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JANUARY 9, 2020

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County Road Commission propose changes in fee schedule

BY KAREN WALKER

The Charlevoix County Road Commission is considering changes to their permit fee schedule. At their last meeting, held Dec. 31, 2019, Commissioners set a public hearing date of Feb. 10, 2020, 9:30 a.m. at the Road Commission Boyne City office to present and receive input regarding proposed changes. Permit fees cover costs the Road Commission incurs to oversee the workmanship and safety aspects of any work done by contractors or property owners within the road right-of-way for activities such as utility work, moving an oversize load, or building a driveway, among

While current law requires that all road agencies are lim-

to using true administrative costs when setting fees, this creates differing fees in neighboring counties. The Michigan Legislature is concerned about the inconsistency in fees that different county road agencies charge for various permits. Rather than have the Michigan Legislature arbitrarily change permit fees to create forced

formity, the County Road Association of Michigan obtained current permit fees from more than 70 county road agencies and identified the most common fee for each type of permit. The Charlevoix County Road Commission is using the County Road Association of Michigan's list of fees as a general guideline to adjust



their fee schedule

However, the fees will still vary somewhat by county. due to differences in terrain, the type of road to be affected, distance travelled to inspect a permit application, or to inspect completed work to insure that permit requirements are complied with. The intent is to establish fees that are similar in adjacent coun-

Many of Charlevoix County's permit fees will see a slight increase, while some fees will stay the same. Road Commission Manager Pat Harmon said many of the fees have not been increased in roughly 20 years, and do not reflect normal cost increases. The proposed fee schedule will also contain new categories for activities such as broadband and wireless communication projects that many rural counties have not previously experienced. New technology is introducing projects that more significantly affect the right of way, such as cell towers with concrete foundations that may compromise safety if not regulated.

Charlevoix "Bridge Drop" rings in the New Year



During the afternoon and evening on December 31 there were lots of activities for attendees at the Bridge Drop event to help ring in the excitement as midnight approached. Photo by Scott Richards

The 8th annual Bridge Drop rang in the New Year in downtown Charlevoix. The midnight event capped off a day of activities for the entire family, including horse drawn wagon rides, s'mores, hot cocoa, and a snow sculpture contest in East Park. Charlevoix Cinema III joined in the fun with a free showing of "Lego Movie 2" in the late after-

The countdown to the New Year began as mid-

night approached. At the tick of midnight the arrival of 2020 was hailed with dropping of the bridge and a grand fireworks display.

Check out www.bridgedrop.com for more information about this annual event.

Ready for 2020! The bridge downtown is poised to drop at the stroke of midnight. Photo by Scott Richards







PORK RIBLETS SOLD FROZEN IN A 10 LB. BOX FOR \$9.90



FAMILY PACK

New laws taking effect in 2020

Some of the biggest changes to Michigan law will kick off in 2020.

LANSING, Mich. ó From cheaper auto insurance to placing the first legal sports gambling bets — there are a number of policies that passed in 2019 that will truly kick off 2020.

Medicaid work requirements

Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, most able-bodied adults between the ages of 19-61 in the Healthy Michigan program will have to prove an average of 20 hours of workforce engagement like working or job training per week, or 80 hours per month.

Exemptions include pregnant mothers, people with disabilities, caretakers of disabled dependents, caretakers of children under age 6 and individuals who have a medical condition that results in a work limitation.

The bones of the legislation passed in 2018, but in 2019 lawmakers went back for a few tweaks designed to make it easier for recipients to comply with the new reporting requirements.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer lost a last-minute bid to push pause on Michiganís new Medicaid work requirements, and the Department of Health and Human Services began sending out letters to beneficiaries explaining how to comply with the new program in December.

Minimum wage will increase

In 2018 lawmakers adopted and amended a citizen-led minimum wage proposal, putting in place smallerthan-proposed increases to the minimum wage that will boost it to \$12.05 by 2030.

Starting Jan. 1, Michiganís minimum wage goes up to \$9.65, and the tipped wage goes up to \$3.67.

State websites show plans to increase the minimum wage again in 2021 to \$9.87 for hourly employees and \$3.75 for tipped, hourly workers.

See **New Laws**— Page 3A

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THURSDAY



FRIDAY

SATURDAY



HIGH: 27 LOW: 15

SUNDAY

HIGH: 25

snowfall

2018-19 AMT" CITY	2019-20 AMT" CITY
1/7/1920.6ATLANTA	1/6/20 16.7 ATLANTA
1/7/19 33.5 BOYNE FALLS	1/6/20 35 BOYNE FALLS
1/7/1925.2CHARLEVOIX	1/6/20 31.2 CHARLEVOIX
1/7/1935.1CHEBOYGAN	1/6/20 30.4 CHEBOYGAN
1/7/19 40.7 EAST JORDAN	1/6/20 59.9 EAST JORDAN
1/7/1947.8GAYLORD	1/6/20 69 GAYLORD
1/7/1940.7KALKASKA	1/6/20 76.7 KALKASKA
1/7/1927.5LEWISTON	1/6/20 32.5 LEWISTON
1/7/1920.2MIO	1/6/20 26.1 MIO
1/7/1937.9ONAWAY	1/6/20 32.4 ONAWAY
1/7/1952.5PETOSKEY	1/6/2052.5PETOSKEY

record temps

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JAN 1313°29°16° (1964)48° (2005)
JAN 1412°29°20° (1982)46° (1987)
JAN 1512°28°27° (1965)49° (1953)
JAN 1612°28°19° (1966)50° (1949)
JAN 1712°28°23° (1978)48° (1986)
JAN 1812°28°23° (1978)55° (1996)

OBITUARIES

Wilgus Michael **Bobo**, 66

(MAY 21, 1953 - DEC. 26, 2019)



Wilgus Michael Bobo (Mike) of Boyne City passed

away December 26th, 2019. He Art Institute of Chicago, IL. was born in Flint, MI to Jean Freeman Bobo and Wilgus Murrel Bobo on May 21st, 1953. He grew up on their farm in Clio, MI. He was married to Debra Davidek on June 2, 1984, a happy marriage of thirty-five years. They were blessed with two sons, Zane Bobo (1994) and Evan Bobo (1996).

His accomplishments are an Associates of Fine Arts from Mott Community College in Flint, MI, a Bachelors of Fine Arts from Wayne State University of Detroit, MI, and a Masters of Fine Arts from The School of the

He was also a sculptor, painter, ceramist and published writer.

He retired from Early on of Michigan in 2016 where he presented his originally written workshops called "Art, The Forgotten Language". He also served as a technical coordinator and public awareness liaison.

He is survived by his loving wife, Debra, and his loving sons, Zane and Evan. He has joined his parents across the river. His wishes are cremation, and a memorial service will be arranged at a later

Dennis Morgridge

JANUARY 5, 2020

Dennis Morgridge of Highland and formerly of Charlevoix, died Sunday, January 5, 2020. He was the husband of Robin, father of Emily, Shelby and Ben, son of Bob and Mary Ellen; brother of David (Carrie) of Hailey, Idaho, Jeff (Lenore) Moraga, California; Jim of Charlevoix; uncle to many nieces and nephews, and friend to all.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, January 11, at

NCMC joins statewide initiative

12 Noon at the First Congregational Church in Charlevoix. The family will receive friends from 10am until the time of service at the church. Visitation will also be held Friday, January 10, from 6 to 8 pm at the Charlevoix Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes.

A full obituary will appear

Audrey Jean Belfy, 89

(FEB. 2, 1930 - JAN. 3, 2020) Audrey Jean Belfy of Charlevoix passed away January 3, 2020 at Grandvue Medical Care Facility in Charlevoix.

Audrey was born February 2, 1930 in Harthshorne, Okla-

A full obituary will appear soon.

Funeral Services will take place in the spring of 2020 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlevoix.

Arrangements are in the care of the Charlevoix Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes. Sign her online guestbook www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com



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North Central Michigan counting faculty

College has joined a statewide initiative to help students connect with resources to support basic needs. The Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) was awarded a \$442,000 grant to launch the initiative, which is focused on improving student completion and success by addressing several economic instability factors, including access to food, housing, transportation, childcare and other basic needs.

The Michigan – Building Economic Stability Today (MI-BEST) effort is funded by a grant from the ECMC Foundation as part of its Basic Needs Initiative, designed to address and alleviate basic needs insecurity among students.

The initiative launches in January 2020 and will continue through June 2022. North Central's team of college personnel and community leaders is comprised of the following individuals: Renee DeYoung. vice president of Student Affairs, Kim Dickinson, advisor, Thomas Knott, ac-

Robert Marsh, Ph.D., associate dean of Research and Assessment. Pete Olson, Ph.D., vice president of Academic Affairs and Student Success, Virginia Panoff, director, Financial Aid, Chelsea Platte, executive director, NCMC Foundation and Jennifer Wixson, early childhood education faculty

Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation representative

National survey findings report that 45 percent of respondents have experienced food insecurity in the past 30 days, 56 percent have experienced housing insecurity in the previous year, and 17 percent have been homeless during that year.

"We know that the lack of access to basic needs is frequently the reason that students leave college," said Erica Lee Orians, executive director of the Michigan Center for Student Success at MCCA. "North Central's participation in this initiative is a critical component of our

student success efforts."

The Michigan Center for Student Success is leading the initiative for the MCCA and will partner with nationally-recognized organizations including the National Center for Inquiry and Improvement and Trellis Research, along with Michigan-based organizations including the Michigan Association of United Ways, MiBridges, and Public Policy Associates to support Michigan's participating community colleges.

"We have focused on a number of initiatives to improve student completion at North Central, and MI-BEST is another opportunity for the college to eliminate barriers to student success," said Renee DeYoung, vice president of Student Affairs. "We are grateful for the partnership from the ECMC Foundation and the Michigan Community College Association, and for their visionary leadership to address economic instability to improve student suc-

The initiative was created in response to research from the Hope Center for College, Community and Justice (Hope Center), California State University, MDRC and the National Bureau of Economic Research, showing that basic needs insecurity is prevalent among students at two- and four-year campuses and impacts students' persistence and graduation outcomes. The Michigan Center for

Student Success, founded in 2011, serves as a hub connecting leadership, administrators, faculty and staff in their emerging and ongoing efforts to improve student outcomes, emphasizing linkages between practice, research and policy. The Center has led statewide initiatives focused on reengaging adults, developmental education, transfer, veterans and advising. The Center is part of the 16-state Student Success Center Network working with more than half of the community colleges across the na-

Apply now to be a Tawas Lighthouse keeper

Are you looking for a one-of-a-kind stay at beautiful Tawas Bay? Apply to be a Lighthouse Keeper at the Tawas Point Lighthouse. We are making the restored keeper's quarters available from mid-Mav through mid-October for your dream destination.

For just \$75 per person, lighthouse keepers are provided two weeks of lodging in the second\story quarters of the historic light keeper's dwelling which overlooks the scenic shores of Lake Huron.

Accommodations include two bedrooms which can sleep up to four adults, along with a modern fully equipped kitchen, shower and bath. Free parking is also provided. The keeper schedule is designed to allow time to enjoy recreational activities on your own while providing valuable volunteer services.

The primary responsibilities of keepers include greeting visitors, giving

tours, and providing information about the lighthouse and Tawas area.

In addition to providing an informative and educational experience, keepers will be asked to perform basic facility maintenance, sweeping floors, removing trash, sweeping outdoor walkways, and thoroughly cleaning the living quarters upon departure. The total commitment is about 35 hours per week.

The 2020 Lighthouse Keeper Program will take place from May 6 through Oct. 7. Interested individuals must complete the Tawas Point Lighthouse Keeper application form. The application will be open from Jan. 6, 2020 until Feb. 7, 2020 at 11:59

For further information about the program, as well as other host opportunities within the Department of Natural Resources, visit Michigan.gov/DNR hosts.

Questions? Call 517-241-

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News

Repairs & upgrades to US-31 **Charlevoix** bascule bridge

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will invest \$1.1 million to make structural steel repairs and replace the underwater cable providing power and control to both sides of the US-31 bascule bridge in Charlevoix. This project also will include replacement and upgrade of electrical components that control the bridge's various mechanical systems.

This work will primarily require single-lane closures and traffic shifts, with one lane open in each direction. During installation of the underwater cable and limit switches, intermittent nighttime testing of the bridge will occur, resulting in closures to traffic of up to 15 minutes.

This project includes upgrades and repairs to the bridge's structural steel and electrical components, designed to extend its service life and maintain reliability. The work is expected to be completed by

March 31, 2020.

10 Greatest Inventions of the Past **Decade**

- 1. Google Assistant
- 2. Crispr
- 3. SpaceX's Reusable **Rocket**
- 4. Venmo
- **5. Nest Thermostat**
- 6. iPad 7. The Self-Driving Car
- 8. Consumer LED
- **Light Bulb**
- 9. Ring Doorbell **10. Tesla Powerwall**

From Inc. Magazine

Local Christmas shopping was slow then went Gangbusters the week before Christmas

By Karen Walker Competition from online retailers and a shorter than average holiday shopping season kept area retailers hustling for customers this past Christmas. This holiday season was the shortest since 2013 and six days shorter than the 2018 season because Thanksgiving was on Nov. 28. The compressed season put pressure on retailers to make every day count. Area towns hosted events such as Santa parades, merchant open houses, and community nights to draw shoppers to downtown stores.

Dan Miller of East Jordan True Value Hardware said sales at his store were slow until the last week before Christmas and then "we went gangbusters". He said the week between Christmas and New Year was really good, as well. East Jordan True Value also handles



The Charlevoix Holiday Parade was a big draw for holiday shoppers. Photo by Mike Murphy

sales of the Lions Club Christmas trees and Mr Miller said they sold out of trees more than a week before Christmas.

East Jordan's Small Business Saturday promotion held the first Saturday after

Thanksgiving was well received and provided a kick off to the traditional holiday shopping season. East Jordan Chamber of Commerce President Mary Faculak said more people seem to be supporting their local busi-

The Jordan River Art Center reported their 2019 Holiday Gift Market was well attended. The annual exhibit yielded plenty of sales while promoting more than 45 local artists. Art Center President Dawn Swaim said they had a wonderful turnout for their opening reception despite it being a snowy day. She said their best shopping day was on Community Night when the Art Center hosted an ornament making workshop with more than 90 children participating.

Kelsie King-Duff, Boyne City Main Street Executive Director said she's had great positive feedback from downtown business owners about Boyne City's "Earlier Than the Bird" shopping event as well as their Santa parade that brought shoppers into town, many looking for unique local products for

holiday gift-giving.

In Charlevoix, Lindsey Dotson, Executive Director of Charlevoix Main Street DDA said their Gift Local Shopping Contest helped them track about \$150,000 of spending in downtown Charlevoix during this year's holiday shopping. She said shopping volume was fairly steady throughout the season with their Ladies Night Out bringing many extra shoppers to town. The Holiday parade was well attended.

According to Mastercard's SpendingPulse data analysis, holiday retail sales increased 3.4 percent nationwide compared to 2018. Mastercard SpendingPulse provides insights into overall retail spending trends across all payment types, including cash and check.



CONGRATULATIONS DOWNTOWN SHOPPING CONTEST WINNERS

Downtown Charlevoix merchants say Thank You to all who kept your money in our local economy. Congratulations to the Gift Local Downtown Shopping Contest prize winners! Overall 2,912 entries were received which equates to over \$145,000 spent locally for the holidays. And the winners are...First Place; Missy La-Belle, Second Place; Bruce Leidal and Third Place; Sarah Pirie. Courtesy photo.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by e-mail to office@Charlevoix CountyNews.com.

Dear Editor:

Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan experienced the kindness and compassion of our northern Michigan community during the Safe Home Harvest Food and Supply Drive. Individuals and groups donated grocery/supermarket gift cards, nonperishable foods, household goods, gifts, personal care items and financial contributions to help fulfill Safe Home needs.

We are thankful for the outpouring of support which is also felt deeply by the women and children staying at the Safe Home. Harvest Food and Supply

Drive donations provide nourishment, comfort and a much-needed feeling of home for survivors determined to rise above the physical and emotional pain of domestic abuse while rebuilding their lives. One woman told us that during her stay, "I felt supported, encouraged, informed and validated in ways never experienced before in my life."

Thank you to all who contributed; you are making a positive and meaningful difference in our community.

Sincerely, Jamie Winters WRCNM Safe Home Coordinator

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NEW LAWS

FROM PG. 1A

Legal sports betting, online gambling Michigan residents will

likely be able to bet on their favorite sports teams in a matter of months, and gamble online through a casinoís app or website.

A package of bills signed into law Dec. 20 paves the way for sports betting and internet gaming for those 21 and older in Michigan, among other changes to the stateís gambling regulations.

Under the legislation, an 8.4 percent tax on sports bets would be collected after winnings are paid out.

Taxes on internet gambling would range between 20 and 28 percent, depending on how much money a casino generates from online gambling - thatis an increase from the original proposal, which would have phased in a tax rate over time ending between 8 and 23 percent after five years.

How long it takes before operators can begin offering sports betting and online gaming platforms will depend on how quickly the Michigan Gaming Control Board can set rules and regulations for the new laws. Supporters of the package in the legislature are hoping the system gets up and running in time for March Madness.

Cheaper auto insurance

On July 1, 2020, Michiganís new auto insurance law will go into effect, meaning Michigan residents will soon be able to change their level of personal injury protection, or PIP, coverage.

The law was signed in May 2019 and ushered in sweeping changes to the stateis auto no-fault policy, including allowing senior citizens and people with health insurance that covers auto-related injuries to fully opt out of PIP coverage. The other four levels of coverage available are unlimited coverage, \$500,000, \$250,000 and a minimum \$50,000 option for some Medicaid recipients.

Each level of coverage would come with a guaranteed rate reductions on PIP coverage costs that begins July 1, 2020 and would last eight years. The reductions range between 10 percent for unlimited coverage and 100 percent for those who opt out.

Another major shift in the deal sets a fee schedule for what health providers can charge when treating autorelated injuries, which will be set to 190 to 230 percent of Medicare rates in 2023 when fully phased in.

Itis unclear exactly how much the changes will impact auto insurance costs for Michigan residents, and will largely depend on what type of coverage auto owners choose.

One big change will be a decrease in the fee charged by the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association. The vehicle assessment fee is dropping from \$220 to \$100 starting in July 2020, and will only be charged to people who opt to continue unlimited PIP coverage as long as the MCCA isnít in deficit.

First full year of recreational marijuana sales

The Marijuana Regulatory Agency capped off 2019 by approving the stateis first recreational marijuana licenses, including for dispensaries.

A big opening day foreshadowed the popularity of recreational marijuana with Michigan consumers. A few firsts could come in 2020. The law provides for microbusinesses able to make their own products, for instance, and cannabis clubs where people can consume recreational marijuana together. These types of entities havenít been licensed yet, but could be in 2020.

This new retail frontier is expected to be big business for the state, generating more than \$1 billion per year in revenue once itis fully implemented.

First redistricting commission forms

In 2018, Michigan voters opted to give the task of political district mapmaking to an independent commission in-

stead of the state legislature. By fall 2020, we'll know who will be serving on the 13member body made up of four Republicans, four Democrats and five independ-

For the next several months, the state will continue to take applications for people interested in serving on the commission, and the Secretary of State's office is mailing 250,000 applications to randomly selected registered voters in the state.

The deadline for submitting applications is June 1, 2020, after which point a pool of 200 finalists will be randomly chosen. Michigan's legislative leaders will have the opportunity to review and strike up to five applicants apiece before another random drawing to determine who will serve, which is set to take place before Sept.

The commission will be seated by mid-October 2020, and in 2021 will be tasked with drawing political district maps using census data and input from the public.

There are several restrictions on who can serve. Anyone who's been a candidate or elected official, worked for a political party, registered as a lobbyist or worked for the legislature in the last six years are ineligible, as are their immediate family mem-

Those restrictions are the subject of a legal challenge from Republican groups questioning Proposal 2's constitutionality. That case is ongoing, but an effort to delay implementation while litigation continues was denied in court.

Third-graders to be held back for reading difficulties

In the spring of 2020, some third-graders are expected to be held back in school due to a lack of reading comprehen-

Itis the long tail of the 2016 third-grade reading law. which is based on the premise that after grade three, students need to be good readers to keep up with other subiects in school.

The law, triggered when students read a year or more behind grade level in third grade, provides some exemptions for kids who donit read at grade level to advance.

Only 44 percent of Michigan third-graders passed the M-Step reading test administered in April 2018.

The census will take place

Michiganís population is likely to be slightly above 10 million in the 2020 census. and could set a new record, but there is a risk of an undercount, particularly among minorities and children under age 5, experts say.

The decennial census counts are critical for states as well as local governments because it determines the number of congressional

seats apportioned to each state, and is used for drawing congressional districts and legislative districts within Michigan, Moreover, Congress distributes \$800 billion annually to communities based on Census data.

A 2019 analysis by The Urban Institute projected that Michiganis count will come in at 10.058,300. The current record for state population was set in 2004, at 10,055,315. The Census Bureauís most recent population estimate was 9,995,915 as of July 1, 2018.

The first statewide election will take place with same-day registration, noreason absentee

A ballot proposal approved by Michigan voters in 2018 put in place changes like same-day registration and no-reason absentee voting expected to expand ballot ac-

Some local elections took place in 2019, but the presidential election in 2020 is the first statewide test of the new policies. Some voters will put the changes to use for the first time as they go to cast their ballots in the traditionally high-turnout presiden-

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BOYNE CITY

PINT AND PAINT

January 9, 6-9pm, Stiggs Brewery basement. Instruction will be the "Art of Mandala Drawing," using simple tools to create beautiful designs and patterns. Lexie Brummeler will walk you through the process of painting a beautiful mandala on a stone and Sue Metzger help vou create a wonderful mandala on canvas. You will be able to take home two beautiful pieces of art. All materials will be provided and registration includes a drink of your choice for \$25. Profits will go to the Charlevoix Area Humane Society to help fund some much-needed projects, including a small surgical suite to spay and neuter strays and a new HVAC system. Enrollment is limited to 15, so register early by calling Sue at 231-582-7567, email sue@shangrilahouse.com or mail a check to Susan Metzger, 05804 Lake Street, Boyne City MI 49712

BOYNE CITY

FAT & FLURRIOUS BIKE RACE

January 11. The course is 10-15 miles (Sport Class) or 15-20 miles (Open Class - Riders must be registered for the open class to accumulate points in the Shorts overall points series), depending on conditions leading up to the event, over the professionally-designed and built singletrack at Avalanche Mountain. This will be the most challenging Fat Tire Bike Race in the Lower Peninsula! The start and finish being North Country Cycle Sport in downtown Boyne City. This event is used as a fundraiser for Top Of Michigan Mountain Bike Association (TOMMBA) for further trail development. The event is timed by Epic Race Timing who will provide live results. Registration info at fatandflurrious.com.

BOYNE CITY

DEMONS, SATAN EXPLORED

January 12, 6:30pm, Lifetree Cafe. The program, titled "Is the Devil Real? An Exorcist Tells All." features interviews with people who claim to have had encounters with demons, including a clergyman who has conducted many exorcismsthe removal of demonic spir-Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Lifetree Café is in the First Presbyterian Church. 401 S. Park St., Boyne City. Use the Pine St entrance

ELLSWORTH

STATE OF THE COMMUNITY

January 15, Banks Township Hall (upstairs). Doors open at 5pm, presentations start at 5:30pm. Refreshsponsored ments Charlevoix State Bank. Event sponsor; East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce.

ELLSWORTH

ANNUAL PIG ROAST **MEETING**

January 16, 6pm, Town Hall. We are working on improving our communication this year so if you have even a small part in this 2-day event or would like to voice an idea or complaint, please attend this first meeting so we can all get off to a unified start. We are hoping to have an excellent festival this year but we need your help to make that happen. We are looking forward to working with all of you.

PETOSKEY

LUNCHEON LECTURE: THE CHEMISTRY OF **CANNABIS**

January 17, Lunch at 11:30am, Program at noon, NCMC Library Conference Center. Lake Superior State University's new cannabis chemistry program is the first academic degree program in the nation focusing on the quantitative analysis of cannabis-related compounds, including THC and CBD. Professors Benjamin Southwell and Steven Johnson will explain their program, the career potential for graduates, and the possible positive impact their program could have on the economy of the eastern Upper Peninsula. Reservations are required. You must call 231-348-6600 or email luncheonlectures@ncmich.edu to reserve your place for each presentation. Cost is \$12.

BOYNE CITY

FRESHWATER CONCERTS PRESENTS DAVID **MAYFIELD PARADE**

January 18, 8pm, Freshwater Art Gallery. David Mayfield may be one of the most original performers on the Americana scene, known for his bombastic stage presence as much as his virtuosic guitar talent and songwriting prowess. Tickets \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Call (231) 582-2588 to

CHARLEVOIX

LIVE FROM CHARLEVOIX PRESENTS THREE **MEN AND A TENOR**

January 18, 8-10pm, Charlevoix Cinema III. THREE MEN and a TENOR has regularly sold-out shows at performing arts centers, theatres, and festivals and fairs for over 25 years with a powerful blend of vocal harmonies and feel-good music for all ages. For information visit http://livefromcharlevoix.com

BOYNE CITY

WICCA, PAGANISM, AND WITCHCRAFT **EXPLORED**

January 19, 6:30pm, Lifetree Cafe. The program—titled "The Witch Next Door: What's the Appeal of Wicca and Paganism?"—features filmed interviews with selfidentified pagans and a Wiccan who says she began exploring the religion as a teenager and still practices it today. Admission to the 60minute event is free. Lifetree Café is in the First Presbyterian Church. 401 S. Park St., Boyne City. Use the Pine St. entrance.

PETOSKEY

LUNCHEON LECTURE: 2020 CENSUS

January 24, Lunch at 11:30am, Program at noon, NCMC Library Conference Center. It's that time again: The nation's decennial census takes place this year. The census is the primary source of data on the nation's population and economy. Census data are used to determine our system of political representation, inform business investment and allocate government funds. David Springsteen, partnership specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau, explains the process, the jobs that need to be filled and more. Reservations are required. You must call 231-348-6600 or email luncheonlectures@ncmich.edu reserve your place for each presentation. Cost is \$12.

BOYNE CITY

ANNUAL CHAMBER AWARDS GALA

January 16, 5:30pm, Boyne Mountain Civic Center. Presenting sponsor for the gala will be KorthaseFlinn Insurance and Financial Services. In addition to the presentation of awards to community leaders and the installation of chamber board members, the event will feature a buffet dinner, cash bar, bucket raffles and a live auction. Tickets are \$55.

Bucket raffles will be held for great prize packages with 10 tickets available for \$25. There will also be a raffle with \$10 tickets for a Yeti Cooler full of spirits and goodies, sponsored by Boyne City Hardware. The Live Auction is sponsored by Boyne Mountain. Ticket info at www.boynechamber.com

EAST JORDAN

ANNUAL CHAMBER MEETING/DINNER AUCTION

January 25, 5:30-9:30pm, Castle Farms. The East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce will hold it's annual Meeting/Dinner/Auction at Castle Farms. Everyone is welcome to attend, RSVP to the Chamber Office to reserve your seat. Seating is limited. Auction items are always appreciated and welcome. Contact the Chamber Office to arrange pick-up. Call (231) 536-7351 or email info@ejchamber.org

WALLOON LAKE

BEARCUB OUTFITTERS TORCHLIGHT SNOWSHOE OUTING

January 25, 5-9pm, Camp Daggett. Experience the ambiance of snow-covered trails illuminated by more than 100 torches on your trek. Afterward, come inside for a cup of hot chocolate. freshly-baked cookies and to warm up by the crackling fire in Camp's beautiful main lodge. Buy raffle tickets for great Bearcub Outfitter products with all proceeds going to Camp Daggett. Admission is free, donations are encouraged, and snowshoes are available for all ages. For additional information or to register, please contact Ed Leverenz at Camp Daggett, 231-347-9742 ext 112.

BOYNE CITY

WICCA, PAGANISM, **AND WITCHCRAFT EXPLORED**

January 26, Lifetree Cafe. Join us at 5:30 with a dish to share. Program begins promptly at 6:30. The program, titled "Conspiracies: What 'They' Don't Want You to Know," features a filmed interview with Ross Hemsworth, a well-known radio personality and speaker at conferences addressing conspiracies and conspiracy theories. During the episode, Lifetree participants will be given an opportunity to share their opinions of commonly reported conspiracy theories including the JFK assassination, UFO landings, and genetically engineered viruses. Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Lifetree Café is in the First Presbyterian Church. 401 S. Park St., Boyne City. Use the Pine St. entrance.

WALLON LAKE

CAMP DAGGETT FATHER/SON WEEKEND

February 7-9. Fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers or big brothers are invited to bring their sons (ages 7-14) for this fun filled weekend at Camp. Activities begin at 6 p.m. on Friday and close at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Cost is \$200 for father/son, plus \$50 for each additional family member. Space is limited and registration is on a first come first served basis. Participants can expect a weekend of fun and adventure as they try their hands at various outdoor activities and enjoy wild game lunches and dinners in front of the lodge fireplace. For additional information or to register, please contact Ed Leverenz at Camp Daggett, 231-347-9742 ext 112.

PETOSKEY

LUNCHEON LECTURE: THE BLUES

February 14, Lunch at 11:30am, Program at noon, NCMC Library Conference Center. A musical genre that began in the Deep South in the 19th century has grown to influence just about every type of modern music. Attorney Stuart Fenton is such a big fan that he hosted a weekly four-hour blues show on a Kalamazoo radio station for several years. He will give us a brief overview

of some of the most influential blues artists from the beginning through the modern era. Reservations are required. You must call 231-348-6600 or email luncheonlectures@ncmich.edu reserve your place for each presentation. Cost is \$12.

BOYNE CITY

CHAMBER "OFF THE CLOCK"

February 20, Boyne Valley Vineyards, 5325 US 131 Boyne Falls. The Boyne Area Chamber has announced the 2020 schedule for "Off The Clock," our new name for Business After Hours. This is the Chamber's monthly business networking event, held at member businesses. The first one of the year, as always, is the Annual Awards Gala at Boyne Mountain Resort on Thursday, January 16th. Except for the Awards Gala and the Regional Business After hours, there is no charge for admission or refreshments. Chamber members and the general public are welcome to attend

PETOSKEY

LUNCHEON LECTURE: S.S. EDMUND **FITZGERALD**

February 21, Lunch at 11:30am, Program at noon, NCMC Library Conference Center. Drawing on rare archival material and exclusive underwater images of the wreck site, Bruce Lynn, executive director of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society, has written a richly illustrated, 272-page meditation on the remarkable life and tragic loss of a ship that has become part of the folklore of North America's inland seas. Reservations are required. You must call 231-348-6600 or email luncheonlectures@ncmich.edu to reserve your place for each presentation. Cost is

WALLOON LAKE

BEARCUB OUTFITTERS TORCHLIGHT SNOWSHOE OUTING

February 29, 5-9pm, Camp Daggett. Experience the ambiance of snow-covered trails illuminated by more than 100 torches on your trek. Afterward, come inside for a cup of hot chocolate. freshly-baked cookies and to warm up by the crackling fire in Camp's beautiful main lodge. Buy raffle tickets for great Bearcub Outfitter products with all proceeds going to Camp Daggett. Admission is free, donations are encouraged, and snowshoes are available for all ages. For additional information or to register, please contact Ed Leverenz at Camp Daggett, 231-347-9742 ext 112.

PETOSKEY

LUNCHEON LECTURE: TALKING TRASH

March 20, Lunch at 11:30am, Program at noon, NCMC Library Conference Center. Do you ever wonder what happens to the stuff you put out to the curb every week? Chris Gee knows. He got his start in the trash business at age 9. Today, he runs the landfill in Onaway owned by GFL Environmental Inc. based in Toronto, Canada, that takes all of the trash collected in Emmet County. He can also tell you some surprising things about eagles and how he's looking at ways to turn some of your waste into electricity. Reservations are required. You must call 231-348-6600 email or luncheonlectures@ncmich.e du to reserve your place for each presentation. Cost is

PETOSKEY

LUNCHEON LECTURE: BEETHOVEN AND THE ODE TO JOY

April 17, Lunch at 11:30am, Program at noon, NCMC Library Conference Center. In 2020, orchestras

across the world will celebrate the 250th birthday of one of the greatest composers of all time. Although Ludwig van Beethoven is often hailed as a hero who overcame deafness to compose some of the greatest music ever written, there is much more to his story. Amanda Sewell, Ph.D., music director of Interlochen Public Radio, will survey his life and music, focusing on some lesser-known facets, including his long affair with a married woman "Immortal known as Beloved." Dr. Sewell has written a biography of Wendy Carlos, the composer "Switched-On Bach," which is forthcoming from Oxford University Press. Reservations are required. You must call 231-348-6600 or email luncheonlectures@ncmich.edu to reserve your place for each presentation. Cost is \$12.

BOYNE CITY

FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays, 8am - Noon. The market has moved indoors to the lobby of Boyne City Hall. Packed full of beautiful produce, greens, homemade goodies and so much more. The Market is also working with the support of Blissfest and Grain Train to continue to provide talented local musicians for your listening pleasure as you shop. For more information on the market, visit the Boyne City Farmers Market Facebook page or email farmersmarket@boynecity.com

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

LEADERSHIP TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

High school sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are Great Lakes Energy members are invited to take part in a oncein-a-lifetime leadership travel opportunity in June 2020. From the battlefields of Gettysburg, to the halls of Congress in Washington, D.C., the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour will explore leadership lessons from our nation's history and immerse participants in the cooperative spirit. The event takes place June 20-25, 2020. More information and the online application are available at CooperativeYouth-Tour.com. Applications must be received by Feb. 28 for consideration.

EAST JORDAN

OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN COFFEE HOUSE

Features gospel music on the first and third Saturdays of the month starting at 7pm. East Jordan Senior Center, 951 Mill Street. Everyone welcome. Free coffee and snacks with a small charge for pizza and water.

BOYNE CITY

KINDER CLOSET

At Christ Lutheran Church is open from 10am to noon on the second Saturday of every month. Free baby items are provided, including diapers; wipes; clothes more, for any and Charlevoix County parent with a newborn to 24 monthold-child. Christ Lutheran Church is located at 1250 Boyne Avenue in Boyne City. For more information, call 231-582-9301.

CHARLEVOIX

WELLNESS WORKSHOPS

Held at Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital Wellness Workshop, 411 Bridge Street. Call (231) 437-3482 for more information.

- Hatha Yoga, every Monday and Friday 7:30-8:30am. The yoga sequences, along with breath work and relaxation techniques will assist in building strength, stamina, flexibility, balance, and increasing body awareness. The use of props, blocks, or blankets make poses easily modified to suit the individual. All levels of fitness are

welcome and modifications will be provided as needed. The class is taught by Lisa Hepner is a licensed physical therapist assistant with Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital.

- Wellness Wednesday, every Wednesday from 8am-11am. Health screens include: Total Cholesterol. HDL, TC/HDL Ratio, Glucose Level, Body Mass Index Score, Muscle and Fat Percentages, and a Blood Pressure Reading. No fasting is required. However, if you are fasting and LDL and Triglyceride reading can also be obtained. Cost for the service is \$15. Hemoglobin A1C Levels can also be done for known or borderline diabetics for an additional \$10. Participants will receive all test results at the time of the screening and a "Know Your Numbers" log to track progress. A Registered Nurse will adapt health consultation and educational materials to individual results. Walk-ins only, no appointment required.

- Full Body Toning Exercise Class, every Thursday from 5:30-6:30pm. The first class is free as are all yoga and strength training classes. If you enjoy your first class, low-cost punch cards available and are good for any of our classes. Call (231) 437-3482 for more information or email chx-wellness@mhc.net to have our calendar emailed to you monthly.

BOYNE CITY

FREE COFFEE, **DOUGHNUTS & LUNCH FOR VETERANS**

The community of Boyne City will be hosting a free social gathering for all veterans from 9 to 11 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Boyne Area Senior Center. Coffee and doughnuts will be donated by supportive area businesses. The senior center will also offer free lunches to all veterans on the fourth Tuesday of the month, starting in January. The senior center is located at 411 E. Division St.

CHARLEVOIX

Hospice of Northwest our Monthly adult grief, loss & bereavement support group, which takes place the 2nd Sunday of each month from 4-5pm at the First Baptist Church, 6781 M66 North. This program is open to anyone in our community looking for assistance in their grief process and is facilitated by Rev. David Behling. There is no charge to attend. Please feel free to call Hospice at 231-547-7659 to register or for more information.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan provides counseling and support services at no cost to survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, child sexual assault and adults molested when they were children. Support services include crisis counseling, individual counseling, support groups, trauma therapy (EMDR), play therapy for children, safety planning, advocacy and resources/referrals. If you or someone you care about has been a victim of crime, contact the WRCNM's main office at (231) 347-0067.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan offers free playgroups for children 0-60 months and their preschool-age siblings. Playgroups help you learn about your child's developmental stages, learn new children's games/activities and share parenting concerns/experiences with other parents and the playgroup facilitator. Playgroups are held in various northern Michigan communities. For current playgroup locations/times, visit www.wrcnm.org or call (231) 347-0067.

Lake Superior State University's 45th Annual "List Of Banished Words"

The wordsmiths at Lake Superior State University have released LSSU's 45th annual List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Mis-use. Over-use and General Uselessness.

The influencers in the English Department at Lake Superior State University have announced LSSU's 45th annual List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Misuse, Overuse and General Uselessness

"These days, 'living your best life' is 'literally' impossible with 'influencers' making us 'totes' 'jelly,'" an LSSU spokesperson 'chirped.' "'I mean,' the least they could do is watch their words." OK, boomer.

The Word Banishment tradition, created by the late W. T. Rabe, former public rela-

tions director at Lake Superior State University, is now in its fifth decade. For every new year since 1976, LSSU also known for premier programs in nursing, engineering, robotics, and Great Lakes freshwater research

has issued this list. Rabe and fellow LSSU faculty and staff came up with the first list of words and phrases that people love to hate at a New Year's Eve party in 1975, publishing it on Jan. 1, 1976. Though he and his friends created the first list from their own pet peeves about language, Rabe said he knew from the volume of mail he received in the following weeks that the group would have no shortage of words and phrases from which to choose for 1977. Since then, the list has consisted entirely of nominations received from around the world throughout the

Through the years, LSSU has received tens of thou-



The wordsmiths at Lake Superior State University have released LSSU's 45th annual List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Mis-use, Over-use and General Uselessness. Courtesy image

sands of nominations for the list, which now includes more than a thousand entries. This year's list is culled from nominations received mostly through the university's website, lssu.edu/banished. Word-watchers target pet peeves from everyday speech, as well as from the news, fields of education. technology, advertising, politics and more. A committee makes a final cut in Decem-

Noticeable trends for the past decade show the influx of social media language into our daily lives, with: "tweet," "app," "sexting," and "friend" as a verb being banished. Since 2010, each year has seen additional social media terms appearing on lists: "Facebook" and "Google" as verbs, "selfie," "Twittersphere," "break the internet," and "ghosting" to name a few. Since 2016, a noticeable trend of exhaustion with words rooted in politics and media coverage has emerged: "post-truth," "echochamber," "fake news," and "collusion" appear on the 2017-2019 lists. This latter trend persists in the 2020 list

with the most-nominated word: "quid pro quo."

"No quid pro quo was offered during the creation of this meticulously curated list of words," stated Dr. Rodney Hanley, LSSU President, "I mean, literally, this holiday season I'm living my best life and looking forward to all the reactions to this years list."

And now, the 2020 list: The Most Nominated Word or Phrase for 2020:

Quid pro quo: This phrase received the most nominations this year, with a noticeable spike in November (gee, we wonder why...). The popularity of this phrase has the committee wondering what it should offer in exchange for next year's nominations.

Nominated by: Mary Bilyeu, Toledo, OH; Deborah Rempala, Saint Clair Shores, MI; Julie Janiskee, Petoskey, MI; Deanna, Sault Ste Marie, MI; Jeff Lewis, Ada, MI; Lisa K Farrell, Los Angeles, CA; Tana Baldwin, Petoskey, MI; Trudy Salo, Liberty Twp, OH; Tom Reilly, Bloomfield Twp, MI; Jeff Malcolm, Paw Paw, MI; Daniel Muldoon, Council Bluffs, IA; Kate TerHaar, Cedarville, MI; Mary J.,

Houston, TX; Lori Moore, Kalamazoo, MI; Steve Carr, Marquette, MI; R. Osinski, Clinton Twp., MI; Dan Berardi, Arnprior, Ontario, Canada.

Words that Attempt to Make Something More than

Artisanal: One nominator described this word as an "obfuscation," describing an "actual person doing something personal for another unknown person." The committee agrees this word should be banned for well water... but not for sandwiches. Nominated by Nkenge Zola, Highland Park, MI; Bill McCune, Petoskey,

Curated: Like "artisanal," this seems to be another attempt at making something more than it is, especially when used in reference to social media (or Banished Words Lists). As Barb from Ann Arbor says, "Save it for the museum." Nominated by Barb, Ann Arbor, MI; Nkenge Zola, Highland Park, MI; Jerry Purdy, Portage, MI; and Samurel Press, Burlington, VT

Influencer: According to

Urban Dictionary, "A word Instagram users use to describe themselves to make them feel famous and more important when no one really know who they are or care." Nominated by; Sylvia Gurinsky, Davie, FL; Jeff Lewis, Ada, MI; Paul Bartunek, Los Angeles, CA; Jacqueline Reardon, Burlington, NJ; diva_angel360

Words Banished for Pretentiousness or Imprecision:

Literally: Surprisingly, this word hasn't already been banished, but here it is, one of the few words in English that has begun to serve as its own antonym. Many of the nominators cite this word's use for figurative expressions or emphasis, which is literally annoying. Nominated by; Edward, Glendale, AZ; Ryan Chenier, Grand Rapids, MI; Daniel Kirk, San Luis Obispo, CA; Dale Martin, Novi, MI; Jack Pollard, Haslett, MI; Gary Wenger, Delta, BC, Canada; Christy Borthick, Nashville, TN; Pamela Navlor, Dover, DE: Jamie Rankin, Connellsville, PA; Margaret, Los Angeles, CA; and Jennifer W Berlin. Anthem, AZ

I mean: It's easy to see why this phrase was nominated, right? I mean... Nominated by; John Leask, Alpena, MI

Living my best life: The committee very much enjoys exercising its authority in banishing words annuallyliterally the capstone of our year-but as Eric says, apart from reincarnation, are there "options for multiple lives"? Nominated by; Gary Wheelock, Wixom, MI; Eric Park, Rock Hill, SC

Mouthfeel: A word used by foodies to describe the texture of food or drink in the mouth, which the committee feels should be banished entirely from food reality TV

shows. As our nominator asks, "Where else, exactly, would you like to touch your food or beverage?" This one just doesn't feel right in the mouth. Nominated by; Jodi Miller, Gahanna, OH

Those Darn Millennials! Chirp: This one is a new insult for the non-millennials on the committee. Before we get chirped for being out of touch, as our nominator suggests, why don't we leave it to the birds? Nominated by; Abigail Ostman, Sault Ste Marie, MI

Jelly: An abbreviation of "jealous," the committee agrees with the nominator of this word who suggested that it's better left for toast. Nominated by; Mike Bassarab, Kalamazoo, MI

Totes: Another abbreviation, this time of "totally." Totes overused. Nominated by; Samantha Stuart, Walker,

Vibe / vibe check: A new use of the 60s term, "good vibes." This one just doesn't vibe with us anymore, unless the speaker is actually vibrating. Nominated by; Leah Mockridge, Sault Ste Marie, MI and Carissa, Sault Ste Marie, MI

OK, Boomer: This phrase caught on late this year on the Internet as a response from millennials to the older generation. Boomers may remember, however, that generational tension is always present. In fact, it was the Boomers who gave us the declaration: "Don't trust anyone over 30!" Nominated by; Curtis McDonald, Shelby Township, MI; Scott Eldridge, Kalamazoo, MI; and Devin Greaney, Cordova, TN

BOYNE CITY POLICE DEPT. INCIDENT REPORT

Monday, December 9

Suspicious situation in the 500 block of E Division. Vehicle unlock on W Water St

Vehicle in ditch at Fall Park and Dietz.

Tuesday, December 10

Issued citation and towed vehicle from the 100 block of E Water St for snow re-

moval 0354 Parking violation at Main and Front. Assist EMS in the 400 0407

block of W Ann. CSC complaint re-1323 ported from the 1000 block of Boyne Av

911 hang up from the 1346 900 block of Brockway Scam phone call claiming to be Consumer's Energy received in the 800 block of S Park

Assist EMS in the 800 2016 block of State St.

Wednesday, December 11 Assist citizen at the

PD. 2209 Oakland County picked up subject on our warrant.

Thursday, December 12 Snow plowing com-

plaint from S. Lake St. 1052 Subject claims he was almost hit at the corner of Park and State Motorist assist at 1112

Water and East. MDOP complaint in the 500 block of Bay St Suspicious phone call 1203 received on Front St.

Suspicious situation in the 300 block of Arthur St. Assist EMS in the 500 1253 block of W Division Subject at PD with a

found pin.

1308 Report of snowmobiles speeding on Vogel and quads doing doughnuts in the intersection at Jefferson.

Arrested subject for no insurance and driving on suspended license at Water at Front

Assist EMS in the 400

block of W Michigan. Suspicious situation reported on Pleasant Alarm activation in the 300 block of N Lake St. Alarm activation in the 100 block of S Park St.

Friday, December 13 0153 Assist Sheriff Dept.

with vehicle in ditch on Lakeshore Dr.

Vehicle unlock on E 1111 Main.

Assist EMS in the 800 2211 block of State St. Disturbance in the 100 2339 block of W Division St.

Saturday, December 14 0230 Disturbance at the intersection of Harris St and Main

1226 Property damage crash at S. Park St. and Ray St. PPO violation reported on Smith St.

1430 Threats complaint reported from the 600 block fo Jersey St.

Harassment complaint 1513 from the 1400 block of Pleasant

Ave. 1729 Vehicle unlock in the 200 block of S Lake St.

1924 Civil standby on Wenonah St. 1949

Report of vehicle in the ditch at Wildwood Harbor Rd. and Jefferson St. Gone on

Sunday, December 15 Assist Sheriff Dept and 0114

EMS on Fall Park Rd. Dispatched an injured deer on Fall Park Rd near city limits.

Assist EMS in the 300 1011 block of E Division St 1031 Welfare check in the 800 block of Thompson St Enroute to Oakland County to pick up subject on our

warrant. Assist Sheriff Dept. on 2215 Bear River Rd.

Assist BCFD in the In-2300 dustrial Park.

Free Mobile Service ■ Insurance Work Repair or Replace
All Makes & Models
Troy LaCount
Owner N.G.A. Master Certified 231-675-2348 "No leaks for life www.legendsautoglass.com = Ellsworth

January is National Birth Defects Prevention Month

Every 4½ minutes a baby is born with a birth defect in the United States. That's why the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is joining with leading prenatal health experts from the National Birth Defects Prevention Network. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, March of Dimes. Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention and MotherToBaby this month to increase awareness of five critical tips to reduce the chances of having a baby with a birth defect.

The National Birth Defects Prevention Month campaign theme, "Best for You. Best for Baby" aims to raise awareness of the roughly 1 in 33 birth defects cases occurring in Michigan each

"Not all birth defects can be prevented, but you can increase your chances of having a healthy baby by doing all you can to be your healthiest self both before and during pregnancy," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health for MDHHS.

Follow these five tips to increase your chances of having a healthy baby:

- Take 400 micrograms of folic acid every day. Folic acid is very important because it can help prevent some major birth defects of

the baby's brain and spine. - Book a visit with your healthcare provider before stopping or starting any medicine. There are often benefits to continuing treatment throughout pregnancy. Discussing a treatment plan before a pregnancy allows a woman and her healthcare provider to weigh the pros and cons of all options to keep mom and baby as healthy as possible.

- Get up to date with all vaccines, including the flu shot. Having the right vaccinations, like the influenza and Tdap vaccines, at the right time during pregnancy can help keep a woman and her baby healthy.

- Try to reach a healthy weight before you get pregnant. Obesity increases the risk for several serious birth defects and other pregnancy complications.

- Boost your health by avoiding harmful substances during pregnancy, such as alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. There is no known safe amount of alcohol during pregnancy and drinking alcohol while pregnant can cause birth defects and cognitive impairment in the baby. - Smoking during preg-

nancy can cause dangerous chemicals to damage the placenta and/or reach baby's bloodstream. The opioid epidemic has led to a sharp increase in Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and premature birth.

The MDHHS Birth Defects Education and Outreach program encourages Michiganders to be active participants in National Birth **Defects Prevention Month** by following and sharing #Best4YouBest4Baby messages on social media.

For more information,

Migrc.org/providers/birthdefects-prevention.



(Keep your dignity, and work your way out)

Dear Dave, My wife and I will both

turn 30 next month. We have two young children, and we make a little over \$85,000 combined. The problem is we have about \$70,000 in debt. Some of it is credit card debt, but nearly \$50,000 is in two car loans. Her mom and dad have offered to let us move in with them, so we can save up money and start getting a better handle on our finances, but we're not sure how we feel about this. What's your advice?

Justin

Dear Justin,

You've got a ridiculous amount of money wrapped up in those cars. I'd sell the stupid things, get into a couple of little beaters, and start living on a budget and paying down debt.

In your situation, the only scenario where I'd even consider taking the inlaws up on their offer is one where the stay is for a very short, agreed-upon period of time. They'd have to be absolutely wonderful people, too, and everyone involved would need to know their boundaries.

But you guys can get out of debt pretty fast if you'll just lose the cars. You could even save a little money on the side while you were paying down debt, and buy a better car as soon as the debt was gone.

You might love your cars so much that you're unwilling to make the sacrifice. Not me. I'd rather keep my dignity intact, and work my way out of the mess I cre-

ated! —Dave

(Playing the lottery robs you of your future)

Dear Dave,

I've been struggling financially for the past few months, so I've been playing the lottery once a week. To me, the chance to win millions is worth a few dollars a month, even if things are tight.

Paula

Dear Paula, You've told me you're having money troubles, and at the same time you're throwing money out the window every week? Honestly, the small amount you're talking about doesn't make a difference. Even if it's just two or three bucks a week, that action represents a lot of financially irresponsible behavior in your life.

I'm going to be very blunt with you. The lottery is a tax on the poor and people who can't do math. Your chances of winning are bleak at best. Did you know the odds of winning the Powerball jackpot are about 1 in 292,000,000? There are plenty of other very unusual things that are much more likely to happen to you than winning the lottery. Your chances of making a hole-in-one on the golf course are about 1 in 12,500. Even your odds of having quadruplets are around 1 in

11 million. When times are tough and you're strapped for cash, the last thing you need to do is spend what little you have on gimmicks. My advice is to focus on working hard, living on a tight budget that cuts out all unnecessary expenses, and saving every penny you can. Unlike the lottery, this is a plan that works every time. When you start living on a budget and get out of debt, it provides a little bit of breathing room in your life. You might even feel like you got a raise!

Don't let your finances and your dreams—be hijacked by the lottery.

–Dave

* Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveR-



2020 CHEVROLET 2.7T CUSTOM Crew Cab

For GM employees with current truck lease loyalty. Must qualify through GM Financial. Based on stock #12537 with MSRP \$43,850. Tax, title and plate not included. Must take delivery by 1-31-2020. See dealer for complete details.

24 MONTHS 10,000 MILES/YEAR \$2,499 CASH OR

OR get 0% financing on the Silverado for up to 72 months!

2020 CHEVROLET \$ TRAX LT AWD

GM Financial. Based on stock #12608 with MSRP \$26,185. Tax, title and plate not included. Must take delivery by 1-31-2020. See 24 MONTHS / 10.000 MILES PER YEAR WITH \$2,499 CASH OR TRADE DOWN



2008 TOYOTA RAV4 4WD \$6,950

CARFAX one owner, Descent control, Alloy wheels, Traction control, Reclining rear seats, Remote entry.



2011 JEEP COMPASS 4X4

\$7,450 2.4L 4 cyl., Tire Pressure warning, Stability control, 5-speed manual, Touring suspension, Remote keyless entry.



\$7,950

CARFAX one owner, 3.6L V6, Bluetooth, OnStar, Tire pressure monitor, Traction control, Remote keyless entry.



\$9,950

5.3L V8, Leather heated seats, Luxury Pkg., Power-operated liftgate, Bose Premium Sound System, Trailer hitch.



2014 FORD ESCAPE 4X4 \$13,950

CARFAX one owner, Heated leather seats, Reclining rear seats, Remote keyless entry, Rear Collision Warning.



Split-bench rear seats, Transmission hill holder, Electronic Stability Control, ABS And Driveline Traction Control.



2016 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 4X4

\$23,950 CARFAX one owner, Parkview Rear View Camera, USB port, Bluetooth, 3.6L V6, 2 LCD Monitors In The Front.



2016 SILVERADO 1500 4X4 \$28,950

CARFAX one owner, Midnight Edition, Bed liner, Rear view camera, Park assist, Hitch, OnStar, Remote keyless entry.



2017 CADILLAC XT5 LUXURY AWD \$33,950

CARFAX one owner, Heated leather seats, Side blind zone alert, Bluetooth,



2018 SILVERADO 2500HD 4X4 \$38,950

CARFAX one owner, 6.0L Vortec V8, 110V outlet. Provision for cab roof mounted



2018 SUBURBAN LT 4X4

CHEVROLET CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED, CARFAX one owner, 5.3L V8. Heated leather seats, Remote start, Power out-



2019 JEEP WRANGLER 4WD

\$36,950

CARFAX one owner. Rear view camera AC power outlet, Tow hooks, Bluetooth, Stainless exhaust, Engine hour meter.

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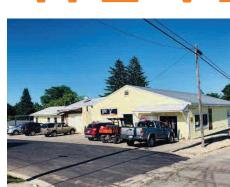






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RICE REDUCED!!!! 6508 CENTER STREET • ELLSWORTH Investors, entrepreneurs, don't pass this large commercial building up. Located in the heart of Ellsworth. So many possibilities split thebuilding up and rent it out for multiple businesses... Would be a great space for an indoor daycare or a yoga studio.... what about a boatrental, room for kayaks. Or the handyman could turn this into apartments. For the investor shine it up and rent all the spaces and watchyour investment grow. MLS #459037. \$60,000



PRICE REDUCED! 05541 MILES ROAD • EAST JORDAN 100 foot of waterfront with an approximate 2000 sq foot home on 6 mile lake. New well, septic and drain-field. This home needs yourfinishing touches start today and be ready for all the summer fun on the lake! Home is a remodel with a mother in-law suite above thegarage would make a great family home, vacation home. MLS #460949. \$149.900



8869 W M-32 HIGHWAY • FI MIRA Convenience/Party Store, Deli, Pizza, Groceries, Residential Rental. This is a 4 bedroom, 1 bath home that can be lived in while you runthe store or could be rented as another source of income. Rent one run the other or rent both so



W LISTING! 6075 LITTLE STUMP TRAIL • GAYLORD Privacy and Paradise!! Great location close to downtown Gaylord yet outside of town nestled on 10 acres with berries galore and room torun or hunt!! Conveniently located close to the new EJ plant and not far from Boyne Mountain or I75. This home boast 2 bedrooms 2baths with a full basement and open

floor plan. Great patio for entertaining and a fire pit set up for those fall nights. Call today don't letthis one get away! MLS #460856. **\$89,900**



01161 NORWOOD ROAD • CHARLEVOIX Very Private Gentlemen's Farm abuts thousands of acres of State Land which goes all the way to Lake Michigan! Tons of trails... Anopportunity of a life time!! roperty is currently fenced for horses the 64x32 barn has stalls and a lean-to 64x12 plus storage andparking.. The home is a 4 bedroom with 2 of the bedrooms in the basement without egress windows...Don't miss this opportunity to ownthis upnorth gem! MLS #459591. **\$235,000**



many possibilities!! MLS #460589. \$179,900

01002 M-75 S • BOYNE CITY Have you always dreamed of that time you wouldn't have to go home? This is the perfect place to call home so manyupdates yet it doesn't feel new... this home is warm and welcoming and close to all that Boyne has to offer. Boyne City is just a zip up theroad and Boyne Mountain and Boyne River is just a Petoskey Stones throw away... what are you waiting for, you're here let's make thishome! MLS #459956. \$179,900

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