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# Paradise Eagle



Issue #2

February 2010

Paradise Eagle is a  
monthly newsletter



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## Still Searching: Chris Hallaxs by Rob Koleski

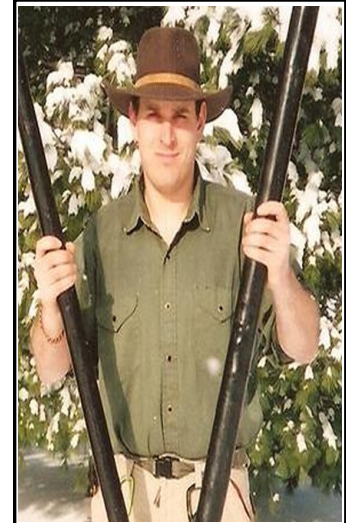
On March 17<sup>th</sup> 2004 Chris Hallaxs entered the BP gas station and purchased a few items and exchanged small talk with clerk. He told the clerk that he was headed out to his camp. Chris headed north through town. Shirl from the Berry Patch Restaurant seen Chris walk by. Shirl was drinking coffee when she seen Chris in his usual hiking attire and carrying his walking stick. She remarked to those around her "There goes Chris!" as she always did when Chris would pass. Sadly Chris Hallaxs has not been seen since.

As we come to the anniversary date of Chris gone missing I wanted to find out a little bit more about Chris. I was fortunate to be able to have some questions answered by

Chris's family. I have put this section in as a question and answer:

*What kind of child was Chris like: His likes dislikes, hobbies, and his love for the outdoors?*

As a child, Chris was a very avid reader. His interests varied widely; he would be reading Edgar Allen Poe, science fiction novels and anything else that interested him all at the same time. He continued reading whether it be from books or on the computer. From a very early age, Chris loved being outside and studying weather, bugs, animals and observing everything around him. He never watched much TV or movies. Hobbies included reading, observing nature and at one time he enjoyed



model rockets and then later he spent a lot of time learning about computers, programming, computer viruses, etc.

*How did Chris start hiking? Did he take classes or just learned on his own?*  
(Cont on page #4)

## What's Happening at Whitefish Township Schools, Patrick Rowley

### Superintendent's Journal

Students at Whitefish Township Community School have some unique learning opportunities. Just a few moments ago elementary students welcomed the Michcanska snowmobile group to our area. These snowmobilers are riding

from Sault Ste. Marie to Tok, Alaska raising funds and awareness for diabetes research.

Students in grades 7-8 are working on a service-learning project that enwraps local history for Crisp Point Lighthouse Association. They are reviewing old

photographs and historical data in efforts to make presentation boards for their new informational building located at Crisp Point.

High School science students continue to monitor and assess the Salmon in the Classroom project.  
(Con't Page 4)



### Weather: Nate Beelen!

When it comes to the past months historic weather you can blame it all on the Jets. Now for football fans you may wonder what loosing the Super bowl has to do with the weather, the answer to that is simple, nothing. The jets I am referring to is the Jet stream, that current of West to East flowing air high up in the atmosphere. Last month I discussed the

unusual events that caused the jet stream to develop a low dip bringing sub-freezing temperatures to Florida while at the same time bringing record high temperatures to us here in Michigan. The conditions which set up this dramatic dip have subsided and the jet stream has returned to a flatter west to east flow, unfortunately, due to several

factors including excessively warm equatorial ocean temperatures, an record amounts of snow cover across the United States the jet stream has been pushed much further south than usual.  
  
How do warm ocean temperatures and snow cover affect the position of the jet stream The answer to that is not . *Con't page #5*

**Next Issue!**  
**Author Jan Huttenstine. Also Surprise Interview with a Paradise Resident**

### Church News: Pastor Sandra J. Kolder (Paradise Methodist)




The season of Lent which began February 17th with ash Wednesday, calls us to move out and find new possibilities.

Do we sincerely

want this Lenten season to be a time of change for us? Change is risky, particularly when we may not be sure just where we are and who we are right now. Some people evaluate their lives by adding up the positives and negatives hoping that good outweighs the bad. Is life really that mechanical, that impersonal? But what are some alternatives?

A possible answer comes in trying to see our life picture as a whole. Perhaps the best model is a mosaic, each part of life a tile in it's own place. The tiles reveal both how we have acted and the kind of person we have been at various times. A full, beautiful life includes dark colors along with brighter ones. Life needs color and balance. (con't on page #6)

**COMING**  
**HOBBY NIGHT**  
  
**COOKING CLASS**  
**Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup>.**  
**6:00-8:00**  
**See Page #6!**

### Library News by Cindy Bulmer!!

Kringles are a wonderful delicate pastry from Scandinavian which are made with a thin pastry crust and filled with fruit. We have a baker in Paradise who made them for a restaurant he once owned and now he's willing to show us how it's done. Bob Stehouwer will be conducting a class at the library on hobby night. Everyone will have some dough start

to start with and go home with a kringle ready to bake. He will also be sharing a wonderful apple jack pork recipe he created. You'll be getting the recipe for that, too. Please sign up at the library: there is no charge!

#### BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. Hobby Night is scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 2. Prizes for our photo con-

- test will be the same as last year.
  - 3. We are still accepting applications for a part time bookkeeper.
  - 4. Our brochures are out with our annual state report statistics.
  - 5. We're looking into future programs.
- Cont on page #6*

## Whitefish Township Board Meeting Minutes

### 2010 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE

Whitefish Township  
7052 N M-123  
Paradise, MI 49768

### 2010 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Whitefish Township Board of Review for 2010 will be held at the Whitefish Township Hall, 7052 N M-123, on the following dates:

**Tuesday, March 2, 10 am = Organizational Meeting**  
(No appeals or protests heard during Organizational meeting)

Tuesday, March 9, 9am – 3pm = Appeal Hearing  
Tuesday, March 16, 3pm – 9pm = Appeal Hearing

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to

equalize the 2010 assessments.

Phone calls will not be accepted as a method of Board of Review inquiry or appeal during Board of Review sessions.

By Board resolution, Resident and Non-resident taxpayers may protest or file an appeal by letter, provided protest or appeal letter is received on or before  
March 9, 2010.

Cont on Page #6



## Quilts of compassion! Vicki Hallax/Patrick Rowley

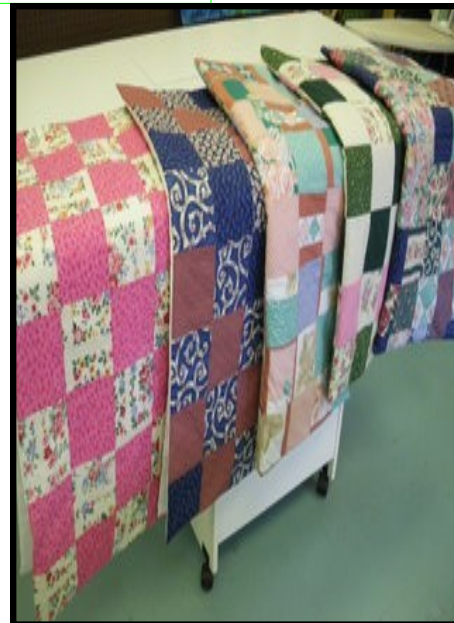
In December of 2001, we started making quilts and donating them to the Whitefish Township Emergency Services. These quilts are given to seriously ill or injured patients transported by ambulance and all recipients keep their quilts.

At first, the volunteers gathered at school. Since 2003, when the addition was completed at Village Fabrics & Crafts, the volunteers have been meeting in the classroom there.

Many, many people have volunteered so many hours of their time to make these quilts. Most are residents of Paradise and the surrounding area.

Some who happen to be visiting the area on the days of our meetings, join us as well. Almost all of the supplies for these quilts are donated by Village

Fabrics & Crafts. As the project continues to grow, some are volunteering their time by making the quilt tops at home with their fabrics and either bringing them in or mailing them to us for completion with batting and backing also supplied by Village Fabrics & Crafts. To date 277 quilts have been donated. The next meeting will be on Feb. 17; Random Acts of Kindness Day. We hope to bring that total to 300, but that is a very challenging goal!



There are approximately five hours of heart-felt stitching that goes into completing each quilt, if it is stitched on the sewing machine. . Some are hand stitched which requires much more time. When you add it all up, it's a tremendous amount of volunteer time!

There is not enough that can be said about the volunteers making these quilts. Most of our sessions are on Saturday. What a gift these ladies (and sometime men) give of their time and talents to make quilts to be given away. In these days of busy schedules, there is nothing more precious than the gift of time!

We meet as often as the classroom schedule at Village Fabrics & Crafts permits, or as more quilts are needed. There is no previous quilting or sewing experience required, so if you would like to help, come and join the fun. We do have fun and good food. The ladies decided that they would enjoy a potluck lunch and have been doing that for quite some time now. One thing's for sure; these volunteers are just as good at cooking as they are at making quilts!

Patrick Rowley: Talk about some powerful medicine - wow! I've been Blessed to have (Cont on page 4)

*School from page #1*

The salmon are doing great and looking forward to their release in the Two Hearted River in the spring. High school juniors will be taking the Michigan Merit Exam next month. This high stakes exam assesses students' knowledge of the State academic benchmarks.

WTCS students would like to thank the Athletic Booster Club for their support in the LSSU Hockey Night on Friday, February 12, 2010. Students had the opportunity to watch LSSU Lakers beat the Ferris State Bulldogs. It was a great game with the Lakers scoring the winning goal in the last 35 seconds of the third period. All had a great time.

In another athletic endeavor the Athletic Booster Club is assisting the students in a school ski day adventure to Nubs Nob. Over 85% of our student body in grades 3-12 will be participating in this awesome adventure. Experiences like these provide educational links making solid pathways for other learning.

The Booster Club is sponsoring a raffle to be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2010. Tickets for a chance at prizes of \$500, \$300, and \$100 are available from Booster Club members. Tickets are \$10.00 each.

Governor Granholm has proposed that funding levels for schools remain the same next year. In her 2010 – 11 executive budget presented to the House and Senate the Governor offered protective words for education threatening to veto any cuts to schools. Her plan calls for an expansion of the State sales tax to include services (a reduced rate of 5.5%). These positive words of support for education are appreciated but we'll see how things progress as lawmakers work their way to 2010 – 11 budget deadline of July 1st. We find it interesting that the Governor has threatened lawmakers with pay deductions if they do not pass a budget by July 1, 2010. Maybe that will salt the oats to make this a reality. It is extremely difficult for local schools to prepare their budgets without any real grasp of how much they have for operations. From our standpoint changing the State's budget deadline to April or May would be beneficial. The idea of a two-year State budget does have merit.

Whitefish Township Community Schools will be holding a public hearing regarding state mandated AIDS/HIV Curriculum on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 6:00 – 7:00 PM. This is the first of a two public hearings regarding this topic.

In a nutshell things have been busy. As always, we appreciate your smiles, words of support and encouragement, and most of all, your prayers.

**Working Together Committed to Success,**  
Patrick Rowley

(Quilts from page 3)the opportunity to give these quilts out to those in need and it's quite an awesome experience. As pre hospital providers we treat the whole patient. That means not only their physical wounds but their emotional wounds as well and these quilts help provide such care. We have had patients from foreign countries unable to speak English understand the unspoken words of care and compassion through these quilts. Who would have thought that from the classroom at Vicki's

shop to the ER at a hospital how much impact a group of anonymous dedicated individuals would have on another human being? The quilting ladies, (Cont on page 5)

He started hiking from a very early age when the whole family would go for walks. Later when he was older, he would go by himself. Almost everything that Chris knows about nature, hiking, survival, even his advanced computer skills were all self-taught.

*How long (years) did Chris live in Paradise?*

We moved to Paradise in 1992 and he has for the most part as far as we know, stayed in this general area.

*How often would Chris hike in the woods? I have talked to several people who told me they would see Chris in his hiking attire heading south of town quite often*

He hiked at every opportunity that was available. Everything from short hikes of a couple of hours to hiking out to our cabin north of Newberry. He would hike the whole distance and spend the night in the woods along the way. It was not uncommon for him to be out several days to a week hiking. For the most part, he traveled trails or made his own way through the woods with a compass.

*Would you know the area Chris really loved? Example the falls.*

The more remote, the better. He talked frequently about areas that were only accessible by crossing water. His favorite time is hiking at night during a full moon in any season. Anytime there was a full moon, he was always out.

*If there is anything you would like to add feel free to add anything you like?*

He studied and experimented extensively on how to get along in nature. He knew what plants he could eat, what to find for shelter, trapping, hunting, fishing, medicinal plants and even tanning hides for clothing. When he first started hiking, he would carry supplies, but later would go out relying only on nature.

A person who has done much work on this case is Michael Neiger. Michael is a 25-year veteran of the Michigan Department of State Police (retired). With quite an extensive background in field investigations and has conducted many wilderness expeditions in all kinds of climates. Michael is the person responsible for the posters of the missing persons cases he is working on that are posted throughout Paradise businesses. Michael created the "Michigan Backcountry Search & Rescue" or MiBSAR. I was able to contact Michael and ask him questions concerning the case of Chris Hallax; he was kind enough to answer them for this article.

*How did you come up with the idea of MiBSAR?*

I read an article about Joe Clewley going missing along the NCT in Tahquamenon Falls State Park. The article said the search had been suspended, so I offered my assistance to the family and sheriff's office. It was very satisfying helping out, so I organized MiBSAR to pick up where traditional SAR teams left off.

*How many people are in MiBSAR?*

There are currently two team leaders. When needed, we call in local SAR teams, or enlist volunteers who are skilled in foul-weather, multi-day, wilderness travel.

*How many searches have you been involved with?*

I currently have three cases, and have consulted on other cases and with other SAR teams. (Cont page 5)

*Con't from page 4– still Searching*

To date, I have conducted 57 SAR operations, with most of the operations two to four days in length.

*Where did Chris go missing?*

Well, physically Chris was last seen leaving a local business in Paradise. The troops worked a set of snowshoe tracks well into the night/morning and had to abandon them deep in a swamp, south of Paradise, near Black Creek, between M-123 and Preacher Lake.

*Have you been on any searches for Chris? If so could you explain the terrain, the area etc? Besides the obvious what do you look for?*

I've conducted about 14 SAR operations--totaling about 24 days--searching for Chris. I've also spent several weeks researching and developing his wilderness profile.

I have been searching out-of-the-way water- or swamp-locked locations where Chris may have cut through or perhaps established a layover area with equipment or ration caches.

I'm always looking for bones, scraps of clothing, gear, signs of a campfire, shelter construction, hidden caches, etc.

*What should a person do if they come across something they believe is related to Chris?*

Do not handle it; leave it in place; mark and note location; and report it to myself or local law enforcement.

*What are your goals or plans for this investigation for 2010?*

As soon as the snow is gone, and before things leaf-out, I plan to resume searching several high-probability areas previously identified in the investigation.

*Are you the responsible for the posters around town? (Great idea)*

Yes, I designed and had those printed. Two of the big services I provide families and law enforcement agencies are the production and distribution of high-quality digital and print missing-person posters, and the development and hosting of high-quality missing-person Web sites. A local printer prints the posters at cost in exchange for advertisement placement, and I foot the entire cost of the Web site (I write the text, construct the site, do the graphics, etc.).

If you would like to know more about this case please see this web site: <http://tinyurl.com/Hallaxs>

*Article by Rob Koleski*



*Weather from page #2*

quite so simple. The primary reason the jet stream exists is the circulation of the earth. As it spins friction between it and the air around it causes the air to spin with it. This creates the west to east flow. However, this is not the only factor influencing movement of the air. A secondary factor is convection due to uneven heating of the Earth's surface. Put simply, it is cold at the poles and warm at the equator, this forces the warm air to rise up into the atmosphere and cold air at the poles to sink southward to replace it. As the air sinks south it is caught up by the west to east movement of the Earth and slowly starts to turn from its north to south flow into the west to east flow of the jet stream. The point at which the air gets fully turned is the position at which the jet stream will form. When the equatorial temperatures are warmer the north to south moving conveyor of air gets accelerated. This acceleration is enhanced by extra snow cover as that snow cover reflects more heat and allows the air to sink further south before warming.

All of this can get a bit confusing but the results are hard to miss. The east coast has now been hit by three large snowstorms breaking every historical record on the books in many areas for the total amount of snow received. The jet stream, in its more southerly location acts as a pump bringing warmer moist air from the gulf straight to eastern seaboard. As the jet stream sinks further south, more and more southerly areas get a blast of cold air coupled with moist gulf air to drop record snows on states not usually accustomed to such events.

Conditions were so bad even our good friend Punxsutawney Phil ran back into his burrow predicting six more weeks of winter. While I hate to argue with furry rodents, the full fate of winter is still in question. The dryer than average weather we have been having is not predicted to change drastically in the month ahead. The temperature, although much closer to normal, is actually expected to rise back up to well above normal temperatures as the jet stream slowly retreats northward due to increased amounts of direct sun to the continental US. The record amounts of snow cover which have helped keep the jet stream in its southerly location will soon melt away and signs are already showing that the equatorial ocean temperatures are beginning to cool a bit. Over the past month we saw a few minor snow events which helped to freshen up our snow pack but at an average of two to three feet depth still remain a good foot or more below last year at the same time. Our average temperature has hung in around 20 degrees F, which is still around 4 degrees higher than average for this time of year and 5 degrees higher than the same time period last year. Despite the warmer than normal temperatures we failed to see anything like last year's temperature swing which took us up to 50 degrees F on February 10. It looks like this year spring will sneak slowly on us.

*(Quilts from page 4)* as they are affectionately known, take time out of their lives to do what they can to help out total strangers - amazing! They provide that TLC that people need in their time of crisis. They need a rock to cling to in their hour of need when their life has been turned upside down and this act of kindness helps ease the pain. Seeing a patient suffering from some tragedy holding a quilt close really leaves an impact on a person.

Con't from page #2 Church News

Dark times come to all of us. The challenge is to take our dark times and fill in the brightness around and through them so that the total picture becomes one of light and beauty.

As we look back over our years, most of us can recall times when we have soared and been successful. We have achieved our objectives and "hit our stride." No one, through, has this experience all the time. We learn through failed experiments, mistakes and false starts. The path to success includes small, slow steps as well as fast striding.

All of life is a treasure. God, the master Artist, loves us and is with us in every step we take. God watches us with tender concern as we make our way along. Perhaps, it is the light of this love that finally makes our life mosaic shine with beauty. Our task now is to take each step; then shape and color each tile carefully, consistent with what God has made known to us.

We journey through this Lenten season, Utilizing the resources of special worship and study times, and discovering new understanding of what having God in our life is all about! Blessings, Rev Sandi

Cont from page 2 Library News!

NEW BOOKS

South of Broad by Pat Conway

Deeper Than the Dead by Tami Hoag

Ford County: Stories by John Grisham

The Wolf at the Door by Jack Higgins

The Silent Sea by Clive Cussler

We have a new bulletin board up in the lobby. It will be exclusively for local businesses to place their ads on. The ads are not to bigger than 3" x 5". We would like to thank William Merchand for drilling the holes for it and putting it up. Thank-you very much, Bill. We really appreciate it.

Don't be a stranger to your library.  
Cindy Bulmer, Librarian

*Whitefish Township Meeting Minutes from page #3*

**American With Disabilities (ADA) Notice**

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3 business days notice.

Contact: Gary Huttenstine

7052 N M-123

Paradise, MI

(906) 492-3452 Ext. 11

Board of Review Members: Terry Tunks, Bob Taft, Scott Erickson

Alternates: Dennis Miller and Barb Miller  
Gary Huttenstine, Supervisor and Secretary of Board of Review

Library News!

**COMING  
HOBBY NIGHT**



**COOKING CLASS  
Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**6:00-8:00**

If you have a hobby you would like to display, please contact the library. We welcome all collectors, displays and artists. Call us at 492-3500 so we may set up a space for you.

If you would like to make kringles, please call us to sign up to make sure we have enough supplies.

**THERE WILL BE DOOR  
PRIZES!**

**PHOTO CONTEST**

**"Pets In the Paradise Outdoors"**

**February 27- April 24**

**RULES**

- Pictures must not have been entered in another contest.
- Pictures must be mounted on cardboard or equivalent (We have a limited supply here at the library.)
- Pictures must be entered by photographer. Three pictures per person.
- Pictures must not be digitally enhanced and must be in Paradise area.
- Pictures are to be no bigger than 8" by 10" or smaller than 3" by 5"
- No people in picture.

