

## Farewell to Our Friends and Colleagues



Nancy Chenier was a stay at home mom until her youngest Michael, went to kindergarten. She pursued a degree in Accounting at Bay College and was hired at UPSCU in July of 1991.

"I like the challenge of my job," said Nancy, "I like what I do." Nancy has been through three different CEO's and has seen the UPSCU expand from the Escanaba office to St. Ignace and then Cedarville.

"I'm looking forward to retirement and spending time with my four grandchildren." says Nancy "I like volunteering at Holy Name Central School and visiting with my mom and other elderly at the Bishop Noa Home." Nancy's husband Frank is a retired Geologist. Her two daughters Michelle and Angela live in Bozeman, Montana. Nancy's son Michael is a priest at St. Michael's in Marquette and daughter Amy passed away in 2010. Nancy and Frank have a raspberry farm in Flat Rock that is open to the public in July and August for picking raspberries.

**UPSCU would like to thank Nancy for all her years of service and dedication. We wish her much happiness in her retirement.**

Just out of high school, Molly Therrian came to work at UPSCU in St. Ignace. She worked as a teller for several years and the job to her felt like home. "I never imagined I would grow so close to the people I work with and we became a little credit union family."



said Molly. "I will miss my co-workers and I thank them for making work worth getting up every morning! I will miss the members too. I felt very close to a lot of them. But I'm excited for a new adventure in my life with my boyfriend Gerrit Mortensen." We wish Molly and Gerrit a happy life in Knoxville, Tennessee. Molly is now working for Knoxville TVA Employee Credit Union and she will be greatly missed.

The Escanaba teller line won't be the same as Sarah Povich has left UPSCU to stay at home with her new baby daughter Sawyer and 2 year old son Brayden. "I really liked getting to know the members and hearing about their lives." said Sarah. "I'm going to miss my co-workers the most. They made it a nice place to work. But I'm looking forward to being able to stay home and raise my kids. I'll be able to better support my husband, Josiah, in his new job as a State Trooper." said Sarah. UPSCU wishes Sarah and her family the best in life.



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# Life in the 906

## Eberts Wins Non-Commissioned Officer Award

Having lived in the U.P. all his life, James P. Eberts Jr. is well respected and liked by everyone in Cedarville and Hessel. Graduating in 2007 from Cedarville High School, Jimmy left the area to serve in the United States Air Force. Working hard he reached the rank of Staff Sergeant. His military career has taken him all over the United States and the world.

His Tours of Duty have included two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. Jimmy is unable to discuss the specifics of his duties and is one of the few positions where a firearm is required. He is currently based with the U.S. Army at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas and trains with army units.

Jimmy enjoys his job and has meet a lot of interesting people. His heart is still here in the Les Cheneaux area. He looks forward to returning here when he retires from the Air Force. He likes living in a small close community and feels people from the city don't understand the lifestyle. Jimmy is interested in sports, especially baseball, football and hockey. He takes every opportunity he can to hunt, hike and fish whenever possible.

Jimmy recently won an award for Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. "The non-commissioned officer corps is often referred to as "the backbone" of the armed services, as they are the primary and most visible leaders for most military personnel. They are responsible for executing a military organization's mission and for training military personnel so they are prepared to execute their missions."



**James P. Eberts Jr.**

Jimmy has also been awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Afghanistan. This award is the military's 4th highest honor. His parents, Jim and Missy Eberts, residents of Hessel, are very proud of their son.

Jimmy is looking forward to new challenges and locations that his job will take him. UPSCU is very proud to be associated with this wonderful young man and would like to congratulate him on his award. We also would like to thank Jimmy for serving our country.



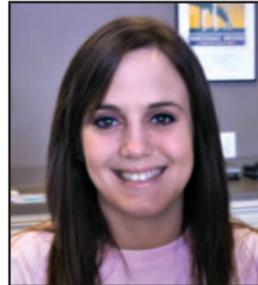
**Our own Board Member John Prokos had a sculpture show at Bay College in Escanaba. The exhibit displayed large scale, abstract sculptures and could be seen at the Besse Center Gallery. The display ran from January 14th – February 19th. John has always had an interest in forms, sculptures and building design. The last five years he turned that passion into art. The sculptures are available to purchase and one of his sculptures is displayed at the Escanaba branch.**

## WELCOME! New Employees join the UPSCU Team



**Brad Swee**

U.P. State Credit Union is proud to welcome Brad Swee, as our Chief Financial Officer. Brad will be working in our Escanaba office and comes to us with over 20 years of credit union experience. He is from the Gladstone area. Being an outdoor enthusiast, Brad spends much of his time hunting, boating and biking. UPSCU is very fortunate to have Brad on our team.



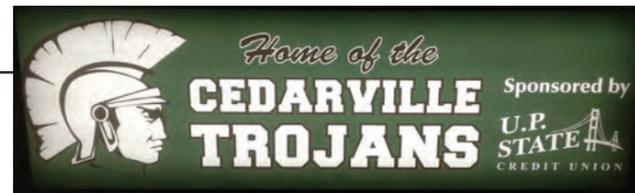
**Alexis Pelkey**

There's a new smile on the teller line in our St. Ignace branch. Alexis Pelkey joined the UPSCU family in January and enjoys assisting members. "I love my job and living in St. Ignace." said Alexis. "I moved away once but came back because I missed it so much. I have been doing a lot of snowshoeing this winter. I really enjoy being outdoors." Welcome Alexis!



**Cathy Harris**

Cathy Harris started working as a UPSCU Escanaba Teller in December 2014. She moved from Sault Ste. Marie in 2006 and has a hobby farm near Trenary. "I have too many animals to live in town." says Cathy. She and husband Mark raise horses, geese, chickens, dogs, cats and even a couple of fainting goats. They have three children Desirae, Ashley and Mark Jr. Welcome Cathy!



**It was a team effort at Cedarville High School as they received a scorer table from U.P. State Credit Union, a score board from Soo Co-Op Credit Union and another score board from First National Bank. The donations were presented to the Booster Club and Student Representatives. Congratulations to all!**



**Randy Bruntjens**

"Each type of bird has to have a special size cage that is regulated by the US Fish and Wildlife." explains Randy. "The large flight cage is used to strengthen their wings. The cage is 100 feet long, 20 feet wide and 18 feet high to give you an example." He has had up to 34 raptors in his facility at one time.

Lead poisoning is a common threat to eagles as they ingest the lead from dead animals. "The lead comes from shots fired from rifles and guns. The eagles eat dead deer, partridge or rabbits. The lead is also found in fish that contain sinkers from people throwing fish back in the water." explains Randy. "The raptors wings are injured by hitting cars and windows. Eagles dive at about 75 to 100 miles per hour and can be injured by hitting the limbs of trees."

Randy also educates the public throughout the U.P. with presentations at schools, camp grounds, nursing homes, anyone wanting to learn about these incredible creatures. "I bring a trained owl with me on my presentations. It takes me about three to four months to train a bird. The older the bird the harder it is to train because they are wild." said Randy.

Carlene Grouleau, Randy's sister, recently passed away and rehabbed song birds, chipmunks and squirrels. She will be greatly missed by her family and the community. In the spring, Randy receives a lot of calls about abandoned fawns and recommends you to leave them alone unless you know the mother has been killed. The mother leaves the fawn for about 24-48 hours because the fawn is born scentless to predators. She leaves the fawn for its own safety.

Because of Randy's efforts, there is an increase of Eagles in the Upper Peninsula. They have been taken off the endangered species list in the U.P. If you would like to donate to Randy's organization, you can bring your donation to any U.P. State Credit Union office and put your donation directly into the Upper Michigan Raptor Rehabilitation and Wildlife Center account. We are proud to have Randy as a member and we are pleased to support this wonderful cause.

## Upper Michigan Raptor Rehabilitation and Wildlife Center

Retired from the DNR, Randy Bruntjens was asked to transport a wounded eagle that was from the Upper Peninsula to a rehab facility in Wisconsin and there it remained. "Eagles mate for life and that bird was unable to come back to its natural habitat and mate. At that point, I decided to open a sanctuary to rehab raptor birds so they can remain in the U.P." said Randy.

A raptor bird is a bird of prey. Meat eating birds such as; owls, eagles or hawks. The Upper Michigan Raptor Rehabilitation and Wildlife Center is a non-profit organization that is not open to the public but can be found on Facebook.



**Ken Berry**

**Congratulations to Ken Berry who won a third place prize in our Visa Scorecard Rewards ScoreBIG Sweepstakes. He won a Kindle Fire HD tablet! Ken is a UPSCU Platinum Visa card holder and every time he made a purchase with his Visa from August 1, 2014 thru October 31, 2014, Ken received an entry into the sweepstakes.**

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