

FRESHWATER REPORTER



Serving Manistee and Mason County Communities

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Feb. 12 - Mar. 11, 2020 **FREE**

Hof Bar and Grill: Hot meals, cold drinks, friendly folks

Story and photos by Kevin Howell

In most northern Michigan small towns, the local tavern is a place to find warm food, a cold brew and pleasant company.

Hof Bar and Grill in Free Soil, 20 miles northeast of Ludington, is no exception. The tavern caters to locals, fishermen, hunters, lake dwellers and tourists.

Originally named Little Joe's in the 1920s or '30s, the bar has been through some changes over the years. From 1981 until 2015, it was known as Heidi Hof. That was before Tami and Darin Schultz took ownership.

"We moved down here (from Onekama) to Free Soil," Tami explained. "We are only five miles from the bar (so) it's where we came for the fish fry or a couple drinks."

Tami has been around taverns for most of her life. Her father owned several as she was growing up. Since age three, she has hung out and helped, managing several by the time she was 19.

"But when our kids came along," Tami said, "the first born, Stephanie, when she got to be six months old, it was kind of hard to be on call so we got out of the bar business."

By the time the Schultzs moved to Free Soil, they yearned for something more.

"We missed the bar business, the socialization, and we just kind of asked (the former owners) one day, 'Hey, did you ever



A sign outside The Hof Bar and Grill in Free Soil features a photo of the owners' daughter, Stephanie Schultz.

think about selling the place?' and that's where it got started," Tami said.

That was in 2015, when Stephanie was 16. She and younger brothers, Gunner and Brandon, were old enough to lend a hand in the kitchen and with other chores. The name was changed to The Hof Bar and Grill, but the Schulzs wanted to maintain the atmosphere provided by previous owners.

"When we bought it we tried to keep it the same," Tami said, "and we knew they were known for their pizzas, so we didn't touch that or any of the recipes."

The pizza remains, along with Reuben and French Dip sandwiches, chicken wings and regular Friday fish fry. Choices include

cod and lake perch. The perch is excellent, with a light coating of batter that retains the flavor of the fish. The Hof is also known for its tasty burgers and homemade potato chips. On the last Saturday of the month, the special is a prime rib dinner.

Tami described the cuisine as "your basic bar menu - American foods with pizza."

"We have kind of a small kitchen and small storage," she said, "so we keep the menu small and simple."

Homestyle soups and entrees are employee Tammy Tacey's specialty.

"We have Tammy in the kitchen and she makes all our soups homemade, and then she'll make a few of our Saturday features

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Local NASA Ambassador excited for new "COSMOS"

By Pat Stinson

"COSMOS" returns to television for its third season beginning March 9.

The Emmy- and Peabody-winning, lavish science series continues with "COSMOS: Possible Worlds," which will first air on FOX in spring and globally in summer on the National Geographic channel.

Astrophysicist and "StarTalk" host Neil deGrasse Tyson will host the series, as he did for "COSMOS: A SpaceTime Odyssey" which aired in 2014.

The new series, according to a release by Cosmos Studios' Ann Druyan (who wrote a companion book and co-wrote, co-directed and co-executive produced the third series), will take "audiences on a series of spiritual voyages of exploration" and "translate the revelations of science into a lavishly transporting experience."

NASA Solar System/JPL Ambassador Brooke Edwards, a 20-something-year-old Manistee County resident, said she had not heard of "COSMOS" before being approached by Freshwater Reporter's interviewer.

"That is very exciting news," Edwards replied, in an email. "I am going to watch it for sure! I love to watch any documentary about the universe; its mysteries are just fascinating! So much is still unknown and we are learning more every day. Who knows what other worlds are out there."

She also wrote: "If you hadn't told me

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Space travel is exciting – and perilous



On April 14, 1981, the wheels of Space Shuttle Columbia touched down at Edwards Air Force Base in southern California, after completing a stay in space of more than two days. Photo courtesy of NASA.

By Brooke Edwards

Recently, space enthusiasts marked the anniversaries of three tragedies of American space flight: the Apollo 1 fire on January 27, 1967; the Challenger disaster on January 28, 1986; and the Columbia tragedy on

February 1, 2003.

The Columbia disaster is the only one of the three that happened in my lifetime.

I remember that day as if it happened yesterday. It was a quiet Saturday morning, and being an average middle-school kid,

I was still in bed. I could faintly hear my grandmother, downstairs in the living room, as she rustled through the newspaper. The soft voices on the morning news went to a commercial.

I laid quietly for a while until something caught my attention. Downstairs on the TV I heard the news reporter cut in, sounding calm but alarmed, with the words, "We have breaking news." After that I couldn't make out much of what was being said. I didn't get to lie in bed much longer as my grandmother called to me in an urgent voice. This had to be serious. I was living in Philadelphia, about a year and a half after the September 11 attacks, and the threat of terror was still fresh in everyone's mind. Though still half asleep, the part of me that was awake ran down the stairs as my heart almost jumped out of my chest.

I turned to the TV and right there was a space shuttle exploding upon reentry. Being a girl with a keen interest in space, this stunned me greatly. It was like watching a sci-fi horror movie, but it was very real. I watched in horror as the news later showed

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Photo courtesy of NASA

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Your Community Calendar for Manistee and Mason Counties

Please call ahead or check with the venue before heading out, as dates and times may have changed. Some venues may charge admission not indicated in their announcements. Please send calendar event notices for our March 11 issue by Feb. 21.

February

- Feb 4-29** **heART of LOVE Themed Art Exhibit**
Tue-Fri, 11-4 p.m.; Sat 12-3 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington
- Feb 13** **Irish Night featuring Crossbow, a local Celtic band**
7:30 pm, \$20, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee, cash bar
- Feb 13** **An Intimate Evening with Serita's Black Rose Duo**
7-9 p.m., \$5, live at Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington
- Feb 14-15** **The Broom Closet Boys** 
7-11 p.m., Live at Vista Lounge, Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville
- Feb 14 & 16** **Go with the Flow Acrylic Pour Workshop with Don Paone**
5:30-7:30 p.m., \$35/class or \$60 for both, materials included, Classroom A, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- Feb 14** **Heart Day Party**
4-5:30 p.m., Free, Ludington Public Library, 217 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington
- Feb 14** **Jeff Bihlman**
7-9 p.m., live at Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- Feb 14** **The Diaries of Adam and Eve Dinner Theatre Production**
6 p.m., \$35, Ludington Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington
- Feb 15** **The Diaries of Adam and Eve Matinee**
3 p.m., \$10, Ludington Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington
- Feb 15** **Frostbite Chili Crawl**
3-5:30 p.m., Downtown Manistee
- Feb 15** **Tony Orlando**
8-10 p.m., \$30-45, live at Little River Casino, 2700 Orchard Hwy., Manistee
- Feb 15** **Guided Snowshoe Hike**
2-3:30 p.m., Free, Ludington State Park Beach, 8800 M-116, Ludington. Meet at the warming hut. Sixty pairs of snowshoes available to use, first come - first served (fit ages 8 and up) For more info call 231.843.9261
- Feb 15** **Lantern Lit Ski and Snowshoe Hike**
6-8 p.m., Free, Ludington State Park Beach, 8800 M-116, Ludington. Meet at the warming hut. Sixty pairs of snowshoes available to use, first come - first served (fit ages 8 and up) For more info call 231.843.9261
- Feb 15** **Zakopane Exhibit & Reception**
(February 15 - March 27) 1-5 p.m., Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Zakopane 1918 - 100 Years of Polish Independence (traveling show). 2 p.m. lecture by Dr. Kate Wroblewski, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies in University of Michigan's History Department. Polka to some lively Polish music after the lecture.

- Feb 15** **Winterfest in Pentwater & Hart**
Weekend of activities including the Snowman Scram 5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Run, polar dip, fishing tournament, gallery stroll, cross country skiing, sledding, wine tasting, and craft beer fest. Go to www.visitpentwater.com for more information
- Feb 15** **Cabin Fever Reliever Community Sale**
9-2 pm, Manistee High School, 525 12th St., Manistee. Booths include crafts, yard sale items, businesses, nonprofits
- Feb 15** **Book Lovers Sale**
10-4 pm, The Book House just north of the Manistee Public Library, 95 Maple St., Manistee. Audiobooks, books and DVDs offered for sale
- Feb 15** **Mason County Research Center Preview**
3-5 pm, Free, Mason County Historical Society, 130 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington. View plans for the new research center
- Feb 15** **Drew Hale**
7-9:30 pm, live at Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- Feb 15-16** **Free Fishing Weekend in Michigan**
For more information go to michigan.gov/dnr
- Feb 15** **Winter Fishing Tournament**
8-10 am registration, \$10 entry fee, 16 and under free, Citizens Sportsmen's Club, corner of Fountain and Larson Rds., Fountain. Fish on Sheridan, Sherman and Free Soil Township Lakes
- Feb 15** **Gettin' Jiggy Fishing Tournament**
Pere Marquette Expeditions, 1649 S. Pere Marquette Hwy., Ludington. 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fishing tournament for panfish. \$10 entry goes toward cash prizes.
- Feb 16** **Jimmy Grant Trio and Third Coast Gypsy Jazz**
2-4:30 pm, live at Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington
- Feb 18** **Career Building**
1-4 pm, Free, Kaleva Branch of the Manistee Public Library, 14618 Walta St., Kaleva. Face-to face help and guidance on resume development, application searching and assistance, and career planning from MI Works
- Feb 19** **Bear Crafting**
1-6 pm, Free, Onekama branch of the Manistee Public Library, 5283 Main St., Onekama. Make polar bears from styrofoam cups and pom-poms.
- Feb 20** **Book Bingo for Adults**
10:30-11:30 am, Wellston branch of the Manistee Public Library, 1273 Seaman Rd., Wellston. Bingo winner chooses a book as a prize.
- Feb 20** **Game Night**
5-7 pm, Free, Bear Lake branch of the Manistee Public Library, 12325 Virginia St., Bear Lake. Family event for all ages. Use the library's classic board games/cards or bring yours.
- Feb 20** **Crispin Campbell Quartet**
7:30-9 pm, \$15-30, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Jazz, gypsy and classical infusion
- Feb 21** **Keith Scott**
7-9 pm, live at Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville

- Feb 21-23** **Mamma Mia**
Fri & Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 2 pm, \$25, Center Stage Theater at West Shore Community College, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville
- Feb 21-23** **2020 Home and Outdoor Living Show**
Fri 1-7 pm, Sat 11-7 pm, Sun 11-2 pm, Free, Little River Casino and Resort Event Center, 2700 Orchard Hwy., Manistee
- Feb 22** **Library Scavenger Hunt for Kids**
Free, Manistee Public Library, 95 Maple St., Manistee. Self-guided event from 10 am to 3 pm.
- Feb 22** **Paul Livingston**
7-9 pm, live at Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- Feb 22** **Bridal Show**
Graystone Event Center, 4079 W. US 10, Ludington
- Feb 24** **Zentangle**
4-5 pm, Free, Manistee Public Library, 95 Maple St., Manistee. For teens and tweens
- Feb 25** **Career Building**
12-4 pm, Free, Bear Lake branch of the Manistee Public Library, 12325 Virginia St., Bear Lake. Face-to face help and guidance on resume development, application searching and assistance, and career planning from MI Works
- Feb 25** **Mardi Gras Crafts**
All day, Free, Arcadia branch of the Manistee Public Library, 3586 Glovers Lake Rd., Arcadia. Make masks and beaded necklaces.
- Feb 26** **Dr. Seuss Crafts**
1-6 pm, Free, Onekama branch of the Manistee Public Library, 5283 Main St., Onekama. Make truffle trees from tissue paper & popsicle sticks. Use cupcake liners to make "1 fish, 2 fish."
- Feb 28-Mar 1** **Mamma Mia**
Fri & Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 2 pm, \$25, Center Stage Theater at West Shore Community College, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville
- Feb 28** **Steve Leaf**
7-9:30 pm, live at Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- Feb 29** **Reel Winter Fun Run Steelhead Tournament**
5 am-6pm, \$5 entry fee, 16 and under free, Pappy's Bait and Tackle, 17092 Caberfae Hwy., Wellston
- Feb 29** **2nd Annual Portage Lake Ice Fun Fish**
7:30 am-2:30 pm, \$5, sponsored by Manistee County Sportfishing Association. Fishing tournament on Portage Lake, kids' activities, snacks, warm beverages, fire pit. Follow MCSFA on Facebook for more info or call Phil Sedelmaier 231.510.1424
- Feb 29** **Learn All About Leap Year Children's Party**
12-1 pm, Free, Manistee Public Library, 95 Maple St., Manistee
- Feb 29** **"Agrippina": Met Opera Live in HD**
1-5 pm, \$20, \$5 for students, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee

- Feb 29** **Wink (solo)**
7-9:30 pm, live at Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- Feb 29** **West Shore Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) Banquet**
Doors open 5 pm, dinner at 7 pm. Tickets: \$50/single, \$70/couple. Scottville Optimist Hall, Scottville.
- Feb 29** **Whitetails Unlimited Banquet**
Doors open 5 pm, dinner 6:30 pm. Tickets: \$40/single, \$25/spouse and youth 15 & under. Lincoln Hills Golf Club, Ludington.

March

- Mar 6-8** **Mamma Mia**
Fri & Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 2 pm, \$25, Center Stage Theater at West Shore Community College, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville
- Mar 7** **Empty Bowls**
4-7 pm, \$25, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S Harrison St., Ludington. Fundraiser for Lakeshore Food Club featuring soup, bread, and desserts from local chefs; a special brew from Starving Artist Brewing; live music; and an artisan-made bowl to take home
- Mar 7** **25th Annual MCC Spring CommUnity Auction**
6-11 pm, \$25 ea. \$45/couple, Graystone Event Center, 4079 W. US 10, Ludington. Fundraiser for Mason County Central Educational Foundation and Ludington Chamber of Commerce. This year's theme: Lights, Camera, Auction. Includes bid numbers, beverages, snacks
- Mar 9** **Garden Club**
1 pm, Free, Manistee Public Library, 95 Maple St., Manistee, featuring Weesies Garden Center
- Mar 14** **Annual Cabin Fever Reliever**
Skinner Park, Irons
- Mar 14** **Finn's Slam Fishing Tournament**
5:30 am-6 pm, Pere Marquette Expeditions, 1649 S. Pere Marquette Hwy., Ludington
- Mar 14** **St. Patrick's Day Activities**
12-9 pm, Downtown Ludington. Parade starts at noon, Pub Crawl starts at 1 pm. Irish jog, food, shopping
- Mar 14** **St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunts**
1-4 pm, Downtown Pentwater, one hunt for adults 21 and over, one for those under 21
- Mar 14** **"Der Fliegende Hollander" (Wagner) Met Opera Live in HD**
1-5 pm, \$20, \$5 for students, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee



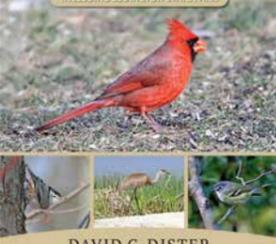
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Area “scoop” on Free Fishing Weekends

By Greg Gielczyk. Photos courtesy of Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources.



REGION – In the opening credits of *The Andy Griffith Show* (in TVLand reruns) Mayberry Sheriff Andy Taylor and his son Opie carry fishing poles and whistle as they walk down a country road. Opie suddenly darts ahead of Andy and the camera points to a lake between the pine trees. Opie bends down, picks up a stone and throws it into the water. Now imagine it’s wintertime and Opie tosses a fish onto the ice, where he and his dad are hunched over a hole on a frozen lake.

Those are the kinds of scenarios staff members at Michigan Department of Natural Resources hope to encourage this year with Free Fishing Weekends, Feb. 15-16 and June 13-14.

The free, two-day fishing events take place in two seasons: the Saturday and Sunday of President’s Day Weekend and the first Saturday and Sunday after the first full week in June. During these times people can enjoy one of the state’s premier activities, just like Andy and Opie. Best of all, the fishing is free.

“We have people who come in from out of state and all kinds of folks who maybe haven’t fished before that want to try fishing,” said Suzanne Stone, of MDNR Fisheries Division.

“It just kind of kick-starts the season,” she added. “It seems to be very popular. We have all kinds of folks – partners and independent groups – that host events all over the state. I would say it’s very successful.”

Free fishing weekends were introduced in Michigan in 1994. For two days in February and June all fishing license fees are waived, and a recreation passport is not required for entry into state parks and recreation

areas. The fee and passport waivers are for residents and out-of-state visitors.

The agency’s website also states that all fishing regulations still apply, and fishing is permitted on both inland and Great Lakes’ waters for all species of fish.

AREA PARTICIPANTS

Many organizations and others around the state sponsor special public events to coincide with Free Fishing Weekend.

In Ludington, Pere Marquette Expeditions, 1649 South Pere Marquette Highway, is hosting its Gettin’ Jiggy Fishing Tournament for panfish, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Feb. 15. The event takes place with or without ice. Participants must register in advance at the store, prior to 7 a.m., Feb. 15. Cost is \$10 per person and includes entry to all three categories: bluegill, perch and crappie. Fishing is allowed on any lake (DNR regulations apply), but not before 7 a.m. Cash prizes, obtained from entry fees, will be awarded for the longest fish in each category. To qualify, contestants must bring their fish to Suttons Landing by 6 p.m. In the event of a tie, the fish will be weighed. This is the tenth year Pere Marquette Expeditions has offered fishing tournaments.

In Fountain, Citizens Sportsmen’s Club, at the corner of Fountain and Larson roads, will host its annual Winter Fishing Tournament, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., on Feb. 15 in Sheridan, Sherman and Free Soil Township lakes. Registration is 8-10 a.m. at the clubhouse and entry fee is \$10 for adults and is free to those 16 and under.

WHAT SHOP OWNERS SAY

Rob Eckerson, owner-operator of Pappy’s

Bait and Tackle in Wellston, said the free fishing weekend events are a good idea.

“Especially for kids, mentor-type things, where the adults can be present and participate,” he explained.

Eckerson said that he would like to see DNR officers help with public relations as well as enforcement, though he adds that this is not their duty.

“But that has been a value to it ... our groups have formed fishing competitions and what-not around that date,” he explained.

He said he doesn’t see any big boost in bait-and-tackle sales during free fishing weekends, and the people who visit his shop during them are surprised they don’t need a license. He explained that most of his customers visit for an extended stay and would benefit from a week-long free fishing event.

Eckerson said Pappy’s is near Tippy Dam, which offers unique opportunities for anglers with its open, running water fishery as well as a frozen water fishery during the winter.

Rich Morong, of Great Lakes Holders & Charters in Free Soil, said getting kids interested in fishing, especially at an early age, is a positive thing.

“Anybody that has caught a nice fish ... it’s addicting,” Morong said.

Despite the lure of free fishing, he said he doesn’t see a big uptick in the number of people coming out during the events – maybe 12, depending on the location. He said the main reason behind the low interest is lack of public awareness.

“I think (publicity) is most of it,” he said. “If you wouldn’t have called, I would have forgotten all about it. Nobody knows about it. That’s the biggest thing.”

In Onekama, Philip Marion, owner of Lakeside Treats & Bait, watches the ice this time of year on Portage Lake. His shop is across the street from a public lake access in the village park. He said he notices more people in his store and on the water during free fishing weekends.

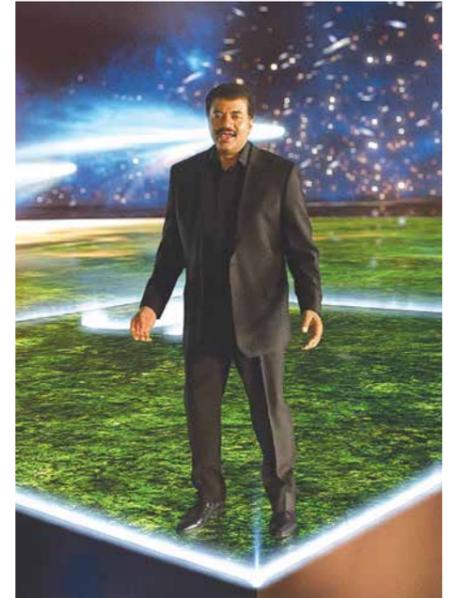
“A lot more kids and families,” he said. “Nothing dramatic – locals and families bringing their kids.”

Everyone is hoping there will be safe ice on area lakes by Feb. 15.

Greg Gielczyk was sports editor at the *Manistee News Advocate* for over 30 years and currently is a sportswriter for the *Ludington Daily News* and a columnist for TV 9&10’s website MISportsNow.

COSMOS

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Host Neil deGrasse Tyson, shown here on “Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey,” will host “Possible Worlds.” Courtesy photo.

about *Cosmos*, I wouldn’t have known (about it). It saddens me that space-related shows do not seem to get much promotion.”

The original television series, “*COSMOS: A Personal Journey*,” first aired in 1980. It was based on the book by the late Dr. Carl Sagan, a planetary scientist and science popularizer. Sagan hosted as well as co-wrote the TV series with his wife Ann Druyan and Stephen Soter. *COSMOS* became the most-watched series in television history, a status it maintained for a decade.

The second series “*A SpaceTime Odyssey*” focused on those forgotten by history who made discoveries that added to our understanding of the universe. Over 135 million people watched worldwide in 2014, making it the most-watched series ever on National Geographic channels internationally.

The third season will feature cameo appearances by Hollywood actors and even more special effects. Druyan and Brannon Braga co-wrote and co-directed the series and Seth MacFarlane (“*Family Guy*,” “*The Orville*”) is again co-executive producer, along with Druyan and Jason Clark.

In the same release it was stated: “The new season will reveal previously uncharted realms, including lost worlds and worlds to come, and those that we may one day inhabit in a thrilling future we can still have”



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When was the last time you visited

Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary

The buildings are losing their luster and need your help.

Located between Orchard Beach State Park and Bar Lake Outlet, the sanctuary is an important Manistee community landmark & visitor destination.

Do you hike the grounds?

Maybe you've gazed at the Giant Sequoia or viewed a Lake Michigan sunset from the stone wall on the bluff.

Did you meet at the Manor house with fellow birders, your quilting group or garden club?

Do you remember the great Arabian horses strutting through town in a parade?

They made their home in the historic stable building.



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Count birds in your backyard, Feb. 14-17

From staff reports

Known as the Great Backyard Bird Count, the annual bird-watching event requires public participation to be successful.

Citizens count birds at one location only: their backyard, a park, a hiking trail, a beach, etc. – for 15 minutes a day. They may choose to count for one day, two days or all three days. They then complete and submit checklists of their bird sightings.

Last year, more than 160,000 people in 100 countries counted over 6,800 species of birds.

The Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. Non-scientists have been helping researchers count birds since 1998 as part of the Cornell (University) Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society study.

An announcement on the official birdcount.org website states:

“We invite you to participate! For at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, February 14-17, 2020, simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world, for as long as you wish!”

Throughout the days of the count, participants can go online to view other

sightings in their area and around the world. They are also invited to enter a photo contest, by sharing pictures they took of the birds they counted.



All data must be entered online, so participants need access to a computer and an email address to create a free account on the Great Backyard Bird Count website. If someone has previously participated or belongs to eBird or another Cornell

Lab science project, such as NestWatch, the person does not need to create a new account.

Results from the count help researchers identify trends and study possible environmental impacts on bird populations. It also helps scientists identify which bird species inhabit cities and suburbs and which are found in more natural habitats.

The count is always held in February before spring migrations and is made possible, in part, by generous support from Wild Birds Unlimited and is funded by the National Science Foundation.

For more information or to sign up for the event, go to www.birdcount.org

The Hof

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like goulash, meatloaf and others,” Tami noted.

Darin chimed in.

“She’ll do some of the homestyle cooking, and she’s really good at it.”

Other specials appear periodically. Last year on St. Patrick’s Day, forgoing the usual corned beef on rye bread, they served an Irish taco: a tortilla filled with corned beef and sauerkraut.

MORE THAN FOOD ON THE MENU

The Hof also features occasional entertainment. The tavern is small, but Tammy said some residents stop in with their guitars. Keno and euchre nights occur on a semi-regular basis too. This year they added mystery theater.

“We did a murder mystery dinner party on New Year’s Eve,” Tami said. “New Year’s Eve here is kind of quiet so we thought, ‘Let’s just do something different.’”

Since the New Year marked the beginning of the 2020s, a Roaring 20s theme was chosen. Turnout was better than expected.

“I was hoping for maybe six people or eight and we’d be thrilled, but we ended up having 48 registered,” Tami said.

The next mystery theater is scheduled for April. “Set Sail for Disaster” is the Hawaiian theme.

January and February are slow months but traffic picks up after that and through fall, thanks to lake and river traffic.

“You know how many small lakes are around here, and it’s amazing how many cabins are around the lakes and rivers,” Darin said. “Most people who go through Free Soil don’t realize how many people resort here – a lot of fishermen, hunters,



Darin and Tami Schultz, owners of The Hof Bar and Grill, ready to greet customers at their small-town establishment in Free Soil.



Formerly the Heidi Hof Draught House, the tavern in Free Soil was renamed The Hof Bar and Grill in 2015 by current owners Darin and Tami Schultz.

people who keep a cabin on the river.”

The Hof’s central location is, as Tami noted, “a place where you can get all the news.”

Kevin Howell is a transplanted freelance writer from Indiana currently residing in Mason County. He loves the Michigan woods, lakes, people and, especially, Michigan craft beers – not necessarily in that order! Contact him at kevin@ytci.com.

Fun Facts

- The Hof Bar and Grill is located about a half mile east of Free Soil on East Free Soil Road, known in town as Michigan Street.
- A sign on a pole outside the tavern features a photo of the Schultz’s daughter Stephanie.
- The Hof purchases produce and meats from as many local sources as possible, including produce in season from Orchard Market on U.S. 31, hamburger meat from Sanders in Custer, prime rib from Ebel’s General Store near Cadillac, and beer – Flogging Red on tap – from Starving Artist Brewing outside Ludington.

Manistee Dial-A-Ride millage increase sought

From staff reports

MANISTEE – When residents head to the polls on March 10 for the presidential primary election, they will be asked to renew the current millage for the county Dial-A-Ride program as well as increase funding for the service.

According to Manistee County Transportation Inc. (MCTI) – the county’s private, nonprofit bus and trolley service – the Dial-A-Ride millage has not been increased since the service began operating in 1975.

The county’s current millage for the service is one-third of one mill (0.33), compared to a half mill (0.50) in Benzie County and three-fifths of a mill (0.60) in Cadillac, and it is less than half of the statewide average of 0.85 mills.

The proposed increase is one-sixth of one mill (0.16) for a period of six years.

“For a home with a taxable value of \$50,000, this millage increase would be \$0.63 per month,” MCTI stated in its fact sheet.

A mill is the amount of tax payable per

dollar of the assessed value of a property.

Manistee’s Dial-A-Ride service operates Monday through Friday and is available throughout the county. Customers can call an 800 number and the service offers free, daily transportation to Munson Medical Center in Traverse City for in-county patients and free, daily service for in-county students attending West Shore Community College in Scottville (Mason County).

In 2019, the service logged 163,000 passengers – 57,000 more than in Benzie County and 27,000 more than in Cadillac, according to the same MCTI fact sheet.

MCTI partners with area schools, social service agencies, festivals and others to fulfill transportation needs. Trolley tours are available from mid June through Labor Day. The service also offers package delivery and a meeting room.

According to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), 82 transportation agencies serve Michigan residents. Statistics by county are available on the department’s website: www.michigan.gov/mdot

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ONEKAMA: 3/5 10:30-11:30 am	WELLSTON: 3/5 10:30-11:30 am

* This A FREE reading program for children ages 0-5 *

From sultry to swinging, quartet performance promises a musical mashup

By Stewart A. McFerran

MANISTEE – Cellist Crispin Campbell says everything in Medellin, Colombia is very cool, which is surprising considering the South American country was once known for a type of lawlessness.

Campbell goes wherever the music takes him. He travels to Medellin with his cello to conduct a cello choir and is planning a recording project with a Colombian jazz violinist. In Italy, he teaches his students to break classical rules and improvise in jazz style. He also has taught in Costa Rica and Bolivia.

No longer tethered to a classroom at Interlochen Arts Academy, where he taught for 30 years, he is happy to have time to pursue far-flung projects on different continents.

His upcoming performance is not far flung. The Crispin Campbell Quartet will appear “down home” at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 20, at the Ramsdell Theatre. The concert features jazz, gypsy and classical music found on the group’s new CD, appropriately named The Crispin Campbell Quartet. The CD marks Campbell’s debut recording as a band leader. He is joined by musicians Steve Stargardt on piano, Jack Dryden on bass and Randy Marsh on drums. He says he has known the trio for 25 years and played music with them numerous times.

“They are wonderful, high-level improvisers,” Campbell explains.

The cellist says he is “a big fan of Brazilian music.” He toured 10 cities in Brazil as a teacher with the Colombian National Youth Orchestra.

He shared an overview of wide-ranging selections from his new CD.

“We’ve got three Brazilian tunes on the album by different composers,” he says. “I have liked Brazilian music since I was a kid in Northern California. I had a record by a Brazilian guitarist named Bola Sete, which I played over and over.

“I love the rhythm of the music, (it) makes you want to dance. I also love the smooth

melodic lines of composers like (Antonio Carlos) Jobim and (Egberto) Gismonti, both of whom are featured on the recording. And I really like the subtle jazz harmonies that flow underneath those melodies. And Choro music is another Brazilian style which I enjoy. It’s basically string-band music with European-style harmonies that combine with a funky, lopsided rhythm – very unique.”

Campbell said the new CD also has “a couple jazz standards and one unusual piece by Sun Ra, who’s an avant-garde jazz musician.”

Additionally, the CD features “Collateral Damage”, a mandolin piece composed and performed by well-known local musician Don Julin, author of Mandolin for Dummies.

During the Feb. 20 concert, the quartet will perform a work by Henry Mancini and a Jimmy Webb tune called “Witchita Lineman”.

“It’s just a great tune and I don’t think it has ever been covered by a cello before,” Campbell says.

The CD, available for sale during the concert, was recorded at Perfect World Studios in Traverse City. The cover art is by Campbell’s long-time friend Greg Jaris of the former Trick Dog Gallery and Café in Elberta.

When asked about the Ramsdell Theatre, where his quartet will perform, Campbell doesn’t skip a beat.

“It’s a fantastic venue for that size – I think the best in the area.”

Tickets are \$15-\$30, available through ramsdelltheatre.org, where you will be redirected to OvationTix. For more information, call (231) 398-9770 or contact

continued on page 8



Above left. The Crispin Campbell Quartet will perform Feb. 20 at the Ramsdell Theatre in support of the group’s new CD of the same name. Photo by Carol Navarro.



Above right. CD cover of The Crispin Campbell Quartet. Courtesy photo.

Cello music, poetry weave watery tales

By Stewart A. McFerran

Last summer, cellist Crispin Campbell and poet Mike Delp wove music and words in a performance to benefit the nonprofit organization known as FLOW, (For Love of Water).

Their Traverse City performance, “In Praise of Music: The Mad Angler Meets the Mad Cellist,” was described on the organization’s website as “the culmination of a recording project supported by FLOW to honor the link between art and sense of place.”

The recordings spawned a CD, “River Under the River: The Mad Angler Meets the Mad Cellist,” a project supporting water issues in the Great Lakes. On the CD’s tracks, Delp speaks of his love of water and dismay about issues facing his home waters, as Campbell interprets with sounds from his cello.

Campbell and Delp, both retired Interlochen Arts Academy instructors, have known each other and worked together for many years.

The CD features “Mad Angler” poems from Delp’s 2016 published collection. “Chris and I went through and picked out 12 or 13 of them and he wrote the music,” Delp said. “So, he would play and I would read.”

Campbell’s description of the project was a little less matter of fact.

“The ‘Mad Angler’ is Mike’s alter ego; he’s crazy,” Campbell said. “He’s mad about stuff, but he’s crazy. Mike tells it like he sees it; he doesn’t hold back anything, but these poems are really great! He is very passionate and pointed about the ecological state we are in.”

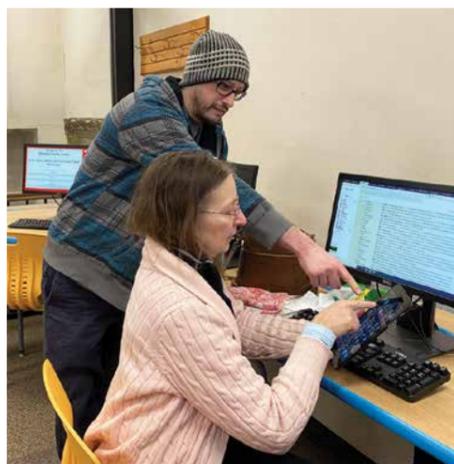
The CD reminds listeners that the right to water is first a human right, a public trust to be held as lovingly as Delp holds his fly rod and Campbell holds his cello.

For information about FLOW, visit www.forloveofwater.org

Got tech questions? Manistee County Library can help

By Greg Gielczyk

Nick Wallett has been interested in computers since he was 15 years old and said he used to be a big “gamer.”



Nick Wallett helps Constance M. Kilbride with her tablet questions. Courtesy photo.

When his computer crashed, he did some research online and read some books at the Manistee County Library to see if he could figure out how to fix it. That touched off a spark that Wallett later parlayed into a career as a computer technician for the local library system.

Born in England, and a 1999 graduate of Manistee High School, Wallett received

his degree from West Shore Community College. In November 2008 he began working at the Manistee County Library. He taught computer classes before graduating to his role as the library’s “computer guy.”

Today, when someone in Manistee has a problem with his or her device – such as a smartphone, tablet, notebook, laptop, etc. – that person can ask Wallett for help.

Sometimes the questions are easily handled during a quick phone conversation, though on any given day people can also find him at one of the library system’s branches. If it’s a simple fix, Wallett can handle it on the spot – that is, if he’s not busy with a project or another person with a question.

He is the sole computer technician for the Manistee County Library system, including Arcadia, Bear Lake, Kaleva, Manistee, Onekama and Wellston. Usually, he visits each location once a month for two hours. No matter where he is, Wallett said he’s willing to make appointments, which typically last 30 minutes.

“I had one person ... I helped him out for two hours on iTunes music, how to organize folders and files, things like that,” Wallett

recalled. “He was very grateful that I was able to help him out for those two hours.”

Resolving the issue can sometimes require more than 30 minutes, and Wallett said he can’t always visualize during a phone conversation what the person is trying to explain. In those instances, people are asked to set up an appointment to meet with him in person.

“I don’t touch (their devices), but I will guide them through any issues they’re having with their device (tablet, computer, smart phone etc.),” he explained. “Just basic stuff.”

“Some of the older generation (are not) into computers and can’t seem to find time with their family members to help them with tech questions.

“We try to provide as much technological knowledge as possible to people who don’t have that knowledge, and basically I’ve grown up with it, so I’m here to help with those questions.”

If someone has a problem understanding his spoken instructions, he will use his own device to give them a visual explanation as well.

Wallett said most questions he answers have simple solutions.

The question he is most frequently asked is how to install an application on a device. He also has helped people gain access

to their email accounts when they have forgotten their passwords.

Questions run the gamut.

“How do I copy a file to a different folder? I get that sometimes, too,” he said. “Some people don’t know how to copy and paste, and I teach them that, too.”

“There is a right-clicking method on smart devices, such as phones or tablets, by holding your finger down on the screen, like on an app, and that gives you the choice of deleting it or moving it. A lot of people don’t know about that one.”

He said he is most gratified when someone comes in with no knowledge of computers and becomes so self-confident after talking with him that the person goes out and buys a laptop.

“I tell people, ‘Don’t be afraid, you’re not going to break it.’”

The library has taken on many new projects over the last few months, and Wallett said he is busy working on those. However, if someone has a question about a device he’ll try to make time for that person as best he can.

Greg Gielczyk was sports editor at the Manistee News Advocate for over 30 years and is now a sportswriter for the Ludington Daily News and a columnist for TV 9&10’s website, MISportsNow.

Lower Woodcock Lake: A pristine jewel

Story and photos by Stewart A. McFerran

The woodcock is a bird, a round ball of feathers with a long beak and big feet. They nest in thickets near undeveloped shorelines of northern lakes and streams.

The Woodcock lakes, like woodcocks themselves, are seldom seen. Located in Almira Township, west of Lake Ann in Benzie County, Lower Woodcock Lake has an undeveloped shoreline with unique beauty rare in Northern Michigan. The lake is unique for what is absent: docks, boat lifts and houses with groomed lawns down to the shore.

Lower Woodcock Lake is within the 230-acre property purchased last fall by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC). State forest surrounds 70 percent of the property. Chris Sullivan, the conservancy's land protection director, said the 22-acre lake is one of few bodies of water that have an entirely undeveloped shoreline. All the shore, one unnamed stream and a portion of another, and a half mile of the Platte River will be off limits to development, forever.

One of those streams – a freshwater creek – flows from the north end of Lower Woodcock Lake into the Platte River. I have bent down to drink water from this freshest many times without ill effects.

My dad played tennis with “Buzz,” the former Woodcock property owner, and I knew the guys that hunted there every fall. I have been hiking and skiing this property with permission for 30 years.

The Conservancy will undoubtedly provide access to the Woodcock Lake property off Burnt Mill Road, where a sign



Lower Woodcock Lake blanketed by winter.

announces the purchase. The adventurous soul can traverse the Woodcock property to Lake Ann Pathway in the Pere Marquette State Forest. When the snow is deep, there is a short bushwhack across several rivulets through lowland to 5.8 miles of the pathway's trail loops. The trailhead is at the Lake Ann State Campground off Reynolds Road.

SHORELINE DENIZENS

The shores of lakes and streams are the most awesome places to see wild things and how they interact.

One of my favorite places is the isthmus between Lower Woodcock Lake and the Platte River. Otter slides can be seen in the snow where these aquatic hunters pass from river to lake and back. Bobcat tracks can be seen along the shoreline. I saw a bobcat last winter hunting in a snowstorm among the downed Northern White Cedar on the bank. The cat had an extraordinarily light-colored coat; its spots were a tan hue. As I drank in this rare sight, I wished I had my camera at the ready. Bob was not in a hurry and took his time picking his way over and under logs where he would surely spot prey.

I sometimes wonder about an encounter between an otter and a bobcat on the shore of Lower Woodcock Lake. Who would win? They are both predators and roughly the same size. Both have claws and sharp teeth. I believe the answer would come down to habitat. Though their territories overlap when the otter crosses the isthmus, or the bobcat leaps over “Woodcock Creek” (as we like to call it), my guess is that encounters are rare.

Beavers took up residency on the creek and held forth in their lodge for some years before Buzz and his crew trapped them and used hoes on the dam. I never heard why they were evicted, but I miss seeing them swimming in the lake on rainy days. Some years ago, after a sauna, I was standing



Plying the waters of Lower Woodcock Lake last fall.

naked in the current just downstream from Woodcock, enjoying the moon and the cool night air, when a beaver slapped its tail right next to me.

And I've seen woodcock in the reeds along the shore of the Platte. There is no other bird with the odd charm of an American Woodcock. Even its nickname “Timberdoodle” is oddly endearing.



A woodcock hides near the Platte River.

As a graduate of Michigan State University's “Lake and Stream Leadership” program, I recently received information on woody habitat and how it improves fish stocks. No need to improve the woody habitat on Lower Woodcock Lake. Trees that have fallen stay put, providing a complex habitat for fish and other aquatic beasts. There are no fastidious waterfront homeowners to impose their idea of order on the shoreline.

I initiated an aquatic plant survey on Bronson Lake, downstream from the Woodcock property. No invasive plants were found in the transects established last summer. The survey of Lower Woodcock Lake completed last fall by Dan Mays, a biologist with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, found no invasive plants either.

Describing this body of water as “pristine” is correct and deserved.

ABSENT, NOT MISSED

Motorboats are another thing missing from Lower Woodcock Lake.

In his paper *The Effects of Motorized Watercraft on Aquatic Ecosystems*, Timothy R. Asplund, of the Water Resources Monitoring Section-Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, wrote:

“Boats may interact with the aquatic environment by a variety of mechanisms, including emissions and exhaust, propeller contact, turbulence from the propulsion system, waves produced by movement, noise, and movement itself. In turn, each of these impacting mechanisms may have multiple effects on the aquatic ecosystem. Sediment resuspension, water pollution, disturbance of fish and wildlife, destruction of aquatic plants, and shoreline erosion are the major areas of concern.”

The shores are the most vital and productive areas for wildlife and the most pleasant for humans. However, most lakes' shores are dominated by a wild assortment of gadgets, including equipment (docks

and shore stations) deployed on them with the help of “dockaquacologists”. (See the website link at the end of this story.) Additionally, motorized watercraft leak oil and gas into the water and have harmful effects on the shallow waters of these bodies.

Thanks to Buzz and the conservancy, Lower Woodcock Lake will continue to escape this fate. Jennifer Jay, GTRLC Director of Communications, said the Campaign for Generations had raised \$48,000 of \$100,000 needed to finish the Lower Woodcock Lake 2020 management plan.

WHAT WAS, ENDURES

Silas Woodcock served in the Grand Army of the Republic. His homestead was west of Lake Ann. Upper and Lower Woodcock Lakes are his namesake. Some say he had a long beak and big feet.

In response to a Facebook post of a photo of “Woodcock Creek” on the Friends of the Platte River Watershed page, Lori Clark stated:

“I love this! My third great-grandfather was Silas Woodcock. He homesteaded this area. When he died, he left it to my great-grandmother, Ethel Clark, (Orson Clark's wife). Orson homesteaded the property along the Platte that is Clark Mill Road. The foundation of that home is where Denise and Bill Reitz live now. We need to protect this beautiful waterway and surrounding area for our future generations.”



Silas Woodcock and Bill Schultz, c. 1915. Photo courtesy of Benzie Area Historical Society and Museum.

Visit gtrlc.org to find out more about the Lower Woodcock Lake project and others in the Campaign for Generations.

To find out more about “dockaquacologists”, read McFerran's July 8, 2018 story at: <https://gtjournal.tadl.org/2018/dockaquacology>

Listen to our writer, Stewart McFerran, interview Crispin Campbell on WNNM 90.7-FM radio at 5 p.m., Feb. 18. Livestream it at www.wnmc.org by clicking on “Listen.”

Stewart Allison McFerran studied ornithology at Antioch College while earning a degree in Environmental Studies. He has worked with the Benzie Conservation District on a study of aquatic plants.

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Millionaires of Manistee: Charles Rietz, from Lumber to Shipping to King of Salt

By P. Misty Sheehan

Photos courtesy of Manistee County Historical Museum

Charles Rietz stood up against the world – and that has made all the difference for Manistee.



Above. Charles Rietz's house in a beautifully landscaped 14-acre park on a hill overlooking Manistee and Manistee Lake. Top right. Salt workers with the pure salt that lies under Manistee. Bottom right. Rietz Hill and sawmill.

In 1878, Dr. C. Rominger of Ann Arbor, who was the Michigan State Geologist, said that according to the maps and his calculations salt should be found under Manistee.

Charles Rietz studied a geological map of Michigan then gathered some businessmen to purchase subscriptions to drill, to discover if salt was really there. To Rietz's consternation and everyone else's humor, they did not find any. Businessmen shook their heads and remarked, "What a pity it was to see Mr. Rietz throw away his good

money on a hole in the ground!"

Mr. Rietz himself was out nearly \$19,000. Today, that is the equivalent of approximately \$500,000.

But he persevered and on Feb 7, 1881 he struck a vein of salt 35 feet thick, about 2,000 feet down. The salt was pure and white and is still being mined today by Morton Salt.

By 1890 Manistee had 24 salt mills in operation by different mill owners. Together they produced more than one-third of the salt Michigan sold.

Billions of years ago, Michigan was covered by five different seas at distinct times. Each dried up, leaving substantial reefs of sand and salt strata.

Today, Michigan produces more salt than any other state.

A LIFE OF PURPOSE

Rietz was born in Eisenberg, Germany about 1825, spent four years in the German army, and came to the U.S. with three brothers in 1849. What he lacked in property he made up for with lots of energy. By 1859 he and his brothers owned their own Chicago lumber business, but in 1867 he came to Manistee and purchased a small mill. In 1870 he built a new, bigger mill, which burned down in the Great Fire of 1871. In 1872 he rebuilt his mill and added a shingle mill. His machinery was said to have been the best. Scrap wood lying around his mill, that might have caused further fires, was used in the salt mining process.

His brothers remained in Chicago and they moved the newly cut timber to where it was needed for construction. His son, Frank Rietz, worked with him here in Manistee.

In addition to his mills, he ran barges and ships in the Manistee harbor that saw more ships than any other harbor on the east side of Lake Michigan. He possessed the steam barge Charles Rietz, the schooner Agnes Poller, and the propeller ships John Maiko and Florence Lister. His logging business, his ships, and his salt business made him one of the patriarchs of Manistee.

Rietz built a mansion on 20 acres for his family – his wife, two sons and two daughters – and used it for entertaining. It overlooked his mill and Manistee Lake and stood proudly above a magnificent park. In addition to walking paths laid out amongst

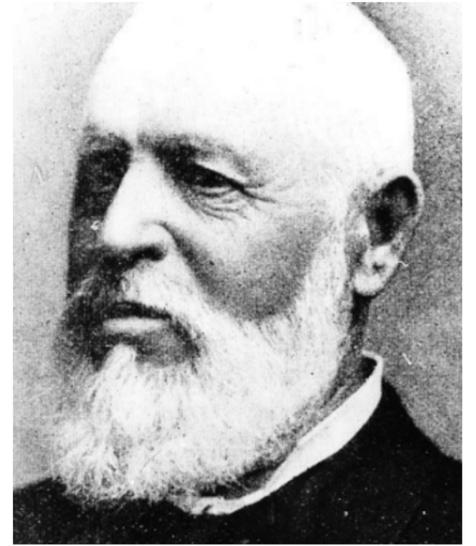


Photo of Charles Rietz.

carefully landscaped shrubs and flowers, he planted fruit orchards and a vineyard. The giant white oak trees that were already there added a richness to the landscape that mirrored the wealth on display.

Charles Rietz died in 1890. A journalist wrote, "All praise to the late Charles Rietz. His firm conviction that salt lay beneath us and his tenacity of purpose in pushing the work of search, when all others gave up in disgust, have made it possible for the mill area of Manistee to add...wealth."

His mansion stood empty until it was torn down in 1920. His heirs donated a tract of six acres that is now Rietz field, home of the Manistee Saints baseball team.

P. Misty Sheehan is a retired professor of humanities and the former executive director of Benzie Area Historical Society and Museum.

This is the second article in a series of five about Manistee's influential early millionaires. Special thanks to Mark Fedder, Manistee County Historical Museum.

Hidden worlds of the Snowbird

Story and photo by Judy Cools

Those of us who live in Michigan are familiar with our home state's glorious seasons which flow from one to the next. Spring sees the rejuvenation of flowers and the restoration of our lush forest trees. Summer arrives with the reappearance of frogs, snakes, and butterflies; many folks plant vegetable gardens, frequent the beaches, and enjoy long, sometimes lazy, days. Fall brings rich colors and the touring visitor, searching to enjoy the unique palette of the current year's foliage.

Finally comes winter. Its beauty is unmatched as snow decorates the trees and houses. It glistens in the sun; it sparkles in the moonlight. A fresh snowfall makes the world look bright and fresh.

Along with this beauty of the winter wonderland come winter chores. Whether by one's own elbow grease or by fees paid to others, there is extra work to do. Sidewalks must be shoveled and driveways cleared. Many people have storm windows to change out, heat tape to install on eaves, cars to bring up to winter's standards with better tires and emergency supplies. Snowstorms have many people raking the weight of that snow off the roofs of their houses. Car windows must be scraped, sometimes many times in a single day. Winter coats and gloves come out; boots are dusted off for the new season. Our travel times are adjusted for slippery roads, and every aspect of life takes longer and – yes – is more dangerous. Roads make for treacherous driving. Walkways are slick and it's easy to fall.

It's the rare Michigander who hasn't fantasized about spending winters away from its snow and cold.

While some have simply given up on Michigan and moved south, many people have chosen to become Snowbirds – enjoying Michigan's three seasons and going elsewhere during the snow and the gray skies of Michigan's winters. It seems idyllic to have pleasant weather all year long, to enjoy the uniqueness of two communities you can call "home." Most who have that freedom are of retirement age, not bound by work or by children still in school. But let's look at what else comes with that Snowbird decision.

WHAT OF ILLNESS AND EMERGENCIES?

Many family members often live within a few hours' travel of one another. When the Snowbirds break out of that nest of family members, a lot of dynamics change. What comes to mind first are illnesses and family emergencies back at home. Limits change on how people can respond to these challenges when key members are so far away. By virtue of being able to leave for several months at a stretch, the Snowbirds are the elders of a family. Their support is missing, or at best delayed, at critical times for the rest of the family.

What if it's the Snowbirds who have the emergency? They are far from home and don't have family support nearby. Travel for the rest of the family can be expensive and difficult during winter weather. Again,

This is part one of a two-part look at the Snowbird lifestyle.

roads are slippery and dangerous to travel, especially when in a hurry or distracted by worry. Flights can be cancelled. Traveling can be exhausting. The family cavalry arrives in unfamiliar surroundings, having to make what could be life or death decisions for a loved one. It's a tough situation, to be sure.

Phone calls, texts, social media and video chat make up only some of that distance. The voices are there, but not the touch. There isn't enough bandwidth to send a hug or wipe a brow long distance.

Most serious medical situations are not a one-time fix, either. They can roll from ER to a specialty hospital, from ICU to a hospital room to rehab stays and more. For the elderly, going home may never be an option again – including travel back to Michigan. And then what – thousands of miles away from family and their roots?

WEIGHING THE EFFECTS

Snowbirds must consider these things. Besides medical or family emergencies, consider time spent away from other family. What will holidays be like? What happens to quality time with children or grandchildren? Maybe time with a person's partner/spouse is most important now, leading to that Snowbird decision. Lots of factors must be weighed and considered.

I'm not suggesting the Snowbird lifestyle is a wrong choice. I'm only suggesting that people look at the ripple effects that may occur, before they are faced with those situations and get caught totally unprepared.

No single answer will fit everyone's situation. And honestly, even the most



"Toto, we're not in Michigan anymore!"

carefully considered decision is a gamble among the unknown and random events of life. Most importantly, few decisions are irreversible. Few choices have to be permanent. Decide to come back in the middle of winter if you want to. Decide to go somewhere warm, but closer to family the following year. Decide to make trips away from winter instead of moving for the whole season. Or who knows? Maybe the family will decide they've had enough of winter and move south with you. Please think ahead and try not to put yourself and your family through unnecessary hardship.

Judy Cools has been a columnist (Manistee Observer, Mason County Press), web designer, feature writer, editor and business writer for nearly 30 years. She and her husband Gary make their home in the woods outside Ludington. Visit: judycoolsmoonance.blog

Space Travel

continued from page 1

scenes of the wreck. Some images remain ingrained in my mind. I kept thinking of the seven people onboard who no longer had the rest of their lives ahead of them.

This shook me. Up until this point, I had enjoyed studying science and learning about the universe. Something I loved now seemed absolutely scary. I had heard about the loss of Challenger, but in the days before everyone had high speed internet, I never saw any footage of it. I assumed any past disasters were just an accident, and the folks at NASA must have fixed and perfected it. A lesson we learn as we grow up: nothing is ever perfect.

So, what happened on that day in 2003? It was later revealed that the cause of the incident was damage to a wing of the shuttle. Any damage to a spacecraft, no matter how small, can be deadly as the craft reenters the layers of the earth's atmosphere. As the spacecraft quickly descends, it is exposed to extreme heat.

Years earlier, the shuttle program suffered another tragedy. On January 28, 1986, the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded just over a minute after lifting off. None of the seven crew members survived. This was the first time one of the shuttles had been lost. Believed to be safe,

this shuttle catastrophe shocked the world. As a result of this tragedy, the remaining shuttles ended up being grounded for nearly three years. During this time, various safety measures and redesigns were implemented.

The bottom line is that space travel is not the safest thing in the universe, something my fiancé always reminds my space-obsessed self. It is very dangerous and will always be. That doesn't mean we should stop exploring! Most space flights are completed with no complications and, as we learn more, safety will improve.

Space companies are constantly working on spacecraft safety. Just recently, SpaceX completed a successful in-flight abort test of its Crew Dragon, demonstrating the craft's crew-escape capabilities in the event of a launch emergency. As NASA's Artemis crewed-spaceflight program moves forward, engineers are looking back at past errors and working to ensure future space flights go smoothly.

Those past tragedies will never be forgotten as we move forward toward an exciting future in space.

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

Campbell

continued from page 5



Crispin Campbell and his cello travel all over the world. He's pictured here beside the Lake Michigan shore. Courtesy photo.

the box office at (231) 398-9269. The Ramsdell Theatre is located at 101 Maple Street. For more about Crispin Campbell and his quartet, visit www.crispincampbell.com.

Stewart A. McFerran volunteered at WNMC when the call numbers were 90.9 FM and assisted with the signal upgrade to 90.7. A DJ of Jazz and Folk, he enjoys spinning an eclectic mix of tunes and has attended the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival as well as Wheatland, Bliss and Spirit of the Woods' music festivals in Michigan.

AROUND THE COUNTIES

CONTEST

Each issue, we will feature a photo of something fun or unusual in Manistee or Mason county. **CAN YOU GUESS WHERE IT IS?**

First person to email the correct answer to editor@freshwater-reporter.com will receive a \$10 gift certificate to a business nearest the location.



Congratulations to Ludington resident Kayla Hartley, who correctly identified the shoe planter outside Snyder's Shoes (Ludington). Thanks to Snyder Shoes for contributing toward the \$20 gift certificate.

Call 231-835-0867 to advertise.

Valentine's Day

by Mark Videan



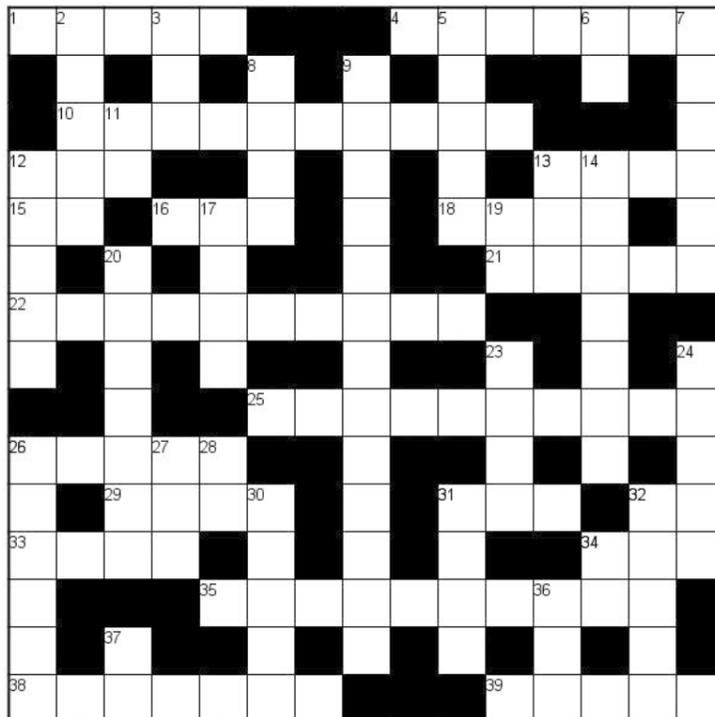
ACROSS

- 1 Infatuation
- 4 Fervor
- 10 "Let me call you ____, I'm in love with you"
- 12 Got together
- 13 Handled tunes at a party
- 15 "My love is ____ a fever, longing still..." -W. Shakespeare
- 16 Playing hard to get, say
- 18 Cry of #23 Down that may be heard on #31 Down
- 21 Said "I do"
- 22 "Life is like a box of ____." -Forrest's Mom
- 25 Like some majors or #9 Down
- 26 Connects emotionally
- 29 Hip, not nerdy
- 31 Color #2 Down may be
- 32 Unit of #11 Down used for diamonds
- 33 Chandon's champagne partner

- 34 Couple
- 35 A boat with close ties?
- 38 Surround with arms
- 39 Sweet gift

DOWN

- 2 Romantic dozen
- 3 Go out with
- 5 #32 Down's projectile
- 6 Exists
- 7 Indispensable
- 8 Spend the night
- 9 Mysterious giver of #2 Down
- 11 Scale reading (abbrev.)
- 12 ____ .com (dating site)
- 13 To God, in hymns
- 14 Worn rocks?
- 17 Hugs and kisses
- 19 High voltage, for short
- 20 Woo



- 23 Pure delight
- 24 "What did ____ deserve your love?"
- 26 Hearty message?
- 27 One third of an ellipsis
- 28 Very
- 30 #10 Across or #36 Down, for example
- 31 Tilt-A-Whirl or Tunnel of Love, e.g.
- 32 Archer who shoots singles
- 34 "Only do what your heart tells you." -Lady ____, Princess of Wales
- 36 "Isn't ____ bit like you and me?" -The Beatles
- 37 What a box of #22 Across may weigh (abbrev.)



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Crossword Solution

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