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DECEMBER 26, 2019

Notice of Early Deadline

For the 12/26/19 and 1/2/20 issues of the Charlevoix County News and Weekly Choice, the deadlines will be Saturday of the week prior for Classified Ads, Display Ads and news submissions.

Charlevoix County News **Weekly Choice**



BOYNE CITY – Just outside of Boyne City this home boasts a unique blend of indoor and outdoor living. Tranquil private patio offers a sheltered seating area while surrounded by an artist garden. The home features 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths including large living and family rooms. The Master bedroom features a private deck area. The property backs up to 100's of acres of conservancy. There is a storage shed that (when finished) could afford a year round shelter for a man-cave or she-shed. Great opportunity out of town. Contact an agent for you tour today! **\$215,000.**



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East Jordan students and staff enjoy holiday meal



Students and staff enjoyed the annual holiday meal

BY KAREN WALKER

More than 400 East Jordan Middle/High School students along with school faculty and staff gathered at the school's newly renovated gymnasium last Friday at noon to enjoy a holiday meal together. The luncheon was first organized several years ago by Pat Tinney. Mrs. Tinney recently retired after 35 years as high school art and drama teacher. Mrs. Tinney said having a meal together as a school family is important for the students, giving them a greater sense of togetherness, especially during the holidays.

The traditional meal of turkey, ham and all the trimmings was sponsored by local donors. School Superin-



Cora Ruhling gives Santa a hug

tendent Matt Stevenson noted the food service staff went above and beyond to make this a special event for the students to participate in before leaving for Christmas

See Holiday Meal - Page 5A

Local students attend National Leadership event

Three local students attended the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) National Student Leadership Academy December 5-7 in Washington, D.C. The students attending the Leadership Academy were Vela Wolniewicz, a senior from Crooked Tree High School in Harbor Springs, Michael Kline a senior from Alanson in the Char-Em ISD CTE Welding Program at Pellston, and Levi Pepin, a senior from East Jordan in the Char-Em ISD CTE Welding Program at East Jordan.

The Leadership Academy focused on developing leadership qualities in students while also giving them the opportunity to network with other JAG students and view important landmarks around Washington, D.C. The event attracted 750 students from around the country.

"What a wonderful trip with wonderful people," said Wolniewicz. "JAG is such a great program full of people who want the best for everyone. I'm so grateful I was able to go on such an amazing trip and meet so many new friends and tour beautiful Washington, D.C." "It was fun and a great learning experience," said Pepin.

"I had a wonderful experience with my team and the specialists I went with, and I wish I could go back," said Kline.

JMG helps Michigan's young adults graduate and



Vela Wolniewicz (front row, right side), Michael Kline (back row, 2nd from left), and Levi Pepin (back row, 2nd from right), visited the U.S. Capitol with other Jobs for Michigan's Graduates students while attending the Jobs for America's Graduates National Student Leadership Academy in Washington, D.C. Courtesy photo

make successful transitions to postsecondary education or meaningful employment. In addition to the programs in the Char-Em ISD, Northwest Michigan Works! coordinates JMG programs at Cadillac Public and Innova-

tion High Schools, CASMAN Academy in Manistee, the Traverse Bay Area ISD Career-Tech Center, the Wexford-Missaukee Career Tech Center, and Out of School programs in Cadillac, Kalkaska, Manistee,

and Traverse City.

For more information on Youth Solutions and its Jobs for Michigan's Graduates programming, visit ouryouthsolutions.org.



New Year's Eve Bridge Drop

It's time to make plans to celebrate the New Year and Downtown Charlevoix will be celebrating New Year's Eve with the 8th Annual Bridge Drop. On December 31st, starting at 1pm, there will be a variety of both family friendly and adult focused events hosted throughout downtown. All the events are leading up to two world class fireworks shows beginning at 9pm followed by a final firework display at midnight.

This year's event is sure to please the entire family. From 1pm until 4pm there will be horse drawn wagon rides on the corner of Bridge and Mason, s'mores, hot cocoa and a snow sculpture contest in East Park. At 4:30pm Charlevoix Cinema III will be playing a free movie, Lego Movie 2, beginning at 4:30pm. Be sure to check out the shopping and dining downtown all day long.

The countdown to the new year will be marked with the dropping of the Memorial Drawbridge right before midnight. Back by popular demand, Charlevoix's favorite bridge will be closing for the last time of 2019. The countdown to the new year will be marked with the dropping of the Memorial Drawbridge right before midnight. At midnight there will be a fireworks finale.

The Bridge Drop is going to be an exciting event that brings family and friends together to ring in the new year. Look no further than Downtown Charlevoix for your New Year's Eve celebration.

Check out www.bridgedrop.com for more information.

Charlevoix County Transit will be offering free bus transportation on New Year's Eve. The first bus starts at 6pm and the last is at 2am. To request a ride during the event, call (231) 582-6900. Rides will be offered between 6pm to 2am.

Check out www.bridgedrop.com for more information.

<p>Save a lot food stores SAVE BIG! AD PRICES GOOD DEC. 22-28, 2019</p>	<p>FRESH BEEF T-BONE STEAKS FAMILY PACK \$3.99/ea</p>	<p>FRESH, BONE-IN PORK SIRLOIN ROAST \$1.19/lb</p>
	<p>PEPSI PRODUCTS 2 LITERS - ASST VARIETIES 99¢/ea PLUS DEPOSIT</p>	<p>FRESH BONE-IN BEEF STANDING RIB ROAST \$4.99/lb</p>

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A bit of New Year's trivia

BY JIM AKANS

As the clock ticks down to midnight on New Year's Eve, all thoughts focus on the promise of the future. Following is a bit of New Year's trivia to share during evening hours counting down toward the "giant leap" from this year to next.

Celebrating the New Year dates back to around 2000 B.C. when Mesopotamia welcomed the beginning of the spring season (at the vernal equinox) with festivals heralding a new year. According to the web site, celebrations.com, those

trend-setting Babylonians even established the tradition of making resolutions, with a typical one at the time being the return of farming equipment that had been borrowed.

Today's resolutions tend to focus on getting our lives in better order in some fashion. Goskills.com found the top 10 New Year's resolutions are;

- Exercise more
- Lose weight
- Get organized
- Learn a new skill or hobby
- Live life to the fullest
- Save more money / spend less money
- Quit smoking

- Spend more time with family and friends
- Travel more
- Read more

According to statista.com about a third of respondents stated their resolution was to not make resolutions.

That might not be a bad idea. A University of Scranton research paper found that only 8-percent of the approximately 40-percent of American's making New Year's resolutions actually achieve them. The success rate is probably much higher for those who don't make them.

Most view New Year's as a symbol of renewed hope and

a revitalization of achieving our dreams. It's also a chance for having a celebratory evening before a day full of football.

The first New Year's ball was dropped in New York's Times Square in 1907. That ball weighed 700 pounds and was decorated with 100 bulbs. Today, that ball weighs nearly six tons and is decorated with over 2,600 Waterford crystals.

The establishment of the Julian calendar in 45 B.C. set the date of celebrating New Year's on January 1. (Spring still seems more appropriate to me).

- The month of January

was named after the Roman god of doors and gates - Janus. Janus was portrayed with a face looking forward and a face looking backward...symbolism that is apt to the start of a new year.

The Chinese New Year occurs on the new moon between January 21 and February 20

The Thrillist web site states that those New Year's kisses have been happening since the Middle Ages, stemming from a belief that the first person you encounter in the New Year will establish the karma of the coming year. It's a good omen if that person is someone you want

to lock lips with.

Auld Lang Syne lyrics, a Scottish phrase that means "times gone by," are derived from a 1788 poem by Scotsman Robert Burns.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau reports that New Year's Day hold the distinction of having the highest stolen vehicle rate of any national holiday. Could have something to do with grabbing the wrong keys after a long night of partying.

Have a safe celebration this New Year's Eve and may the coming year bring good fortune and joy to you and yours!

Winter semester hours for North Central Michigan College

North Central Michigan College announces winter semester hours, effective January 2, 2020, for all departments and offices.

The Administrative and Business offices, as well as Learning Support Services, will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Other department hours include:

Student Services and Financial Aid and Advising hours are:
Monday – Thursday; 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Friday; 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The College Store hours are:
Monday – Thursday; 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday; 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Library hours are:
Monday – Thursday; 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday; 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Beginning January 13, the Student and Community Resource Center – gym and fitness center hours are:

Monday – Thursday; 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday; 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The SCRC will close at 5 p.m. on December 20 and remain closed through December 25.

Hours are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. December 26 – 31.

Between January 2 – 12, the SCRC hours are 6 a.m. – 7 p.m.

The Iron Horse Café will reopen on Monday, January 13, to the public. Hours are:
Monday – Thursday; 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Saturday; 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Updated information on hours and events is available at www.ncmich.edu.



Great Lakes Energy Employees & Wolf Line Construction donate to local charities

Great Lakes Energy employees donated \$4,338 along with food and toys to the Boyne Area Community Christmas (BACC) program. Money was raised from a raffle and silent auction that included generous donations from employees and many local businesses. An additional \$3,000 was donated to BACC from Wolf Line Construction, a contractor for the cooperative's fiber internet subsidiary, Truestream. In total, Great Lakes Energy employees across eight offices and Wolf Line construction donated \$12,407 to nine local charities throughout the cooperative's 26-county service area. From left are Whitney Gilland, Vicki Farrell, Jennifer Young, Nicole Youngs, BACC Secretary Heather Ross, Julie Bailey, BACC President Lisa Luebke, and Megan Healey. Courtesy photo

'Tis the season: Practice safe snow removal

It's the Law - Practice Safe Snow Removal
*Michigan Vehicle Code 257.677a

Don't plow, blow or shovel into or across the road.*

Please keep sidewalks shoveled. Your municipality may require it.

Don't pile snow at the end of driveways in a way that obstructs drivers' vision.*

COURTESY OF MDOT

Snow has really piled up throughout Michigan, and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is reminding residents living along state highways to be careful and follow the law as they plow or shovel snow. Two primary concerns are when residents and businesses pile snow at the ends of driveways along the highway shoulder, and when snow is pushed across the road, leaving snow or slush on the road surface.

Michigan Vehicle Code 257.677a prohibits "the obstruction of safety vision by removal or deposit of snow, ice, or slush." This includes the end of driveways, where banked snow can reduce visibility for vehicles trying to enter the roadway.

"Growing piles of snow make it difficult for drivers to make sure it's safe to pull out onto the highway, and tough for drivers to see other vehicles waiting to pull out," said State Transportation Director Paul C. Ajegba. "Our crews work to keep the

shoulders clear and knock down snowbanks at intersections for motorist safety, and residents and business owners need to do the same at their driveways."

Trails of snow left on the pavement while plowing across the road also can cause problems. The snow can become packed and create ridges on the road, or, as temperatures change, the area can become icy.

"Careless plowing creates an added hazard to unsuspecting motorists and plow drivers," Ajegba said.

It also is important to remember that many local ordinances require residents and businesses to keep sidewalks clear of snow. This is important for pedestrians and those waiting for public transit.

"Winter can be a difficult time to get around for those on foot, so please make the extra effort to clear your sidewalks and help everyone stay mobile and safe," Ajegba said.

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Distributed to Boyne City, East Jordan, Charlevoix, Boyne Falls, Walloon Lake, Ellsworth and Atwood.

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For Auld Lang Syne

Auld Lang Syne

Robert Burns

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and days of auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne

We twa hae run about the braes
And pou'd the gowans fine;
we've wander'd mony a weary foot
Sin' auld lang syne

We two hae paidled i' the burn,
Frae mornin' sun till dine;
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
Sin' auld lang syne

And here's a hand, my trusty friend,
And gie's a hand o' thine;
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and days of auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne

BY JIM AKANS

One of the best known songs in English speaking countries, particularly as New Year's Eve rolls around, is the hearty refrains of Auld Lang Syne. It's surfacing is brief, typically just after the stroke of midnight on December 31st and then it is safely tucked away amid the noisemakers and party hats for the next 364 days, 23 hours and 50-odd minutes. But its presence during those celebrated moments as the year changes faces is HUGE...it seems that everyone instinctively knows the words and melody.

Well, some of it anyway. Actually, there are five stanzas to the poem penned by Scotland's Robert Burns back in 1788. Typically, crowds gathering on New Year's Eve sing verse one and the chorus, and while venturesome spirits sing a shortened version of the full song comprised of verse one, five and the chorus. Seldom do the other verses resound with voices.

There is some serious contention to the claim of Mr. Burns having

been the originator of the piece. A letter written by Burns to an acquaintance named Mrs. Agnes Dunlop suggests that he restored the piece based on fragments of an old ballad dating back to the 15th or 16th century. It is generally agreed that at least two of the verses, (3 & 4), are directly attributed to Burns writing style.

The melody for Auld Lang Syne (which translates to "old long since") is commonly credited to composer William Shield who originally used it in his 1783 opera; Rosina. The tune, with Burns words, quickly became popular as the last song sung as evening gatherings broke up. A ritual developed where the group stood in a circle, each person crossing his arms in front of his chest and clasping his neighbors' hands, and all arms swung forward and back in time with the music as the song was sung.

Give that a try when the clock strikes twelve this New Year's Eve. Here are the complete lyrics to Auld Lang Syne. Happy New Year!



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