

FRESHWATER REPORTER



Serving Coastal Communities from Arcadia to Ludington

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Winemaking a labor of love for Love Wines

By Pat Stinson

Love Wines, currently located in the heart of downtown Ludington, just celebrated its 5-year anniversary last month.

The custom crush winery, with a tasting room and gift shop, is owned by Jana and Nathaniel “Nate” Rose. Jana makes the wine and runs the winery. Nate is the graphic artist, designing labels, creating advertising and maintaining the website.

He also takes care of the couple’s four children, allowing Jana to use her winemaker wizardry to create new flavors and customer favorites, such as their top-selling Toes in the Sand, a strawberry-and-peach summer wine, or Michigan Apple Cider Wine, available in the fall.

In all, the winery keeps an inventory of 20-plus fruit wines and traditional styles, ranging from dry to sweet.

Each bottle pairs winemaker Jana’s love of her craft with locally grown fruit – peaches, strawberries, blueberries and apples – sourced from Oceana, Mason and Ogemaw counties.

On an overcast, late September day, the pair and their two youngest, Ryker, 4, and Ender, 2, are hidden amongst rows of grapes at J&H Vineyards, outside Pentwater. The adults are pruning vines with clippers and picking grapes with gloved hands as the little ones drop fruit in waiting buckets and dart from row to row. Two helpers, Wanda Van Single, of Kent City, and Rick Hammond, of Perry, responded to a Facebook post



Jana and Nate enjoy a glass of Marquette Wine, made from grapes harvested last year. Photos by Mark Videan.

asking for pickers, and they are clipping grapes and filling 5-gallon buckets.

The vineyard’s owners, Larry and Mary Ann Williams, purchased the land to grow grapes, a retirement project, and named the vineyard after their children. Mary Ann explains that their 30-acre, sandy hilltop, with another 7 acres below, was home to a 100-year-old apple orchard. They pulled 200 apple trees, planted grapes and live beside their vines in a gambrel-roofed farmhouse.

Unprompted, Larry says, “Farming is hard work.” When asked, in reply, why

the pair chose to grow grapes, he answers, simply, “Wife loves wine.”

Mary Ann, energetic and upbeat, says they planted Seyval, Riesling, Muscat and Marquette grapes. Deer ate the Riesling plants, but Mary Ann seems okay with the big flock of visiting turkeys, which are known to eat grapes but also devour the grasshoppers and stink bugs that threaten the fruit.

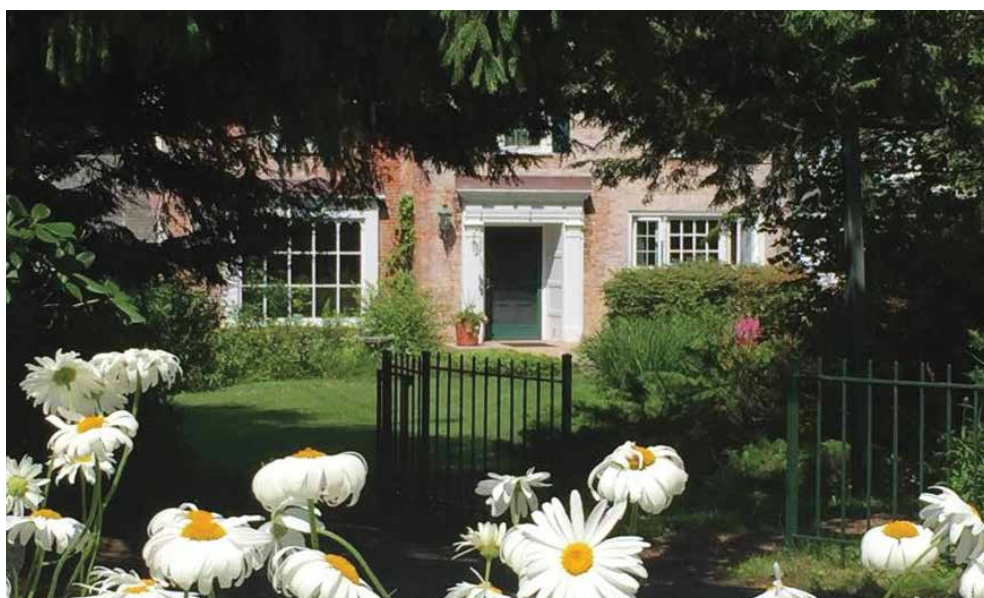
“Deer don’t eat Marquette (grapes) and bugs don’t like the plants,” Mary Ann explains.

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Breathing new life into an historic back yard

By L. Quinn Lincoln-Keon

Have you ever walked into someone’s back yard and thought, “I could stay here forever”?



That is the feeling when you visit Lake Bluff. Located three miles north of US-31 on Lakeshore Road, it is a little slice of Heaven.

Known as Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary, the 76-acre property was given as a gift in the 1980s to Michigan Audubon, which has owned it ever since.

Now the bird conservation organization is turning over ownership reins to two nonprofits to manage and direct Lake Bluff’s future.

One of those organizations, Lake Bluff Farms, will become the caretaker of the buildings and some of the grounds. A second group (to be named later) will have care of the greater part of the land.

Both 501(c)(3) nonprofits will continue to honor nature through their efforts and will keep the legacy and gift of the former owners, the Grays, alive.

LAKE BLUFF HISTORY

In the 1980s Lake Bluff owner Trudy Gray donated the house and land to Michigan Audubon with strict deed restrictions that stated the property must always have conservation as its main priority.

To understand why, we need to leaf

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“Cheers” to fish restoration project and local distillery

By Stewart A. McFerran

The student participants in our adventure school canoe trip and campout were still sleeping in their tents when the big tanker truck backed up to the Manistee River, near where we were camped. The backup beeper on the truck woke up the campers as I walked down to talk with staff from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. They were dragging large sections of pipe down to the river and hooking it up to the truck. The green-shirted hatchery staff told me that the tanker was filled with thousands of grayling.

The grayling is the most iconic fish of Michigan waters. They once teemed in the “holy” cold streams of Michigan. Yet, they were one of the first of the coldwater species to disappear and have not been seen for almost 100 years.

A crowd of sleepy campers was gathering at the truck as the DNR guy turned on the knob that started the water flowing. The small grayling began to swim from the truck to the Upper Manistee. I asked if the students could see what a grayling looked like, and he pulled out a small net and scooped one up.

The fish was small, only about four inches long, and looked much like a trout – until he pulled up the dorsal fin, which was much larger than any trout fin. He said because these fish are so special, they stayed in the hatchery longer and were allowed to grow larger, so they would have a better chance of survival in the wild streams.

But they did not. That was the spring of 1989.

NEW GRAYLING RESEARCH FUND

Once again there is an effort to reintroduce grayling into Michigan waters, and the Manistee River watershed was chosen as the initial release location.

Nancy Auer, Ph.D., of Michigan

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Holiday Happenings

Please check with the venue first, as some dates or times may have changed. Some events require tickets/entry fees not listed here.

November

- Nov 16 Annual Arts and Crafts Show**
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Ludington Senior Center, 308 S. Rowe St., Ludington
- Nov 16 Annual Deer Widows' Vendor and Craft Show**
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Dunes Express Inn and Suites, 2248 N. Comfort Dr., Hart
- Nov 16 Fall Arts and Crafts Show**
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Ludington Area Catholic School, 700 E. Bryant Rd., Ludington
- Nov 20 Ludington Fifth Grade Talent Show**
6 p.m., Foster School, 505 E. Foster Street, Ludington
- Nov 23 Christmas Shoppe Arts and Crafts Show**
9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mason County Reformed Church, 45 S. Amber Rd., Scottville



- Nov 23 Christmas in Onekama**
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Onekama School, 5016 Main St., Onekama
- Nov 29 Home for the Holidays, Hart**
6:30 p.m., Lighted Christmas Parade, visit with Santa and tree lighting, Hart Public School to Hart Commons, Hart
- Nov 30 Manistee VFW Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar**
10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Manistee VFW, 1211 28th St., Manistee
- Nov 30 Market Craft Fair**
10 a.m. - 2 p.m., St. Vincent's Parish Hall, 637 E. Sixth St., Pentwater
- Nov 30 Annual Ludington Arts Center Holiday Craft Show**
10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington, 30 artists and crafters

- Nov 30 22nd Annual Holly Berry Arts and Crafts Fair**
9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Frankfort High School, 534 11th St., Frankfort, juried show with over 100 artists and crafters, Santa and Mrs. Claus, complimentary candy canes and horse-drawn carriage rides
- Nov 30 Community Tree Lighting**
7-8 p.m., Rotary Park, Main Street, Frankfort
- Nov 30 Sparkle in the Park**
5-10 p.m., Hopkins Park, 7727 Hopkins Dr. (just off US 31), Bear Lake, 1000s of holiday lights in over 50 displays. Free, donations accepted. Open through New Year's Day
- Nov 30 A Very Merry Motown Christmas with the Ultimate Taste Band**
7 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington



- Nov 30 Aglow on the Avenue Parade and Holiday Activities to welcome Santa**
Parade starts at 6:00 p.m., traveling East along Ludington Ave. between Gaylord Ave. and Harrison St., downtown Ludington. Held in conjunction with Downtown Ludington's Small Business Saturday and the Downtown Ludington tree lighting at the North James St. Plaza.
- Nov 30 Festival of Lights Weekend**
5 p.m., Tree Lighting and Santa's Arrival, Village Green, Pentwater
Contact www.visitpentwater.com for more information

December

- Dec 1 A Very Merry Motown Christmas with the Ultimate Taste Band**
3 p.m. - 5 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington
- Dec 4-8 G&D Alpacas Holiday Open House**
12-8 p.m. Follow the lighted "fairy" trail to the store for unique alpaca, handmade & Michigan gift items at 4796 Maple Rd., Manistee
Facebook: [gdalpacafarm](https://www.facebook.com/gdalpacafarm)
- Dec 4 Rotary Club Annual Holiday Auction**
6-9 p.m., Lincoln Hills Golf Club, 1527 N. Lakeshore Dr., Ludington
Contact www.ludingtonrotary.org for more info
- Dec 5 West Shore Community College Jazz Ensemble**
7:30 p.m., WSCC Center Stage Theater, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville
- Dec 5-8 Victorian Sleigh Bell Parade and Old Christmas Weekend**
Downtown Manistee, for a complete listing of events, go to <http://manistesleighbellparade.com/event-schedule/>
- Dec 6 Hart Performing Arts Series**
7:30 p.m., Hart Middle School Auditorium, 308 Johnson St., Hart

- Dec 6-7 Letha Fulton School of Dance Christmas Show**
Three shows: Friday 4 p.m., Saturday 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Peterson Auditorium, Ludington High School, 508 N. Washington Ave., Ludington
- Dec 6-7 West Michigan Bed and Breakfast Cookie Tour**
Friday 6-9 p.m., Saturday 1-6 p.m., various locations
Contact <https://www.ludingtonhouse.com/specials/events> for more info
- Dec 6-8 Elf the Musical, Manistee Civic Players**
Fri. & Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m., Manistee High School Auditorium, 525 12th St., Manistee
- Dec 7 Holiday Craft Fair**
Pentwater Public School, 600 E. Park St., Pentwater
- Dec 7 Lakeshore Animal Friends Bazaar**
9 a.m.-2 p.m., Mason County Animal Control, 305 N. Meyers Rd., Ludington
- Dec 7 Scottville United Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar**
9 a.m.-2 p.m., 114 W. State St., Scottville
- Dec 7 Manistee Sleigh Bell Bazaar and Craft Show**
9 a.m.-4 p.m., Manistee High School, 525 12th St., Manistee

- Dec 9 West Shore Community College Gold Coast Chorale**
7:30 p.m., WSCC Center Stage Theater, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville
- Dec 11 Pentwater Elementary Music K-4 Winter Program**
6 p.m., Pentwater School, 600 E. Park St., Pentwater
- Dec 11 Franklin Kindergarten Music Program**
7-8 p.m., Peterson Auditorium, Ludington High School, 508 N. Washington Ave., Ludington
- Dec 12 Lakeview Elementary Christmas Concert**
7-8 p.m., Peterson Auditorium, Ludington High School, 508 N. Washington Ave., Ludington
- Dec 13-14 West Michigan Bed and Breakfast Cookie Tour**
Friday 6-9 p.m., Saturday 1-6 p.m., various locations
Contact <https://www.ludingtonhouse.com/specials/events> for more info
- Dec 14 We'll Be Home for the Holidays Annual Holiday Program**
7-9 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison, Ludington
- Dec 14-15 2nd Annual White Pine Pioneer Christmas**
4-7 p.m., Historic White Pine Village, 1687 S. Lakeshore Dr., Ludington

- Dec 16 West Shore Community College Percussion Ensemble and Wind Symphony**
7:30 p.m., WSCC Center Stage Theater, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville
- Dec 17 Manistee 7th, 8th, and Manistee High School Christmas Concert**
7 p.m., Manistee High School, 525 12th St., Manistee
- Dec 17 West Shore Community College Concert Choir**
7:30 p.m., WSCC Center Stage Theater, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville
- Dec 19 Manistee Choir Holiday Concert**
2 p.m., Manistee High School, 525 12th St., Manistee
- Dec 19 Pentwater 5th and 6th, Junior High and High School Winter Concert**
7 p.m., Pentwater School, 600 E. Park St., Pentwater
- Dec 21 Edgar Struble presents "A Nashville Family Christmas"**
Performances at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Peterson Auditorium, Ludington High School, 508 N. Washington Ave., Ludington. Box office phone 231.843.5507, email caclerk@westshore.edu



- Lasley Hattendorf
- Scruggs Barnard
- Joseph Janiecki
- Acker Jashinsky
- Parke Grant
- Kooyman Szymanski
- Cooper Paone
- Grant Harvey

SNO SNAKE SHO
Reception Dec 6 at 6pm

101 Maple St, Manistee

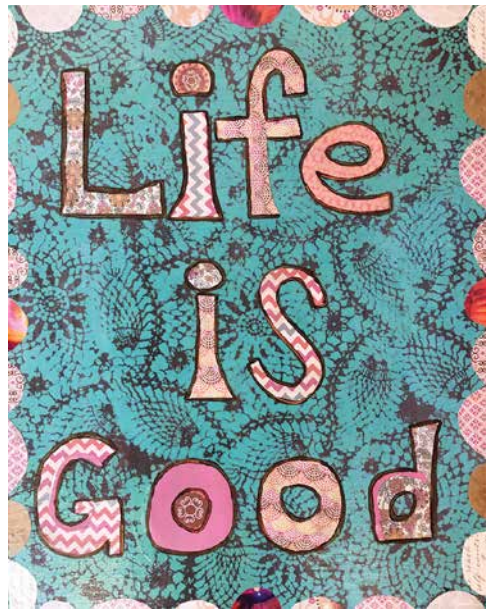
378 River St.
Downtown
Manistee

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Thank you, anyway

By Christina Ryan-Stoltz

There is a spot on my couch where, for a few minutes in the morning, the sunlight streams in through an eastern window and dances on my face. My neighbors' house and a grand old white pine obscure the view the rest of the morning, so I close my eyes to savor this ephemeral moment, feeling the warmth and the hope of a sunny day, and then I give thanks before the day takes me wherever it is headed.



"Life is Good" painting by Christina Ryan-Stoltz.

Most days I spend at least one of my golden hours walking. I crave the time outside throughout the seasons. My mind and my heart need the spaciousness. I take in the changes in foliage, the growth from spotted fawn to sturdy yearling of the deer. I see the crows sit in the same high branch day after day looking out over the expanse of sky near the meadow, hunting. More often than not I will find myself at the shoreline of the big lake. I find my sit spot, look out over the water and feel the anchoring, grounding power and majesty, the vastness. I breathe clean, clear, deep breaths, filling my belly with gratitude and tenderness for this enormous gift.

As I step into my studio to begin my workday, I set down flowers or baked goods or apples I have brought to share. I prepare my workspace – everything in its place, turn the music on and take one last look in the soft, amber lamplight before I fetch my first client from the waiting room. I listen for what is said and watch for what isn't. I feel for tension and for release. I drop into my own breath when theirs catches. We settle into a rhythm where a body can receive all that a massage offers – giver and

receiver. With my left hand firmly on my client, I bring my right to my heart. I cannot bow in gratitude at that moment, but I feel it so deeply I must acknowledge it with a gesture.

Later, in my kitchen, I begin to slice vegetables. My countertop and refrigerator overfloweth. I think of my farmer, who lives just up the road from the house I was raised in, where my folks still live. I am certain this food resonates and communicates directly with my body, like trees in a forest do, as though we are kin. Nourishing and healing food grown for my love and me get me feeling downright weepy with gratitude. We bow our heads before we eat and I say thank you for the farmers, for the soil and the toil and the intention.

There is a lot of science these days on the power of gratitude. The healing power, the life-changing power, the mindset-shifting power. Studies from Harvard, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Positive Psychology Movement and many more, all conducting research on anything from the "neural correlates of gratitude" to the "role of gratitude in spiritual wellbeing in heart failure" to the "influence of gratitude on sleep and cognitive function". Countless books have been written by clergy, therapists, doctors and life coaches about how having a gratitude practice will change/heal/improve your life/health/relationships/finances/career options/influence.

The Berkeley School of Medicine suggests, in a 2018 study, that research links a variety of factors – including personality, cognition & gender – to our likelihood of experiencing gratitude. Cultivating gratitude may be difficult when life presents us with challenges, such as death, poverty, mental illness, chronic illness, political unrest or when we experience empathy for others suffering injustices, violence or natural



Pencil drawing "Gratitude" by Robyn Schmidt.

calamities. But the research, and my own gratitude rituals, suggest otherwise. It is precisely WHEN we experience challenges that feeling genuine gratitude helps us balance the scales.

If you have experienced great pain or loss then you know what a tremendous gift it is to feel joy again, after much time passes and you've begun to wonder if you will ever feel joy, pleasure, happiness or humor – again. Sorrow, it turns out, can actually plant seeds of joy. In my own experience after deep loss, I found that my joy, my propensity for joy, seemed larger than before loss. My bandwidth literally expanded beyond any previously known boundaries. I have spoken with many, many loss survivors about this phenomenon and though it is not across the board, it is definitely a shared experience. I have come to think of it as a pendulum theory; when a pendulum swings far in one direction (sorrow, grief, despair), it must counter swing in the opposite direction (joy, laughter, delight). It's just physics.

To have a range of emotions available again, after the diminished capacity inherent to grief or pain, elicits a natural gratitude response. Innate. I did not have to

sit down and write a list of things I should feel grateful for. It became an appropriate response to the wonder of what remains beautiful in my life, despite loss, despite grief, despite the inability to control or change the outcome. It arrived without effort one day, like a visitor at my door. I chose to invite it in, and I have to keep choosing it, but it comes to me day after day with a myriad of things to be grateful for. Even on the harder days.

As the holiday season ramps up, some of us may feel uneasy, even triggered by the ghosts of Christmas past. The empty chair at the Thanksgiving table may feel unbearable. We may feel forlorn about the future, the new year coming. It is not all good tidings for all, and the messages of peace on earth or counting your blessings may seem glib coming from those with great privilege or without your perspective. The reality is, there are a lot of us out there feeling "all the feels".

And yet, and yet – I encourage you to look for the pockets of peace, the brevity of sunlight on your face, the calm within the storm, and give thanks anyway.

Christina Ryan-Stoltz has been a writer since fifth grade because she has always had something to say about how she feels about what she thinks, which is what she has always believed is exactly what a writer does. She lives in the pinky of the mitten, close enough to the big lake to feel most of what it has to say, from her garden.

A Little Inspiration for Growing Your Gratitude

By Christina Ryan-Stoltz

- Keep a gratitude journal. Be specific about what you feel grateful for. Make time for it every day, first thing in the morning, last thing at night or on your lunch break. Just do it.
- Try a gratitude jar. Write something gratitude inducing on a piece of paper and place in a jar. When it fills or on a birthday, new year, or special occasion, look at all of those tiny pieces of paper and take in all the ways gratitude found its way to you in a year, or a month or a week. You could also get your family or friends "in" on it and then share with them.
- Once a month write a letter of gratitude to someone who has helped you, made an impact on your life or simply made you feel grateful. Maybe it is someone you never properly thanked, maybe it is someone you have never even met, (an author of a book that changed your life, a customer service rep who was kind and helpful on the phone).
- Commit "Random Acts of Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty". We can cultivate more gratitude when we help others. Volunteer, become a mentor, give others a reason to be grateful.
- Steer clear of negativity in media: news, movies, etc. And people.
- Cultivate a Mindfulness Practice where you focus on all the goodness conspiring in your life. This may be as simple as placing your hand to your heart, feeling the power of your heartbeat, your life force, and saying THANK YOU.
- Cover your walls with sticky notes of gratitude! This could be things you are grateful for or quotes about gratitude – things that make you happy and peaceful.
- Be grateful for your teachers – pain, grief, loss, despair as much as love, kindness, joy, laughter.
- Forgive. Others and yourself.



Photo by Mark Videan

MANISTEE HOME FOR SALE

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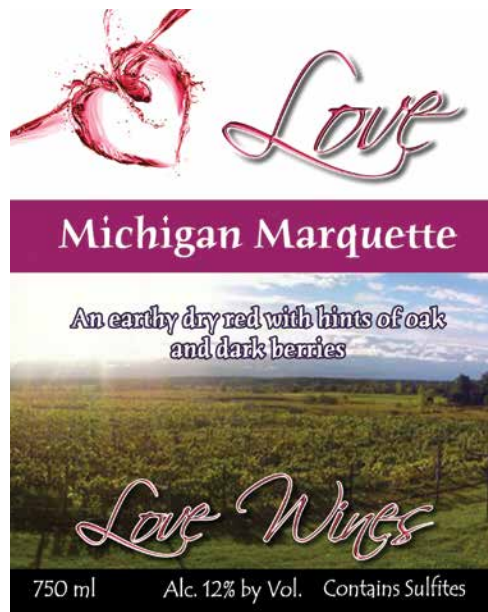
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Love Wines

continued from page 1



we were buying juice. Now we're getting more and more into crushing, because we have more control."

The owners work in the vineyard all summer and pruning takes place in late fall and winter.

"We really love the grapes here; they take really good care of them," Jana said. "We couldn't ask for a better vineyard or a better location. We're really blessed."

"They work hard and the vineyards look gorgeous," Nate echoed.

Jana emphasizes that the farmer and the winemaker, though there is a close relationship between the two, have two different jobs.

"People ask me, 'Are you going to plant a vineyard' and 'Are you going to grow grapes?'," she said, adding that they started starting picking grapes last year and this is their first year crushing grapes.

During her first two years in the winery, she bought bushels of peaches. It took two days, working 8 hours each day, to wash and pit them. That's when she decided to start sourcing fruit from area processors, such as Peterson Farms in Hart, which supplies the fruit already cleaned and pitted.

The pitfall with peaches was later offset by triumphs in competition tasting rooms.

Their non-aged wine won two silvers at Indy International at Purdue and at a Michigan State competition of Michigan-only producers and wineries.

Scarlet, a blend of Frontenac red grape wine and black cherry fruit wines, won gold last year at Indy. The cherries were sourced from Peterson Farms.

It's validation for a winemaker who says she was pretty much self taught.

Though she watched her winemaker dad "a lot," she says she's "...observant, with a curious mind," reads Winemaker Magazine (her "bible") and asks questions of Michigan State University's cold-hardy grape experts.

Winemaking may be her first love, after her family, but she is fond of the vineyard, too.

"Being in the vineyard is always relaxing for my husband and I. With all the stresses we have, it really helps ease our souls. And Larry and Mary Ann have become like family to us."

For more about Love Wines, go to www.ludingtonwine.com. The winery is planning a move, so keep tabs on their Facebook page: [ludingtonwine](https://www.facebook.com/ludingtonwine)



Photo courtesy of Love Wines.

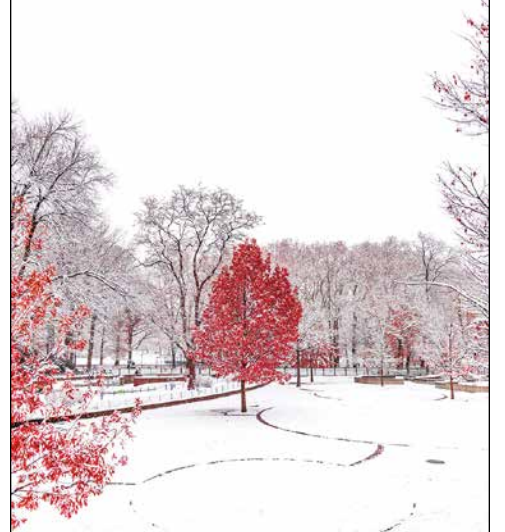
Marquette grapes are cold-hardy hybrids developed by the University of Minnesota. Jana waves her clippers around her as she explains why she likes using the cold-hardy hybrids, because "they're our territory." The newest are the NY 95s, a red wine grape that is highly disease resistant, and she has fermented the NY 95s with the Marquettes.

Jana says she met Larry and Mary Ann a couple years ago, when she was pregnant with her youngest.

"Back then we weren't crushing (fruit);



Photo courtesy of Andre Benze.



Trees Half-dressed

By Ramona DeGeorgio

Trees half-dressed, in reds and yellows, branches bent before the wind.

Skirts remain, until their leaves too fall.

Huddled in piles amongst the snow.

Standing naked tall, before winter's blast.

Making the darkness a fortress, with warmth remembered

In stems and sap.

Preserved

By Ramona DeGeorgio

End of Summer

Autumn's middle

Put up some jars

Jams and fillings

Sauces too

Help me

On dark, cold days

To get through

Local distillery

continued from page 1



Technological University, is using a procedure developed in Montana to raise the iconic fish on site.

Groundbreaking research at Michigan State University is being conducted by

Nicole Watson, a Ph.D. student with the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Management. She is studying the effects of predation, competition and imprinting, (the fish's ability to establish residency

and later find its home water), on grayling populations.

Iron Fish Distillery, in northern Manistee County, is bullish on the effort and established the Iron Fish Arctic Grayling Research Fund at the Manistee Community Foundation to support the goals of the Michigan Arctic Grayling Research Initiative. The initiative was established in 2016 by the MDNR-Fisheries Division and Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Partners include 45 other groups, including Michigan Trout Unlimited and the Nature Conservancy.

ORIGINS AND NEW BEGINNINGS

Iron Fish is rolling out its first farm-distilled whiskeys in honor of the grayling. Two limited edition spirits, Rye Whiskey and a Straight Bourbon Whiskey, will be available for sale during a Nov. 15-17 weekend release party.

According to an announcement on the company's website, the two whiskeys can be purchased at the distillery through the end of the year..

Michigan artist Dani Knoph created the prints of graylings found on the labels of the bottles. Neck labels describe how people can get involved and make a donation to the fund.

In the same announcement, Iron Fish

Co-founder, Richard Anderson stated: "Our guiding principal has been to return spirit to its origin, in the way it tastes, and in the way it's handmade, all the while taking inspiration from the migrating fish journeying to their origin up the Betsie River adjacent to our farm. The best whiskeys have great taste with a good story, and this is a Michigan story of possibility."

Iron Fish Distillery, founded three years ago by Sarah and Richard Anderson, Heidi Bolger and David Wallace, is located on a 120-acre environmentally certified farm along a country road in the shadow of Crystal Mountain.

Steelhead run in the Betsie River south of the fields where grain grows, destined for the distillery's large, shiny, German-made stills.

More about the grayling restoration project can be found at manisteefoundation.org/migrayingling and on Facebook. Read more about the distillery at ironfishdistillery.com and via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Stewart A. McFerran led an Antioch College Environmental Field Program to the Great Lakes and worked as a naturalist for Innisfree Environmental Education, as well as a wilderness leader at Appalachian School of Experience and Traverse City Area Public Schools

Portage Lake channel nears completion

Story and photos by Stewart A. McFerran

Though high winds and waves are slowing work on the Portage Lake channel project, an extension has been granted, and Jim Simmons, secretary of the Portage Lake Harbor Commission, said he hopes to see the work completed this year.



ONEKAMA – Christopher Schropp, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Detroit District, said that the high water and waves have caused a 110-day extension to the construction phase of the project, begun in 2018. He expects the work will be completed by the end of fall.

The commission has planned and worked for more than a decade to rebuild the north and south walls of the Portage Lake channel, including its walkways, both for the safety of boaters and to maintain the community’s maritime economy.

Rebuilding will ensure the channel is deep enough to allow all recreational boats to enter and find refuge from Lake Michigan storms.



Top. New walkway caps Portage Lake’s rebuilt channel wall. Above. Old Portage Lake channel wall (at left) and the new steel wall, under construction.

CHANNEL DEPTH

When the harbor commission began its work the water level was low, so low that a sailboat returning from Mackinac Island ran aground at the mouth of the channel on July 19, 2007. The keel of the 40-foot Barracuda got stuck in the sand at the center of the Portage Lake channel, where the water was only six feet deep. Eight-foot waves turned the boat sideways and battered the hull.

The crew was in danger.

After seeking refuge at both Frankfort and Arcadia, the captain of the Barracuda tried Portage Lake channel. Onekama resident Holland Capper wrote in 2007: “There is no warning that the entrance between the two piers to Portage Lake has not been dredged for several years and is now only three or four feet on the edges and about six feet in the middle. Recent charts show a depth of 12 feet across the entire entrance and there are no notices to mariners about the shallow condition.”

Jim Mrozinski, now chairman of the Portage Lake Harbor Commission, mounted a rescue that night. He and his son-in-law Ted Bromley were able to tow the Barracuda into deep water with their tug from the Onekama Marina. The U.S. Coast Guard then stepped in and rescued the crew of the Barracuda. Lake Michigan waves dashed the Barracuda to pieces.

HARBOR OF REFUGE

Designated as a federal “Harbor of Refuge” the channel to Portage Lake must be kept open to vessels of all sorts. Finding refuge from the Big Lake is as important now as it was 148 years ago, when the channel to Portage Lake first opened.

“The old wood pilings had deteriorated to where they (allowed) sediment into the channel, undercutting the seawall

itself,” explained Dennis (Denny) Blue, vice chairman of Portage Lake Harbor Commission.

This meant that as soon as the channel was dredged, it began to fill in. There was also a real possibility of collapse of the channel walls.

The Corp’s Schropp said the wooden pilings of the channel walls date from 1939 and the 360-foot width of the channel is unique. The Army Corps only dredges 100 feet for boats at the center of the channel. The height of the channel walls is established at seven feet above the low water datum, which is 577.5 feet above sea level.

His office completed a similar project at Saugatuck, where the walls of the channel collapsed.

But Portage Lake channel’s new steel walls are a big improvement over the old ones that teetered on aging wooden pilings.

As this paper went to press, contractors working to complete the walkway along the Portage Lake channel walls continued to struggle against waves washing over the top of the new steel structure – making it impossible to pour concrete for the “cap” along the edge of the channel. Local officials had requested the cap for access in case of emergency.

FUNDING SOURCES

While the State of Michigan provided \$800,000 for the initial design of the project, federal funding is used to maintain designated harbors of refuge.

Some of the Portage Lake Harbor Commission members traveled to Washington D.C. to secure funds that will

continued on page 8

Historic back yard

continued from page 1

through a little history.

Once upon a time, but not too long ago, the Gray family built their family home on the shores of Lake Michigan, just north of Manistee. Lake Bluff Orchards, as it was known, was a busy orchard boasting a harvest of cherries, apples, quince, pears, plums, currents and gooseberries. The house was built with the efforts of draft horses and took two years to complete. In 1938 the Grays, (M.E. “Eddie”, Gertrude “Trudy”, young Robert and baby Margaret) moved in.

The orchard remained busy through WWII, and in the early 1940s a garden farm was added to the land. The Grays used their land and knowledge as resources to help many during wartime. The farm produced 1,000 eggs and 15-20 gallons of milk each day and 25-30 pounds of hand-churned butter per week. It offered a Victory Garden of beef and pork and all variations of fruit.

A lot of hard work and effort went into “building” Lake Bluff – from preparing land to working the land, to using the land for animals of all kinds. One of those animals brought great fame to the Gray family: Arabian horses. Although the Grays had many horses for work and play, (buggy and sleigh rides were common), the Arabians were the aristocrats of the horse world. Many still have memories of the horses in full regalia at parades.

Eddie and Trudy fell in love with horticulture, especially arboretums. They transformed Lake Bluff from an orchard into an arboretum. They found great joy in birds, trees, animals, tranquility, and all of nature – and it showed. Oh, and they grew a Giant Sequoia tree! People have come from far and near to view it.

After Eddie passed away, Trudy remained in the house. She eventually gave Lake Bluff as a gift to Michigan Audubon. In recent years Michigan Audubon operated the manor house as a bed and breakfast, until the last guests departed in 2015.

THE FUTURE OF LAKE BLUFF

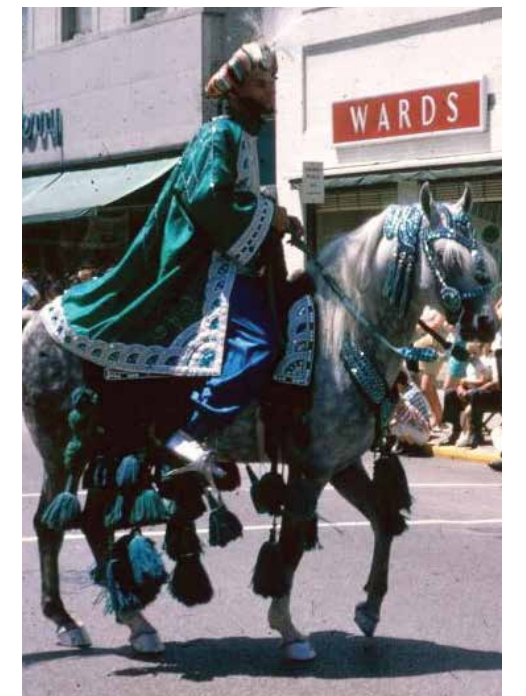
Through Lake Bluff Farms, the house will become a “retreat” house – a place where one can go to find respite in nature. This


house will allow visitors to extend their stay to observe nature for more than just a morning or an afternoon. There will be opportunities for local groups to have meetings there. A limited number of wedding requests will also be granted, but this beloved place will NOT become a “venue.” Instead, it will remain like “being in someone’s back yard.”

Trudy and Eddie’s son Robert “Bob” Gray passed away on October 19. He was thrilled to know that there were people who cared about his childhood home and his parents’ love for nature. He loved Manistee, and the memories that he carried throughout his life wove a special bond between him, the people here, and this place.

Lake Bluff Farms will forever honor the gift of his family. All are invited to be a part of it, as well. Since it is in the early stages of changing hands, there are many plans yet to be made and many opportunities that will present themselves in the near future. As things unfold, you’ll be the first to know so you can join us in “our back yard.”

If you would like to volunteer with Lake Bluff Farms, or would like more information, please contact Board President L. Quinn at lquinn@lakeblufffarms.com





**MEMORIES
ARE
GIFTS!!!**

The Gray family gave many gifts to the community of Manistee, but the greatest of these are the memories. If you remember the great Arabian horses, grandly attired, strutting through town at a parade, or taking a sleigh ride in the winter, you have been given a gift. If you remember the fields aplenty being shared during hard times, or how the Great Sequoia grew stately in spite of every rule of nature that said it shouldn’t, you have been gifted. If you knew the Gray Family, ever spent time in the house or the stable, your life has been given a gift.

The Gray family gifted the house, land and stables to be a place of peace and tranquility – to study nature, both flora and fauna, birds, and the beauty of Lake Michigan. This has been a place where many in the community or from afar have surely found peace, and enjoyed a “gift” that only nature can provide.

This property is once again going to “belong” to the community of Manistee and “all those who wander” into Lake Bluff to experience the gifts that only this place can provide.

Lake Bluff Farms, a local 501(c)(3) non-profit, has been granted the responsibility of being the caretakers of the buildings, and some of the land. They need YOUR help to provide the gift of memories to the next generations. Please consider making a donation today. Your tax-deductible “gift” can be a way to honor the memories that you cherish, and want to make available for others. It may be to honor the “gift” of nature, or it may be that you want to honor the past with a “gift” toward the future. All gifts make a difference. All “gifts” mean more memories can be made!

Donation checks may be sent to: Lake Bluff Farms, P.O. Box 247, Manistee, MI 49660 – if you would like, include a little memory!

Other donations, information on how to get involved, or any questions, please contact L Quinn at: lquinn@lakeblufffarms.com

Encounter of a lifetime

Story and photos by Susan Hintz

It was a crisp, late October morning when I decided to take a break from the chores at hand and meander down to the beach. Having caught the agate bug, after finding a stunner earlier in the summer, I was hopeful that the churning waters of Lake Superior had coughed up another gem that was just waiting to be discovered – by me!

As the sun was starting to peek through the clouds and the whitecaps were being illuminated by the sunlight, I decided at the last minute to grab my camera.

I had made this jaunt numerous times, sometimes alone, but most often with my husband and canine sidekicks Sophie, Ruger and Scout. A sidearm was a precautionary accessory, as a friend has spotted an occasional wolf and bear on the beach. On this day, it was just my camera and me. No husband, no dogs and no noisemaker.

Armed only with recent knowledge of what to look for when agate hunting, I walked the eastern shoreline first before turning around and walking the highwater mark back. Nothing. Feeling defeated, I changed my focus from rock hunting to photography.

The beach always presents some unique photo opportunities. It wasn't long before I happened upon some rocks and driftwood

beautifully and naturally positioned amongst dune grass. I snapped away, then I moseyed on until this cute, little, upright pinecone said, "Take my picture." Despite the cold, damp sand, I got low to the ground to capture the perspective I wanted: pinecone framed by driftwood on one side, with Lake Superior as the backdrop.

After taking the final picture, I turned off the camera and put on the lens cap. As I was preparing to right myself, I caught some movement in the distance. I looked up to see what I initially thought were two deer heading my way. After they made a couple of quick, tandem, directional darts, I was able to determine it was not two deer but a wolf chasing a deer to the water. Without hesitation, the deer entered the rough water while the wolf came to a sudden halt at the water's edge. As it paused for a moment, as in disgust, it glanced in my direction.

Adrenalin was rushing through my veins. I wanted to capture as much of this experience



as possible but knew time was limited. In a hurried attempt, I fumbled around to get the lens cap off, turn the camera on and find the wolf in the viewfinder. Just as I got situated, the wolf began its retreat back to the timber. When it reached the edge of the forest, it stopped, turned back and looked me directly in the eyes. Thoughts of it charging me and making me lunch crossed my mind. At a standoff, I snapped one final picture before it disappeared into the wilderness.



Thankfully.

Breathing a sigh of relief, my concern turned to the doe that was chased into the icy, rough waters. I repeatedly scanned the water, but nothing. When hopes of seeing the deer vanished, I high tailed it back to the cabin, (while repeatedly looking over my shoulder), to share my encounter with my husband. In one breath, he said, "That's cool" AND "I bet you won't forget to take your gun again." To which I replied, "No, I will not!"

I've only witnessed scenes like this on Wild America. Who would have thought I'd ever witness such an incredible chase live – and in broad daylight?

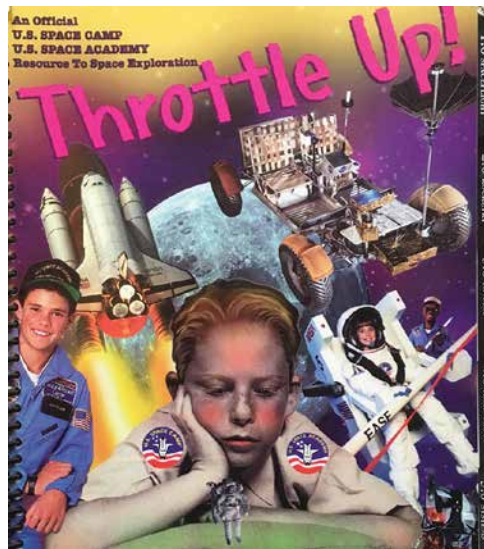
Certainly not me.

A creative entrepreneur and nature lover extraordinaire, Susan Hintz likes to explore the woods, water and beaches of Michigan. Visit her new venture at: www.homegrownmichigan.com

Launch yourself into Space Camp

By Brooke Edwards. Photos courtesy of U.S. Space & Rocket Center

Have you ever fantasized about being an astronaut or working in Mission Control? There is a place on Earth that people of any age can live out these fantasies. That place is Space Camp, in Huntsville, Ala., a camp that offers simulated space missions.



Huntsville is the birthplace of American spaceflight, making it a suitable place for the camp.

Many people who have heard of the camp think it is just for children, but there is a Space Academy for teenagers and an Adult Space Academy as well. I was lucky enough to attend the weekend adult camp last year, and it was everything I thought it would be ... plus more.

To my surprise, I was one of the youngest in attendance that weekend. Ages of my fellow campers ranged from adults in their 20s to their 60s, and beyond.

When you first arrive at Space Camp, you are greeted by the sight of a life-sized Saturn V rocket model. Still in awe, you begin the mundane tasks any camper must complete. You check in and obtain your information – and a room number if you are staying in the facility's onsite habitat, which looks on the inside like a futuristic space station. After orientation, teams are formed and the experience begins.

I was not expecting how immersive the

space experience would prove to be.

YOUR MISSION

During your time at the camp you will go through two realistic space missions. One is a past Space Shuttle mission and the other is a future Mars mission. In these missions you can step into one of two roles.

The first role is to be an astronaut. The mission itself is not just simple role play, as technical and physical skills are used on board the spacecraft. There are even pilot and copilot roles.

The second role is to be part of the Mission Control team, where you work in the very realistic Mission Control room. In this role you assist the space explorers by watching them on video and speaking with them by headset.

For both missions I was lucky enough to be an astronaut, and it tested my physical and mental skills more than anything had in a while.

SPACE SIMULATORS AND MORE

Space Camp would not be complete without the space training simulators. We have all seen it, the multi-axis trainer that spins you around, upside down and in all directions. It's used to train astronauts for unpredictable spacecraft movement. I psyched myself up long before I arrived, telling myself I must do it. It turned out to be quite an exciting ride and did not disappoint!

Other camp activities include touring the NASA museum, where you can learn a lot about the history and future of American spaceflight, exploring the outdoor rocket garden or riding on outdoor simulator amusements. There is definitely no shortage of things to do.

If you want to try Space Camp for

Space Camp is out of this world

From staff reports

Over 850,000 people from all over the globe have attended Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala., according to the Space Camp website.

Astronaut Christina Koch, one of the first three women to walk in space this year, attended Space Camp five times.

Koch was inducted this year into the Space Camp Hall of Fame, honoring individuals who "exemplify courage, curiosity and passion for learning that inspires future generations of explorers..."

Space Camp offers program levels for children ages 9-11, 12-14 and 15-18.

If space isn't your kid's thing, there are camps for Aviation, Robotics and Cyber technologies and group programs for Scouts and Youth Leadership.

Family Space Camp offers experiences for at least one child and one adult, but entire families are encouraged to enroll – including grandparents, aunts and uncles.

There's even a U.S. Space and Rocket Center Day Camp, with hands-on labs, science shows, a planetarium experience, museum visit and more.

Last year, NASA began offering a weekend Adult Space Academy for those over 18.

From possible scuba diving to strapping into trainers that simulate weightlessness, those who attend the Adult Space Academy learn to test the limits of their individual skills, knowledge and bravery – as well as their ability to work cooperatively as part of a team.

In simple speak, the experience is not for sissies. Or, perhaps, the academy is for those whose excitement about space outweighs their apprehension.

Taking the adult program further, Corporate Space Camp offers one-day or multi-day corporate team-building programs to meet each client's objectives.

Scholarships are available for youth interested in week-long camp programs. Applicants apply in fall and scholarships are awarded the following spring. The process is competitive and requires essay writing, designing a mission patch, using the scientific method and obtaining recommendations.

For more information, go to www.spacecamp.com. Follow Space Camp on Twitter: @spacecampusa and on Facebook: SpaceCampUSA



yourself, and get away from the winter weather, you can book at www.spacecamp.com. From my experience, anyone in good physical health and a passion for space can attend. Just be ready for a non-stop weekend of all things space!

Brooke Edwards is a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador. She lives in Manistee.



Ranger station offers nature gifts and books

From staff reports. Photos by Mark Videan

With 10–30 visitors a day, the Huron-Manistee National Forests–Cadillac/ Manistee ranger station is a quiet place to do some holiday shopping.



The ranger station is unassuming, and visitors should look for the brown sign at the entrance on Red Apple Road, just west of US-31 in Manistee.

Once inside, ask questions of Beth Jados, Information Receptionist, who will point you to the store's inventory of Smokey Bear stuffed toy bears and socks, fleece blankets (60"x70"), plush toy turtles and frogs, popular logo hat-and-t-shirt sets, children and adult logo wear, ornaments, jewelry, key chains, tote bags, books and patches.

The unofficial award for most unusual souvenir gift goes to the curved metal ovals called hiking staff medallions that hikers, paddlers and others purchase and attach to their sports gear – staffs, paddles, ski poles, etc. – to commemorate their visits to various parks.

"I think it's a collector-type thing, like they collect patches," Jados explained.

The HMNF purchases merchandise from Eastern National Forests Interpretive Association (ENFIA). Proceeds from the sale of store merchandise go to ENFIA, which provides grants to purchase interpretive materials.

FORESTS HAVE CHARACTER

Forest ranger stores reflect the interests of their visitors.

"Each forest has its own personality," Jados said. "Baldwin (ranger station) has more fishermen; we have more campers over this way, closer to the lake," she said, with a nod to Lake Michigan, just a few miles west, and a mention of the Lake Michigan Recreation Area and Nordhouse Dunes.

Perhaps that's why the Manistee ranger station's store is home to various animal pelts, skulls, shells, eggs and taxidermy forest creatures.

Jados said others in the district borrow the items for use in field trips and for outreach presentations to schools, camps and organizations, such as Spirit of the Woods.

Among the mounted creatures, one in particular prompts the most questions.

"People ask me, 'Have you seen a cougar?'," Jados said, smiling, and adding that the head is from "the West."

The ranger station vestibule is open 24/7 and contains maps of hiking trails, campsites and motor vehicle use trails – along with area information.

If you visit during store hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, you can get the scoop from Jados on dispersed camping rules in Manistee's "checkerboard" forest areas or an explanation of where to hunt or snowmobile, or where to park along the 23-mile Manistee River trail, if you're hiking or fishing.

You can also purchase annual passes, interagency passes, permits for cutting firewood or Christmas trees, and detailed topographical maps of the area.

The HMNF-Cadillac/Manistee Ranger Station is located at 412 Red Apple Road, Manistee. For more information, call (231) 723-2211 or follow the HMNF Facebook page: @huronmanisteenfs



Teacher rises to the occasion

Last month, magician Bill Blagg entertained students with a magic show inside the Ramsdell Theater. He challenged students to explore the science behind his magic tricks. In one instance, he invited a teacher onstage and asked her to lie down on a table to help him demonstrate his levitation act. He appeared to make the table (with the teacher on it) hover in the air without supports, which sparked thunderous applause.

MANISTEE – We followed up with the teacher, Mrs. Fisk, to ask her about her experience. The following was her reply, via email.

Wasn't it exciting to be a part of this student show of The Magic of Science?!

I am the Mrs. Fisk of the levitation act! How cool that was! I'm pretty sure my students were hoping I would levitate right out of the building and allow them to have recess for the rest of the day. Just kidding!

It was very exciting to be on stage. I mean, who doesn't secretly wish to be a part of a magic show? My heart was pounding, though ... partly from nervousness and partly because I hoped I didn't somehow ruin the magic trick.

While I was laying on the "table", I couldn't really see all of the magician's gestures, so I didn't realize that he was going to take out the second support until I felt something move under my head. And, of course, I couldn't see what all of you could, (that I appeared to be levitating!),

so it wasn't really scary. The noise from the audience was sure deafening, though! It must have looked real.

No, I don't know how he did the trick. Teachers had a resource guide for a post-show student discussion and it did give some clues as to what a budding magician might want to research to do the trick. My students certainly had some interesting ideas – from silk strings to rubber hoops. But it's all magic to me.

All in all, it was a great morning. The kids got to be in the beautiful Ramsdell Theater, we saw some amazing magic, and we were reminded that science is fun.

Additionally it was particularly thrilling for my students, because even if they couldn't be on stage, having their teacher up there was something that they will probably never forget. I guess this is the next best thing to being a rock star!

Tina Fisk, Principal/Teacher
Trinity Lutheran School, Manistee

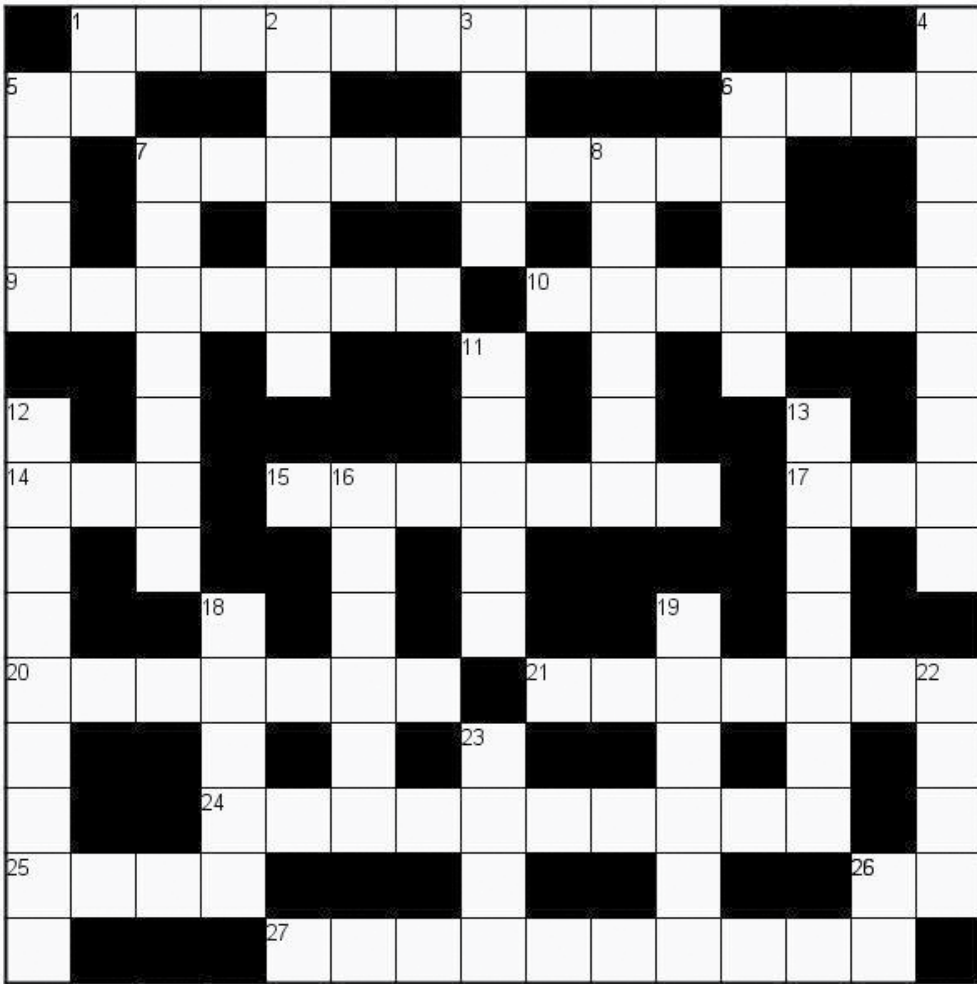


LAITH AL-SAADI
Saturday, Dec 7

The Ramsdell
Regional Center for the Arts

101 Maple St, Manistee

after Manistee's 31st Sleighbell Parade



Thanksgiving

by Mark Videan

ACROSS

- 1 Traditional Thanksgiving dessert
- 5 Hello
- 6 Will who played Grandpa Walton
- 7 Horn of plenty
- 9 Like some Riesling wines, which pair beautifully with turkey
- 10 The third concerto of his "The Four Seasons", Autumn, is a perfect accompaniment to Thanksgiving dinner
- 14 Path of a Hail Mary pass
- 15 What the Pilgrims were thankful for
- 17 Color of wine made from #6 Down
- 20 American president who declared Thanksgiving a national holiday
- 21 Another helping of turkey
- 24 Customs that inform our Thanksgiving celebrations
- 25 Alt.
- 26 Cummings who wrote almost 2900 poems, including "Thanksgiving (1956)"
- 27 Area where the Pilgrims settled

DOWN

- 1 Circumference of a circle = 2_____r
- 2 Macy's has sponsored one every Thanksgiving since 1924
- 3 Turkey part that's good for giblet gravy or soup
- 4 Thankfulness
- 5 Things you give and receive at the time of greeting or parting
- 6 Grape that makes Beaujolais wine, an excellent choice with turkey
- 7 See #12 Down
- 8 A touchdown scores six
- 11 Don't gobble the gobbler; enjoy
- 12 With #7 Down, Pilgrims' agreement to establish a government
- 13 Some folks you celebrate Thanksgiving with
- 16 Latin name for the country the Mayflower sailed from
- 18 Item used to watch #2 Down
- 19 Place of learning, closed for Thanksgiving
- 22 Herb in stuffing
- 23 Enjoy Thanksgiving dinner
- 26 Winslow whose 1621 letter tells us almost everything we know about the first Thanksgiving

Portage Lake channel

continued from page 5

ensure that all boats, even very large ones with long keels, can enter Portage Lake for years to come.

"The current project is \$5,145,000, all from the operation and maintenance fund," Schropp said.

Funds to dredge the Portage Lake channel, a Great Lakes harbor of refuge, come from a federal Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. Commercial shipping companies pay into this fund via a tax.

ECONOMIC ENGINE

Harbor facilities on Portage Lake create economic activity.

Referring to the channel, Blue said, "There will be access to the public on the south side and the north side and it will be a first-class facility. It not only increases the value of the property around the lake, it increases the opportunity for growth for boating industry on the lake."

Boaters relying on Portage Lake channel as an entrance to a safe harbor can drop anchor and stay to enjoy some of the area's attractions, including the eclectic retail corridor in the village.

If after entering Portage Lake the helmsman turns to port, the vessel will find itself in front of the Portage Point Resort. This historic vacation spot is located on the deepest part of Portage Lake. The resort includes a marina, a restaurant and a pub serving craft brews and mixed drinks. There is history here. For many years the "Pilgrim" stopped at Portage Point Inn to drop off vacationers from Chicago.

Other attractions in Portage Lake include the "Music", which burned to the waterline and sunk on the east side of North Point,



Sailboats from Portage Lake Yacht Club racing on Portage Lake, near the channel.

known to residents as Andy's Point. The wooden-hulled, steam-powered vessel once carried passengers from Manistee to Portage Point Inn. Its propeller can be seen in Onekama Village Park.

Portage Lake Marina is located on the north shore, at the lake's east end, in the village. Onekama Marine owns the marina – one of its three dockage locations on the lake – and the parent company features a full-service boat maintenance facility on the south shore with equipment that can lift and haul vessels weighing up to 50 tons. A number of fishing charter boats operate out of Onekama Marine.

The next meeting of the Portage Lake Harbor Commission is December 18.

Stewart A. McFerran was manager of Portage Lake Yacht Club in 2018 and followed the progress of work on the channel. He recently "broke" the news of the Arcadia bells' controversy in the October issue of Freshwater Reporter, later reported by Interlochen Public Radio and TV 7&4.

—AROUND THE COUNTIES—

Each issue, we will feature a photo of something fun or unusual in Manistee or Mason county. Can you guess where it is?



Congratulations to Ellen Hoyer, a summer resident of Arcadia, who correctly identified the location of last month's photo of a Dalmatian statue – at the top of the Arcadia firehouse. She received a \$10 gift certificate

First person to email the correct answer to editor@freshwater-reporter.com will receive a \$10 gift certificate to the location, or to the business closest to it. GOOD LUCK!



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