Hero teens save man from Charlevoix's Round Lake

A.J. HOFFMAN

Charlevoix Courier STAFF WRITER

CHARLEVOIX — When they saw a dinghy circling around in the middle of Charlevoix's Round Lake with no one in the was something wrong.

of Dayton, Ohio, and her friend Lacey Flanigan, 17, of St. Louis, Mo., decided to meet their friend and go for a ride on Lacey's jetski recently, they saw something that didn't look right.

"People were just standing on their docks, pointing to the water. All those people had bigger boats or yachts, so they couldn't really do anything," said Lacey I mean, by the time they would have gotten themselves untied and started up, it would have been too late. So, we just booked it over there."

What the people on the dock saw was a drowning man.

"We could see a man in a bright blue shirt from where we were, and he was just throwing his arms around everywhere," said

Honesty - Integrity

The man in distress, Robert sciousness," Leitz said. Leitz, 62, of Sister Bay, Wisc., was not wearing a life jacket.

be a very long trip, and I could see my friend's boat from where head above water, the dinghy I was," Leitz said. "I was going driver's seat, they knew there to visit a friend of mine on the other side of the lake, so I kind When Margeaux Leakas, 16, of had my guard down. All of a sudden, the boat jumped out from under me," he said.

> Leitz, who claims to be a pretty good swimmer, and has been scene, they saw Leitz bleeding involved with boating for more and flailing around in the water. than 30 years, said he just made a stupid mistake.

catch up to the dinghy because at the time it was just idling away from me," he said. "The ing to catch up to it."

Leitz said someone told him he fell in. Anything less than 70 to 300 pound Leitz to safety by

"I was in the water for about

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Leitz's only hope was the two girls on the jet-ski who were still "I figured it wasn't going to out of reach at that point.

As he was fighting to keep his was coming back at him.

The propellor of the dinghy sliced his ear and a part of his shoulder, leaving him in need of approximately seven stitches in

When the girls got to the

One of the girls threw him her life jacket but Leitz didn't "My first instinct was to try to respond to it. So, Margeaux decided to jump in the water and save him herself. Lacey was not only steering

water was so cold though and I the jet-ski, but she was tied to it the girl following her heroic acwas losing strength as I was try- as well, so this left Margeaux to saving the man's life.

The 135 pound Margeaux was the water was 52 degrees when somehow able to swim the 250 degrees can induce hypother- getting him to a nearby boat that was on its way.

After Margeaux got back on four or five minutes. If those the jet-ski, the girls located the girls hadn't gotten to me in time, out-of-control dinghy. Lacey I think I would have lost con- jumped on the small boat,

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which had run into a moored sailboat, and hit the kill switch.

Later in the day, the girls met the man they saved, and his wife, at the hospital.

Margeaux said the event was all a blur.

"I had never taken any lifesaving classes before," she said. "The water was freezing, and I don't even know how I was able to do it. I can hardly remember how I swam with him."

Margeaux added, "He was moving around everywhere and I think I just put my arm around his chest or over his shoulder to get him over to that family's Ann Denison, Margeaux's

grandmother, was the first to see "She just came home to me and

didn't say anything. She was just shaking," Denison said. "When I asked her what was wrong, she

Lacey Flanigan (left) and Margeaux Leakas, who saved an injured man in the water of Round Lake.

said, 'I just saved a man's life.' where they'll be living for the You could tell she was in shock."

She added, "I told her, 'you body's life."

Both of the girls work as camp counselors at the Belvedere, summer.

"They really are very amaz should feel lucky, not everyone ing girls," Denison said. "They gets the chance to save some- did the right thing and I'm very proud of them."



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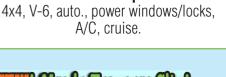


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Publisher Doug Caldwell 347-2544 **Circulation Department** M-F, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. 439-9315 Advertising Manager Lisa Kelso 439-9332

Northern Michigan MarketPlace is published by Northern Michigan Review, Inc.

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