

FRESHWATER REPORTER

A fresh approach to storytelling in Manistee and Mason counties...and a bit beyond.

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'FIRST AMERICANS' art show is first for Ramsdell

By PAT STINSON/staff reports

In observance of National American Indian Heritage Month in November, the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts in Naaminitigog (Manistee) will present "FIRST AMERICANS," an exhibit featuring contemporary work by Native American artists residing in Anishinaabe Aki (Michigan).

The Nov. 9-Dec. 30 show is dedicated to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, the first Native American federal cabinet member. While in Congress, she focused on issues such as environmental justice and missing and murdered indigenous people.

"FIRST AMERICANS" is the Ramsdell's first art show devoted solely to featuring artwork by Native Americans. Forty works by nine Native American artists will be displayed in RRCA's Hardy Hall. Featured artists are Suzanne Cross, Marcella Hadden, Judy Jashinsky, Jamie John, Cecelia LaPointe, Michelle Lucas and George Martin. Pieces by Native artists Shirley Brauker and Daniel Mena will be on loan for this event from Denos Museum Center at Northwestern

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"Unceded Ancestor #15" is one of a series of "Unceded Ancestors" collages by Jamie John on display at the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts in Manistee. Photo courtesy of the artist.

EVENTS CALENDAR PAGE 2

The Golden Age of Hobbies

By CARMELITTA TIFFANY

Looking back at the last 18 months, many people realize the pandemic has changed their lives, and not necessarily all for the worse.

"It's cool to be a nerd now," Ryan Horton, co-owner of Backstage Hobbies & Games in Ludington, observed.



Left to right - Nathan Helminiak, Matt Feagins, and Adam Eckerson pass the time at Backstage Hobbies of Manistee with sci-fi board game Galaxy Trucker. Courtesy photo.

Horton, along with co-owners Nate and Nicole Petersen, opened Backstage in June 2007. The amazing support the Ludington store experienced led to the opening of a Manistee store in April 2019.

Backstage offers trading cards such as Magic: The Gathering, Pokemon, and Yu-Gi-Oh. The store also carries role-playing games such as Dungeons & Dragons, board games and video games.

"The hobby industry has been growing for years now and is in something of a golden age of content," Horton explained. "Being a nerd/geek is no longer seen as taboo or weird. There is also that desire to bring back family game night and turn off the screen. The pandemic has certainly also brought new people into the hobby, as people spent more time at home last year and had a little extra money for entertainment through stimulus checks."

Horton identified Ludington and Manistee as two places with an unmet need.

"The respective communities had a wide audience of kids, young adults, and families with a love of games and no access to them," said Horton. "We chose the locations we did to be in the heart of the downtowns of both Ludington and Manistee; this makes us centrally accessible to the most people and easier to discover for folks who never knew what they wanted until they saw it in person!"

Brian Lefler, owner of Ludington

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Enthusiasm drives sports' exponential growth

Story and photos by STEWART A. MCFERRAN

Golf and tennis have been played for hundreds of years, but their descendants disc golf and pickleball are decades young. These newer games appeal to groups other than golfers and tennis players. Equipment and rules for pickleball and disc golf are evolving as they become more widespread. Pickleball and disc golf tournaments are being organized across the U.S. These events attract new players and elevate the play.



A group of disc golfers at the Almira Township Park disc golf course.

Disc golf

A Frisbee is a soft plastic disc we toss across our yard to each other, watching it fly and almost float through the air before easily catching it. No one catches a sharp-edged disc golf "driving" disc. These hard, plastic discs are thrown toward a distant target and land on the ground. The disc golfer picks up the disc from the ground and throws again from that "lie." That is how disc golfers proceed through a disc golf course, until the disc reaches the "hole," a pole with a basket and hanging chains to stop the disc's flight.

Innovation is a key driver for the players and developers of disc golf. There are many types of discs used on a disc golf course. Just as golfers have different clubs, disc golfers have an assortment of discs used for different purposes. Some are for long-

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Community Calendar

Some events may change or be canceled due to weather, schedules or COVID-19. Always call ahead. **Email your December calendar events or press releases by November 15 to:** editor@freshwater-reporter.com. Or snail mail them to: Freshwater Reporter, P.O. Box 188, Manistee, MI, 49660.

Our online calendar is continuously updated at freshwater-reporter.com/calendar-2

NOVEMBER

- Thru 28 Ludington Bay Brewing Coat and Blanket Drive**
11:30am-9pm. All Mason County kids and teens benefit through coat/blanket donations made at the brewery, which go to Ludington Area Schools Youth Resource Center. Those donating will receive a \$6 brewery coupon. All coats will be dry cleaned before they are donated. Last year 164 coats were donated.
- Thru 3 The Built Environment Art Exhibit**
Works depicting human-made surrounds that provide the setting for human activity. 10am-4:30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat, free, Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd., Frankfort
- Thru 10 "Cosmic Gasp" by Chicago artist Claire Ashley**
Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison, Ludington. Public reception and performance in the performance hall, 5-8pm, Oct. 22. Exhibition made possible by West Shore Community College as part of its "Humankind Series." There will be several installations throughout the WSCC campus as well. Ashley's work is described as "playful, magical..."
- 1 Toys for Tots Application Period in Manistee**
Phone applications available by calling 231-723-8327. Go to fivecap.org to find the online application.
- 3 Classic Movies at the Vogue Theatre, Manistee**
10am & 7pm, \$2. "Arsenic & Old Lace" (1944). Crime/Comedy. Cary Grant, Priscilla Lane, Raymond Massey. The Vogue is located at 383 River St.
- 3 Portage Lake, Onekama Visioning Workshop**
6:30-8:30pm. Remote meeting via Zoom. Advance the priorities of the first water quality workshop from 10/23. RSVP to receive the meeting link: <https://forms.gle/FLFQV835THG1a78m7>
- 3 Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Bill Frary**
4-7pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 4 Ludington Ladies Night**
5-8pm. West Michigan Kitchen Studio "takeover" by 12+ local vendors. Sip & Shop. Snag a grab bag of goodies and enter to win a door prize. 5752 US-10, Ludington. West of Jebavy Rd.
- 4-6 Aurora Sleeping Beauty by Conservatory of Dance, Manistee**
7pm, Thurs., Fri., Sat. Additional 1pm matinee performance on Sat. General admission tickets are \$17. Ramsdell Theatre, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Box office opens 30 mins. prior to shows or purchase online at ramsdelldtheatre.org or call 231-398-9269. Classic tale of a young princess cursed by the evil Maleficent to fall into a deep sleep, only to be awakened by her one true love.
- 5-19 Third Annual Regional High School Art Competition at L.A.C.A.**
Free, artist reception Nov. 5 from 5-8pm, Main Gallery, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington. www.ludingtonartscenter.org
- 5 Live Music at the Brewery with John Merchant & Greg Miller**
6-9pm, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington
- 5 Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper, Live in Concert**
7:30pm, \$25 adults, \$20 seniors, \$15 under 18, Center Stage Theater, West Shore Community College, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville
- 6 Grow Benzie Holiday Gift Market, Fall Harvest Farm Market & Tie-On-One Apron Celebration**
10am-4pm. 5885 Frankfort Hwy. (M-115), Benzonia. For more info visit www.growbenzie.org or contact julie@growbenzie.org
- 6 Autumn Tree I.D. Walk, Ludington State Park**
10am-12pm. Free. Recreation Pass required for entry. Starts at the state park's warming shelter. 231-843-2423
- 6 Christmas Expo, Ludington**
10am-3pm. A Mason County Family Event to be held at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 121 Nelson St.
- 6 Live Music at North Channel Brewing with Sugartips Duo**
6-9pm, North Channel Brewing Co., 86 Washington St., Manistee
- 6 Live Music at Stormcloud Brewing with Lynn Callihan**
7-9pm. Folk, blues and grooves. 303 Main St., Frankfort
- 8 Medicare Update Session**
6pm. Free. Trinity Lutheran Church, Arcadia. David Poirot, Medicare Insurance Specialist from Traverse City, will provide an update on Medicare for 2022. Learn whether Medicare Advantage or Medigap is best for you. Also prescription coverage, dental and eye care.
- 9-30 FIRST AMERICANS Art Exhibition**
Thru Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Tues., Thurs., Fri, 12-5pm; Wed. 12-7pm; Sat, 12-3pm. 40 works by 9 Michigan Native American artists.
- 10 Classic Movies at the Vogue Theatre, Manistee**
10am & 7pm, \$2. "Hoosiers" (1986). Sports/Drama. Gene Hackman, Barbara Hershey, Dennis Hopper. The Vogue is located at 383 River St.
- 11 Dawnland**
5:30-7:30pm. Ramsdell Theatre, 101 Maple St., Manistee. An EMMY-winning film about Indigenous child removal in the U.S. Reserve tickets at: bit.ly/Ramsdell-Dawnland.
- 11 Veterans Appreciation Dinner**
4-5:30pm, Drive up only at the Wagoner Community Center, 260 St. Marys Parkway, Manistee. Tickets free for veterans. All others \$13/person and MUST be prepaid. Tickets at American Legion Post 10, at 10 Mason St. and at the community center until Nov. 5. Chicken dinner with all the fixings catered by Zupin.
- 11 Free Dinner for Veterans**
Redneck Yacht Club, 19327 Caberfae Hwy (M-55), Wellston.
- 11 Dawnland, Emmy-award-winning documentary film**
5:30pm, Free, cash bar open 1 hour before showtime, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Sponsored by the Native Justice Coalition, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and Manistee Area Racial Justice & Diversity Initiative
- 12 Deer Hunter Widows Weekend, Downtown Ludington**
5pm Friday through 5pm Sunday, 11/14. Sales, specials, snacks & beverages
- 12 Live Music at the Brewery with Fremont John**
6-9pm, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington
- 12 The Rush Tribute Project**
7:30-10:30pm, live at the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 S Maple St., Manistee. For tickets, go to: ci.ovationtix.com/35295/production/1023422
- 12 Live Music at Ludington Area Center for the Arts with Full Chord Bluegrass**
7:30pm performance. Doors open 6:30pm. \$15 in advance/\$20 at door. 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington. www.ludingtonartscenter.org
- 13 Onekama's Holiday Kick-off Party**
11am-3pm. Shop sales at downtown businesses. Enjoy special art displays, crafts, workshops and refreshments to get you in the holiday spirit.
- 13 Fall Bazaar at Trinity Lutheran Church, Arcadia**
10am-3pm, First annual fall bazaar and bake sale. Local artisans, culinarians, fiber artists and etc. Bake sale proceeds will support Trinity's youth ministry program. If you are interested in becoming a vendor for this event, please follow this link... <https://forms.gle/utbksj8Y2cwN7bKJ6>
- 13 Portage Lake, Onekama Visioning Workshop**
10am-12pm. Onekama Schools Cafeteria Auditorium. Masks required. Refine and develop conceptual designs from outcome of first two meetings about Portage Lake watershed projects.
- 13 13th Annual Chili Cook-off, Luther**
10am, Cooking begins. 1pm, Tasting begins. Theme: Michigan heroes and legends. Prizes. \$20 entry fee required at sign up. Check in at Ellsworth Twp. Hall. To participate, contact Melanie: 231-388-1082.
- 13 Chili & Spaghetti Dinner**
4-8pm, \$10 Adults; Child 5 & under FREE. V.F.W. Hall, Manistee, 1211 28th St. Meal comes with "all the fixings. Takeout available. Cash bar. Entertainment by Larry Bialik. Silent auction. Raffles. 50/50 & more. Sponsored by Friends of the Stronach Fire Dept. Funds go toward Ice and Cold Water Rescue Suits. 231-510-7174.
- 13 Artists Reception, FIRST AMERICANS Art Exhibition**
6-8pm, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee.
- 17 Classic Movies at the Vogue Theatre, Manistee**
10am & 7pm, \$2. "The Philadelphia Story" (1940). Romance/Comedy starring Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, James Stewart. The Vogue is located at 383 River St.
- 17 Make a Wreath**
6:30pm, \$40/person includes all supplies. Trinity Lutheran Church, 17191 Third St., Arcadia. Led by Victoria's Floral Design of Benzonia. Create a live hanging wreath or an artificial advent wreath with candles. Reserve a spot at: <https://tinyurl.com/TLCwreath>
- 17 Fresh Ghost Comedy Night at L.A.C.A.**
7pm, \$10, featuring Ricarlo Williams-Winston, Justin Chupp & hosted by Logan Monson. Tickets available at Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington or at www.ludingtonartscenter.org
- 19 Live Music at the Brewery with Benjamin (Ukelele Guy) Paetz**
6-9pm, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington
- 20 Autumn Tree I.D. Walk, Ludington State Park**
10am-12pm. Free. Recreation Pass required for entry. Starts at the state park's warming shelter. 231-843-2423
- 20 Euchre Tournament**
1pm, \$20/player includes lunch. Manistee Moose Lodge 1128 & WOTM Chapter 2315. Lower level of the lodge. Open to members and invited guests. For info., visit: facebook.com/manisteemooselodge. Tickets: 231-723-2432.
- 20 Michigan Mandolin Orchestra in concert**
7:30pm, \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison, Ludington. www.ludingtonartscenter.org
- 20 Live In Concert: Country Music Star Chris Janson**
8-10pm. \$60-\$75, except qualified Players Club members. Recommended ages: 18 & up. Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy., Manistee.
- 20 Live Music at Stormcloud Brewing with Mike Sturwin**
7-9pm. Mix of including Alt-Country/Blues and Bluegrass/Roots/Folk/Soul & Reggae. 301 Main St., Frankfort.
- 20 Senior Center Annual Arts and Crafts Show**
10am-3pm. Ludington Area Senior Center, 308 S. Rowe St., Ludington.
- 20 Christmas Craft Show**
10am-3pm, free, Onekama Schools, Onekama. For more info, call 616.218.9075
- 21 Onekama Celebration of Lights**
6pm, free, at the Farr Center, Onekama. For more info, call 616-218-9075
- 24 Classic Movies at the Vogue Theatre, Manistee**
10am & 7pm, \$2. "Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring" (2001). Fantasy/Adventure starring Elijah Wood, Sean Astin, Ian McKellan, Viggo Mortensen, Liv Tyler, Hugo Weaving, Cate Blanchett. The Vogue is located at 383 River St.
- 25-1 Sparkle in the Park**
Free, donations encouraged. Over 50 lighted holiday displays to walk or drive through. 7727 Hopkins Dr., Bear Lake
- 26 Live Music at the Brewery with Tom Zatarga**
6-9pm, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington
- 26 Festival of Wreaths benefitting L.A.C.A.**
Thru Artist-created wreaths for sale by silent auction, displayed in the Performance Hall Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington. www.ludingtonartscenter.org
- 26 Art of Giving Holiday Artist Market**
Thru 11-4, Tues/Thurs/Fri. 11-6, Wed. 11-2 Sat. Dec Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison, Ludington. Special shopping hours Sun. 12/5 & Wed. 12/8.
- 27 VFW Christmas Bazaar, Manistee**
10am-3pm. VFW 4499 Auxiliary, 1211 28th St. Vendors may contact Bonnie Hilliard 231-723-4739.
- 27 Christmas Market**
10am-1pm, Pentwater Village Green. Buy holiday decor: Christmas trees, garland, wreaths, porch pots, swags.
- 27 Aglow on the Avenue Parade**
6pm. Limited parade on Ludington Avenue, Ludington, followed by holiday tree lighting at Legacy Plaza. Sponsored by Ludington-Scottville Chamber of Commerce.
- 27 Mr. & Mrs. Claus at Sandcastles**
7pm, Sandcastles Children's Museum, 129 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington.

DECEMBER

- 1-5 Victorian Sleighbell Parade & Old Christmas Weekend**
Various times and locations around Manistee. For details, go to <https://manistesleighbellparade.com/event-schedule/>
- 1 Classic Movies at the Vogue Theatre, Manistee**
10am & 7pm, \$2. "Little Women" (1994) Romance/drama starring Winona Ryder, Christian Bale, Gabriel Byrne. The Vogue is located at 383 River St.
- 3 Live Music at the Brewery with Brett Mitchell**
6-9pm, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington
- 4 Holiday Craft Bazaar**
9am-3pm, Wagoner Community Center, 260 St Mary's Parkway, Manistee.
- 3, 4, 5 The Nutcracker Ballet**
8pm, 2pm on the 5th, \$15-25, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee



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MI BACKYARD

Got milkweed?

Story and photos by **JENNIFER DEVINE**

NOTE: Always do your own research and accompany an experienced forager before harvesting any wild plant. Described uses and health benefit claims are solely those of the author and sources.

You can't drive down the road right now without seeing fuzzy white patches in the ditch reminiscent of dandelions gone to seed. The patches are proof that milkweed plants are still with us. Now is the time to harvest and sow their seeds for emergence next spring.

Milkweed's usefulness is known to the military, artisans, home crafters, homeopaths and hunters. For centuries, Indigenous artisans have used the plant's silky floss for stuffing pillows, mattresses, blankets and winter clothes. The fluff is lightweight and warmer than wool. Milkweed seeds contain an oil rich in omega 7s (healthy fatty acids), calcium, magnesium, zinc and more. The oil is said to help reduce inflammation, soothe sore muscles and return natural elements into the skin. The milky-white sap contains a mild poison which keeps the monarch butterfly from tasting good to predators. Though it is used by humans to remove warts, this sap has proven to be an allergy for some.

Once valued

A notice from Leelanau County in the July 18, 1929, Suttons Bay Courier stated that all noxious weeds (including milkweed)

were to be destroyed before they were able to seed or spread. If you did not comply and the county had to do the dirty work, you would be sent an invoice and a lien placed on your property until the county was paid. A similar announcement appeared in 1928 in the Otsego Courier.

But notices like these disappeared when the government recognized the value of this "noxious invasive weed" after its source for life-jacket filler ran dry. War Hemp Industries brought the first and only milkweed processing plant to Petoskey, Mich., in WWII. From November 1943 through June 1945, the Milkweed Floss Corporation of America took over the Preston Feather building on Sheridan Street, right next to the railroad. Civilian adults and children were part of the war effort, collecting pods in 50-pound onion sacks and selling them to various locations, which then sent them to Petoskey. The seed was separated from the floss (technically



The life of a milkweed pod.

called coma) and about two million pounds of floss were used to stuff 1.2 million life jackets for our troops. About 40 pounds of milkweed pods were needed to make one life jacket with 15 pounds of pods yielding, on average, a little under a pound of floss. Milkweed is a great alternative fiber because it has the capacity to float 30 times its own weight.

Undervalued today

After the war, milkweed continued to fill pillows and bedding, but these uses aren't as common today. The hypoallergenic properties and cruelty-free advantage of the floss outweighs the goose down filling or cotton batting and, in my opinion, should be used much more frequently. Admittedly, it's a process to separate, and as I found out, the floss can float away with a single breath. Each of the plant's flowers can produce one or two green horn-shaped pods filled with more than 50 flat cream-colored seeds that turn toffee-brown when mature. Once that happens, the pod will start to dry and shrink, cracking open at the seam to reveal the seeds connected to the white fiber. As the floss dries, the dainty tendrils fan out, dancing in the wind and awaiting take off.

Floss gathered in October and November by gardeners is useful as a tool for hunters too. As they sit trees, hunters can pull a handful of floss from their pockets and let it float in the air to determine if they are up or downwind from a deer. I watched hunters use this method in TV shows this year.

Repopulating milkweed

Milkweed (*Asclepias*) is the sole host plant for monarch butterflies, my favorite flying

pollinator. Destroying this plant means destroying their population as well. Eggs are laid on the leaves. Caterpillars eat the leaves. Butterflies drink the sweet nectar of the flower and pollinate. Monarchs aren't the only insect to feed on the plant, they're just the only insect whose life revolves around it.

Today, the milkweed plant is in decline. As a result, so are monarch butterflies. But we can help by planting more of these perennials in roadside ditches, fields and garden containers. Check your local conservatories, seed and plant sellers, roadsides and neighbors to find pods and seeds that are specific to your region. Find more information about milkweed and how to purchase or obtain free seeds at: www.xerces.org/milkweed and www.saveourmonarchs.org.

If you forage for them, don't remove all the pods.

If you'd like to have flowers next spring, plant your native seeds now, in November. This will help them germinate, through cold stratification, under the snow and frozen ground. I will be planting mine this month and writing more on the subject from MI Backyard this spring.

To read more about milkweed's fascinating history in Michigan, and to view photographs taken during the WWII effort, go to: <https://charlevoixemmethistory.weebly.com/wwii-milkweeds.html>.

Jennifer Devine is a homesteader living on 20 acres. She and her husband are licensed to sell black cherry, white oak and white pine trees. They and their children live off grid and have chickens, ducks and rabbits, a large garden and a lot of woods.



Milkweed in a roadside ditch, Manistee County.

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Hiking solo on the North Country Trail

Story by **PAT STINSON**. Photos courtesy of **ELIZABETH JONES**.

When Elizabeth Jones was 10, she was diagnosed with cystic lung disease as well as asthma. After surgery to remove most of one lung, she spent a lot of her adolescence convalescing and learning how to manage her severe asthma. Now 39, Jones said today's newer medications make treatment much easier. In fact, her once severe asthma has been downgraded to moderate. Medication helped, but her decision to get more exercise did too.

Jones remembered telling her husband 11 years ago that she was going to enter a big race called The Crim, an event held annually where she lives, in Genesee County. The Crim began as a benefit for Special Olympics and is now its own nonprofit known as The Crim Fitness Foundation.

"That was my first 10-mile race," Jones recalled. "It was a way to push myself with one lung and overcome my asthma and focus for the first time (in her late 20s) on physical activity."

She ran her first half marathon, then her first full marathon, followed by ultra marathons of 50 kilometers and 100 kilometers, then a 100-mile race.

"Once I started focusing on physical activity, it helped with managing my asthma and even my mental health," Jones explained, adding that she tried trail running next.

"I loved being outside and loved being on the nature trails," she said.

Her brother "Melfi" began backpacking about seven years ago and told Jones he thought she would love hiking's slower pace. She backpacked with him and was hooked. She first heard of the North Country Trail as a trail runner but learned more about it on their first longer-distance backpacking trip in the Jordan River Valley.

Jones and her brother hiked sections of the NCT in the Manistee National Forest, including the Manistee River Loop, hiked some "out and backs," and last year embarked on her first "longer" trip (five days) on Isle Royale. They saw few people but spotted many moose and heard wolves.

The island trip was something of an escape for her, with its remoteness and lack of access to "things." At home, her 20-year career in retail management and cosmetic



Elizabeth "Liz" Jones proudly points to where she began and finished her almost 600-mile hike on the North Country Trail.

sales had changed dramatically during the pandemic, as did her mindset.

"My job became increasingly unfulfilling and definitely, mentally, a lot more difficult to do," Jones said. "I wasn't in a place where I was challenged or growing anymore."

As she thought about her backpacking, she dreamed, like many others, of hiking the Appalachian Trail. That wanderlust got her thinking: "Why would I go all the way down there when there's a perfectly beautiful national scenic trail right here in Michigan?"

She said the idea was all hers — she didn't know anyone who had hiked a significant portion of the trail. The plan was to backpack solo most of the time, with her brother joining her when he could. (He accompanied her on the trail from Elmira to Petoskey and from Tahquamenon Falls to Munising Falls in the Upper Peninsula.)

"I figured I was an experienced trail runner; I definitely was good at distance," she said. "I was not a super-experienced

backpacker but pretty experienced. I got a lot of info from Facebook groups and the (North Country) trail website. I started to plan a route. I didn't know how far I wanted to go. I picked what I thought to be probably the prettiest chunk and where my husband could fairly easily drive to bring me food and supplies."

Much of her chosen route — from Croton Dam in Newaygo to Munising Falls in the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore — was remote and far from places where she could resupply.

"So, I kind of looked at a map and planned where I could be in 100 miles a week, or where I could be at a campground on Sundays, where my husband could bring me food and clothes and a fresh power bank. He was my wagon; he brought me all my snacks," she added, chuckling.

She calculated how many miles a day she would need to hike to meet that week's mileage goal — some days hiking more, some less.

"For the most part, the trail was beautifully marked," she said. "I was a little nervous about that; I'm not the best navigator," she added, laughing. "The trail was really, really, well marked, not necessarily well worn; some parts were really overgrown."

Jones said she used the Avenza application on her smartphone. The app automatically uploads the North Country Trail map from the organization's website and can be used offline.

"If you don't have cell service, the app still works," she said. "A little blue dot tells you if you're on the trail or off. There were a few turns that I almost missed, mostly my fault. I wasn't paying close enough attention, and I got back on the trail."



"The section from Croton Dam to US 10 is beautiful. The elevation isn't a lot and it's a very enjoyable section with lots of variety of terrain. Nichols Lake, the White River near White Cloud and the Oak Savanna were some highlights!"

continued on page 5

Hiking solo

continued from page 4

Jones said she hikes in her trail runners (lightweight breathable shoes), which typically last 300-400 miles. During this 600-mile trip, she swapped out her old running shoes at the halfway mark. Prone to “blister heavily, especially during trail running,” she was pleasantly surprised she didn’t have a lot of blisters. She said she built up her mileage slowly and carried a couple pairs of socks, so she would have dry feet if one pair got wet.

Most of the state forest and state park campgrounds have a water source or are located near lakes and rivers. Jones said she made her own campsite (“dispersed camping”) 80% of the time and stayed in campgrounds the other 20%.

“Sleeping near water was so nice, to have that little bit of white noise in the background,” she said. “I just sleep better.”

She downloaded books on her smartphone for something to do after setting up camp and carried a small sketch pad and watercolor set to keep her busy. She also did some journaling, so she could remember the day’s events.

“Sometimes I didn’t have cell service or couldn’t even use social media,” she explained. “I used my Inreach, (a mini satellite communicator made by Garmin), so I could text or receive a text.”

To recharge her devices, she used a reliable, durable charger called ZeroLemon.

Manistee National Forest

Jones began her backpacking adventure at the Croton Dam in Newaygo on May 31. She said she spent about two weeks hiking through the Manistee National Forest.

“What I love about the Manistee Forest is you get a little bit of everything,” she began. “There’re some of those open prairie areas, where they’ve done controlled burns. I think one of them was called a savannah, which I thought was very dramatic.”

“You get these really beautiful open areas, where I saw lots of migrating songbirds like orioles and grosbeaks coming through,” she continued. “I would hear them at night, get woken up by them. Owls. Loons, when I was on the lake.”



“Tippy Dam Pond at Government Landing is a short detour off the trail and an amazing place to camp.”

She said one of her other favorite spots during her national forest trek was the small detour, about a quarter mile, she took off the trail to Tippy Dam Pond, where she reserved a campsite for a night at Government Landing.

“I loved Tippy Dam Pond,” she said. “Of course, everyone loves the Manistee River Loop section, that’s a beautiful section too, but I feel like that loop just gets ... everyone wants to go there ... but, oh my gosh, there’s so many beautiful areas. You’re going to get such a beautiful variety if you hike that entire area. Open savannahs, the river, the beautiful lakes you go by. I think that’s an awesome aspect of that part of the hike; it’s not just a green tunnel.”

Jones said she saw just one bear on her hike, near Baldwin. She expected to see some in the Upper Peninsula, but didn’t. She said she had camped at Timber Creek for the night, was heading north of U.S.



Camping on the beach at Lake Superior, a refreshing change.

Highway 10, and had just come around a corner when she and the bear spotted each other. It was standing on a forested hill.

“He was not a very big bear, full grown, but not like a giant lumbering mama,” she said. “I think we both kind of scared each other. I’ve never simultaneously wanted to pet something and wanted it to go away so much at the same time.”

She also saw porcupines and raccoons in the Manistee. Her closest animal encounter happened one night near White Cloud.

“I was in my tent, getting all cozy, and I heard some loud rustling and I thought, ‘Oh, here’s the bear that everyone told me was going to kill me.’ I peeked out of my tent, and I’m like, ‘Ohhhh-noooo,’ and they didn’t even look at me. I probably camped in their highway, and they just passed on by.”

It was a pack of coyotes. She heard many of them during her trip, but she said she learned to sleep right through the howls.

“There’s a whistle in my pack, but I never felt like I ever had to use it. Even when I saw the bear, I just sort of clapped my hands and he took off. I didn’t bring mace this trip; I carry it occasionally on my trail runs. I never felt unsafe. There were some nights where I was startled by things, like by sounds.”

What did concern her was finding water, as the western side of the state was in a drought during her hike. She said her trek through the Manistee National Forest was “very dry and very hot.” During it, she met Joan Young, one of the presidents of the Spirit of the Woods section of the North Country Trail.

“She told me, ‘When you see water, fill up. A lot of the smaller streams are dry right now.’ I never ran out, but there were some days when I thought, ‘Oooo, I hope this stream coming up has enough water.’”



Jones painted many scenes and hopes to complete a larger project based on her trip.

The solo experience

Throughout her trip, she said she was surprised she didn’t see other backpackers, except for the Manistee River Loop, the Fife Lake Loop and around the Jordan River Valley. She did see a couple of day hikers but said there were days when she didn’t see a soul.

“So, you get that little bit of solitude,

which is nice as well, depending on what someone wants from their hike. I liked that, I wanted that. For 20 years human interaction was very much a part of my daily life. So, I appreciated those moments where it really was just me and nature.”

Jones said she still “loved” seeing and talking to people she met, many of them helpful — such as a group she joined around Anderson Creek who became Facebook friends; and Joan Young, from Spirit of the Woods; a couple who gave her lemonade and a short ride to the campground at Wilderness; and Bill Curtis, from Hiawatha’s shore-to-shore section, who gave her his contact information in case she needed anything.

Heading farther north

Jones said she hiked in heavy rain as she headed toward Petoskey. Her favorite raingear is a “good, old-fashioned poncho,” which she explained is lightweight and can reach over the person and their pack to keep them dry. She added that being dry means “as dry as you can be” with wet vegetation soaking your shoes. She tried to keep her feet dry by rubbing water-repellent ointment on them.

“Your shoes are gonna get wet; I just kind of accepted that,” she said.

Jones’ other favorite points of interest between the Manistee National Forest and the Mackinac Bridge were: crossing the 45th parallel, Jordan River Valley, Skyline Shelter outside of Petoskey, and Wilderness State Park.

Once she crossed into the Upper Peninsula and entered the Hiawatha National Forest, things grew quiet. No spring peepers. No crickets. She attributed it to the colder nights.

In the U.P., she feasted on blueberries.

“The section of the trail that runs through the Duck Lake area in the U.P. is a burn section, and that’s just a gigantic blueberry field,” she enthused.

Other places in the U.P. she remembered fondly are: Niagara Escarpment, Tahquamenon Falls, Naomikong Pond Shelter and the Lake Superior overlook, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and the Two-Hearted River.

Pushing through challenges

Jones said there were days when she woke up to find she didn’t feel like walking, but she had no choice.

“You get into a very set routine: get up, break camp, walk, lunch break, walk, set up camp. You get some days of boredom.”

She said what helped her through the low points was knowing they wouldn’t last forever.

“Getting through them, you feel better, she said. “When I was climbing crazy hills, I knew there was probably a pretty amazing view.”

She explained that she knew, from being a trail runner and a hiker, that you have to

break the total miles into pieces and “take it piece-by-piece.”

“It’s demotivating to think of all the miles,” she explained. “I knew my long-term goal of reaching a point or finishing this hike would be very rewarding and definitely make it worthwhile in the end.”

“If you’re a hiker or a runner, you know you can at least always do a mile. When you reach that mile, it reinforces and is more much positive. You’re like, ‘Okay, I can go a little bit further, and I can do a little bit more.’”

For her, the hardest part of the trip was being away from her family and dog.

Rewards of finishing

Of her 600-mile journey, which ended in Munising on July 20, she said: “I’ve been to Lake Superior many times, driven there, visited a lot of sections, but knowing that my feet took me that far was a whole sense of accomplishment.”

“Overall, going out and doing that, especially being a female alone for the most part, was so incredibly gratifying, it was very empowering, it was very fulfilling. I left a very high-stress job. Covid made me reevaluate what I was doing ... inspired me to make a complete lifestyle change. I’m grateful for that.”

Jones began a new job last month, one



“The area near Blacksmith Bayou and Sawdust Hole has some amazing river views. I’ve hiked this section several times and it’s one of my favorite spots.”

that uses her degree in Health Sciences, and she has new backpacking goals. She wants to hike more Upper Peninsula sections of the NCT and maybe even try the Appalachian Trail.

Word of advice for hikers

Jones said if anyone is considering hiking the NCT, and think they would enjoy it, they “absolutely” should do it.

“A sense of accomplishment is so important,” she said. “What you get when you go through something that’s so hard, it will definitely change you for the better.”

She said you learn a lot about yourself and, “You learn that it’s a great time to prioritize yourself and your personal health. I don’t think people do enough of that.”

Jones rejoices as she reaches Munising Falls at Pictured Rocks, the end of her journey.





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Two games

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distance “drives,” and some are thrown a short distance for a “putt.” Clever manufacturers have made discs that break right and others that break left, passing around bushes on the disc golf course.

Marc Hamlin, of Tilley's Party Store & Disc Golf in Traverse City, told me not to try and catch a disc golf disc, warning, “It could tear up your hand.”

Hamlin explained that “the throwing motion seems the same, but it's a lot different. I have a hard time throwing the regular catch Frisbees now, because I am used to throwing those (disc golf discs) really hard.”

As he gave me a tour of the disc room, Hamlin remarked that Tilley's — a long-time beer, wine and spirits stop along Randolph Street — began selling discs in 1999.

“There's everything from putters, these are made to go slow but straight, all the way up to your high-speed drivers, here,” he said, stopping and pointing to the various discs. He explained that drivers have a sharper edge and are made to fly faster and further (from 200 feet to a touring pro's throw of 600 feet) through wind.

The Armory Youth Project in Manistee began a disc golf program in September, adding to its afterschool programs for teens. Tom Oele, who recently came on board, will lead participants through the new disc golf course. Erryn Moore, assistant at the armory, said that establishing the course has been a long process and a big project.

“We've had local businesses sponsoring holes and many other very generous donors,” Moore said.

Kayleen Moffitt and Tyler Martinsen are co-owners of Grip N Rip Disc Golf on U.S. Highway 10 in Ludington. They work with 50 disc golf companies and carry 37 different brands of discs in the store, which opened March 20. Moffitt, who was invited to compete this year in the state championship games held in Ludington, said there are 15 disc golf courses within 25 miles.

In fact, one of those courses, “Goliath” in Mason County Park, “is the third largest



Pickleball players on the court at Arcadia's Pleasant Valley Community Center.

course in the world, and considered to be one of the best facilities in the country,” according to VisitLudington.com.

Moffitt shared her Grip N Rip's innovative plan for this winter.

“One of the rooms used to be an archery practice range,” she explained, “and we are going to pad up the walls in there and turn it into an indoor driving area, so people can practice in the off season.”

Greg Argyle — of Aloft Disc Golf, which arranges tournaments, leagues and championships — said around 500 people competed in the state championship this year.

“There are different tiers in the sport of disc golf,” Argyle explained. “The Ludington competition was the largest B tier in the world.”

Argyle said Aloft also arranged for the installation of two new area disc golf courses.

“We've got a couple new ones we put in recently, one out in Kingsley called the Bears Den and one out in Interlochen that

was designed by world champion Avery Jenkins that just opened this year,” Argyle said. “That is a really long, pro-style course. It's at the Green Lake Township Park.”

Tilley's Hamlin said most of the courses are 18 holes, though there are courses in Michigan with 24.

“On the average course, the holes are 250 feet (apart), whereas the pro courses are more like 450, maybe,” Hamlin said.

Pickleball

The pickleball court is much the same as a tennis court, but smaller, with the same kind of net. Because the play surface is smaller and the players closer, there seems to be more banter on a pickleball court than on a tennis court. Players hit a plastic ball with drilled holes that is lighter and does not fly as far, but they hit it hard with solid paddles. The competition can be just as fierce as tennis.

The Manistee Pickleball Association rents the gym at the Armory Youth Project from October until April. They set up three indoor pickleball courts where members can play during winter months.

There are two pickleball courts at Pleasant Valley Community Center in Arcadia. Jim Moomey organizes the pickleball league there.

“It's fun,” Moomey said. “We have about 80 players now; it's gotten pretty big. Six divisions. We range from beginners up to we've got some 4.5 (rated) players. 5.0 is like pro. They've got purses; people make a living playing pickleball now. One of the guys I play with in the Chicago area competed in the nationals in Naples, Florida.”

Avid players learn to adjust to conditions, including the seasons.

“Whenever the weather turns bad, we just go play indoors; they've got a gym,” Moomey said, of Arcadia's center. He explained that a lot of the players head elsewhere in winter, which frees up the one indoor court.



Pickleballs ready for play at the pickleball court in Arcadia.

“So, we go pretty much year-round,” he added.

Players I spoke to one day at Arcadia's PVCC included: Rick Neland, Mark Simms, Mark Wilcox and Bill Walter. Walter usually plays at Crystal Lake Yacht Club, where they are resurfacing new pickleball courts.

Ludington Area Pickleball Association President John Reed said they raised \$100,000 to transform three old and unused tennis courts into eight pickleball courts. The project was completed in 2015. In September, the LAPBA hosted a tournament with 290 pickleball players from Michigan, Florida, Ohio, Colorado and Kentucky.

“I couldn't believe all the spectators standing by the fence cheering for their players,” Reed said.

The matches began with fresh Franklin X-40 balls, even though some players prefer Onix brand balls. According to Reed, innovations in the pickleball's solid paddles include the materials used to make them, their shapes, and their construction — some with holes in different patterns to reduce wind resistance.

Interest in disc golf and pickleball is growing, with players building new courts and courses, and driving innovation. All kinds of people, of all ages, come to play. The two games and the people who play them might be different, but disc golfers and pickleball players share one thing, their enthusiasm for their sport.

To find disc golf courses in your area, visit dgcoursereview.com and click on “Browse Map.” For pickleball courts near you, go to www.places2play.org and type “Michigan” in the search field for an alphabetical list sorted by city.

Stewart McFerran is a swimming instructor, sailor, paddler and former Snurfer. He spends a portion of his summers in Arcadia.

Disc golf basket at the new disc golf course at the Armory Project in Manistee.



First Americans

continued from page 1

Michigan College in Traverse City.

The Ramsdell show includes mixed media, collage, paintings, ceramics, carvings, beadwork, poetry and photography. A presentation of the short Native American Opinion Podcast video, "The Real Story of Thanksgiving," will be shown during the exhibit.

The public is invited to a free reception for artists in the Ramsdell's gallery, 6-8 p.m., Nov. 13.

"What's special for me is, this is only the second time I'll have been able to meet other Native American artists," said artist Judy Jashinsky. A member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Tribe, she added that a majority of her work is exhibited "far away."

Most of Jashinsky's works in the local show are painted on wood, a method she said, for her, speaks to her Native American heritage. She paints with graphite, Prismacolor colored pencils, oil and acrylic. Perhaps one of her most provocative works, "Great Grandmother,"



Artist Judy Jashinsky working in her Pines of Arcadia studio last year. File photo by P. Stinson.

is the title of two portraits of the artist's matriarch wearing clothes from the white man's world and those she might have worn had she not attended an Indian boarding school.

Artist Jamie John works in a variety of media, often creating collages. An Interlochen Arts Academy graduate, John is a two-spirit Anishinaabe and Korean artist whose work in "FIRST AMERICANS" is part of the artist's "Unceded Ancestors" series.



Artist Jamie John. Courtesy photo.

John said the works are "collaged images of ethno-photographs," many taken by 19th century anthropologists who described Native Americans as a vanishing race, "which we know is not true."

"If you do (an online search of) Native Americans, the first images you see are of Native Americans walking their long walks to lands they have no connection to or, in many cases, people who have attended boarding schools," John explained.

"The idea that the Native American or Indigenous have vanished rather than been removed or taken out of the conversation, it's something I'm curious to investigate with these collages ... the act of making (them) is almost like reversing this act of removal from place," John said, adding that



"Covered Pot," by Shirley Brauker, on loan from Dennon Museum Center, Traverse City. Photo courtesy of the artist.

materials in the collages are handmade, such as black-and-white doodles, ink, watercolor paper and acrylics.

Beadwork artist Michelle Lucas is a tribal member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and a member of the Turtle Clan. She has sold her pieces for almost 30 years and said she is excited to exhibit her work for the first time in an art show.

To see works by all the artists, visit the Ramsdell during gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday, 12-5 p.m.; Wednesday, 12-7 p.m.; and Saturday, 12-3 p.m. Registration for the exhibit is free.

"FIRST AMERICANS" is co-chaired by Lisa Allen, a member of the Manistee Area Racial Justice and Diversity Initiative, and Jashinsky.

The Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, at 101 Maple St. in Manistee, is listed in the National Register of Historic



"Mother Bear" beadwork by Michelle Lucas. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Places and is located on the ancestral land of the Anishinaabek.

To learn more about the show, go to RamsdellTheatre.org. For more about National American Indian Heritage Month, visit <https://www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/>



"Stockbridge-Munsee Shield," by artist Judy Jashinsky, contains symbols of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Tribe: Wild Turkey, Turtle, Bear and Wolf. Courtesy photo.

'Dawnland' shares impact of Indigenous child removal

From STAFF REPORTS



Navajo children, June 19, 1929. Photo courtesy of University of South Carolina.

MANISTEE – The EMMY-winning movie "Dawnland," which tells the story of Indigenous child removal in Maine and the U.S. government's investigations into the state's child welfare practices, will be shown 5:30-7:30 p.m., Nov. 11, at the Ramsdell Theatre, 101 Maple St. The free showing of the film will be followed by a community resilience panel discussion.

In a press release posted on the Facebook page of one of the film's sponsors, the Manistee Racial Justice and Diversity Initiative, it was stated: "The truth about U.S. boarding school policies has been largely written out of the history books. Healing, justice, and reconciliation must begin with truth-telling and learning."

The film shows the impact of Maine's

devastating child separation practices on the Wabanaki people and the investigations by the first-ever government-endorsed Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

In Michigan, the federal government operated three boarding schools: the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School, 1893-1934; the Holy Childhood of Jesus Indian Boarding School of Harbor Springs, 1886-1983, one of the last such schools to close in the U.S.; and the Holy Name of Jesus Indian Boarding School in Baraga.

Indigenous children in boarding schools experienced separation from their families and lost their cultural identity when they were forced to speak English and forbidden

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Hobbies

continued from page 1

Hobbies, decided in 2019 that there was a need for local resources to entice the radio-controlled model hobbyists. His Ludington store was such a success, he recently opened another in Manistee. He echoed Horton's view of the pandemic as a catalyst for the hobby trend.

"The pandemic (people trapped inside with nothing to do) has definitely kickstarted the radio-control vehicle hobby," Lefler shared in an email. "Once people are exposed to this hobby for the first time, they are hooked. COVID was an excuse for people to explore."

"This store has brought a huge community of people together," he continued. "I chose this business because this hobby was very alive and well in our area, but our hobbyists were traveling 50 or more miles one way, or shopping online. This keeps the hobby money local and gives jobs to passionate people."

The stores carry a large stock of radio-controlled planes, helicopters, cars and trucks, and other hobby items such as model rocketry, plastic and balsa modeling kits, kites and others.

"For the Christmas season, we are anticipating a huge jump in sales for our



Staff at Ludington Hobbies trying out the newest models of radio-controlled cars. Left: Owner Brian Lefler. At right: Bryan Racowski and Tyler Walton. Looking on is Seth Roberson. Photo by Carmelitta Tiffany.

Radio Control Rock Crawlers," Lefler said, explaining that they can be used indoors as well as in the snow.

Though the pandemic bolstered the hobby industry, it continues to pose challenges. Current shipping issues on the West Coast have many concerned about holiday shortages.

"We anticipated the shortage and believe in buying in major quantities, unlike other hobby shops, so that we can ensure we have plenty of selection for the Christmas season," Lefler said.

He suggested that beginner hobbyists

visit the store and consult with staff to find a good fit.

"Our Arrma 4-wheel-drive brushed (Mega) lineup is the most popular vehicle for all ages - they are 'ready-to-run' with throttle limiters for the beginners, and upgradability for the enthusiasts. These are all around 'bashers' that are designed to take a beating. Also, the Axial 1/24 scale miniature crawlers are a huge hit with unlimited upgrade potential. Our free indoor 1/24 crawler course is sure to draw some crowds..."

Horton, of Backstage, agreed the

shipping stagnation might be a customer concern, but he stocked new items during the pandemic — stuffed animals and plush toys, such as Squishables; deluxe accessories for several game lines; and boxed model sets for Pokemon, Gundam and Anime. He suggested shopping early.

"During the holidays board games are very popular, games such as Ticket to Ride, Settlers of Catan, Codenames and Chess," Horton said. "Pokemon cards are also a popular stocking stuffer. This year's Pokemon 25th Anniversary Celebration Gift Boxes are going to be one of our most sought-after gifts. Magic's newest release, Innistrad: Crimson Vow, will also be a popular present this holiday season."

Backstage Hobbies & Games of Ludington, 199 S. James St., can be reached at 231-233-6729. Contact Backstage's Manistee store, 419 River St., at 231-887-4122. Ludington Hobbies is located at 210 S. James St. and can be reached at 231-239-7202. Find Manistee Hobbies at 415 River St. and call them at 231-655-4400. Follow both businesses on Facebook.

Carmelitta resides in Mason County, where she spent the last 30-some years enjoying the blessings of rural life. She is a semi-retired journalist who serves those needing "wordy" advice through her business, West MI Editorial Services.

'Dawnland'

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to speak their Native language. Many children lost their lives.

By showing the film, event sponsors stated they hope the audience will "learn about the impact of such genocidal practices on Native American children and their families in Anishinaabe-Aki/Michigan."

Sponsors are the Native Justice Coalition, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and the Manistee Area Racial

Justice & Diversity Initiative.

To reserve a free ticket, go to: bit.ly/Ramsdell-Dawnland.

COVID-19 health recommendations will be followed for the safety of the community. Masks will be provided and are strongly encouraged.

The program is made possible in part by a grant from the Limitless Fund of the Manistee County Community Foundation.

Tim and Charlie Shay at Indian Island, Maine. Photo by (screen grab) Ben Pender-Cudlip. Photo courtesy of Upstander Project.



Illustration by artist Steve Gribben of the DART mission heading for Didymos, a near-Earth asteroid with a moonlet. Image courtesy of NASA/Johns Hopkins APL.

NASA plans to DART an asteroid

By BROOKE EDWARDS

Think of all the asteroids flying around in space. Is it possible to prevent one from colliding with Earth? DART (Double Asteroid Redirection Test) will be launched by NASA later this month to find out.

The mission launches from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on or after Nov. 24. SpaceX is once again contracted to launch a mission with a Falcon 9 rocket.

DART is a planetary defense test conducted by Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, with help from numerous NASA centers. The mission will be the first use of the Kinetic Impactor Test, which is simply impacting an object to change its motion in space.

DART's destination is the binary near-Earth asteroid (65803) Didymos, which is 780 meters in size with a 160-meter mini asteroid, Dimorphos, orbiting it. This mini asteroid is also known as a moonlet. Scientists are hoping the impact of DART will change the orbit of Didymos's moonlet. This binary asteroid is an ideal test target. Measuring the change in the smaller asteroid's orbit around the larger asteroid is much easier than observing the change in a single asteroid's orbit around the sun.

An onboard optical navigation system known as DRACO will feed images to its autonomous guidance system (no real-time instructions from Earth!), piloting DART to precisely impact with Dimorphos. The collision is expected to take place in late

September 2022, when Didymos will be about 6.835 million miles from Earth.

The DART spacecraft will crash into the moonlet at a speed of just under 15,000 miles per hour, changing the speed of Dimorphos in its orbit around the larger asteroid by a fraction of one percent. This will alter the orbital period of the moonlet by several minutes, enough to be observed and measured by telescopes on Earth.

This impactation method might be one way to avoid future asteroid threats to Earth. It is only a matter of time before an asteroid too large to be stopped by our atmosphere encounters our planet. For all we know, DART's mission may be occurring at the perfect time in history to avoid such a collision in the future.

Be sure to follow NASA on social media or visit [NASA.gov](https://www.nasa.gov) for launch and mission updates.

Brooke Edwards is a Solar System Ambassador for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. She gives area presentations and hosts summer night-sky viewings at Fifth Avenue Beach in Manistee. Follow her group page on Facebook @Brooke-Edwards-Solar-System-Ambassador.

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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