

# FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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FREE

## Catch the Holiday Spirit!

*Our writers share their memorable, fun and slightly quirky holiday traditions with you. Add another log to the fire, heat up some cocoa and enjoy. Happy holidays to all!*

### Christmas letters sweet enough to eat

By **RON SCHMIDT**

Do you like getting Christmas letters in the mail this time of year? You know, those generic letters written to send out to scores of people? I never did until I received my first two letters from Vander Veen's Dutch Store in Grand Rapids, Michigan, more than 40 years ago.

Mine were from the Netherlands — large milk-chocolate letters, one "R" and one "S," my initials. What a sweet treat to open on Christmas morning. I could've gotten dark chocolate letters instead, but Santa knew my favorite was milk chocolate.

For 33 years I have passed along this

tradition by sending my twin daughters, Robyn and Chelsea, their own Christmas letters in their favorite dark chocolate, wherever they happen to be living around the country. They love them and look forward to getting them in the mail each year to open and munch on or make into hot chocolate, or sometimes melt and dip strawberries in for a scrumptious dessert.

Now my grandson, Liam, gets his own Christmas letters to open on Christmas morning. This is a great family tradition that anyone can easily adopt. Happy holidays. — R.S.



Grandson Liam eats a chocolate "L" almost as big as his head. Photo by Chelsea Bay.

continued on page 4

## Shoreline rides a splashing success

By **KEVIN HOWELL**

By all accounts, the Nov. 1-14 pilot program for horseback rides along Lake Michigan's shoreline was a hit with participating riders.

The trial period offered three-hour time slots for horseback riders at Silver Lake

State Park in Oceana County. A successful pilot would bring equestrians one step

closer to a possible season for shoreline riding, much like Michigan's ORV season.

Jenny Cook, southwest Michigan representative of the Michigan Trails Advisory Council, helped develop the idea of bringing shoreline rides to Lake Michigan.

At the pilot season's halfway mark, Cook said the rides were going well.

"Everyone here has been very excited about these opportunities," she confirmed, adding there were "miles of smiles."

Comments from riders, some of whom traveled from as far away as Kentucky, echoed Cook's.

Erin Ryder Hsu grew up in southeastern Michigan and rode on the Western Michigan University equestrian team. She now lives in Lexington, Kentucky, "the horse capital of the world." She saw the ride listed on the "Michigan Horse Trails" Facebook group and decided to make the 500-mile trip with her sister, Allison Carroll.

"I've been riding consistently and



Jill Heerlyn and Chris Gilbert ride their horses Kaluha and Calli on the beach at Silver Lake State Park. Photo courtesy of Jill Heerlyn and Chris Gilbert.

competing for over 30 years in many states and several countries," Hsu said. "The shoreline ride was one of the most magical experiences of my life! We were lucky enough to have a gorgeous autumn day with pleasantly brisk conditions and

continued on page 6



Erin Hsu (right) and sister Allison Carroll "walk" in the surf. Photo courtesy of Erin Hsu.

# Community Calendar

To be included in our Jan. 12 printed edition, please submit your announcements by Dec. 29. Email your calendar events or press releases to: editor@freshwater-reporter.com. Always check with the venue about upcoming events. Some events listed in our calendar may change or be canceled due to weather, schedules or COVID-19. Despite our best efforts, errors may occur. This calendar is continuously updated online at [freshwater-reporter.com/calendar-2](https://freshwater-reporter.com/calendar-2)

## ONGOING EVENTS

**Thru Dec 3** **The Built Environment Art Exhibit**  
Works depicting human-made surrounds that provide the setting for human activity. Gallery hours: 10am-4:30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat, free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd., Frankfort

**Thru Dec 8** **Festival of Wreaths benefitting L.A.C.A.**  
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](http://www.ludingtonartscenter.org)

**Thru Dec 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...".

**Thru Dec 17** **Art of Giving Holiday Artist Market**  
11-4, Tues/Thurs/Fri. 11-6, Wed. 11-2 Sat. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison, Ludington. Special shopping hours Sun. 12/5 & Wed. 12/8.

**Thru Dec 30** **FIRST AMERICANS Art Exhibition**  
Tues., Thurs., Fri, 12-5pm; Wed. 12-7pm; Sat, 12-3pm. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 S. Maple St., Manistee. 40 works by 9 Native American artists living in Michigan. Mixed media, collage, beadwork, photography, ceramics, carving, sculpture, painting & poetry.

**Thru Jan 1** **Sparkle in the Park, Village of Bear Lake**  
Free, donations encouraged. Over 50 lighted holiday displays to walk or drive through. 7727 Hopkins Dr., Bear Lake

**Thru Jan 31** **Downtown Ludington Ice Skating**  
Skate for free 7 days a week on a 30'x56' synthetic surface at Waterfront Park. Need skates? Check a pair out for free at the Ludington Library by going to: <https://downtownludington.org/check-out-skates>

## DECEMBER

**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.

**1-5** **Victorian Sleighbell Parade & Old Christmas Weekend, Manistee**  
Various times and locations around Manistee. Guardian Angels will play the church bells 4:30-5:30pm to call all to the Parade on the 4th. For details, go to <https://manisteesleighbellparade.com/event-schedule/>

**1-27** **Deck the Halls: A Mason County Decorating Contest**  
Back by popular demand, Mason County residents may enter the Chamber's holiday decorating contest. Get in the Christmas spirit, deck your halls and enter for a chance to win cash prizes! A map will be published for those who want to take a tour of the lights. To enter, go to: <https://www.ludington.org/deckthehalls/>

**2-27** **What In the World Is Art – Through the Eyes of Children**  
Manistee Art Institute Gallery, 427 River St., Manistee

**3** **Book Signing with Children's Author Harold Cronk**  
4-7pm at Kellie's Hallmark, 445 River St., Manistee. Signing his new book "The Beard Ballad." Cronk is a filmmaker who created movies set in Manistee, such as "What If" and "Mickey Matson and the Copperhead Conspiracy" as well as others.

**3** **Live Music at the Brewery with Brett Mitchell**  
6-9pm, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington

**3-5** **The Nutcracker Ballet**  
8pm, 2pm on the 5th, \$15-25, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee

**4** **Holiday Craft Bazaar**  
9am-3pm, Wagoner Community Center, 260 St Mary's Parkway, Manistee

**4** **Holiday Open House at G&D Alpaca Boutique**  
12-8pm. Maple Road at County Line Road, Manistee. Open for holiday shopping. Unique gifts.

**4** **Breakfast at the Manistee Elks Lodge #250**  
9am-12pm, 432 River St., Manistee

**4** **Early Bird Snowshoe Walk**  
10am-12pm, free, Ludington State Park, 8800 M-116, Ludington, MI 49431. Snowshoes are available for rent. If there is no snow, a nature hike will still be held.

**4** **Pet Portraits with Santa Claus**  
12-2pm, Patina, 4850 Main St., Onokama. Donations go to Homeward Bound Animal Shelter, Manistee. Photos by Lori Wilson Photography. Questions, call Nikki: 312-909-0115

**4** **Christmas Card Workshop**  
12-2, Kaleva Art Gallery, 14449 Wuoski Ave., Kaleva. Workshop open to all ages. \$5 donation appreciated

**4** **Lighting Up the Christmas Holidays in Kaleva**  
12-4pm. Receive a traditional Scandinavian tree ornament at The Bottle House Museum, 14551 Wuoksi Ave., Kaleva. See the Finnish Heaven, foil stars hanging on a wooden frame over the museum's Christmas tree, a Finnish tradition, the tree decorated with straw ornaments and candles, a heritage quilted tree skirt and an old-fashioned toy and gift display under the tree. Visit the front porch of the sauna to see a lighted old-fashioned creche (Nativity scene). Along Walta Street, stroll the Centennial Walkway to view sculptures outlined with lights. Hosted by Kaleva Historical Society.

**4** **Victorian Sleighbell Parade, Downtown Manistee**  
5:30pm, Victorian Parade on River Street, followed by holiday tree lighting, carols and fireworks.

**4** **Festival of Trees**  
During the Sleighbell Parade and Old Christmas Weekend, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee.

**4** **Live Music with Sugartips Duo at North Channel Brewing**  
6pm. 86 Washington St., north of River Street at Memorial Drive.

**4** **Live Music with Old Dudes Rock Band**  
8pm, Moose Lodge 1128, 1010 Robinson St., Manistee. Use ramp on side door entry and head down the stairs.

**5** **Moose Lodge 1128, Breakfast – Manistee**  
8:30am-Noon. Breakfast buffet \$10 per person, includes breakfast beverages. 1010 Robinson St., Manistee. Use ramp on side door entry and head down the stairs.

**5** **Manistee Jingle Bell 5K Jog/Walk**  
10-11am, \$20 plus \$2.16 admin. fee if you sign up by Nov. 27. \$25 on race day. Sign up or pick up your packet between 8:45-9:45am race day. Start at Kennedy Elementary School, 550 Maple St., Manistee, and travel through neighborhoods. Proceeds benefit Manistee Public Schools' cross-country program. Register at: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Manistee/ManisteeJingleBellJog5K>

**5** **Jolly Holiday Bazaar + Ladies Holiday Bazaar**  
12-3pm. Randoms Thrift & More with Clark Griswold and the crew in the historic red schoolhouse, 284 First St., Manistee, and at Beyond the Mirror, 290 First St., Manistee. Specialty crafts, jewelry, bath & body, art, gag gifts, toys, books, etc. Beyond the Mirror will have photos with Santa for the ladies.

**5** **Lessons & Carols**  
3pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, 420 Oak St., Manistee. An Advent and Christmas story in word and song.

**7** **Ludington Bay Beer Dinner**  
6-9pm, doors open at 5:30pm, \$55, five courses, each paired with a LBBC beer. Forty seats available. Seats can be purchased at the taproom, Ludington Bay Brewing Company, 515 S. James St., Ludington, or by emailing [chelsea@ludingtonbaybrewing.com](mailto:chelsea@ludingtonbaybrewing.com)

**8** **Classic Movies at the Vogue Theatre, Manistee**  
10am & 7pm, \$2. "Grumpy Old Men" (1993) Comedy starring Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau and Ann-Margret. The Vogue is located at 383 River St.

**8** **Ladies Night in Downtown Manistee**  
4-8pm, River Street. Specials, spirits and drawings.

**9** **Sip & Stroke Painting Party**  
6:30pm, \$35, includes supplies and instruction. No art experience necessary. Pre-registration required. Call Lisa: 231- 690-6972. Held at Chopo's Northside Bar, 132 Monroe St., Manistee

**10** **Winter Members Art Exhibition**  
Thru Mon-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun. 12-4pm, free, Jan Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd., Frankfort

**10** **Heikki Lunta Snow Party**  
3-8pm, live music, giant bonfire, drink specials. Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville. Book your reservations here: <https://tableagent.com/reservations/iron-fish-distillery/>

**10** **Live Music at the Brewery with Gabriel James**  
6-9pm, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington

**10** **A WSCC Holiday Rock Spectacular**  
Two shows: 6:30pm and 9pm, \$25 adults, \$20 55+, \$15 under 18, Radiant Church, 409 S Washington Ave, Ludington. A high-energy evening of holiday rock, funk and blues featuring Guitarist Lou Musa from the Verve Pipe, Craig Avery, and Kevin Depree from the popular Grand Rapids based band Brenna, along with special appearances from Groove 101, Edgar Struble, and many more area favorites

**10** **Diamond Rio live in concert**  
8-10pm, \$40-50, Little River Casino, 2700 Orchard Hwy., Manistee

**11** **Early Bird Snowshoe Walk**  
10am-12pm, free, Ludington State Park, 8800 M-116, Ludington, MI 49431. Snowshoes are available for rent. If there is no snow, a nature hike will still be held.

**11** **Make A Driftwood Santa Ornament**  
12-2, Kaleva Art Gallery, 14449 Wuoski Ave., Kaleva. Workshop open to all ages. \$5 donation appreciated

**11** **Lighting Up the Christmas Holidays in Kaleva**  
12-4pm. Serving hot chocolate and festive cookies at The Bottle House Museum, 14551 Wuoksi Ave., Kaleva. You'll find Finnish Heaven, foil stars hanging on a wooden frame over the museum's Christmas tree, a Finnish tradition, the tree decorated with straw ornaments and candles, a heritage quilted tree skirt and an old-fashioned toy and gift display under the tree. Visit the front porch of the sauna to see a lighted old-fashioned creche (Nativity scene). Along Walta Street, stroll the Centennial Walkway to view sculptures outlined with lights. Hosted by Kaleva Historical Society.

**11** **Downtown Ludington Cookie Walk**  
1-4pm, free, Stop into Downtown Ludington merchants to enjoy tastes of the holidays

**11** **Winter Sounds at Michigan Legacy Art Park**  
5pm, \$10 suggested donation benefits Michigan Legacy Art Park (12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville) and the Benzie Central choral program. A celebration of the season, with warm beverages, a bonfire, magical winter hike, and a lovely outdoor holiday performance from the Traverse City West Middle School Madrigal Singers. Be sure to dress for cold weather, bring something warm to sit on, and arrive early to allow for a 1/4 mile hike to the amphitheater.

**12** **Holiday Mansion Tour at Cartier**  
12-3pm, \$10, Cartier Mansion, 409 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington. Carson the Butler will open the Cartier Mansion doors to the public for a holiday tour! Profits will be donated to Mason County Mutts. The owners will also have a cup of holiday cheer for you to enjoy.

**12** **Santa Visits the Brewery**  
1-4pm, Bring the family to visit with Santa, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington

**15** **Classic Movies at the Vogue Theatre, Manistee**  
10am & 7pm, \$2. "Holiday Inn" (1942) Musical romance starring Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire and Marjorie Reynolds. The Vogue is located at 383 River St.

**15** **Men's Night in Downtown Manistee**  
4-8pm, River Street. Specials, drawings and spirits.

**17** **Live Music at the Brewery with John Merchant & Greg Miller**  
6-9pm, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington

**18** **Create a Christmas Plaque**  
12-2, Kaleva Art Gallery, 14449 Wuoski Ave., Kaleva. Workshop open to all ages. \$5 donation appreciated

**18** **Lighting Up the Christmas Holidays in Kaleva**  
12-4pm. A Taste of Finland with traditional Finnish fare such as nissua, sweet bread with cardamom, at The Bottle House Museum, 14551 Wuoksi Ave., Kaleva. Here, you'll find Finnish Heaven, foil stars hanging on a wooden frame over the museum's Christmas tree, a Finnish tradition, the tree decorated with straw ornaments and candles, a heritage quilted tree skirt and an old-fashioned toy and gift display under the tree. Visit the front porch of the sauna to see a lighted old-fashioned creche (Nativity scene). Along Walta Street, stroll the Centennial Walkway to view sculptures outlined with lights. Hosted by Kaleva Historical Society.

**18** **Metropolitan Opera Live/Encore in HD presents Eurydice (Matthew Auccoin)**  
1-4pm, \$20 adults/seniors, \$10 students, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee.

**Family Opera Days.** \$20. While adults attend the performance, students will participate in art projects that will relate to the opera being presented, (a hand labyrinth, a medusa hand puppet and a minotaur mask if there is enough time.) Our goal is to welcome students to the Ramsdell and to have them make an art project that they may take home as memorabilia. At the end of class students will either be picked up or will be escorted to the Ramsdell Theater so they may experience the end of the opera with their parents. This class is open to students even if the adults do not attend the opera. Class includes admission to the opera for the student and one parent/guardian. Additional tickets can be purchased if more than one family member would like to attend. Class includes all materials. Instructors: Mary Wahr, Certified Michigan Art Teacher, K-12, and Lynn Williams, Certified Michigan & Colorado Art Teacher, K-12



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# The Art of Flintknapping

Story and photos by **VALERIE CHANDLER**

Historically, Native Americans utilized and hunted with arrowheads, spears, celts (axe heads) and war clubs, among other tools made of bones, clay and rocks. Only occasionally are one of these rare treasures found and, unfortunately, the art of flintknapping is just as scarce.

After many years of admiration for the art of his ancestors, Robert “Bob” Chandler decided to teach himself how to flintknap, (shape stone). Chandler and his wife Sandy live close to where a historical Indian Village was once located along the Manistee River. He is an Elder of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and has been flintknapping for approximately six years. His knowledge

has come from books, videos, talking with fellow flintknappers and simple trial and error.

Depending on the size and type of implement Chandler is making, the process can take a couple of hours to days at a time because he does not use any machinery to aid his skill; he shapes the pieces entirely by hand. He starts by selecting a piece of flint, chert, obsidian

or other type of rock and inspects it for any hairline cracks. Chandler’s keen eye discerns the rock’s cleavage to indicate how the flakes will break away, pieces at a time, once he begins striking the rock and applying pressure. He has created 1/2-inch bird points to 7-inch spears, as well as a variety of arrowheads, knives, drills, discoidals, bird stones, pipe bowls and war clubs. When asked how many pieces he has crafted over the years, he laughs and says he’s “lost count; there are hundreds and when I pass, I hope someone enjoys them.”

This unique art takes a great amount of patience, and Chandler said the process “can be discouraging when you work

continued on page 8



Robert Chandler.



Discoidals are round game stones sometimes called “chunky stones” and were used during a game called “Chungke”.



Bird Stones are thought to have been similar to an atlatl weight or used in ceremonies or possibly worn with distinction. Although they are easily recognized, their exact function has been debated.



Chandler’s war clubs (top) and small grooved axe (bottom). War clubs were used for close-range fighting to bludgeon an enemy, and axes have a beveled cutting edge used as a tool or weapon.



A variety of arrowheads, drills and spears crafted by Robert Chandler.

# The many-faceted Manistee Art Institute

Story and photo by **RAMONA DEGEORGIO-VENEGAS**



The Manistee Art Institute offers a gallery of artwork available for sale, as well as a permanent collection and classrooms.

Manistee Art Institute, founded in 1995, has fostered arts in the community for more than 25 years. MAI offers a “home” for creative people and those who enjoy art of all types. As we sat in a living room-like area near a window, volunteer Kerry Schubach shared information with

me about the institute. MAI’s new home at 437 River Street, across from the Elks Lodge, was purchased in 2019 after a few nomadic years.

If you haven’t visited — the pandemic closed MAI’s doors from March 2020 to July 2021 — you’ll find the building

includes an art gallery with changing displays, a permanent collection of local art, a sales gallery for local artists and space for classrooms. On this day, the sales gallery was a warm kaleidoscope of creativity: paintings, pottery, scarves, jewelry, wood sculptures, cards, fabric art and photography. I walked around and then doubled back to look at things from another angle.

Ideas for gifts danced in my head.

In December, MAI will feature its annual “What In the World Is Art?” exhibit, showcasing creations through the eyes of children ages 3-6. An opening will be held 6:30-9 p.m., Dec. 3. The art exhibit runs through Dec. 30.

Kerry voiced, and I paraphrase, that the innocent untrained art made by children is inspiring and often surprising — art before we learn to fit our creativity into trained “boxes.”

A recent exhibit, “It’s A Guy Thing”, featured male artists and included a video of a short play. Pre-pandemic programs included a harp concert and eight 10-minute plays.

MAI offers scholarships for graduating high school seniors as well as youth programs, such as the July 2022 “Kids Art Kamp.” The institute also hosts an annual recognition dinner banquet, this year held on Nov. 17 at the Wagoner Community Center.

The group hopes to enlarge the scope of arts in Manistee and offers support and camaraderie to artists. To that end, MAI welcomes new members. Not an artist? The \$25 a person or \$40 per family membership fees can be considered as gifts supporting the arts in our community. There are other membership levels, as well as sponsorship and benefactor options. Applications are available at the institute.

If art is in the eye of the beholder, then you’ll want to visit and take a look. Schubach and other volunteers are there to share the galleries and collection with visitors. Hours are usually 12-5 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, excluding holidays. (The institute is closed Dec. 24-25.) “Sleighbell Week” (Dec. 1-5) marks the beginning of more regular hours. Updates and changes are posted on the front door.

The mailing address of the Manistee Art Institute is P.O. Box 184, Manistee, MI, 49660. Contact MAI at 231-723-2682 or [manisteeartinstitute@gmail.com](mailto:manisteeartinstitute@gmail.com). For more information, visit the group’s Facebook page or go to [www.manisteeartinstitute.org](http://www.manisteeartinstitute.org).

Ramona DeGeorgio-Venegas is a retiree of the Manistee Ranger District, Huron-Manistee National Forest, where she worked in recreation and as an outdoor recreation planner.

**Have a comment or question about a story?**

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# Holiday Spirit

continued from page 1

## "Bah! Humbug!"

By **GORDON BERG**



A treasured classic like "A Christmas Carol" sometimes appears on eBay. Courtesy photo.

What is it about Dickens' timeless classic, "A Christmas Carol"? Why does it call to me every holiday? After all, it's pretty diminutive as novels go — only around 166 pages. And given our culture's attraction for bright, shiny new objects, there's a lot of dust on its original 1844 publication date.

Over the last 100-plus years there have been at least 50 movie adaptations of this story. Some are cinematic masterpieces. Others, like "The Smurfs: A Christmas Carol", ... well, time will tell.

But there is one adaptation that still resonates more with me than all the rest — a radio drama with all the spellbinding music, scary theatre-of-mind sound effects and a cast of talent led by the legendary actor, Basil Rathbone, as Ebenezer Scrooge. No one has played Mr. Scrooge with more derision and hatred for humankind than Rathbone.

For years, every Christmas, my wife and I would listen to a recording I inherited of "A Christmas Carol" on three 78 rpm records. We would turn off all the lights in the apartment (except for the Christmas

tree), build a roaring fire in the fireplace and listen to this classic adaptation through an old towering Philco radio I had rescued from the junkyard when I was in college. All the pops, hisses and scratches on those old 78s, along with the warm glow of the amplifier tubes, made the experience all the more vintage.

So why does this tale still resonate today? I believe Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" is a story of resilience. Despite what we may have done or haven't done in our lives, we can change. Goodness is in each of us. Even the most scurrilous among us can find compassion in our hearts for others. After all, true riches can only be gained through selfless generosity.

It's called love. Perhaps that's the best gift this Christmas. And that is timeless.

## The Feast of St. Nicholas: Dec. 6

By **MILTON F. WHITMORE**

For Margaret and Helen of Arcadia

The history of St. Nicholas was the genesis of Santa Claus. When his parents passed on, Nicholas was just a young lad. He decided to devote his life to Jesus Christ. He sold what he owned, gave the money to the poor and used his inheritance to assist the needy, sick and suffering. He was of Greek descent, living in then-Asia Minor, now the region of Turkey at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. His work spanned 270-343 A.D.

Much of what we "know" about this man is more legend than documented fact. Many stories survived the centuries and all involve his giving gifts, money and food to the poor. One story relates how St. Nicholas tossed bags of gold to families in need through their windows, and they would land near shoes and stockings left to dry in front of the fire.

When our children were young, St. Nicholas and his good works were celebrated in a way that spurred their imaginations. On the evening of Dec. 5, they left their shoes on the back deck of our house. Before they went to bed, they heard loud stomping on the deck and vibrant knocking on the door. This was prefaced by telling them the good man's story, how he helped the needy and how his charity transformed into a gift-giving opportunity.



Postcard, circa 1900

Rather than rush to the door, the children's eyes opened wide, and grins adorned their faces as they waited for permission to clamor gleefully to the door, opening it in rapt anticipation of what they would find. If there was snow on the ground, the kids saw only the tracks of the good man as he approached the door and departed. In each of their shoes, St. Nicholas left tidbits and treats, usually wrapped goodies and tasty delights outside the norm. The evening ended with sampling the treats and feeling an urge to help those in need.

## Lucy's gift

Story and photo by **CARMELITTA TIFFANY**

I first met Lucy Tiffany in the summer of 1978. I had become engaged to her oldest grandson, Walter, and we had taken a trip to the family farm for the big "reveal." His family seemed kind enough, and when my future husband commented that we needed to meet his grandmother, knowing looks and half smiles were exchanged. She was in her 80s, nearly blind, barely able to walk, but she still lived alone nearby.

She was standing in her kitchen when we arrived. Walter said, "Hi, Gram. I brought someone to meet you." She looked at him with tears in her eyes; she hadn't seen him in more than a year. They exchanged hugs, and she then reached out to me, pulling me close so she could get a good look.

"You couldn't have found a prettier face?" she said to him.

I was devastated. He laughed. She looked at me and winked.

I knew we would be good friends.

She sat us down at the kitchen table and took her place at the end, where piles of letters and a pen and magnifying glass sat, beside her teacup and saucer.

"Walter, get us ladies some tea," she said.

"We have some business to discuss."

She then gave me the best and most treasured gift: her permission to carry on



Henry Tiffany helps with the traditional family fruitcake.

the family tradition of making the holiday fruitcake.

Since that day, I have made more than 1,000 pounds of it. I always make sure the recipient likes fruitcake, as it's one of those delicacies that takes getting used to, and some people never do.

My 7-year-old grandson Henry helped me make this year's batch. Someday, when he brings his fiancée to visit me, I hope to say something clever like dear Lucy did those many years ago.

## Doesn't everyone eat dessert first?

By **AMY HANSEN**

My family loves desserts. When there's a family gathering these days, the dessert menu receives as much weight as the dinner menu. Which desserts. How many. And who will bake them.

Growing up, we kids knew our desserts were always made from scratch and baked for special occasions — even if that meant the random Tuesday night. But when dessert time would arrive, everyone was usually too full of appetizers and dinner and would take "just a little bit" or "eat it later."

Dessert is meant to be eaten in large mouthfuls, letting the sweet concoctions coat the mouth and awaken the senses. So, the appetizers had to go.

On a Thanksgiving Day years ago, we opted for big slices of Mom's pies with her homemade whipped cream in the early afternoon hours, so we could fully enjoy and fully digest before the big dinner. Dessert tastes better on an empty stomach.




A slice of pumpkin pie, a delicious appetizer.

And there was no regret of being too full later or not having traditional appetizers.

Big family gatherings are now marked with dessert first. The bakers love seeing people enjoying their treats. The kids love it because who doesn't love dessert first? And I've been known to order dessert with dinner at a restaurant. Who says you can't eat chocolate mousse and chicken piccata at the same time?

Life is too sweet not to appreciate every ounce of it. And, yes, dessert is allowed for breakfast at Mom's house. On a special occasion.

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## Holiday Spirit

continued from page 4

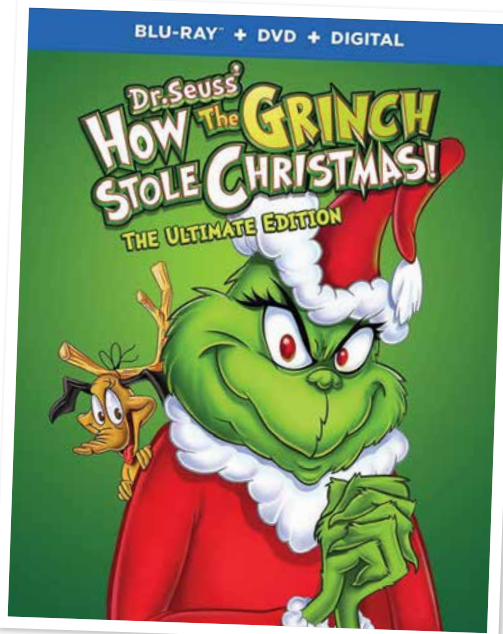
### Returning to Whoville

By **PAT STINSON**

One of my most enduring traditions at Christmastime is watching the Boris Karloff version of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". As a kid, I would wait with anticipation for the air date of this annual Christmas TV special. When the evening finally arrived, I would sit on the floor in the TV's glow or wiggle my way into a bean bag chair and sing along with the Grinch and the Whos down in Whoville. I liked the Seuss rhymes, the Grinch's triangular smile and the inventive whatchamacallits. I both adored and felt sorry for the Grinch's mistreated, scruffy little dog Max.

As an adult, I bought a recording of the show and still watch it every Christmas. Of course, you can view it online these days too. The colors! The Whoville halls are decked in green, purple, red, blue, yellow and orange. The noisemakers! A fantastical cacophony of musical instruments, sports rackets and balls.

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is a 25-minute burst of unabashed holiday cheer with a message about materialism that resonates 55 years later. Someone asked



me if the version I like best is Karloff's or Carrey's. Seriously? Foam masks lack the imagination of animation, even if the 1966 version was created by Rankin & Bass. (Remember the studio's childish animated version of "Lord of the Rings"?)

A bit of trivia: Karloff narrated, but Thurl Ravenscroft sang (uncredited) the part of the Grinch. Super trivia: The original version of "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" hit the U.S. Billboard Hot 100, charting at #32 for the week ending Jan. 2, 2021. Enduring, indeed.

### Christmas torii

Story and photo by **STEWART MCFERRAN**

I put up Christmas lights on the Shinto torii in front of my house with the hope that Santa will meet a Kami (Shinto spirit or revered being) there. The torii is near where I do my woodcutting and I had a dream that on Christmas Eve, while I was cutting wood, Santa came flying in from the North along the Platte River. He stopped, climbed down out of his sleigh and stopped at the torii, not bothering with the dusty chimney. That is where Santa met the Kami. Their conversation, (Ho, Ho, Ho!):

Kami: According to tradition, one side of the torii is sacred and the other profane.



Santa easily found Stewy's dreamy place.

Santa: I see, but you are on one side, and I am on the other.

Kami: Let's both stand under the torii gate while we discuss this.

Santa: I will leave my sleigh parked here near Stewy's garden.

Kami: It was kind of him to build this gate to welcome you as well as me.

I continue cutting wood and act like I don't notice them, not wanting to interrupt.

Santa: I do get tired of those dusty chimneys. It is quite nice here under the gate near the river, and the reindeer are finding something to eat out there.

Kami: Yes, quite pleasant. I would have a hard time classifying either side as profane, but Stewy does need to clean up his yard.

Santa: I see that. Maybe I need to give him a lump of coal.

Kami: It has been a pleasure meeting you.

Santa: And you as well. Merry Christmas!

The next day, I find that I have another bag of coal for my forge. I am grateful to have it.

Merry Christmas!  
Stewy

### Togetherness: the true spice of village life

By **JENNIFER DEVINE**



Angela Kemp-Deloach and her grandson Emmitt started their new tradition of village-building during the 2020 pandemic.

Angela says all ages enjoy. It's fun to see how many they can get done, and the tradition will continue for as long as anyone wants to do it.

This year, on Dec. 1, the pair will again begin building a gingerbread kit, and when that one is finished a new kit will be started. This continues until the end of December and when the month is over, they have their Gingerbread Village. Last time, they placed white fuzzy felt under and around the village, as snow.

This is a great family activity that Grandma

### Merry Makeshift Christmas

Story and photo by **MARK VIDEAN**

When Pat and I lived in an apartment, we had a scrooge-of-a-landlord who forbade real Christmas trees. One morning, Pat flipped on the TV and found Benzonia resident Carol Duvall building a Christmas tree out of chicken wire, twist ties and artificial garland. Inspired, Pat hit the local garden center and surprised me one evening with a completely decorated Christmas tree above a round coffee table.

Eventually, we owned a home with too many red pine trees planted out back. Pat eyeballed and sawed down a tree every year. When we moved to the city several years ago, we found ourselves in an apartment with the same scrooge rule. The coffee table had been replaced, so a chicken-wire tree was out. While hanging shirts in the closet one day, Pat had a frustrating moment with a couple of tangled hangers. Inspiration struck. She criss-crossed two hangers and hung them from a hook in the living room ceiling. Then she crossed



two more hangers and hung those from the first pair and so on. Garland, lights and ornaments hung perfectly. Presents were placed underneath. It was one of my favorite trees.

**THANK YOU** to our readers, writers, advertisers, donors, subscribers, designer Amy, our printer Enterprise Printing, advertising sales people Stewart and Jennifer, delivery helpers ... and the businesses that graciously share space in their lobbies for our newsstands or room on their shelves for our papers. We appreciate every one of you and look forward to sharing more "fresh" stories in 2022! ~ Pat & Mark

# Horseback

continued from page 1

turquoise water. The wind, waves and the sound of the horses' hooves on the sand is something I'll never forget."

Another 30-plus year equestrian, Jillian Heerlyn is from Mattawan near Kalamazoo. She and her friend Chris Gilbert were brainstorming fun spots their horses might enjoy.

"Chris and I were dreaming about places we could take our horses to ride and play," Heerlyn explained. "We really wanted to take them swimming somewhere. As we were discussing possible locations, we thought, wouldn't it be incredible to take them to the big lake?"

They looked at state parks in Michigan that allowed horses and found the announcement for the pilot ride. She said the ride exceeded her expectations.

"I didn't know what to expect going into it, but any concerns I had going into the ride were quickly diffused once we got on our way," she said.

Their horses were curious about the water and waves at first, but she said they quickly got used to it.

"They were very calm and relaxed."

Heerlyn found the setting relaxing, too.

"My favorite part was cantering along the beach. It was such a smooth and calming experience. When we stopped cantering, I spontaneously and involuntarily started crying. I guess I was overcome with emotion and gratitude for such an incredible experience."

Her exuberance for the ride was shared by Gilbert.

"The ride was so amazing! The best day ever!" Gilbert began. "It was incredible to ride on Lake Michigan and play in the



Like a scene from "Lawrence of Arabia", horses Kaluha and Calli carry their riders over the dunes, away from shore. Photo courtesy of Jillian Heerlyn and Chris Gilbert.

water. The dunes were gorgeous. My horse loved it too! She was super cute exploring the water. Like a toddler! This was such a special time."

All three riders said they would like to see the pilot season for the shoreline ride become permanent.

"It was truly the coolest thing I have ever done on horseback," Heerlyn said.

"I would love to see a permanent season and would happily return to do it again!" exclaimed Hsu.

And simply put by Gilbert, "Yes, yes, yes!"

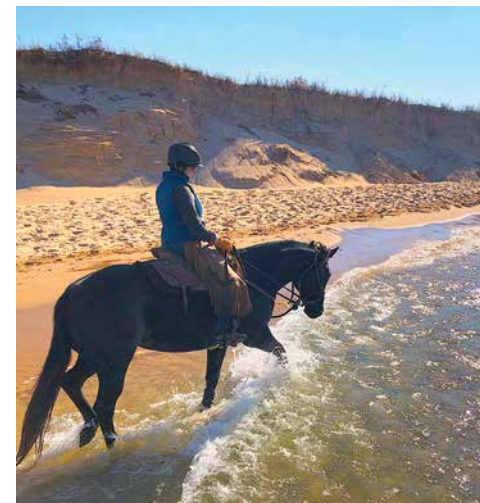
As this is written, the pilot program has just ended, and the decision about a

permanent season is yet to be made. Elisa Buck, DNR event coordinator for the shoreline ride, weighed in.

"Silver Lake is probably the best option for a season, so we're pursuing it — it's got close to four miles of shoreline available," she said.

Muskegon State Park was the site of several individual event rides but is not a viable option for a permanent season.

"We did one ride with the Michigan Horse Association, and it went really well, but we decided that location would only be managed by event-use permit, so there won't be a season at that park," Buck said, referring to Muskegon.



Erin Hsu tests her horse in the waves. Photo courtesy of Erin Hsu.

The Michigan Horse Council also sponsored the rides at Silver Lake and Muskegon state parks.

Another possible location for a permanent season is Rockport Recreation Area near Alpena.

"The management plan for that park is still being developed so we're going to be working on this question about equestrian riding as we develop that plan," Buck said. "There is horseback riding there already, so it's promising."

For more information about a Shoreline Equestrian season: contact Elissa Buck, Event Coordinator and Analyst, at (989) 313-0000, or email BuckE1@michigan.gov, or check the Michigan Horse Council website at <https://www.michiganhorsecouncil.com/news/michigan-shoreline-ride>

Kevin Howell is a Mason County freelance writer. He loves the Michigan woods, lakes and especially Michigan craft beers—not necessarily in that order! Contact him at [kevin@ytci.com](mailto:kevin@ytci.com).

# NASA builds a new Time Machine

By BROOKE EDWARDS

Humans are moving forward — into the past. Orbiting our planet for 31 years, the Hubble Space Telescope has provided scientists with enormous amounts of information about our universe. Next month, Hubble will see its successor fly past it into space and take images with a much larger mirror and infrared views. The James Webb Space Telescope is scheduled to launch Dec. 18 on an Ariane 5 rocket, from Arianespace's ELA launch complex in French Guiana. NASA and the European Space Agency have partnered to make this project possible. Launching Webb into its orbit a million miles from Earth is ESA's important contribution to the mission.

## Hubble's legacy

Hubble spent decades revealing the secrets of space and time to us, mainly using ultraviolet and optical wavelengths. The telescope has helped us, along with other missions, determine multiple features of our universe: its approximate age, number of galaxies (two trillion and counting) and characteristics of phenomena such as black holes, nebulae and supernovae. Hubble provides images that are beautiful, almost beyond belief. The Earth-orbiting telescope was kept operational thanks to multiple space shuttle service missions. Once the space shuttle stopped flying in 2011, Hubble was left unserviceable. As with all technology, the telescope's hardware and onboard software is aging, and its days may be numbered.

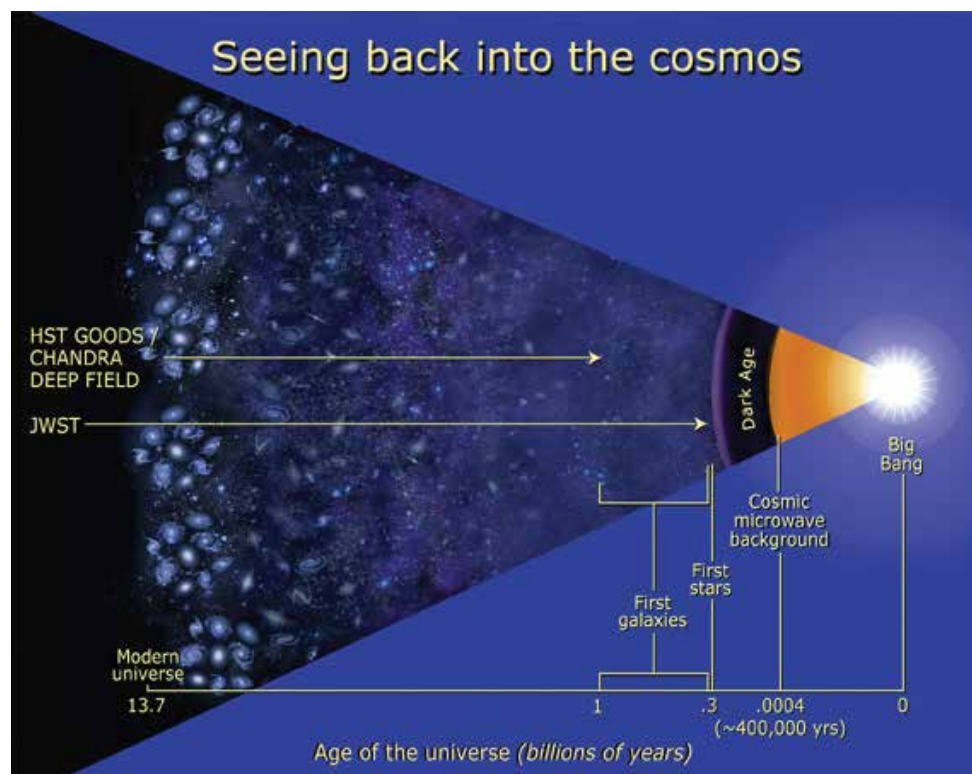
## Webb's destination

Like a product shipped to its destination in a box, the James Webb Space Telescope is folded into the Ariane 5 rocket's payload and will be "unboxed" as it reaches its solar orbit, about 30 days after launch. Unlike Hubble, which orbited Earth at an altitude of approximately 340 miles, Webb will orbit the sun at the second Lagrange Point, a million miles from Earth. At this

point, the telescope orbits the sun at the same pace as the Earth, keeping both parties lined up and allowing signals to be received 24/7. This is thanks to this L2 orbital range.

In fact, there are five of these points in which two objects can orbit the sun at the same pace. Each of them are named after the 18th century mathematician who first theorized their possibility. Joseph-Louis Lagrange came up with the "Three-body Problem", in which he theorized how three objects could orbit all in a position relative to each other. One can only imagine what his reaction would be to seeing his work in action today.

Webb contains a sunshield, about the size of a tennis court, in front of the telescope to protect it from the sun's heat and radiation as well as reflected sunlight from the moon and Earth. This is extremely important as Webb will be detecting infrared light from distant galaxies. With that vast distance, the infrared signals received can be weak, therefore any radiation or light from the sun, moon, or Earth could interfere with data collection. It will also help the Webb stay cool, which is essential for an infrared telescope.



Pictured is a scale of just how far space telescopes have been able to see vs. how far Webb will detect. This will be the first time in history we will be able to gather data from the first-forming stars and galaxies. Image credit: NASA and Ann Feild

## Webb's objective

It will take about five months after Webb reaches its orbit for all the instruments onboard to be calibrated. About six months after launch, scientists will begin to receive data. The Webb telescope will have 6.25 times the light-collecting area Hubble has, due to its much larger primary mirror. It will mainly collect infrared light, which will be a huge advantage when looking at far-distant objects. As the universe expands, the light from distant stars and galaxies is redshifted from the visible and UV into the infrared. Infrared light is also able to penetrate the universe's vast clouds of dust and gas which absorb visible light. With infrared imaging, we will soon be seeing some of the first galaxies and stars ever formed. The greater the distance we

look into space, the further back in time we see. Being able to peer further will give us some answers to how everything we know came to be.

We still understand so little about our universe. Thanks to these amazing telescopes, we will gain more answers to these fundamental mysteries. How much more will we learn about the cosmos in this lifetime? Only time (and space) will tell.

Source: <https://www.jwst.nasa.gov/>

Brooke Edwards is a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador. She lives in Manistee and has given area presentations and hosted night-sky viewings at Fifth Avenue beach. Follow her group on Facebook: @BrookeEdwardsSolarSystemAmbassador

# MI BACKYARD

## Oh, Christmas Tree!

By JENNIFER DEVINE

As of 2020, Michigan was the third-largest Christmas tree producer in the country with more than 37,000 productive acres from 500-plus tree farms providing pre-cut, U-Cut and wholesale evergreen trees. This number doesn't include the many evergreens growing naturally throughout our forests.

Our family's tradition, as I was growing up, was to find the fullest, most cone-shaped tree to cut ourselves at a U-cut farm in the southern part of the state. When I moved out, my parents took my little cousins to do this. Before we moved up north, my own "littles" were able to trek through snow to help find that perfect tree for Grandma and Grandpa's house.

Although the tree was beautiful, I still remember how the heavy ornaments had to rest on the branch below for support.

So, what type of tree has good branch strength? How about needle retention? Which ones are aromatic? Let me help you decide which tree to consider, based on facts about pine, spruce and fir trees. See my starred recommendations for the strongest branches in each tree type.

### Pine

Native to Michigan in this list are Jack Pine (Pinus banksiana), Red Pine (Pinus resinosa) and our state tree, the White Pine (Pinus strobus). You'll know a pine when you see it because they have two, three or five needles protruding from the fascicle (bundle) on the twig.

Jack Pine has short, sharp needles, 3/4-2 inches long, in a bundle of two. Red Pine has long and slender sharp-tipped needles, from 4 inches to almost 7 inches long, two to a bundle. White Pine's needles are bright green and anywhere from 2 inches



to 6 inches long, in bundles of five. Jack and Red Pines are not normally found in the southeastern part of the state, while the White Pine has been located in almost every county across the Mitten. Garlands and wreaths are usually made from White Pine.

PRO: White Pine is great for a home with kids because of the needles' softness.

CON: White Pines have softer, more bendable branches.

\*Choose Scots (Scotch) Pine, a Eurasian species. They are known for great needle retention and strong branches.

### Spruce

Leading the way as Michigan natives are Black Spruce (Picea mariana), with blue-green needles averaging 1/2" long; White Spruce (Picea glauca), with pale green needles about a 1/2" long; and the recently naturalized Norway Spruce (Picea abies) with dark green needles that are 1/2"-1" long. You've found a spruce if you can roll a needle between your fingers. Spruce needles are singular, square shaped and sharp. Where needles are plucked, the twig is bumpy with the remaining fascicle.

PRO: Strong branches can hold some heavier ornaments.



CON: The odor of broken needles on a White Spruce are reminiscent of cat urine.

\*Choose a Colorado Blue Spruce from a tree farm for the strongest branches.

### Fir

Balsam Fir (Abies balsamea) is the only fir native to Michigan. Balsam fir grows in the Laurentian Mixed Forest above the Climatic Tension Zone. Cut fir trees have a much better needle retention rate, lasting longer through the holiday season. You've found a fir, especially a Balsam, if you place a needle between your fingers and you cannot roll it. Balsam needles are dark green and flat, with two white stripes on the underside. Their average length is 1 inch and they are soft, with a blunt tip. When the needles are plucked, the twig remains smooth.

PRO: This is the most aromatic of the Christmas trees.

CON: A fir's flexible branches don't support a lot of weight.



\*Choose a Noble Fir for the strongest branches.

### Cut your own

The Laurentian Mixed Forest is where you'll find the largest selection of our native trees. This forest begins just about halfway up the Mitten and continues through the U.P.

Cut your own \$5 Christmas tree. Call your local National Forest Service office or visit [www.recreation.gov/tree-permits](http://www.recreation.gov/tree-permits) to find a participating NFS area near you. You'll find tips, guidelines and maps to tree-cutting areas in your chosen National Forest. Make sure you follow all laws and rules. Visit [everykidoutdoors.gov](http://everykidoutdoors.gov) if you are a 4th grader for a free tree tag, thanks to the Every Kid Outdoors initiative.

Have a great adventure in MI Backyard and Happy Holidays.

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.

## Bringing back bartering

By STEWART A. MCFERRAN

My career as a juggler never took off. Some say I dropped the ball. Nevertheless, I still had the juggling balls and decided to take them to the Barter Fair at the Green Lake Township Memorial Park near Interlochen. I had other items as well, such as a hammock and a large pressure cooker used for canning. I loaded up the treasures and displayed them on a picnic table under the park pavilion.

A young girl at the fair seemed interested in the colorful juggling balls, so I picked them up to see if I remembered how to juggle. Sure enough, it all came back, and the bright balls cascaded through the air above the little girl. I dropped them one at a time in front of the tiny barterer. Despite that, she just stood and looked at the balls on the ground. Her mom said she wanted them. I had to ask, "So, what you got?"

My request was in accordance with the rule stated by LEAP, the organizers of the event, that while no money could change hands, individuals could ask for something in return for items they intended to exchange.

The little girl did not appear to have anything to trade and was tight lipped. She was a strong negotiator. Her mother

stepped in and suggested they perform a song and a dance. So that is what I received for my juggling balls. The mother and daughter sang and danced for me. It seemed a fitting end to my juggling career.

Lots of other transactions took place that day and, more importantly, old friends were met again and new friends made. I like the dynamic of trading items that have personal significance for the items that others value.

### Making a LEAP

LEAP is Leadership in Education and Action Partners. The group organized the Oct. 24 Barter Fair in Interlochen. In LEAP's notice about the fair, the group invited everyone to "an afternoon of swapping, trading and upcycling. From unwanted items to carefully crafted goods — anything goes.



Items available at the October Barter Fair organized by LEAP. Photo by Blase.

The only rule is that money won't get you anything."

I spoke to Andrew Stump, a permaculturist (one who uses renewable resources to produce food and other life-sustaining necessities) and a LEAP member.

"Having a bartering fair on a regular basis helps bring people back to a more grounded understanding of what it is we really need in our community to be resilient and to thrive and to be happy," Stump said. "The barter fair allows us to recycle things within our community."



Items bartered by homesteaders include fresh eggs, canned goods, dried herbs and more. Photo by M. Videan.

continued on page 8



Green Lake Township Memorial Park was the site of the first Barter Fair. Photo by Blase.

# Bartering

continued from page 7

LEAP plans to host another fair next spring.

### Social communities rally barterers

On Nov. 5, in the "Happenings In and Around Mesick" Facebook group page, a member posted, asking, "...anyone interested in putting together a barter system in the area? Just wondering if there is interest in Mesick."

Sixty-seven people "liked" the post and 99 people commented. One of the interested parties posted: "...I have been saying for years and years, we need to get back to bartering. Unfortunately, though, our bills can't be paid this way."

Another member responded: "... exactly! That's why I'm really hoping this will take off and we can build a community that can become more reliant on each other and less on society as a whole."

To which the first member replied: "Yea I'm thinking if we could find some place to meet and make connections as well, we can create a mutual assistance community at the same time..."

Turns out, another group Facebook page called "Unofficial Kaleva's Kaleidoscope" has a bartering effort underway. Thirty-one people liked or loved and five people shared Tricia Boucha's Nov. 6 post: "Saw a barter post on (the) Mesick page, thought I'd try here too, if allowed. I'm willing to barter my chef/cooking/baking services for a handyman. Things I don't have the strength or tools to accomplish. I'm in Kaleva."

Boucha, a mosaic artist and instructor, told us she hasn't found anyone yet, but she has previously bartered services such as cleaning, cooking and other domestic services for handyman work.

"I would welcome anyone," she said. "I no longer offer cleaning, etc. Just art, lessons or cooking."

Due to noticeable interest in bartering on the Mesick "Happenings" Facebook page, some group members created the "Mesick area Homesteaders and Barter group" page on Nov. 12.

One member posted: "Hello all. I have a smallish hobby farm and offer different animals, goats, goat milk (I like to trade milk for soaps), ducks, chickens & eggs, quails and pickled quail eggs. I also offer some farm services such as hoof trimming, disbudding and can help teach different farming techniques."

Others replied with goods they could trade and services they might provide, such as cleaning, baking, crocheting, massages and facials.

Another posted that they wished to contact the local community center to see about renting the space for a potluck with interested others, to draw up lists of their skills and share copies with everyone.

"... and we can build a more connected self-sufficient community. It's my hope anyhow."

Jennifer Devine is a homesteader living in Dublin. She said homesteaders barter goods such as eggs, processed chickens, canned goods and salves for "time/help." For instance, she trades fresh eggs to a store owner who gives her credit for items she needs. Someone else helped cut large trees on her property and, in return, she and her husband will help that person when he needs it. Though the couple doesn't do a lot of bartering, she said "other homestead ladies and I definitely like to share and trade and try to keep items around equal value."

Meanwhile, back in Green Lake Township Memorial Park, I bartered my pressure cooker for jars of dilly beans and homemade salsa, and the hammock for jars of carrots — plus I got a shiny new lamp for a giant wooden spoon. I will always remember the song and dance in the park pavilion and never forget how to juggle.

Stewart McFerran illuminates current environmental issues in a historic context. He hopes readers will gain an understanding of ways people interact with their environment. He is our Freshwater Reporter Ambassador-At-Large.



Belgian draft horses, owned and driven by Larry Reed, pull the giant Christmas tree along River Street during the 2014 Victorian Sleighbell Parade. Photo courtesy of Barb Hood.

# Community Calendar

continued from page 2

**19 Christmas Musical Variety Program**  
4pm, free. Brass bands, soloists, carolers and more, plus a Grand Finale. Guardian Angel Catholic Church, 371 Fifth St., Manistee.

**21 Winter Solstice in Kaleva**  
4pm. Meet across the street from Maple Grove Township Cemetery, Nine Mile Road & Kaleva Street. All are welcome to join the community as members place 1,000 luminaries on graves.

**22 Classic Movies at the Vogue Theatre, Manistee**  
10am & 7pm, \$2. "Christmas in Connecticut" (1945) Romance/comedy starring Dennis Morgan, Barbara Stanwyck and Sydney Greenstreet. The Vogue is located at 383 River St.

**29 Classic Movies at the Vogue Theatre, Manistee**  
10am & 7pm, \$2. "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" (2001) Fantasy starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint. The Vogue is located at 383 River St.

**31 NY Eve Lighted Ball Drop, Downtown Ludington**  
9pm-12:15am. Activities begin at North James Street Plaza. Countdown to Midnight. Shops, bars & dining open late. Live music, beer & wine, fireworks, ball drop. Locally fabricated ball contains 6,000 lights and is the largest ball in W. Michigan.



### JANUARY

**1 New Year's Resolution Run 5K**  
11am, \$25, Run begins at the corner of Loomis & James Streets, Ludington. To register, go to: <https://downtownludington.org/runludington/>

**8 Winter Trails Day**  
1-2pm, Free, Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville. Offers children and adults new to snow sports the chance to try cross country skiing, and to discover the great fitness and social benefits with this easy-to-learn winter sport. Includes a lesson and rental equipment. Only 16 spaces available! Advanced reservations are required. Sign up begins December 1, 2021. Please call the Kinlochen Nordic Shop to register, 888-968-7686 ext. 4000.

**8 Metropolitan Opera Live/Encore in HD presents Cinderella (Massenet)**  
1-2:45pm, \$20 adults/seniors, \$10 students, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee

Be sure to check our online calendar for the latest updates. [freshwater-reporter.com](http://freshwater-reporter.com)

# Flintknapping

continued from page 3

on a piece all day and, in one motion, the arrowhead or spear can break in an instant." Of course, the art form comes with risks. His hands have had many flake shards imbed themselves like glass, as well as cuts that forced him to take a hiatus.

As a child, he was given a Native name by his mother that meant "Great Hunter." As he's aged, the hunting has become harder, so perhaps turning to the primitive art of flintknapping is a natural transition. Chandler can often be found in his "knap shack" and during colder months in his basement, honing his skill because in his mind he "still has a lot to learn."

Valerie Chandler is a lifelong Manistee County resident. She lives in Wellston with her husband Matthew and their Border Collie/Australian Shepard. She is a citizen of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and has been employed with the tribal government for more than 25 years. Robert Chandler is her father.



Pipe bowls made of Minnesota pipestone or catlinite (bottom) and soapstone (top).

## FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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