number and submits specific information where the child was last seen. An "urgent message" is recorded, and computer-generated messages are immediately sent out to homes and/or businesses in that area - totalling 1,000 calls per minute. In addition,

the agency will fax a satellite mapping program of the search area to the reporting law enforcement agency.

Both Sheriff Wallin and Sheriff Lasater have expressed excitement about this program, and will be contacting the city police departments and Michigan State Police Post #78 to invite involvement. The Charlevoix County prosecuting attorney John Jarema and Emmet County

prosecuting attorney James Linderman are both enthusiastic about this additional tool to locate missing persons in Charlevoix and Emmet counties.

Sheriff Wallin and Sheriff Lasater advise the program is free to law enforcement and will greatly add to their abilities to locate missing citizens.

Statistically, every 40 seconds a child is reported missing in the United States.

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OPINION

A welcoming society

Note: Gosh, this is a little embarrassing, but I'm back, without so much as a week's reprieve for those of you who were looking forward to a change. I love writing "Last Call," and incoming editor Steve Kloosterman has asked me to continue. This will perhaps not be a weekly column, but it will be an occasional and maybe even frequent one - Steve's discretion. In any case, I am grateful to be able to do it. So, back to business:

LAST CALL



Jane Booze

I think polls are untrustworthy, as they are susceptible to interpretation that may or may not reflect the actual opinions of those polled. Still, there really is one good poll that I can think of, and it is elections. Election results are accurate poll results.

I would be interested in how people would vote on the issue of border security.

Last Saturday the news showed crowds of tens of thousands in Arizona and southern California, protesting in the streets against H.R. 4437. This legislation would, according to the website washingtonwatch.com, "extend and expand a system to verify the eligibility of certain people for employment in the United States ... increase the number of border inspection personnel, deploy radiation portal monitors at all points of entry ... establish mandatory minimum sentences for a number of offences related to illegal entry into the United States ..." According to CNN.com, another part of the bill makes "entering the country illegally a felony and (calls) for construction of 700 miles of security fence along the U.S. - Mexico border." It also will require employers to verify employment eligibility before making a hire. It will, if passed, increase penalties to those who assist illegal immigrants.

I followed a thread of comments on the issue on washingtonwatch.com and found that most of the people who posted comments were opposed to the legislation. Many of those in opposition identified themselves as illegal immigrants, and also hard-working, law-abiding, and educated. Many of the comments were in Spanish, and many (of the ones I could read) promised that the Hispanic population will rise up and overthrow the government of the United States, should it have the audacity to pass this legislation.

Their cause has been enjoined by Senator Hillary Clinton, who said, "This bill would literally criminalize the Good Samaritan and probably even Jesus himself."

It seems obvious to me that if you are an illegal immigrant, you are not a law-abiding citizen (neither law-abiding nor a citizen) - it's pretty simple. Is anybody going to argue that?

That our borders need protecting is not a matter of racism or nationalism - it's a matter of common sense. This is true of our northern border as well, but thank goodness Canada's government is such that people are not trying to escape it by the millions, so it is considerably easier to monitor.

The president said in a radio address, "America is a nation of immigrants, but we're also a nation of laws."

He requested civility in this emotional debate and said, "America does not have to choose between being a welcoming society and being a lawful society."

I watched the thousands that blocked the streets in what was a peaceful protest. I saw a sea of Hispanic faces, and many, many signs - presumably of protest - written in Spanish. How many of those protesters were themselves illegal immigrants? And if they are, what legitimate right of protest do they have?

My ancestors - and virtually all of our ancestors - were immigrants. Immigrants have always been the backbone of our society. But there is a fair and legal avenue for immigrants to take, and that is through citizenship. The United States is generous in its policies toward immigrants - but can't afford to turn a blind eye to those who would ignore the laws of this land.

And if a government should be overthrown in order to better provide for its citizenry, shouldn't that government be the one millions are escaping? Instead of coming to the U.S. and breaking our laws and then threatening to overthrow the government that makes this country a land of milk and honey, why not stay in Mexico and Central America, and make the changes there that are so obviously necessary?

I don't know what Jesus would do about illegal immigrants. I agree with Hillary that he advocated feeding the hungry and clothing the poor, and certainly helping our neighbors. And our government, and we as individuals, do these things.

But Jesus also advocated "rendering unto Caesar" and obeying the law. I think that's all this legislation is asking.



LETTERS

Million dollar giveaway being held locally

TO THE EDITOR:

Won't you help us fight hunger? The Crossroads Resale Shop has joined MANNA (a food warehouse) for the purpose of purchasing food for our local Care & Share pantry - and you can help through participating in a canned food drive during the months of March and April.

Have you heard of the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation? MANNA brought awareness of this foundation to us and we are ready to meet the challenge. For each dollar or food product you donate, the foundation will provide matching funds (up to a certain amount) ... it's a \$1 million giveaway!

The total million will be spread throughout the U.S.A. Crossroads will be receiving a cash donation according to the amount we raise, all going to help Care & Share succeed with helping the less fortunate in our community.

Your donation in this campaign makes you a partner in what has become the most successful grassroots campaign of all times to fight hunger.

Donation boxes are provided at the following locations: Care & Share, or Crossroads Resale Shop.

For further information contact me at 231-544-6988.

Jean Pardee
East Jordan

Thank you for condolences and support

TO THE EDITOR:

The Larry G. Davis family would like to thank all those who expressed their condolences through cards, food, flowers, and contributions to the Larry G. Davis Scholarship Fund. The outpour-

ing of love and support has been overwhelming as we remembered and celebrated the life of Larry G. Davis.

Margaret Davis
Rudyard

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

TO THE EDITOR:

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and the Women's Resource Center of northern Michigan is dedicated to increasing awareness about this important issue. Sexual assault is something we hear in the news that happens to "other people." Contrary to that belief, sexual assault happens everywhere, including Northern Michigan. Increasing awareness is the first step in creating social change.

Statistics show:

- About 44 percent of survivors are under the age of 18, and 80-percent are under the age of 30. (*Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women, 1998*)

- 67 percent of sexual assaults are committed by someone the survivor knows. (*National Crime Victimization Survey, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2004*)

- 1 in 6 women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape. (*NCVS, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2004*)

- 10 percent of sexual assault survivors are men. (*Men Can Stop Rape, 2005*)

- Only 42 percent of sexual assaults have been reported to police over the last five years. (*NCVS Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2004*)

Since 1994, sexual assaults have fallen by over 64 percent. (*NCVS Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2004*)

It is clear that sexual assault is everyone's problem. However there is something we can do as a community. We need to respond to this issue, not just acknowledge the problem. Every time a man's voice joins those of women in speaking out against rape, the world becomes safer for all of us. We can increase awareness by abolishing myths that place blame on the survivor, rid our society of gender role stereotypes and speak up when sexist remarks are made. We also need to encourage parents to have open communication with their children.

The Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan is a community-supported, non-profit agency serving residents throughout Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet and Otsego counties. The Women's Resource Center provides speakers on sexual assault for school and community groups. To learn more about sexual assault or to schedule a program for your school or organization, please call (231)347-1572. The 24-hour crisis and information line is 800-275-1995.

Sara LeBow
Domestic and Sexual Abuse Program
Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan

WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The best read letters are brief
and on a topic of local interest.
Our deadline is Thursday at 5 p.m.
Letters will be printed on a
space-available basis. Comments can be
sent to editor@voyager.net.

NEIGHBORS

• A grandmother's appreciation came in from Elnora Maule. Many heartfelt expressions of gratitude she wishes

to express to all who upheld her grandson, Aaron, and parents, Kay and Dean Lamboss, in prayer after his car accident this past week.



Nancy Northup

In his early 20s, Aaron never regained consciousness after a speeding driver crashed into him. Elnora, her daughters, Dolores, Monieca Hull, and daughter Betty, and Elnora's sister Margaret Farmer, drove to Penn. to attend his funeral on Monday at a Greek Orthodox Church. The family is comforted, knowing Aaron loved the Lord.

• Three of the "Toton" sisters, Tina of Grand Rapids, Barb, and Toni - both of Virginia Beach, Va., were here this weekend especially to join Rich and Linda Mansfield in seeing their daughter and niece, Lindsey Mansfield, perform in the Boyne City High School drama's spring play, "Hello, Dolly." Everyone was very impressed with the acting, the music, and the fantastic costumes!

• A correction is needed for last week's item about Clarence Miller's 80th birthday celebration. It was the Nord Schroeder family who did a wonderful job of catering a delicious meal that all enjoyed!

• A round of applause went out to the great gals of Boyne's Eta Nu Sorority on Monday night from the delighted Litzenburger Place residents. All attending had a really fun time at a "spring fling" cook-out with grilled burgers, hot dogs, chips and potato salad. Like a real picnic, it was - red and white checkered table cloths, the whole nine yards of condiments, right down to the thirst-quenching lemonade, brownies and peanut cookies, and "butterflies and ladybugs!" A great evening was wrapped up with winners of a variety of "Who has?" questions, receiving table centerpieces of beautiful yellow daffodils.

• A good turnout it was at the United Methodist Church on Sunday. The singing and attractive and well-known evangelist, Gloria Lynn, and her strong faith touched many as she shared her life.

• Bruce and Nancy Lawson returned this past Wednesday from Virginia, where they enjoyed visiting their daughter, Trenna and Ryan Nees, and son Lucas and new grandson, Eli.

• A request for a flash of the past surprised and delighted Virginia Hegerberg on a beautiful Sunday last weekend. She received a call from 12-year-old Dylan in Detroit, a nephew of her grandson, Arnie Schmidt. Interestingly working on a school project, he interviewed her on the Depression Era.

• The Crooked River Gospel group entertained residents of Litzenburger Place on Saturday night with their beautiful musical talents and testimony. A really nice buffet and visiting during intermissions of the 7 - 9 p.m. evening was enjoyed and appreciated.

• Rebecca Shaler Kahly was honored with a baby shower on Saturday. Held at the Shaler home in Advance, the afternoon party was hosted by her mother, Connie, and sister, Michelle Seelye, with 45 enjoying the giving of gifts, wonderful food and visiting. Rebecca and her husband, Ryland Kahly of Holland, are expecting their first child in May.

• Join your friends at the Boyne Area Senior Center this week for lunch - served daily at noon. On the menu for Thursday, March 30, is a turkey fritter and parsley potatoes. Tai Chi classes are held after lunch Thursday, March 31, Friday, is veggie lasagna. Monday, April 3, the menu includes Chop Suey, Brussel spouts, beets, and melon balls. Monday is Bingo day following lunch. The planned lunch for Tuesday, April 4, has been changed on the menu - liver and onions will not be served. It will be Cook's Choice on Wednesday, April 5, with Bingo to follow lunch. Come early or stay late to join your friends for a card game.

Items of interest may be called in to Nancy's home at 231-582-9174, or E-mailed to neighbors@tlakes.com. Thanks!



Publisher/General Manager Dennis Mansfield
Interim Editor..... Steve Kloosterman
Advertising Consultant Jane Norton
Office Manager..... Jeannine Stetz
Contributors Jane Booze
Nancy Northup
B.J. Heder
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STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Boyne Falls Public School

NAME: Elizabeth Dibble
PARENTS: Beth Ann and Duane Herriman
GRADE: 5th
FAVORITE CLASS: Math
HOBBIES AND INTERESTS: Play on the computer
FAVORITE SPORT: Volleyball
FAVORITE COLOR: Pink
FAVORITE FOOD: Macaroni and cheese
FAVORITE BOOK: The Chronicles of Narnia
FAVORITE MOVIE: The Challenge
FAVORITE TV SHOW: The Suite Life of Zack and Cody
STAFF COMMENTS: "I would like to nominate Elizabeth Dibble as student of the week. Elizabeth strives for academic excellence by having her assignments neatly completed and on time. She shows kindness, is dependable, and is well liked among staff and her peers. She always has a smile on her face and is a pleasure to have as a student at Boyne Falls School." - Diana Knapp



James Grippando
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Davenport University and major in business administration
STAFF NOMINATION FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION - FAIRNESS: Beth exemplifies all of the character traits that we teach, but especially "Fairness." She puts herself into whatever she does and always with fairness. She displays this trait in class, in games, and in her life.
CONCORD CARES: Beth is the president of the National Honor Society and has helped with an area blood drive, raised money for cystic fibrosis and packed boxes for the community Christmas Baskets.

STAFF COMMENTS: "Alan works very hard in class and has made every effort to do well! His effort shows in the high quality work that he hands in. What a nice student and hard worker!"
 "Alan has been working hard all year in math. He is one of the top students in his class and sets the standard for others to follow. Great job Alan, keep up the good work!"
 "Alan has been one of the most improved science students in sixth grade this year! He has gone from D's to A's and continues to improve and work so hard... keep it up Alan!"



East Jordan High School

NAME: Misty Thompson
PARENTS: Debra Kinner and Kevin Kinner
GRADE: 11th
FAVORITE CLASS: Geometry
STAFF COMMENTS: "Misty Thompson is a thoughtful young lady who takes academics seriously." Mrs. Cardwell
 "Misty is a very hard-working student. She always puts her best effort into every assignment she does. She has been working to improve her test scores and has been successful. I really enjoy having Misty in class." - Mrs. Russell
 "Misty has a creative eye and is a student that applies herself to her best ability in photography. She represents herself well in class." - Mr. Podskalny
 "Misty is a polite young lady. I've enjoyed getting to know her in our EDP class." - Mrs. McPherson



Boyne City High School

NAME: Tyler Clute
PARENTS: Art Clute and Teresa Carlson
GRADE: 9th
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: I'm not currently involved in any school sports but I plan to play golf or tennis next year.
HOBBIES AND INTERESTS: I like to play paintball, golf, tennis, archery and reading.
FUTURE PLANS: I plan to go to college and then work in some field involving nature or animals.
STAFF COMMENTS: "I enjoy having Tyler in physical, earth and space science. He is doing great as his assignments are of the highest quality. Tyler is self-motivated, self-directed, and works cooperatively with all his peers. Tyler has a strong work ethic and I believe he is an exceptional student—very deserving of this accomplishment. He exemplifies what a "student of the week" should be. Congratulations Tyler - you have been a pleasure to have in class." - Mrs. Hemming, science teacher



Concord Academy Boyne

NAME: Beth Kosc
PARENTS: Sam and Linda Kosc of Boyne Falls
GRADE: 12th
FAVORITE ACTIVITIES: Snocross racing, collecting autographs, reading, hanging out with friends
FAVORITE FOOD: Mom's mashed potatoes and cream cheese cupcakes
FAVORITE CLASSES: English, advanced dance, and watercolors
FAVORITE BOOK: "Got the Look" by



East Jordan Middle School

NAME: Alan Andress
PARENTS: Robert and Kelly Andress
GRADE: 6th

STUDENT NEWS

Warnos to present engineering project

KALAMAZOO - Simon "Peter" Warnos, 2002 graduate of East Jordan High School, will present a project at the 38th conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects at Western Michigan University on Tuesday, April 18.
 A design of chassis and suspension for a formula SALE race car, a proposed department store development, a search and rescue first aid kit, and an aquatic fitness pool design are among the projects that will be presented at the 38th conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects at Western Michigan University.
 The conference, which runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., will be held at the Parkview Campus. It is open to the public, free of charge, and is sponsored by WMU's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.
 Two hundred and seventeen seniors in construction engineering, computer science, electrical and computer engineering, industrial design, industrial and manufacturing engineering, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, and paper and chemical engineering will present the results of 82 projects they have completed to solve problems facing business and industry.
 More information is available at www.wmich.edu/engineer/senior-design-conf.php or from Cathleen Smith at 269-276-3244.

'Read Across America' day planned

BOYNE CITY - Students at Boyne City Elementary participated in the "Read Across America" day by reading for 15 minutes when they heard "Stop, drop, and read!" over the PA system. Brenton Fitzpatrick dressed up as the Cat in the Hat and read with different students. Alan Brooks, Lacey Kotalik, and Alexandra Johnson have stopped, dropped and are doing some serious reading.

Raven Hill open for spring break

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY - Treat yourself and your family to an afternoon of fun and exploration at Raven Hill Discovery Center this spring break. Located between East Jordan & Boyne City, just off C-48 at Pearsall Road, the center helps visitors build connections between science, history and the arts in an interactive learning environment. In addition to the hands-on museum and exotic animals, visitors can spend time in the one-room schoolhouse, explore the Time Tunnel, see the geologic history of the earth on the Exploring Beyond Jurassic Park outdoor exhibit, and take a peek at the center's "in-progress" outdoor exhibit. The Ancient World. Raven Hill will be open every day from noon to 4 p.m. from Saturday, March 25, through Monday, April 10.
 Raven Hill Discovery Center is a regional science and technology center. It is located on 157 acres in a rural area of northwestern lower Michigan next to the Little Traverse Conservancy's Raven Ridge Nature Preserve. It is also a cultural, historical and art center. For more information, phone (231) 536-3369 or toll-free 877-833-4254.

DEATH NOTICE

Ina Mae Falco

Ina Mae Falco, 92, died Saturday, March 18, 2006 at her home in Jordan Township, Antrim County. No services are scheduled at this time. The family was served by the Penzien Funeral Homes, Inc. in East Jordan.

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SPORTS & OUTDOORS

Ramblers, Red Devil hoopsters garner all-conference honors

BY PHIL TROMBLEY
Sports Writer

BOYNE CITY — Five area hoopsters have earned spots on the 2006 Lake Michigan Conference All-Conference boys basketball team.

Local athletes receiving recognition include seniors Tyler Kruzel and Grant Ameal, and junior Taylor Voice of Boyne City. East Jordan senior Chad Kraemer and junior Jeff Keyser also received recognition.

For the Ramblers, Kruzel (who averaged 15.9 points per game, eight rebounds and who hit for over 20 points in half of the league games) and Ameal

(13.4 points per game, 3.8 rebounds, 2.8 assists and scored in double-figures in 15 straight games) were named to the all-conference team.

Voice had 10.5 season points, 3.7 rebounds and 2.6 assists per game, and was given all-conference honorable mention.

For the Red Devils, Kraemer tossed in an average 11 points and grabbed nine rebounds per game and was named to the all-conference team, while Keyser averaged 13 points and three assists per game and shot 78 percent from the free throw line. He earned honorable mention recognition.

Northstars capture St. Patrick's hockey tourney

BY PHIL TROMBLEY
Sports Writer

LANSING — Goalkeeper Nick Ferree surrendered just six goals in four games over the weekend of March 17-19 to lead the Boyne Area Hockey Association Northstar Group midget hockey team to a first-place finish at the St. Pat's Tournament at the Summit in Lansing.

Russell Williams and Ryan Paridee powered the offensive attack in Sunday's final game with two goals each, as the Northstars defeated Big Rapids, 7-5, to capture the championship trophy.

Matt Mills, Nick Dunwoody and Evan Keller accounted for three more scores, while assists went to Britt King, Will Brown and John Miller.

Team captain Paridee was awarded the championship game MVP award in his final game as a USA Youth Hockey player.

The Northstars closed out a successful season with a 33-22-2 overall record, an 8-3-1 record in league play and a semi-final appearance at the dis-

trict tournament.

The Northstars opened play on Friday with a 4-0 victory over Big Rapids, as Williams tallied two goals, Paridee scored one goal and Brown added one to spearhead the shutout. Assists went to Dunwoody, Paridee, Brown and Miller.

A team from Bellbrook, Ohio, was the victim in the second game when the Northstars posted a dominating 9-1 victory on Saturday.

The balanced scoring was led by goals from Justin Stolt (2), Dunwoody (2), Williams (1), Chad Newson (1), Miller (1), Paridee (1) and Keenan David (1).

Dunwoody and Keller gathered three assists each while Miller had two, and King, Brown, Stolt, David and Williams chipped in with one each.

Saturday's second game saw the Northstars down Chelsea, 5-0.

Dunwoody and Miller scored two goals each and Williams added one, with the assists going to Brown with 2 and Scott Sulliff, Josh Awon, Stolt and Duane Augler with one each.

4-H wrestlers fare well at Kalkaska tournament

BY PHIL TROMBLEY
Sports Writer

BOYNE CITY — The Boyne City 4-H wrestling club earned five gold medals when the team traveled to Kalkaska for a tournament on Saturday, March 18.

First-place finishers included Dalton Gardner, Drew Nohel, Zach Wandrie, Asa Blatt and Joe Calo.

Second-place finishers were Steven Schmalzried, Carter

Wilmot, Jordan Wilmot, Trent Lashuay, Trey Peterson, Dylan Colbeck, Wyatt Crick, Christian Kniat, Conner Mills, Seth Lashuay, Austin Gardner and Tommy Anderson.

In third place were Collin Sudderth, Christian Edmonds, Jordan Peterson, Noah Baccus, Austin Colbeck and Jordan Harasewicz.

And the fourth-place finishers were Kaycie Ocermeyer and Trevor Price.

Fun in the sun with The Boyne City Yacht Club

BOYNE CITY — As spring approaches explore the opportunity available to all local and non-local individuals as Boyne City Yacht Club members. The BCYC focuses its attention on sailing, power boating, and enjoyment of fellow water loving enthusiasts. Historically, the Boyne City Yacht Club has been involved with Boyne Thunder to benefit kids with cancer. Members enjoy close to twenty events to sail, motor or just show up to fellowship and enjoy the wonderful sports and shores of our beautiful lakes Charlevoix and Michigan. Membership in the BCYC is varied with more than

350 family/individual members with an interesting twist; not all members own boats. As many members belong to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow water lovers. Oftentimes, non boat owners are recruited to help another boat owner crew their vessel.

The Boyne City Yacht Club is fun, dedicated, and a welcoming group. For membership information, access the BCYC website at boynecityyachtclub.com. See you on the warm seas with engines revved and sails unfurled.

For information, call Bill Kibbey of the Boyne City Yacht Club 231-582-5673.

LOGGERS PLACE TWO ON ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

BY PHIL TROMBLEY
Sports Writer

ELLSWORTH — Four players from the league champion Boyne Falls boys varsity basketball team have been named to the 2006 Northern Lakes All-Conference team.

Seniors Jim Gross and Trevor Matelski were selected to the all-conference team, while seniors Shaw Kilmer and Ben Kondrat were named all-conference honorable mention.

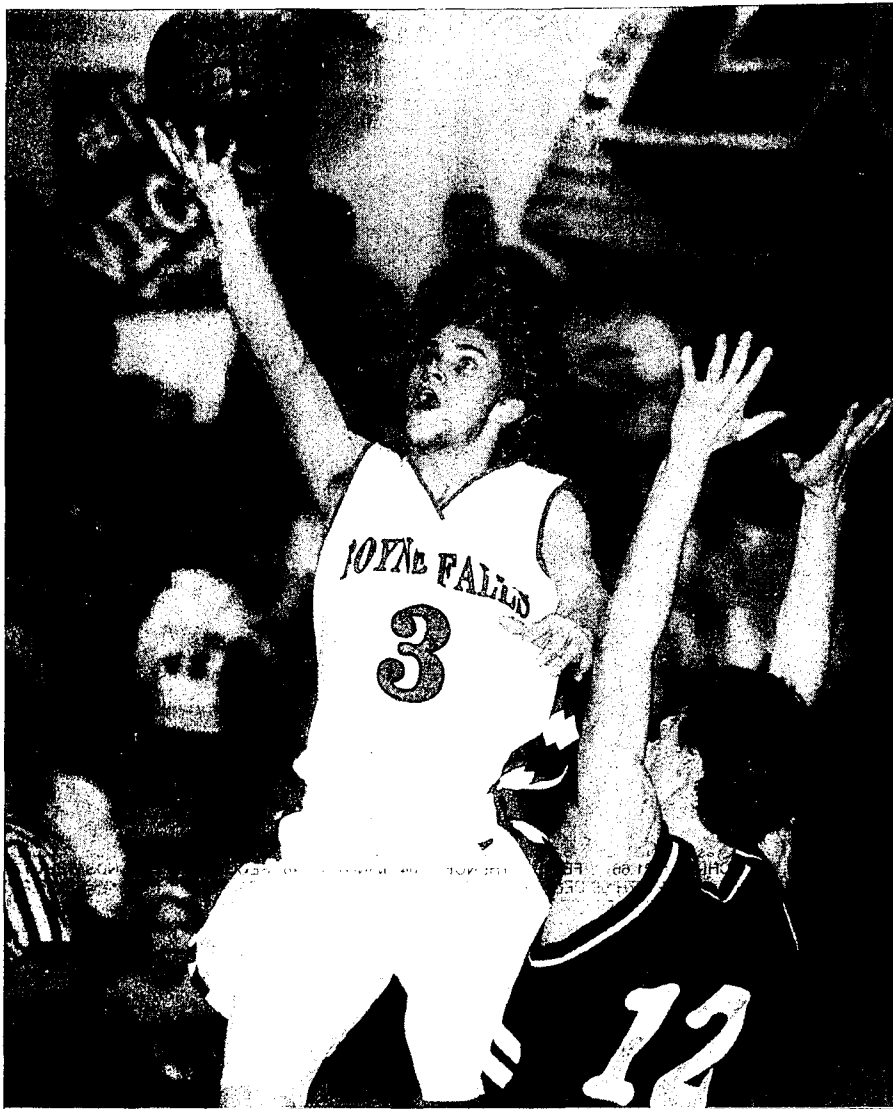
Gross averaged 20.2 points per game in conference play and 17.7 points per game overall, while also grabbing 4.1 steals and 2.7 rebounds and dishing out 3 assists per game.

Matelski tossed in 13.1 ppg overall (14.6 ppg conference) and averaged 6.0 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 1.5 steals.

Kilmer had 9.8 ppg (9.0 ppg conference) and 4.7 rebounds, while Kondrat added 5.8 ppg (6.4 ppg conference), 3.4 rebounds, 3.0 steals and 3.6 assists.

Senior Jim Gross scoops a lay-up under and around the hoop for a basket earlier this season. Gross, who averaged over 20 points a game in conference play, was selected to the all-conference team this season, along with Trevor Matelski, also a senior.

FILE PHOTO BY VIC RUGGLES



STRAITS STRIDERS CAPTURE MICHIGAN CUP



The Straits Striders, a team of Northern Michigan cross-country skiers, celebrate Saturday, March 18, after capturing the state cup.

BY PHIL TROMBLEY
Sports Writer

ROSCOMMON — The Straits Striders cross country ski team of Northern Michigan won the coveted Michigan Cup on Saturday, March 18, at the Roscommon Cross Country Ski Headquarter's course.

The Michigan Cup is presented to the team with the most points from participating in the Michigan Cup series of races. The races be-

gin in early January and run through mid-March. There are 15 events in all, including the most notable, Whitepine Stampede, VASA and the Black Mountain Classic.

The Straits Striders are composed of skiers of all ages and gender from Alpena, Boyne City, Brutus, Cheboygan, Charlevoix, Harbor Springs, Indian River, Pellston, Petoskey and St. Joseph Island, Ont. The Striders ousted the teams from Ann Arbor, Roscommon, Grayling, Grand

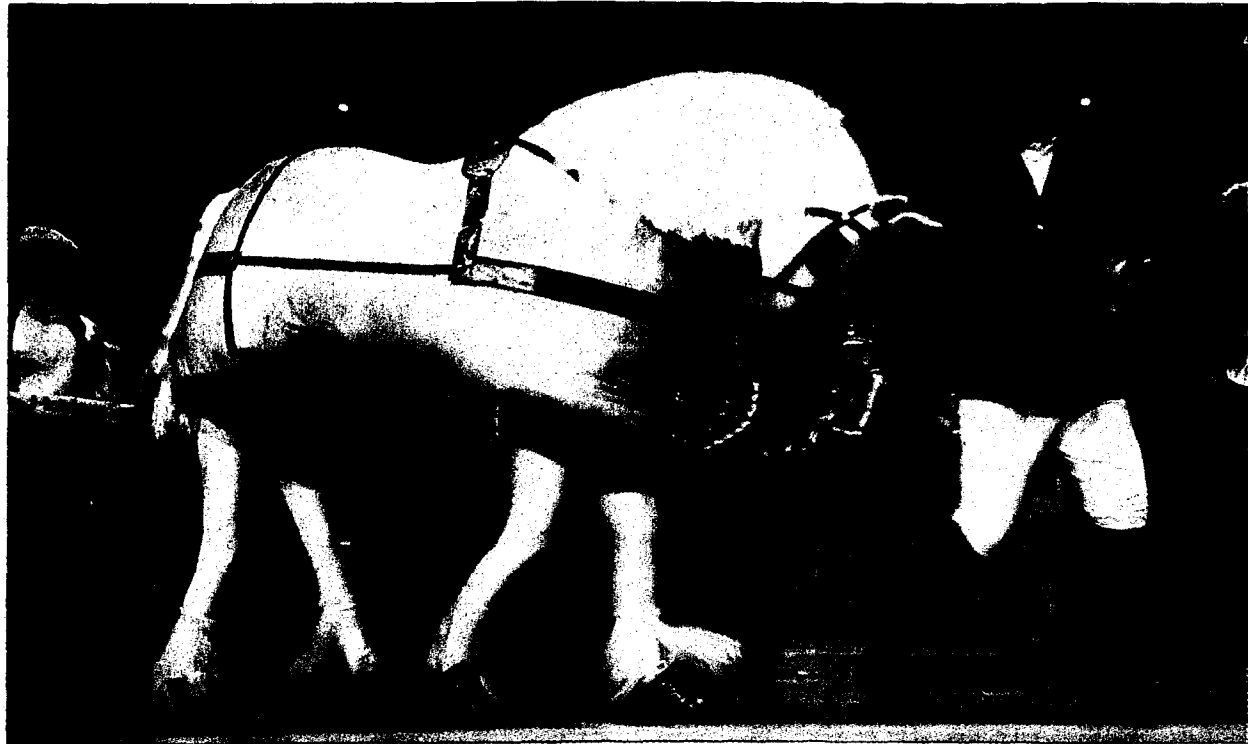
Rapids, Traverse City and Ohio.

The Striders were helped by strong performances by team members, including: Daniela Gebhart, 2006 Michigan Cup Women's overall champion from Richard's Landing, Ont.; Tracy Hardin, third place overall women's points from Cheboygan; Denny Paull, fifth place overall men's points from Cheboygan; and Chris Weingartz, ninth place overall men's points from Petoskey.

Also, local skiers Jon Foltz, Susan

Martin, Jean and Steve VanDam, Steve Weber and Hap Wright contributed greatly to the cause.

The final team standings had the Straits Striders in first (27,923 points) followed by XC Ski Headquarter (second; 27,594 points), NordicSki Racer.com (third; 25,135 points), Grand Rapids Nordic (fourth; 20,419 points), Traverse City Nordic (fifth; 17,533 points), XC Ski Shop Grayling (sixth; 16,348 points) and Ohio Nordic (seventh; 4,440 points).



The horse (Adora Moyer, Jacqueline Labute) was just one of many easily-overlooked performances that combined to make "Hello, Dolly!" a resounding comic success.

Hello, Dolly; Hello, DRAMA

BY STEVE KLOOSTERMAN
Editor

BOYNE CITY - The performing artists at the Boyne City drama department closed out their performance of "Hello, Dolly!" last Saturday night with a practiced poise that would have done most college thespians credit.

Their performance is even more of an accomplishment, considering that four roles — if one includes "the horse" as a role — had to be completely re-cast after the program flier had already been sent to print.

"Hello, Dolly!" is a comical look at matchmaking, love at first sight, and the awkwardness of pursuing second marriages. And although the musical has its more serious moments, it is on the whole a crowd-pleasing comedy—a fact that the

cast played to the hilt, generating a laugh at every turn of the plot.

Sarah Lounsbury took in hand the lead role of card-carrying socialite, match-maker, practicing attorney, and general Jacqueline-of-all-trades Dolly Levi very well with a sympathetic performance that was comical without being unkind to the character. Despite having the difficult task of playing an old curmudgeon as a teenager, Trent Pallagi made the role of "half-a-millionaire" scrooge Horace Van Gelder believable. Serious and gruff to the end, Pallagi didn't once break character, and sang all of his pieces in a consistently-gravelly old-man voice.

Jake Shotrosky and Brenton Fitzpatrick, as shop-clerks on the town Cornelius Hackl and Barnaby Tucker, respectively, made a hilarious co-



Dolly (Sarah Lounsbury) sings while Ambrose (Chase Pallagi) looks on during last Saturday's performance of "Hello, Dolly!"

medic duo sometimes reminiscent of Sesame Street's Bert and Ernie, respectively. Taylor Swaim and Zachera Wollenberg, as Irene Malloy and Minnie Fay respectively, made a terrific pair of nervous, flirtatious hat-makers. Swaim's rendition of "Ribbons down my back" was beautiful, and Wollenberg's animated facial expressions

alone had the audience laughing loud and often. Chase Petrolje, as starving artist Ambrose Kemper, was, in following with his character's abilities, light on his feet in the dance routines and Stevee Carlston, as Kemper's love interest Ermengarde, had the audience in stitches with her emotional outbursts. Add to these a group of smir-

ing, joking, dancing waiters and gossiping domestic townfolk, and you have a recipe for stage success.

At the end of the program, the students followed the drama department tradition of presenting their supervisors and adult volunteers with miniature Oscar trophies and plaques after the curtain call of the last performance.

PHOTOS BY VIC RUGGLES

Take a bow, Music Man

BY JANE BOOZE
Contributing Writer

EAST JORDAN - It was a full house for last Friday's performance of "The Music Man," and the start of the show was delayed ten minutes to accommodate last minute ticket sales. Two hundred seats were sold the night of the show. A second sell-out show occurred the next night.

From the suited and bowler-hatted traveling salesman jouncing along on a train discussing the finer points of salesmanship, to the rag-tag boys' band who "thinks" it can play a Minuet in G (and their mothers concur) the audience is captivated.

The story itself, some will remember from the movie, is somewhat slow-paced, in spite of rapid-fire and witty dialogue. By intermission, Harold Hill, a hustler/hero hybrid convincingly played by John Renkiewicz, has made no progress with his boys' band - and almost none with the lovely but stern librarian, Marian - Danielle Rathbun.

If Marian's coolness toward Hill is warming by Act II, it is best evidenced by her out-of-character flirtation with the antagonist salesman, Charlie Cowell (Cory Walter). Cowell is a cad, whose preoccupation with Marian's physical as-

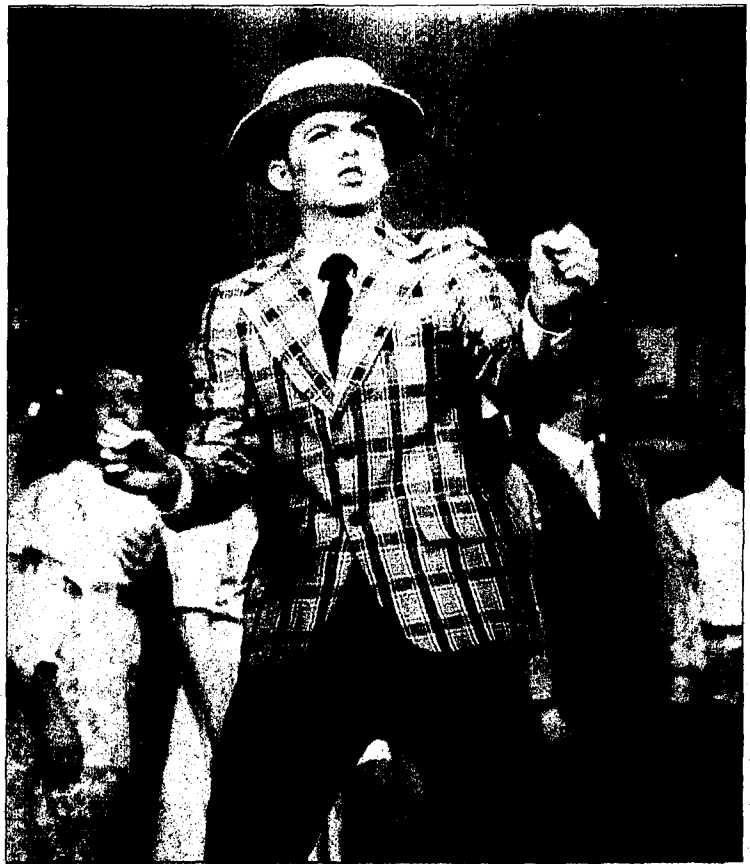
sets causes him to miss his train (thereby protecting Hill) - as she uses her feminine charms in the most determined and self-sacrificial way.

There was a lot of audience interaction, as the crowd was transformed into River citizens, standing in response to the Fourth of July celebration, and leaping to its feet again in the end in support of Professor Hill.

The leads are remarkable, but no more so than the chorus roles, who - even when the leads are carrying the scene - contribute with pig-tailed girls jumping rope across the background of the stage, or men gathering around the billiard hall's first ever pool table ("Before this it was only billiards!").

No one strays from character, and the cast urgently solicits the crowd in its search for the missing Professor Hill, and Marian's little brother, Winthrop Paroo (played by Josh Rathbun). Both Marian and Mrs. Paroo - the indefatigable Courtney Jackson - looked truly worried as they scanned the crowd for Winthrop, while around them the rest of the cast was on a search and destroy mission for the hapless Hill.

It is said never to act with children or animals



John Renkiewicz starred in the lead role of the infamous, smooth-talking Professor Harold Hill, aka "The Music Man."

PHOTO BY VIC RUGGLES


and Josh Rathbun proved the adage with a show stealing "Gary, Indiana," sung with barely an "s" and danced with childlike aplomb.

Paula Vollbach, the EJ Thespian's director - with a crew of volunteers all deserving of praise - did it

again. Fifteen years after she arrived in East Jordan, Vollbach has retained much of the original cast of costumers, hair stylists, make-up artists, set constructors, etc.

By now, EJ Thespian's have created a fan base that stretches across from sea to

shining sea: the scattered theater alumni from the last 15 years. But most of the fans are local, including parents who - even with their own shining stars long graduated - wouldn't miss an East Jordan spring musical on a dare.



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Tai Chi Cost \$80/eight weeks, drop-in \$12

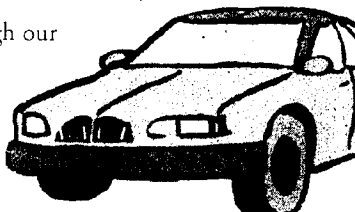
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