

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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Rack 'Em Up!

By JOSHUA ELIE

If I forgot how much fun shooting pool was until I had the pleasure of meeting Kimber Thatch. You may know her from Dennis Mackey's Northern Natural Cider House and Winery west of Kaleva, Mich. If you have been there for something "wonderfully organic," you would remember her for her charming personality bubbling over with laughter.

Kimber, originally from Detroit, was a high school special education teacher who retired in 2017. When her friend Mary Stefanick introduced her to northwest Michigan, she fell in love with the area, bought some property north of the Little River Casino and Resort, and built her own house.

"Be the Village" is a phrase Kimber coined while teaching. She had bracelets made for her students with it on one side and Kind and Caring written on the other. She loves to be around fun people, and that is what keeps her so enthusiastic. Being socially active is something our society seems to be increasingly missing, and we need people like Kimber to remind us of what a joy it is to be active, sharing the power of positivity. She found a social niche in Manistee when Mary introduced her to the 8-ball mixed pool league, and she joined the Manistee Civic Club I team, captained by Bill Kott.

There are two guys and two gals on every team. Some players take it very seriously, like Faron Jacobs and Chuck King. They have the skills to back it up, though when I asked Kimber, "Who has the most fun?" she laughed and replied,



Manistee Civic Club I pool team (L to R): Kimber Thatch, Mary Stefanick, Bill Kott (team captain), and Walt Croft at the Civic Club. Courtesy photo.

"I do! I am just competitive enough to hate losing." She said her style consists of "moments of brilliance followed by absolute stupidity," and her giggling began again.

If you would like to catch the playoffs, you can find the full schedule on Facebook @Manistee Mixed Pool League. Tammy Gutowski, league secretary, is good at keeping everything posted and up-to-date and, I hear, a rather impressive pool player herself, as is the president of the league, Diane Farnsworth. Kimber says the players love to have an audience to entertain. She said the VFW hall in Manistee has the best table; the Civic Club just got new felt, so their table shoots great, too; and the Jailhouse Bar and Grill has the best burgers. Everyone is wondering if Jeff Bladzick and Susie Wolken (owners of the Painted Lady in Maxwelltown) are going to fix the floor that Bob (Susie's dad) let go for so long that they have to prop up one corner of the pool table with a block. All kidding aside, Kimber assures me that the Painted Lady still has the

great food and atmosphere that Bob and Linda Venne offered when they took over and renamed the business 30 years ago.

The final games for the championship will be played Feb. 28 at Manistee's VFW Post 4499 at 1211 28th St. A banquet will follow a couple of weeks later when they will hand out trophies. Prizes will also be awarded for 8-ball breaks and table runs (playing through a whole game without missing a shot). With one table run under her belt already in the regular season, Kimber said, "The rocking chair isn't calling my name yet." If you happen to catch one of her games and a car alarm goes off, it's probably just her fiddling with her car keys again.

Kimber told me she has cut gluten and sugar out of her diet, replacing them with more probiotics, and said she feels great. After rich holiday meals, our guts might need to recharge with the healthy bacteria unsweetened yogurt can provide.

See our Northwoods Sauce Boss's recipe for homemade yogurt on page 7.

AREA EVENTS
CALENDAR ON PG. 11

FROM THE EDITORS

Switching our gears

"Your love give me such a thrill,
But your love don't pay my bills."

- Berry Gordy & Janie Bradford,
"Money (that's what I want)"

Our locally owned, locally operated newspaper has been around since July 2019. Some of you found us in the beginning; others discovered us a bit later through word-of-mouth or thanks to some strategic delivery changes.

Truth time. We've reached a crossroads. Downtown businesses are still reluctant to advertise with us, and advertising is the lifeblood of any newspaper. Without adequate advertising revenue, the paper needs another funding source. (Can you guess where we're headed with this?)

We are small. We have zero staff to help us ask for ads - but not zero costs. We still need to pay our writers, designer, printer and area gas stations. (Newspaper deliveries require at least two tanks of gas per issue.) All our people are independent contractors working in northern Michigan, except one. (Amy, our designer, is in western Michigan and grew up in northern Michigan.) This means our paper is truly "local," and our dollars are spent almost entirely in our communities. We are proud to support local people and businesses.

We know that some businesses prefer to stick with the familiar: the weeklies, the dailies, the host of glossy area visitor guides and revolving-door magazines. Some even spring for the cost of billboards, which leaves us scratching our heads. What is the "shelf life" of a billboard when you're driving by at 35-55 mph? It must be measured in seconds if it's measurable at all.

Our advertising rates are extremely reasonable and include an online ad as well as a print ad. Our shelf life for the newspaper far surpasses the dailies and weeklies. It's measured in weeks. We believe we have the most comprehensive calendar of events in the area. Our stories tell you about the people and places (and critters and plants!) in your neighborhood. They point you to art exhibitions, concerts, historical lectures, special presentations, movies and nonprofit events in at least two counties and often beyond.

Most of all, our paper has been FREE for our readers. Anyone, anywhere we deliver may pick it up. Since we deliver to 150-plus places, that's a lot of anyones reading our paper.

However, the paper is only free for our readers if we have advertising dollars to support our costs, like paying the folks we mentioned above. Our co-editor/calendar guy and me? We haven't been paid yet.

What's a small community newspaper to do in our situation?

continued on Page 4



Group parading on the street with dome of U.S. Capitol in the background.

The troubling persistence of Michigan's Ku Klux Klan

By GRACE GROGAN.

All images in the public domain courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Editor's note: We offer this historical account of the Ku Klux Klan to coincide with Black History Month, observed in February. Many Black lives were lost to violence by the racist acts of a white minority whose ranks, as reported last March by the Capitol News Service in Lansing, are on the rise in Michigan. The headline has been changed from our printed story to more concisely describe the article.

July 4, 2024, will mark 100 years since the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan rally in Jackson, Mich. On Independence Day in 1924, 100,000 people participated in what appeared to be a typical holiday festival, except for one stark difference. All participants were wearing white flowing robes and hoods with pointed tops.

Michigan had 75,000-80,000 members and the eighth-highest Ku Klux Klan membership in the U.S. between 1915 and 1944. One in every 10 Michigan residents was a member of the KKK. There were at least 93 chartered klaverns (local chapters), with membership in every county south of Houghton Lake, in eastern and western lakeside counties, and in two-thirds of the Upper Peninsula. About 50% of the state's membership was in the metropolitan Detroit area.

Those who thought the Michigan Klan was "history" would be advised

continued on Page 6

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Heffernan Opera House: Out with the old

By KEVIN HOWELL

It's sad, but as Baldwin Downtown Development Authority (DDA) member Darci Maldonado said, "The old gal's gone." Maldonado was speaking of the old Heffernan Opera House recently demolished at the corner of Eighth Street and Michigan Avenue (M-37) in downtown Baldwin. She is also the owner of Pandora's Box, a retail gift and apparel store down the street, and watched the demolition.

Before its downfall at the end of December, the opera house was the oldest building in the village but in sad repair after years of neglect. Built in the 1880s, the building was probably short-lived as an actual opera house but went through several other phases, according to Bruce Micinski, president of the Lake County Historical Society.

"I'm not sure who built it, but the Heffernans were an Irish family with an interest in drugstores, and it was likely a drugstore at its height," Micinski said. "It was also a hotel at one time, and turning it into a drugstore was maybe more profitable."

For a time, "Opera House" was painted on its façade, as seen in old photos of the place. Later photos, after the front balcony was removed, show a facade for a drugstore, a mercantile and a hardware store at various stages in its life.

Micinski noted that prior to its demolition, he and others from the historical society looked inside. "It was just a basic, two-story rectangular building. The upstairs was an open area where maybe a small stage may have been," he said.

As an example of historic architecture, it wasn't much. There were no ornate features, no oak or cherry trim and the like. In the end, it was just an old building, but as Micinski said, "It carried a lot of history."

As I was talking with him, Micinski kept looking for other indications of its past use. He found old drugstore advertisements, signs that it was a Gambles store (think hardware and/or auto parts), and evidence that it housed Wilkinson's Pool and Billiard Hall. For a time, maybe in one of its additions, an icehouse was placed on the back. Other uses included an ice cream store and a barbershop. In the 1980s, it was a hardware store.

"It's been a lot of things, but looking back at the pictures, no one really took care of it," Micinski said.

The last owner, a "non-resident owner," according to Village President and DDA member Jim Truxton, "bought it extremely cheap and basically did nothing to it."

He said when the county finally condemned the building, parts of it "were ready to fall down."

"It's been a blight," Truxton said. "Sheet



Top: What's left of the old Heffernan Opera House after demolition. Photo by Kevin Howell. **Middle:** Heffernan Opera House. Photo courtesy of Lake County Historical Museum. **Right:** Heffernan Opera House as drug store. Photo courtesy of Lake County Historical Museum.



metal (roofing) was blowing off every time the wind would blow. Thirty-foot sheets, roof deck boards were deteriorated (to) where they wouldn't hold a screw, and it was starting to lean to the south."

A State Land Bank Blight Remediation Grant covered the cost of demolition, including the removal of asbestos and the final cleanup of the site. By the end of December, all that was left was the stone foundation and debris still in the basement.

"Downtown Development Authority bought the property with the idea in mind of razing the building and making it a temporary green space, and make it available for redevelopment," Truxton said.

The village is also considering purchasing the lot adjacent to the north of the site, where a storage building is located. If that happens, it will connect the property directly to the park with the Brown Trout statue and open up more possibilities.

According to Maldonado, the future of the site beyond a temporary green space will be discussed further at DDA meetings and a survey conducted to develop ideas for a vision of the site.

"We don't really know yet," she said, "but we'll see what (the community) wants

and apply for grants."

She added that as a green space, it might be a place for food trucks, or maybe benches and a small pavilion. Another idea is to use it as a community center or gathering place.

Truxton echoed the green space idea but cautioned, "... that's even a little far down the road.

"At this point, there is no development coming in, but it's clean; it's green," he explained. "We wanted to get it cleaned up for somebody. We now know that all the environmental are done; we know they've got a clean site."

As Micinski commented, "We hate to see old buildings gone, but sometimes it's better to let (them) go."

Kevin Howell lives in Mason County. He loves the Michigan woods, lakes, people and, especially, Michigan craft beers – not necessarily in that order!

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Quilt Trunk Show promises 'coziest' gathering

By PAT STINSON



Fabric Peddler owner Jamie Russell is one of two presenters. Courtesy photo.

BALDWIN — Those who love quilts and those with an interest in quilting can learn more about their history, from the 1850s to the present day, during a Feb. 18 Quilt Trunk Show Dinner Theater presentation offered at 876, a restaurant with a reputation for creative dining owned by Paul Santoro and Dina Velocci.

The quilt show will be presented by Jill Engelman, curator for the Lake County Historical Museum, and Jamie Russell, owner of the Fabric Peddler.

The program will offer two seatings, one at 1 p.m. and another at 6 p.m. The cost of the program is \$50 per person and includes a \$10 donation to the museum. Reservations are required, and seating is limited.

The event is a fundraiser for the museum, which is planning its fourth construction project. Engelman said a proposed work room addition on the back of the current building will offer a dedicated space for looking at artifacts and creating exhibits, and funds will also be used to make the current research library on the second floor more accessible. She said they are reviewing "needs." She added that the museum always operates in the black and has the money "in hand" before beginning a project.

Engelman will begin the program with a history of quilts and quilt-making from the 1850s to the 1970s, using quilts from the museum's collection.

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OUR ORIGIN STORY

Plunging headfirst into the Freshwater Reporter

By **PAT STINSON**

I love northern Michigan. I wasn't born here, didn't grow up here. I moved here years ago from southeast Michigan because I was trundled into a station wagon as a kid and repeatedly whisked away to Burt Lake, Mullet Lake and elsewhere on camping vacations. The pull of those memories was irresistible. At 25, I moved north with Mark Videan, who also had youthful memories of visits to his grandparents' cottage on Houghton Lake. We settled in Leelanau County for almost 30 years before moving away to make a living and a life near the mountains of Colorado. After six years, we turned our gaze back to Michigan and moved to Manistee, settling in a little house beside a marsh, beside a lake.

I've been writing stories since the second grade. My first job was delivering newspapers before dawn as a fifth grader. On long rides in the car as a kid, I created one-page "newsletters" on lined notebook paper that included puzzles to entertain my younger sister. Some of my favorite television shows were "60 Minutes", "Lou Grant" and reruns of "Mission Impossible". As it turns out, they were good training for the years that followed. My journalism degree mostly smoldered on a back burner, but I assumed writing and editing duties for company newsletters wherever I worked ... and, like most writers, I worked in a number of fields in several capacities.

As many did after 9/11, I reinvented myself, striking out on my own to offer my services as a writer-for-hire, crafting speeches, scripts, web copy, product descriptions and press releases, etc., for small businesses and advertising agencies. I also wrote for local newspapers (Northern Express, Traverse City Business News, Grand Traverse Insider) and regional magazines (Manitou, Michigan Blue). One of these was the Glen Arbor Sun, a small "newsprint magazine." The paper was founded 25-plus years ago by Jacob Wheeler, a talented son of Glen Arbor. Wheeler has a nose for good news and occasionally rouses the area's sleeping bears with an investigative piece. I loved that paper and wanted to publish one of my own.

When we returned to Michigan in 2018, I discovered that Manistee and Mason counties had two dailies and a



Photo by Mark Videan.

weekly newspaper, as well as many ad-filled visitor guides covering the same attractions and areas, and competing for the same advertising dollars. But there was nothing like the Sun, which mirrored my vision of a paper that would create its own community of readers (locals and visitors), writers and advertisers. I wanted to share a fresh way of telling stories in our communities, using my own editorial ideas and reaching out to writers for theirs. Mark and I jumped in (okay, I jumped in - Mark was a dutiful spouse) and founded the Freshwater Reporter

On long rides in the car as a kid, I created one-page "newsletters" on lined notebook paper that included puzzles to entertain my younger sister.

in 2019, in the height of summer, when everyone's ad budgets were already established. We will be forever grateful to those advertisers who took a chance on our paper in our first year. Our advertisers "got it," even if "it" took a year to be discovered by readers. That's community spirit! We were humbled to be approached by writers from Manistee and Mason counties who liked what they read and wanted to contribute. We are still approached

by writers and grateful for their many contributions.

In early 2020, the pandemic brought almost everything to a halt. The last thing on the minds of small-business owners was expanding their advertising to include a small, upstart newspaper published by a stranger. But we persevered and published every issue promised, except the April 2020 edition. Since our website wasn't "live" yet, April's stories and advertisements were beautifully laid out in a newspaper format, as usual, by our designer Amy Hansen, and images of stories with ads beside them were posted on our Facebook page. April stories were also added to a larger May edition that year. I still feel a flush of gratitude and pride when I read the personal, emotional stories our writers wrote during the peak months of COVID-19. I encourage you to read the special May 2020 edition if you haven't already. You can find it on the Full Issues page of our website.

Gaining advertisers continues to be a challenge for us. For our business communities used to spending their ad dollars in the dailies, weeklies and visitor guides, the Freshwater Reporter

continued on Page 4

YOU REALLY LIKE US!

"I absolutely love your publication. I love all the stories you share with the public. Please accept this donation to help offset your costs. Keep up the good work." D.H., Custer

"Hoping you make your quota this month. The paper offers readers so many interesting stories and a great menu of events. A real service to the community." E.S., Benzonia

"I would like a subscription. Merry Christmas!" R.S., Three Oaks

"I would like to support your paper by subscribing. I look forward to receiving my first issue of Freshwater Reporter." S.B., Wolverine

"Love seeing the Freshwater Reporter on FB (Facebook)!" E.H., Oregon

"Thank you for the great stories. We love your paper." K. & P., E. Lansing

"Many thanks for your fine paper. We love your articles and the focus on local and interesting topics. Keep up the great work!" L.G., Arcadia

"I absolutely love reading every issue of the Freshwater Reporter. Of the 3 local small papers issued every month or two, yours focuses on so many varied and interesting topics, written to inform and entertain ~ I learn something new with each issue! Thank you for all you do to maintain this fine "storytelling" publication! Sue, Elberta

"Thank you again for the nice articles you wrote about the Mural Project and me! There has been a nice response to both articles. It has helped in the fund raising and we (the artists) appreciate your interest! P.S., Baldwin

"Thank you and Good Luck! I hope you can continue bringing good news to our communities!" N.S., Bear Lake

"Thank you for your excellent work in providing a wonderful example of positive news and the exploration of our beautiful area." R.G., Arcadia

"Thanks again for a great paper!" S.C., Grand Rapids

A Single Ingredient

By JOSHUA ELIE

In a way, everyone who grows up in a small town has the same story as a young person. This town is so boring! There's nothing to do, nothing to see. Everybody knows everything about everybody ... It's just so boring. And then our ambition takes over. We can't wait to graduate from high school, so we can run off to college, the big city, to explore and experience all the grand adventure and success life has to offer.

Anybody that knew me as a teenager will tell you about how I would spend 5-7 hours a night working on music and sleeping in school during the day ... well, the sleeping in school part for sure. My grades were terrible, but I didn't care. I was going to be a Rock Star someday. My dad insisted I go to West Shore Community College for a couple years after high school and, unfortunately, it was the same thing. I say unfortunately because even back then, WSCC was a gateway to so many fantastic life options, as many of the credits could be transferred to major universities. They also had great programs teaching very desirable and lucrative skills to take into the workforce.

Due to some "youthful indiscretions," I found myself on probation with no driver's license. So, the big city was just going to have to wait a couple more years. But, when I turned 21, it was, "Look out, Detroit; here I come!" I packed up my guitars and speakers until I couldn't see out the passenger's side window. This was not a good idea for driving in Detroit for the first time, or ever, but I quickly learned what a "Michigan left" is.

My second day there I secured a house gig, performing music five nights a week at Charlie's, the Budweiser Bar at Merriman and Michigan Avenue. At the same time, my uncle put me to work doing basement waterproofing. It was everything I dreamed of, well, the start of it anyway. The lights, the music, the people everywhere, more than two radio stations to choose from

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If you like what you've been reading and haven't donated previously, we welcome and would **greatly appreciate** your donation in whatever denomination you're able to give:

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and more. If you've donated previously, THANK YOU, and if it's in your budget to donate again this year, we would be thrilled, grateful and enthused! Send your donations to:

Freshwater Planet LLC, P.O. Box 188, Manistee, MI 49660.

By Thursday, Jan. 25, you'll find a link on our website to donate directly: freshwater-reporter.com.

Thank you from all of us at Freshwater Reporter!

... After two months, I knew I was going to have to give up either the music or the construction because I just couldn't physically do both. Chuck, the owner of the Budweiser Bar, made it easy to choose by bringing in the next new thing (at the time), Karaoke. I was OK with not performing because I was making more money than I knew what to do with in construction, and the work was really fun.

Before I knew it, I was listening to the country music channel (purposely) and thinking about fishing in the quiet

construction, with lots of money coming in, but going out just as fast.

Later, I found myself in Niles, Mich., really a suburb of South Bend. Living there was a little less expensive, and the work was beyond steady. I had so much that I stopped answering my phone. But who were these people? What was going on around me? I might have known the names of a couple of my neighbors but nothing about them, and for crying out loud, what does anybody do for fun? There was nothing of interest at all to me. No fishin', no

Community ... is what Freshwater Reporter is all about, and why I started writing for this small, local paper.

stillness of the forest. I started going home on the weekends, and soon the city lights began to dim, the sunny days in the city seemed to turn a little gray, and even surrounded by so many people, I felt alone. I didn't even know the names of my neighbors or anything that was going on in the area. Gas was more than \$4 a gallon, and I was driving a '71 Cadillac Seville. It took forever to get out of the city on a Friday evening because everyone else wanted to go "North," too. Everything was just so expensive, and I kept bouncing back and forth between music and

muddin', no big bonfire parties. I can sum up everything that I was missing with one word, "community."

This is what Freshwater Reporter is all about, and why I started writing for this small, local paper. I can share my memories, my thoughts about our area, and my love of baking and cooking in my stories, creating simple recipes that require just one more ingredient. You.

Joshua Elie is a musician and former building contractor. He now enjoys life as a homesteader.

Plunging

continued from Page 3

is apparently viewed as just another print vehicle asking them to spend their hard-earned cash ... perhaps seen as a quaint little side gig by a wannabe publisher. Yes, it is locally produced on a shoestring, but I can assure you it is anything but a hobby! (Read "What does it take to publish Freshwater Reporter, anyway?") We keep telling prospective advertisers that we're reaching a different audience, and a loyal one, by offering a free paper delivered to the outlying villages as well as the major tourist destinations. We explain that they receive a free online, clickable ad that directs readers to their business website or Facebook page. Their online ads rotate across our website pages during the months they're in print, and they also appear in our digital editions forever. That's some shelf life, just like our paper's.

Donations from readers have

helped to see us through as word about us continues to grow. We could not make it without our donors and loyal advertisers. We appreciate our subscribers, too, and it's worth noting that we don't depend on subscriptions as a revenue source, since we cover our costs only.

We have many more story ideas and writers willing to write; we just need more advertisers and donors willing to become part of the community we've created, so we can get those stories in print and online.

We're absolutely committed to offering uplifting stories for locals and visitors in a free community newspaper delivered to 150 places throughout two counties, and in selected portions of three more counties. Our calendar of events still appears in every issue (and on our website, freshwater-reporter.com) and represents hours of online

sleuthing by Mark.

For me, because I love to drive, delivering each issue is part of the joy. I've met many store owners and employees, shopkeepers, gallery folk, restaurant workers and baristas. I've discovered many backroads and corners I never knew existed. Mark and I hope to linger in these places a little longer – spending our dollars with people we've come to know and playing in areas we've yet to explore – always on the lookout for fresh stories about people and places you know, and some you don't. Thanks for riding along!

Pat Stinson and her husband Mark Videan are co-editors of the Freshwater Reporter. Mark is also the paper's calendar wizard. They live in Manistee and play in several nearby counties. A version of this story originally appeared in The Betsie Current. Reprinted by

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YOU REALLY LIKE US!

"Once again, a little paper full of engaging topics! I keep the current issue on our front porch for a visitor's "look over" ~ "spreading the news"! Keep up the efforts! M.M., Sparta

"Thank you for your free newspaper of info about unique places and events in Manistee, Mason County and beyond (Lake Co.). Though I'm unable to get around much anymore, (83), I enjoy reading about the people and places you write about." M.K., Irons

"You have a top-notch, first-class group putting out this paper. Enclosed is my check for a subscription." J.E., Manistee

"Keep on keeping on what you do! I love your writers, photographers, advertisers." D.S., Baldwin

"Hopefully this helps a little. Thank you! If you have a mailing list, please add us. If not, we will pick it up when we see it." M.M., Free Soil

"We love to read your paper over morning coffee." Mr. & Mrs. H.H., Ludington

Gears

continued from Page 1

Double down, that's what!

If we cannot persuade the downtown businesses in Manistee, Ludington and Baldwin to join the community we've created and advertise with us, then we need to ask you, our readers, to help us change our business model to one that is mainly reader supported. That means if you care about our stories and/or use our calendar of events, we're asking you to please donate whatever you can afford to help us keep the press rolling.

We've met in groups to come up with creative ways to make it easier for you to donate. A "Sunday Supper" fundraiser is set for March 10 in Onekama. (See the announcement inside.) Another event is still in its earliest planning stages, and we'll announce the details online. Of course, you can always send donations (check or money order) directly to us at: Freshwater Planet LLC, P.O. Box 188, Manistee, MI, 49660. (Your donations are not tax-deductible.)

We're working on a link that will take you to a place to donate online. That will appear on the home page of our website soon. Meanwhile, we need you now. We need you soon. We need you, period.

Thank you for your readership, your advertising partnerships and your subscriptions. They've kept us going in the past. If more of you donate now, we can keep publishing in the future.

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MI BACKYARD

Area laundromats clean up

By **JENNIFER DEVINE**

Laundromats have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Mr. Stadium in Ann Arbor is where I learned to match socks with my mom. It's where I played the Pac-Man arcade game and quietly read books. It was a place where a widely diverse group of people came together in a single spot to get one of the most dreaded chores done as quickly as possible.

In 2015, Mr. MI Backyard and I bought a property in Wellston lacking both a washing machine and a clothes dryer. For the first time in 15 years, I would be back to schlepping items in and out of the vehicle. When we were off the grid in the early 2020s, I would clean clothes and linens using buckets with plungers, vintage washboards I picked up at sales, and a tub with scalding hot water from the fire. I wielded a large stick to pull the clothing from the water and continued the old ways by hang-drying everything. During winter, I visited local laundromats.

Of the more than 200 laundromats still in existence in our state, I have visited four in northern Michigan, and while each was unique, some of the experiences I had at one could have happened at any of them. That's what makes doing laundry such an adventure, sometimes.

Irons Laundromat

I have some fond memories of Irons Laundromat because I met my good friend Nancy here. The atmosphere has since changed, but back when I frequented this place, there was no attendant or even a phone number to call if you had issues. One time, an elderly woman wrote a message on an envelope after her coins were taken by a dryer. She told me she always did this, and her money was returned. I must have written my message incorrectly, as I never saw my "lost" quarters again. Random pieces of tape were splayed across coin slots or machine doors stating, "No heat" or "Doesn't work." Soon, I too kept tape, paper and a marker in my glove box for this purpose.

I quickly learned to arrive before the morning rush, no matter the season, because the building was quiet, and the good machines were available. The dryer next to the windows was coveted since it was the hottest, took less time, and therefore, less coin. In summer, visitors met me with questions like, "How much time does a quarter get me?" So, I plastered a couple of

signs above the dryers. On them, I wrote: "1 quarter = 5 minutes." They might still be there. I once observed a lady get more time per quarter by not fully turning the handle, instead listening to it click precisely — like a safecracker in the movies! There was the occasional "line jumper" on crowded days who didn't care if your basket was by the machine first because they could reach it faster. This would cause baskets to fly, along with heated words. Sometimes the arcade games were in working condition — and candy, soda and detergent machines would be stocked — but that was rare. There was a utility sink near the front doors that saw a lot of action in winter from folks with frozen pipes filling up their water jugs, me included. The last time I was there, an attendant in the adjoining apartment was keeping the place tidy.

Easy Wash

My favorite place to do laundry was the Easy Wash located on Washington Street in Manistee. It was owned and operated by Gerald Adamski and his wife until their retirement. His father sold it to him upon his return to Manistee in the late '60s, according to the Planet Laundry Podcast and his 2016 obituary. This place had many different sizes of machines. I would drive out of my way just to wash and dry. Easy Wash partnered with local churches, shelters and Laundry Love one day a week, so those without means or on a limited budget could get their clothing done for free. Easy Wash also provided a laundry service utilized by many different people. The attendant was constantly washing, drying and folding, amongst her other duties. Even in the offseason, this laundromat seemed to be bustling. I once pulled my whites from the stopped dryer straight into my basket, placed them in the car and drove 20 minutes home, only to find the middle of the pile smoldering and turning brown when I dumped them out to fold. Learn from me, kids.

Manistee Cleaning Solution

For an extremely short time, I used a place called Manistee Cleaning Solution. My first visit brought a bout of giggles from the older customers as I dropped my quarters and the paper wrapper broke open, sending the coins clinking and rolling far and wide.

The inside floors, walls and ceilings were kept up, with one of the attendants running



Renee Kendall does her laundry at Manistee Cleaning Solutions. Photo courtesy of Cassandra Kamalowski, executive director of Manistee Friendship Society.

on a schedule making rounds. Decorations adorned the walls for whatever holiday it was. The cost seemed appropriate for the many sizes of washers and dryers. I don't visit this laundromat anymore, but the attendants offer drycleaning and laundry by the pound. I'm sure those on vacation use the service, so they can have their whole day free!

Frankfort Laundromat

The Frankfort Laundromat surprised me the most as it offers free public Wi-Fi along with a public restroom and an amazing view of Betsie Bay. The building itself is small and unassuming. If you are not looking for it, you will miss it. Heck, even if you are looking for it you might drive around the block once or twice, like myself. Besides the attendant doing laundry service, I have observed one lady coming in just to dry some items and another just to wash. The attendant was extremely nice and helpful to me. I had a lot of questions about the area, the machines, and how to clean the rust color plaguing my new white shower. Laundry service is offered here, with a shelved wall dedicated to bags ready for pick up.

Hot Take

Northern Michigan has enough laundromats spread around each county to get the job done. For area visitors, laundromats make travel easier because you can pack lighter. As a laundromat owner, it seems you could realize a nice chunk of change in the touristy months. What is offered at each laundromat location in the offseason is presumably dictated by the number of users, energy costs and machine repair costs. There's sometimes an abandoned feel to them during this time, but since there will always be a need for clean clothes, I don't foresee this type of business fizzling out anytime soon in MI Backyard.

Read more of Jennifer's story on our website at: <https://freshwater-reporter.com>. Look for "A Brief History of Laundromats" about the evolution of washing clothes and the introduction of laundromats in the US ... and in Manistee.

Jennifer Devine has a passion for writing and plants. With a myriad of experiences, memories and adventures in off-grid and city living, she and her family continue to utilize the bountiful resources Michigan has to offer.

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Klan

continued from Page 1

to read on and rethink that assumption.

Overview

The Klan was founded in 1865 by leaders of the Confederacy following the Civil War. According to David Siwik, Lansing Community College professor of U.S. and Michigan history, the organization intended to enforce, somehow, the culture of white supremacy that had been an essential part of the entire slave culture and slave society in the American South. (“It doesn’t just go away: Remembering the KKK’s legacy of hate in Michigan”, Lansing State Journal, Aug. 7, 2023.)

That first wave lasted 10 years. White women served as a symbol of racial and sexual supremacy, viewed by the KKK as needing protection. Women who were Black, promiscuous or low-class were assumed to lack virtue and often became victims of rape and assault by Klan members.

Women’s Ku Klux Klan

June 10, 2023, marked 100 years since the formation of the National Women of the Ku Klux Klan. The early 1920s saw a second wave of KKK activity. WKKK chapters were in every state. Membership was open to white, native-born protestant women over 18.

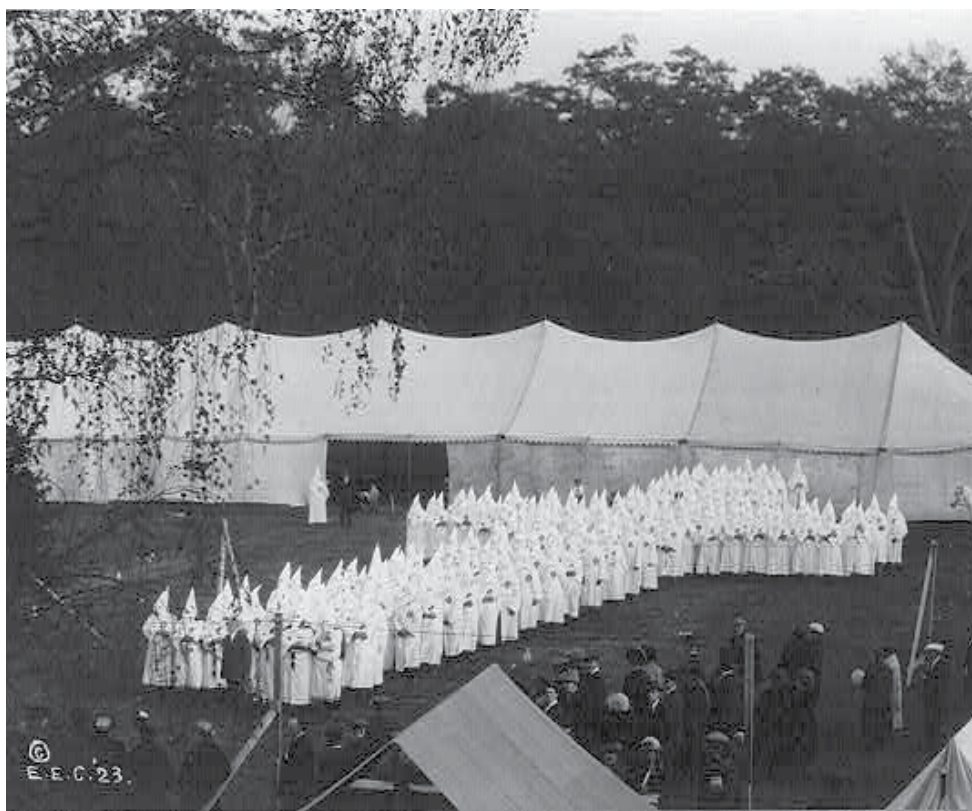
The group’s focus was moral, civic and educational agendas. Advocating for academic and social reform, they promoted extreme racism and intolerance. The goal was to maintain white supremacy by exclusion of those not meeting their stringent beliefs regarding class, race, ethnicity, gender and religion.



The Klan Wants You poster from Denham Springs, LA.

When establishing their charters, the WKKK had about 125,000 members, which grew to 250,000 within four months. By November 1923, WKKK chapters were in all 48 states. According to “Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920s” by Kathleen M. Blee, a Klan commentator declared the WKKK to have 3 million members in 1925.

The WKKK used social settings to promote



Group of hooded Ku Klux Klan members posed in the shape of a cross in front of a tent.

their xenophobic policies, encouraging membership in a friendship-and-solidarity club of like-minded women. They were racist, intolerant, anti-Jewish, anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant and anti-Black. They believed the U.S. was founded “not for the refuse population of other lands” and that racial mixing was treason. (Read the entry for Women of the Ku Klux Klan (WKKK), Encyclopedia of Arkansas.)

Helping expand KKK efforts, the WKKK joined the men at social functions, parades and some meetings. Jackie Hill quotes Elizabeth Tyler, founder of the Southern Publicity Association, in her 2008 article, “Progressive Values in the Women’s Ku Klux Klan”:

The women’s organization will be on par with that of the men. We plan that all women who join us shall have equal rights with that of the men...will not in any sense be a dependent auxiliary of the Ku Klux Klan. It will be a separate organization...bound to the parent organization.

The WKKK pushed women’s rights, including the right to vote. They believed their supremacy ranked above Black men, who had voting privileges. Their push applied only to white, native-born protestant women. They drove forward one of the largest racist movements in the country’s history and pushed the agendas of both groups forward. Despite their success, many KKK members didn’t credit the women for being an independent organization.

On May 15, 1924, WKKK Alliance Klan #1 sent a letter to President Calvin Coolidge asking him to sign the Johnson Immigration Bill. The letter states: “We shall ever be devoted to the sublime principals of a pure Americanism and valiant in the defense of its ideals and institution.” The Immigration Act of 1924 set quotas for immigration, allowing only 2% of a country’s 1890 census

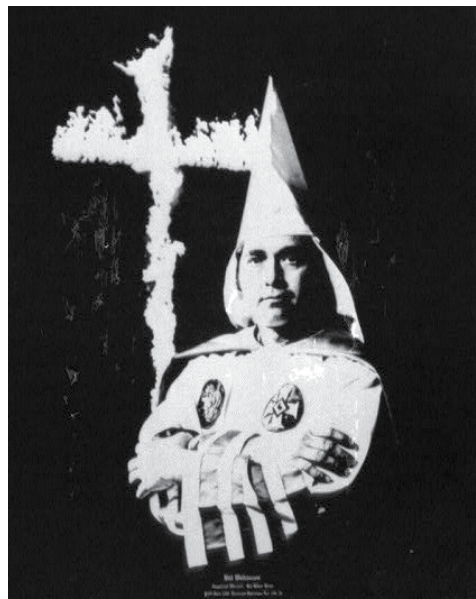
immigrants already in the U.S. to enter each year.

Whispering campaigns, called poison squads, were a WKKK method of achieving goals. They would spread rumors and gossip about someone suspected of being Jewish or Catholic. This caused Jewish-owned stores to collapse, ran off Catholic school teachers and kept African Americans out of white communities. They lobbied voters, distributing negative reports on candidates who were non-Klan members, distributed bibles in schools, and ran for school board positions.

Michigan KKK Events

In 1924, over 5,000 people gathered at a May KKK event in Elsie, 17,000 met at the St. John’s fairgrounds in June, and 100,000 members met at the July Klanvocation (rally) in Jackson. The impact of these events likely led to an anti-Klan meeting in Eaton Rapids.

Eaton Rapids’ resident Jamie Davidson, who spent his childhood there, said he didn’t witness Klan activity. I also grew up there



Bill Wilkinson, Imperial Wizard.

(1966-1981) and knew nothing of the area’s Klan connections. Jamie found a poster inside his grandfather’s scrapbook about a meeting on the island park. The poster reads: “The Ku Klux Klan Kraze, a startling analysis of the Ku Klux Klan philosophy that will make you think...” The anti-Klan meeting was scheduled for September 1924 and encouraged ladies to attend. (“It doesn’t just go away.’ Remembering the KKK’s legacy of hate in Michigan”, Rachel Greco and Krystal Nurse, Lansing State Journal, Aug. 7, 2021.)

Fifteen thousand people attended a march in Grand Rapids on Jan. 4, 1925. Three thousand Klan members marched, waving flags and signs reading, “Only Americans on Guard.” The goal was to increase membership. About 50% of the marchers were female and wore Klan regalia. They were seeking native-born white adults for membership. Fifteen percent of the attendees, or about 2,250 people, joined the KKK or WKKK for a \$10 membership fee.

Grand Rapids was Michigan’s central hub of Klan activity and the country’s largest fraternal organization in 1925, with 1.5 to 5 million members. Records were likely destroyed. In the 1990s, artifacts discovered about Newaygo County Klan No. 29 show more than 1,200 members in a county of 17,000 residents. Records are housed in the



Ku Klux Klan members, 1922.

Clarke Historical Library in Mount Pleasant.

On June 1, 1926, Muskegon Klan leader Asa Bartlett, the “Blue Lake Bomber,” was sentenced to life in prison for mailing a bomb to Three Lakes Tavern, killing three people. The target was Bartlett’s non-Klan political rival. After serving 36 years in prison, he had his sentence commuted to time served by then Gov. George Romney in July 1963, and he was released.

In reaction to the bombing, the Klan became almost non-existent in Michigan by 1929. The late 1960s to early 1970s civil rights movement brought a third wave of KKK activity. An Aug. 17, 2017, Detroit Free Press article, “Michigan has long been fertile ground for the far right” by Allie Gross, explains that efforts to desegregate Detroit schools led to the United Klans of America and KKK Youth Corps infiltrating inner-city campuses.

Brochures encouraged white students to “organize white friends and classmates into fighting corps.” In September 1969, white students armed with beer cans, beer

continued on Page 8

Sauce Boss

continued from Page 1

Elie's Homemade Yogurt

(high in probiotics)

- 5 oz plain Greek yogurt
- 1/2 gallon whole milk



Yogurt drain pocket. Photo by Joshua Elie.

Let the yogurt with **live and active cultures**

(for your starter) come to room temperature. On low, heat a half gallon of whole milk in a pot to 180 degrees, stirring often. Add half cup warm milk to starter and mix. Pour that back into the pot and mix. Let cool to 110-115 degrees.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Put a towel on a cookie sheet, set the pot on the towel, and drape another towel over the top. Put it in the oven and turn off the heat. Let it incubate 8-12 hours. The longer it's incubated, the tangier it will be. Refrigerate for 24 hours.

Remove and freeze 4 heaping tablespoons of the yogurt. This will be the starter for your next batch. Put the remaining yogurt on a porous towel, with another towel draped over the top, and suspend it above the bowl by pinning it down with another bowl, allowing the liquid whey to drain into the bottom bowl. You can save and freeze the liquid whey, as it has many other uses. The more whey you drain off, the thicker your yogurt will become. You can double the recipe if you want to make larger batches.

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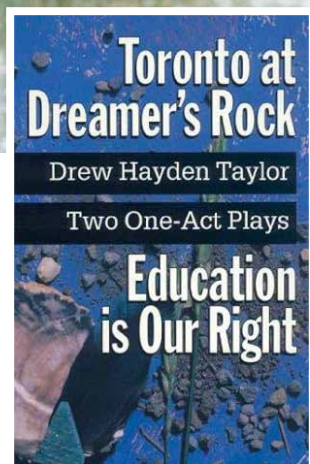
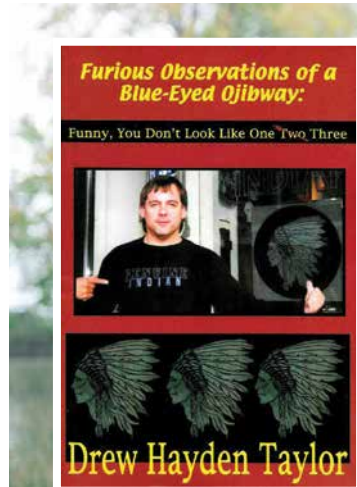
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Reading Anishinaabe Authors

By **LOIS BEARDSLEE**

One time while I was sitting in a hospital waiting room in Traverse City, I noticed that the woman sitting next to me was engrossed in a book that had something about Native Americans in the title. So, curious, I struck up a conversation. The book was about the fur trade, and it was fascinating, was all she was able to share. A non-Indian friend once sent me a book about the fur trade that she thought was a really good read, and it was so full of ethnic stereotypes that I burned it, after trying to force myself to read several pages. I pointed out to the lady in the chair next to me that I was an Anishinaabe author who wrote books about the Anishinaabe experience. But she didn't seem interested, so I dropped the subject. A lot of people prefer "historical" Indians over contemporary ones. A lot of people don't realize that we're still alive and kicking.

For many who've made northern Michigan their home, reading about the region's Indigenous populations is part of the experience. However, most books written about Native Americans are not by Native Americans. They are written by cultural outsiders, whose words and ideas are the result of "research" written by, you guessed it, cultural outsiders, many of whom had agendas that were less than admirable. A lot of "historical" reference sources were written during an era of cultural extirpation. The dominant attitudes of the era toward the Indigenous populations that were being displaced and removed have been kept alive through the works and words of anthropologists and non-Indian authors. It's hard not to write from an exploitive point of view, when one has been taught that super-ordination, cultural replacement, and apartheid are acceptable status quos. It's part of our colonial history, and it's not a sign that all non-Indian authors who write about Native Americans are evil or thoughtless. It just means that we, as



Humor is the trademark of Drew Hayden Taylor (above). Photo courtesy of the author.

contemporary readers, might consider re-thinking what we've been taught about Michigan's Indigenous populations. Reading Anishinaabe authors is a good place to start.

One of my favorite Anishinaabe authors is Drew Hayden Taylor. He's a Canadian Ojibwe whose trademark is using humor, (or as they say in Canada, humour), to start conversations about contemporary socioeconomic issues. Drew has written several books that have been produced as plays, so it makes sense that he spent several years as the artistic director of Native Earth Performing Arts in Toronto. Perhaps the most famous of his books and plays is his first one, "Toronto at Dreamer's Rock", (Fifth House, 2011). The one-act play subtly highlights the positive aspects of traditional Ojibwe religion/culture. There's a bit in the play that's become famous in the Anishinaabe community, during which Jesus and one of our culture heroes bump into one another. "Jeeezus, you scared me," the Indian blurts out. "How did you know my name?" Jesus asks. It's not

meant to be disrespectful of other religions. It's meant to be thought-provoking and humorous, to use contemporary language to break away from the flowery language used by wannabe writer, Indian agent, and land speculator Henry Rowe Schoolcraft.

If you're interested in reading some of Taylor's work, I recommend starting with "Furious Observations from a Blue-Eyed Ojibwe: Funny, You Don't Look Like One", (Theytus Books, 1998). It's a fast and entertaining read. The book is full of humorous takes on serious subjects. It's important to remember that Anishinaabe territory has been split up by state and international borders. So, although much of Taylor's subject matter addresses Canadian culture, there's a big carryover into American culture. The book contains a little bit of adult language, so I recommend that parents read it before passing it on to teens. Be prepared for tongue-in-cheek topics like "Bush Women of the Kalahari wet t-shirt contests". Here, Taylor highlights the sexless nature of representations of Native Americans (except perhaps in "bodice-rippers" and on old postcards of buckskin-clad beauties) that sucks contemporaneity away from modern Ojibwe people. He loves bucking stereotypes. He doesn't romanticize being Indian (which non-Indian

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

News from Kaleva

By **CYNTHIA ASIALA**

December was a busy time in Kaleva. There were workshops at the Kaleva Art Gallery, where participants could make wooden or sea glass ornaments. Deborah Kaskinen Crandell presented her original book, "Sisu: Not Just Another Pretty Cat", (Mission Point Press, Sept. 2023). There were special events at the Bottle House Museum on the Saturdays leading up to Christmas. Especially successful was the second annual "Taste of Finland," during which more than 70 guests enjoyed treats such as cardamom bread, nissua, cardamom cake, pannukuku, prune tarts, a Finnish "charcuterie" board and other goodies. The Bottle House is always decorated in traditional Finnish style. Santa paid a visit, presenting the children with a surprise gift.

Another very popular event took place once again on December 21, the longest night of the year. Each year, the Kaleva Historical Society asks volunteers to place over 1,000 luminaries on graves in the Kaleva cemetery. This custom originates in Finland, where families go to the cemetery on Christmas Eve to visit the graves of loved ones.

Upcoming activities. The Kaleva Heritage Days committee is gearing up and holding a soup luncheon fundraiser on March 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St. The Kaleva Heritage Days event is always the third weekend in July. The VFW Auxiliary is holding a soup luncheon on April 3, and proceeds will go toward improvements at the hall. Stay tuned!

Ongoing activities at the community center: pickleball, open sewing, ukulele class, and Feldenkrais exercise class. See the center's Facebook page for times.

Yellow Dog Café & Patina present

Sunday Supper

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5pm Dinner

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Jan. 27, 10am-3pm Oliver Art Center, Frankfort

SENSATIONAL SALSA SAMPLER

Jan. 28, 12-3pm Oliver Art Center, Frankfort

BASKET WITH DRIFTWOOD HANDLE

Feb. 17, 10am-3pm Oliver Art Center, Frankfort

SAVORY SQUASH SOUP & BEER BREAD

Feb. 18, 12-3pm Oliver Art Center, Frankfort

BASKETRY ESSENTIALS

Mar. 2, 10am-3pm Ramsdell Reg. Arts Center, Manistee



• Register for all classes EXCEPT Basketry Essentials at: oliverartcenterfrankfort.org or call 231-352-4151.

• Register for Basketry Essentials at: ramsdeltheatre.org or call 231-398-9770.

Klan

continued from Page 6

bottles and bricks attacked their Black peers at Cooley High School. They yelled racial epithets and told Black peers to “go back to the plantation where you belong, you (racial epithet) ain’t going to stay in our school.”

Three pickup trucks of white adults displaying KKK signs encouraged the white students to continue their attack. Police were called. No white students were arrested; the police beat the black 11th and 12th graders. Michigan racial discrimination was rampant.

Stuart Dunnings Jr. wanted to purchase property to build a home on Lansing’s west side. It was the 1960s, and no one would sell to the Black attorney. A white friend purchased the property and sold it to Dunnings.

The 1980s brought a fourth KKK wave of male and female members from a variety of social and economic classes. They remain active today with racial, religious and economic motives. Julie Kimmer moved from Charlotte to Jackson in the mid-1980s. She received a flyer that was an invitation to attend a Klan meeting, specifying it as being “for like-minded people.” (“It doesn’t just go away’ ...”, Rachel Greco and Krystal Nurse, Lansing State Journal, Aug. 7, 2021.)



Ku Klux Klan parade, Washington, DC, 9/13/26.

As stated in the same article, Leila Klaiss worked as a reporter in the late 1980s and early 1990s. According to Klaiss, the presence of the KKK in Eaton County wasn’t overt, but residents knew about it. When her father hired a Black man, someone left a bag of excrement outside his apartment door. In October 1991, two crosses were burned on the lawn of an apartment complex in Charlotte where two men were visiting. The Black community knew to avoid rural areas outside Lansing.

The Lansing State Journal story also reported that Robert Miles was a KKK leader and member of the Grand Dragon of Michigan Klan which had 2,000 members in 1970. Miles was one of five people convicted in

1971 for planning a bombing of school buses designated for court-ordered desegregation in Pontiac. He was later convicted of conspiracy for the tarring and feathering of Dr. R. Wiley Brownlee, a Ypsilanti high school principal who supported desegregation.

Miles, according to the story, had a 70-acre farm in Cohoctah Township near Howell. He held cross burnings and preached racial separation and white supremacy. In 1989, Miles was still trying to keep Livingston County white, lashing out against a Howell group trying to eliminate Howell’s racist image. At a Michigan Civil Rights Commission meeting, Miles announced that he was responsible for keeping the community white. (The 2019 census showed that more than 96% of Livingston County was white.) Miles died in 1992. A 2005 auction in Howell of his Klan memorabilia drew 100 people.

Where Are We Now?

On Labor Day 1924, almost 15,000 Ku Klux Klansmen marched toward the capitol in Lansing; 50,000 people lined the route, cheering the State Klanvocation. Attitudes had changed by 1994, when David Newman, Unit Commander for the Ku Klux Klan Realm of Michigan, wanted to hold public events in Charlotte and Lansing. The Eaton County Courthouse in Charlotte is not a public entity and denied his request to host a rally there.

Refusal is not a state option, so on April 23, 1994, Klan members rallied at the Michigan State Capitol. Police had to protect the 27 KKK members from hundreds of counter-protesters. The city billed the KKK \$46,000 for 200 police officers; the KKK never paid the bill.

How has such a racist group lasted so long? It’s because the WKKK brought about 5 million men and a half million women into the organization, including police officers, ministers, judges and elected officials. With members holding influential positions, they could conduct brutal attacks and murder without retribution while promoting themselves as patriotic friends of the white community.

In 2021, hundreds marched in protest in Grosse Pointe Park following the appearance of a KKK flag in the window of a black resident’s neighbor. JeDonna Matthews Dinges had been in her home for 11 years when this occurred. (“Neighbors push back against hate in Detroit suburb after KKK flag display”, Ken Coleman, Michigan Advance.com, Feb. 22, 2021.)

It took 104 years for those in the federal legislature fighting racial and religious oppression to succeed in passing a monumental bill. Rep. Leonides Dyer (R-MO) proposed the first anti-lynching bill in 1918. Between 1900 and 2022, 200 attempts were made to pass anti-lynching legislation. It finally passed both chambers and was signed into law by President Joe Biden on



Klu Klux Klan exhibit, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham, Alabama

March 29, 2022.

Michigan currently ranks fourth in the nation for white power propaganda being distributed around the state by Patriot Front, Goyim Defense League and White Lives Matter. The neo-Nazi group Folkish Resistance Movement and the Ku Klux Klan are also distributing propaganda statewide. Some of Goyim Defense League’s material falsely claims Jewish people are responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

Michigan also has the country’s highest number of white-power and hate-group displays, with 597 incidents since 2018 and a seven-fold increase between 2018 and 2022. About 90% of the activity is in the Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids metro areas. (“National Groups label Michigan as hotbed of white power leafleting”, Dan Netter, Capitol News Service, March 17, 2023.)

Where to View Records

KKK and WKKK records are difficult to locate and were likely destroyed by members. Those interested in viewing Michigan membership cards, receipts, and other information that has been found can conduct research in the Ferris State University Archives reading room. Subject headings available to research include Ionia County History, Ku Klux Klan Michigan, White Supremacy Movements Michigan and Women of the Ku Klux Klan.

Information is also available at the Clinton County Historical Society which received an anonymous donation of documents in 1986. Artifacts, including handbooks on the organization’s operation and songbooks, date back to 1916. The collection includes many pictures but no information on where they were taken.

Michigan State University houses some Klan artifacts in the Stephen O. Murray and Keelung Hong Special Collections. Other memorabilia can be seen at the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia in Big Rapids. Central Michigan University has the 1920s KKK membership ledgers from Newaygo County.

Grace Grogan is a freelance writer and photographer. She and her partner Paul roam the country in their 35-foot motorhome.

Haunted by Winter

By Louisa Loveridge Gallas
Freshwater Reporter Poet in Residence

Snow falls
and falls
in silence.
Mute village streets.
Your face covered,
hidden in wool,
a phantom in your
evening solitude.
Do you hear
the Betsie River,
or Bowen’s Creek sigh
and crack, freezing
in the deepening cold?
Far into the wild fields,
you walk away from town,
drifts shift around you
like tides. Twilight fades
as the sunset offers
its loyal pastels.
Night falls,
falls soundlessly.
Darkness embraces
the white snow,
white as bone.
No moon.
No lights from any home.
You move further
and further
into the night,
no longer hear
the moans or lament
as bitter cold
clasps the river’s ice.
Your breath
a bright ghost.
No sound
except your soul.

20

contributors

3

delivery days



2

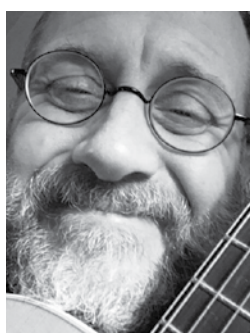
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LET'S MEET 'EM!

The Folks Behind Freshwater Reporter



GORDON BERG, WRITER

A friend told me that he was at Art's Tavern up in Glen Arbor the other day. On the table he sat down at for lunch was a copy of Freshwater Reporter, featuring the Arcadia article. Your little publication has reach beyond what you may

know. Important information for your advertisers. The big thanks go to you and Mark! Thanks for providing Voice from and for the community. F.R. is community and creates community. This is no small feat. Please consider this achievement when mapping F.R.'s future.



AMY HANSEN, DESIGNER

For more than 30 years, I've been involved in publications, from yearbooks and newsletters in school to writing for a newspaper after college to designing magazines. I have learned to leave the writing to

the experts and feel incredibly lucky to be involved in the layout and design of Freshwater Reporter. The talented editors and writers bring the local region to life and remind us how very blessed we are to live in the communities of northern Michigan.



STEWART MCFERRAN, WRITER

As a college freshman, I wanted to be a writer. In those days before word processing, my "writing" was very poor, and I took a writing class. During my first co-op job at the Harrisburg (Penn.) Independent Press, I covered

meetings of Middletown residents who were protesting the nuclear power plant at Three Mile Island. Later, I heard the news that there had been a nuclear accident there. This sparked my interest in interviewing and writing, and after writing for various others I found my way to the Freshwater Reporter.

VALERIE CHANDLER, WRITER

My third-grade teacher inspired me to start writing poetry, which progressed to loving to write. One of my life goals is to publish a book. So far, I have contributed to Dr. James McClurken's book "Our People, Our Journey".

Writing for the Freshwater Reporter is important to me because it brings attention to local events, fascinating people, forgotten pieces of history and some amazing stories. I love to hear someone say they've read our articles.



KEVIN HOWELL, WRITER

I moved to Michigan in 2019. From 30-plus years of visits to the area, I knew my way around, but wanted to know more of its history and people. I was a newspaper reporter and magazine writer in Indiana. Discovering Freshwater Reporter and its local stories

opened a door to learning about my new home. From bakeries, breweries and burger joints to histories of Idlewild, Baldwin and logging towns, writing for Freshwater Reporter has filled that knowledge.



Kevin and Phoenix

RON SCHMIDT, WRITER

Since age 6, I have written stories in my head and was overjoyed to finally print them in books for children and take them into schools to encourage reading. Until the Freshwater Reporter came along, I did not have an outlet

for my writing for 20 years. Now I'm able to have my stories published again and hope readers have enjoyed them. With so many newspapers folding every year, we need to keep this unique and special one alive.



JENNIFER DEVINE, WRITER

In 2012 my husband and I started Michigan Survival & Homesteading Guide to share with others. Outcast as doomsday preppers, I stopped writing, but we persisted in survival and homesteading. When COVID hit, we were already off the grid, not worried about empty

shelves, thankful for the knowledge we had and were learning in our own backyard. I found my love of writing again, thanks to a new appreciation for Michigan, a push from family and the brilliant folk at Freshwater Reporter.

Jennifer and favorite Rouen duck "Frosty"



JUDY JASHINSKY, ARTIST/ADVERTISER (PINES OF ARCADIA)

I heard a knock on my studio door ... When I opened it, I was pleased to see a young woman holding a bundle of papers. She introduced herself and gave me a copy of the Freshwater

Reporter. I was immediately impressed. I depend on its comprehensive calendar of Art-related events. I enjoy the articles focused on people doing things that benefit their communities. Pat visited my studio during the pandemic to see my series "Nurses & Doctors" and featured it in an article.



NIKKI SCHNEIDER, WRITER/ADVERTISER (PATINA)

In 2019 I opened my first small business. Pat appeared on my doorstep immediately, offering to do a story to help launch my business and, of course, to sell ad space. LOL. We have collaborated

over the years and share the common goal of community connection. That is the heart and soul of the Freshwater Reporter. We are blessed with an overabundance of GOODNESS in the region the paper covers. Art, music, nature, food, drink, poetry, clubs, volunteer programs. We need someone to find all the GOODNESS and share it with the rest of us.

BROOKE EDWARDS, WRITER

Since I can remember, my two passions have been writing stories and looking up. Both remained a driving force in my life, yet they stayed separate until I discovered the need for science communication.

As a volunteer for NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, I have years of experience writing about space exploration. As a science communicator, analog astronaut, and amateur astronomer, I write for the Freshwater Reporter to bring the excitement of space exploration to the people of Manistee County.



LOUISA LOVERIDGE GALLAS, WRITER

Freshwater Reporter's mission and writers capture the heart and soul of our community, with care and curiosity. A wise, friendly companion. My favorite residency as a poet has been the honor to belong among them, with a similar vision: to imaginatively witness our mysterious lives and natural world we call home. Musician Claudia Schmidt wrote: "To experience Louisa's poems is to forgo cynicism and celebrate this wild ride called the human condition." Find my collected works in Frankfort's The Bookstore or Oliver Art Center. louisalovegallas.com.



MARK VIDEAN, CO-EDITOR/CALENDAR

I'm a curious guy, constantly amazed by the abundance of interesting people, places and events in and around our region of Michigan. Working on the Freshwater Reporter gives me ongoing opportunities to learn (and share) stories about our local communities—fascinating history, unique businesses, talented people, local arts and our beautiful environment. I have gone places, had experiences, met people and made friends that I wouldn't have, were it not for the paper.



What does it take to publish Freshwater Reporter, anyway?

Compiled by the editors

Each issue of the Freshwater Reporter takes weeks of planning. We thought you might be interested in reading an example of a typical editorial timeline for an issue. As soon as one edition is delivered, planning for the next one or two begins. This timeline does not include communication with current and potential advertisers. (Some stuff needs to be kept top secret, right?)

1 Ideas that have been churning in co-editor Pat's brain are written on a white board, which we call the storyboard. This task is ongoing and the storyboard, which also lists stories in the current and at least one future issue, quickly fills — so a second storyboard is begun. Ideas may come from other stories she and co-editor Mark have read, from events submitted for the calendar, from press releases received from businesses and organizations, or from people they've met and places they've visited, including businesses, parks, attractions, etc.

2 Every 2-3 days, she checks her devices (smartphone, laptop computer) for emailed calendar events and screenshots of event information she has gathered previously and types them into the Freshwater Reporter's online calendar of events, removing events that have taken place. Future events for the next issue of the paper are emailed to Mark, who puts together our printed calendar.

3 Usually 1-2 months ahead of the deadline, Pat composes and sends an email to writers, describing the issue that was just delivered, soliciting writers for her ideas for topics, and soliciting ideas from our writers for topics that interest them. The deadlines for the next two issues are included in that email.

4 Pat begins loading individual stories from the current issue to the Freshwater Reporter website. This time-consuming task is ongoing. Each story must be reformatted for online use, and photos must be resized. A description of each photo is written for our sight-impaired readers. Poetry is retyped precisely how it appears in the newspaper, and an image of the poem is made and uploaded, so that readers' smartphones do not change the line breaks.

5 She emails the entire digital file of the current issue to our web consultant to load to the website. She also emails the digital edition to writer Stewart McFerran to share with the station manager at WNMC 90.7-FM, a college radio station in Traverse City. The station manager reads it and interviews Stewart about our stories and online calendar and directs listeners to the F.R. website. Our website and Facebook "insights" show that we have a significant readership in Traverse City.

6 As writers check in with their availability to write stories, Pat jots down the story idea and writer's name on the storyboard.

7 When the storyboard lists 7-9 stories, a number wholly dependent on the number of advertisers successfully solicited, the issue is considered full for editorial purposes.

8 Pat checks in with individual writers to ask how their stories are shaping up. Sometimes a story must be dropped if interviewees cannot be reached, or the idea doesn't "hold water" when research begins. The personal issues we all face also affect a story's viability for a particular issue. It isn't uncommon to have to "kill" a story, and sometimes the only person available to write a replacement story is Pat.

9 Stories begin arriving within a week of the story deadline and a checkmark is made on the storyboard, signifying that the story is in-house. Those arriving without photos are noted, and either Mark or Pat look in their photo archives for an appropriate photo, search for a copyright-free photo online, or ask our designer, Amy, to find one.

10 Pat begins reading stories for the first time. Anywhere from one week to one day before the deadline, she follows up with writers about any needed rewrites. Sometimes a needed change isn't obvious until actual editing begins.

11 The editing process begins. Mark begins checking his list of online sources for calendar items and gathers emails sent by Pat. He types all entries into a Word document, which is sent to Amy.

12 Pat creates a tentative layout for the paper, based on the quality of the photos and compelling content. She sends the list of stories and advertisers to Amy.

13 As new ads and ad materials come in, they are emailed to Amy. Edited stories and photos are emailed to Amy as they are completed. A second check mark next to a story on the storyboard indicates it was emailed to Amy.

14 The week that the paper is printed, Amy begins her design and layout of the paper, beginning with the calendar.

15 When Amy finishes a page of the newspaper, she sends a digital file of the page to Pat, and Pat and Mark begin their proofreading.

16 Pat and Mark jot down their changes for each page, and Pat types them into an email to send to Amy, who makes the changes and provides another digital file of the page to proof.

17 Once the final proof is approved, Amy does some digital file preparation before she emails the newspaper file to the printer on a Thursday or Friday. Pat uses the "down" time during the weekend to count words and photos for each story and to compute what she owes each writer. She writes checks and runs labels to place on envelopes sent to writers, advertisers and subscribers. She also copies entries on the calendar document Mark created and pastes them into the online calendar, reformatting lines as needed, and begins loading one or two stories to the website. Names of stories that have been loaded are crossed out on the storyboard.

18 Pressman "Ken" emails Pat on Monday, between 9:30 a.m. and noon, when the ink has dried on copies of the new issue of Freshwater Reporter. Pat drives to the print shop in Lake Leelanau, approx. 75 miles north of Manistee, to load 3,000-4,000 copies of the paper into giant Rubbermaid bins in her car. On the way home, she begins deliveries of the paper to businesses and community centers on the northern section of her route. Pat arrives home between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

19 It's the Tuesday before the paper's official publication date. Pat checks the weather and the Facebook pages of businesses (restaurants) that change their hours frequently, then plans her route for the day. Many dining establishments are closed on Tuesdays, so planning a route can be challenging. Driving begins anywhere from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., depending on the type of business and location of the first deliveries. If driving conditions are perfect, she will deliver until dark, 5-6 p.m. in winter, 7:30 p.m. the rest of the year.

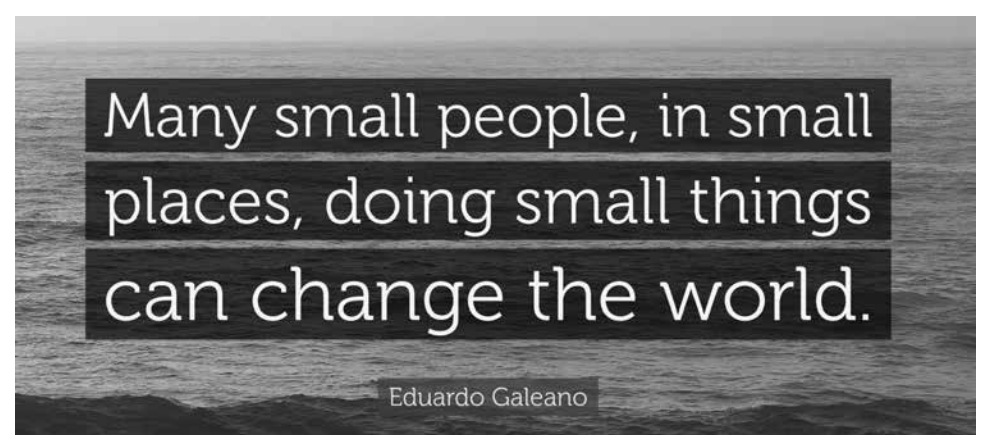
Thanks for following along! I want to thank those of you on my delivery route who always take the time to greet me with a smile, a question and sometimes even a free root beer. (You know who you are.) Pausing a few moments to hear how your day is going or your season is shaping up makes this journey worthwhile. I have to say, the most rewarding part of all of this is when an excited reader sees me walk in with a stack of papers and asks to pull one out of my hands, often with the words, "I love reading this paper!" And we love bringing it to you.

20 It's Wednesday, the official publication date of F.R. Pat checks the weather and plans the third leg of her route. This is the big push to get most of the papers delivered. Traffic, as well as the weather, always plays a role. The route south to Scottville, Custer, Baldwin and Ludington must be planned so that a major distribution point in Ludington is open (never before 4:30 p.m.) when she arrives. If she lands too early and finishes the rest of the downtown Ludington route ahead of schedule, she heads to the Book Mark or Red Rooster for coffee. (In summer, she often grabs an ice cream cone at Jones' Homemade Ice Cream in Baldwin, a practice she follows when she's running ahead of schedule. That's her story, and she's sticking to it.)

21 It's Thursday. Pat delivers to downtown Manistee if her Tuesday route didn't take her there. If Wednesday's deliveries were slowed due to traffic, weather, or Pat's energy level, she heads to Ludington to finish deliveries, (never before 4 p.m.). If Wednesday deliveries went well and most of the papers were delivered, she composes a Facebook post to announce the arrival of the new issue.

22 It's Friday. Pat counts the copies of the previous issue she found on the F.R. stands or store shelves. She saves some copies for posterity and bundles others for recycling. The bins are removed from the car. She begins uploading more individual stories to the website and sends the digital file of the newspaper to the web consultant to upload.

23 Ideas that sprang to mind during deliveries are written on the storyboard, and the process begins again for the next issue. If a story is timely and cannot wait for the next issue, Pat will either assign it to a writer, as ad dollars permit, or write it herself and post a link to the story on Facebook.



Area Events Calendar

TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN FRESHWATER REPORTER!

To be included in our March/April edition, submit your announcements by March 1. Be sure to include the address where the event takes place, for visiting readers. Email your events/press releases to: editor@freshwater-reporter.com. Email any time for our online calendar. Always check with the venue before attending as some event dates may change or be canceled due to weather, scheduling or Covid-19. Despite our best efforts, errors may occur.

ONGOING EVENTS

Thru Jan 27

Local Artist Exhibit, Ludington

Free. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

Thru Feb 16

Form & Function Art Exhibition, Frankfort

Tues-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 12-4pm. Free. An exploration of sculptural forms & functional fiber. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

Thru Feb 17

Inner & Outer Spaces: Three Artist's Works, Manistee

Wed - Sun, noon - 3pm. Free. Works by Henni Akkerman, Sally Rose, Doug Staples. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Thru Feb 2

Calvin University Lecture Series, Manistee

12:30-1:30pm. Free. Award-winning series featuring a different speaker each day, cultivating deep thought and conversations about important issues of today. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Speakers/topics: www.calvin.edu/january

Jan 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23

Lantern-lit Heritage Trail Hikes, Cadillac

6-9pm. Free. At the Carl T. Johnson Center, Mitchell State Park, 6087 M-115. Snowshoes available to borrow. Hot chocolate and a bonfire. Check out the Facebook page of Friends of Mitchell State Park.

Jan 27, Feb 3, 17

Guided Winter Snowshoe Walks, Ludington

2pm. each date + 6pm Jan 27. Free. Guided 90-minute nature/history walks through the wooded sand dunes. Snowshoes (40 pairs) provided for those who need them, (ages 8+) No reservations needed; meet at the warming shelter. Ludington State Park, 8800 M-116. Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Feb 2-24

Art You Can Feel, Ludington

Free. Solo art exhibition by Michael S. Nabicht featuring watercolors of western Michigan outdoor life. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Artist reception Feb 2, 5-8pm.

Feb 2-29

Symbols of the Soul, Ludington

Free. Solo art exhibition of Bosnian artist Merima Smajlovic. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Artist reception Feb 2, 5-8pm.

Feb 3, 17, Mar 2

Lantern-lit Trail Walks, Ludington

6-8pm. Free. 1 mile of lighted trails. Snowshoes (40 pairs) provided for those who need them, (ages 8+) No reservations needed; meet at the warming shelter. Bonfires at the warming shelter & the amphitheater. Free hot chocolate at the amphitheater bonfire. Ludington State Park, 8800 M-116. Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Feb 29, Mar 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10

Fun Home, Scottville

7:30pm Feb 29, Mar 1, 2, 8, 9. 2pm Mar 3, 10. \$15-25. Ages 15+ (language). Musical. Winner of 5 Tony awards. Center Stage Theater at West Shore Community College, 3000 N. Stiles Rd. Tickets: www.westshore.edu/performing-arts/

Mar 1-29

Hot Topics Art Exhibition, Ludington

Free. Juried international show of art dealing with contemporary issues of importance. Opening reception March 1, 5-8pm. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

DAILY EVENTS

January 24

Blood Drive, Manistee

11am-5pm. United Methodist Church, 387 1st St. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or schedule online at: www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time

Lighted Trail Hike, Manistee

At dusk. Free. Orchard Beach State Park, 2064 Lakeshore Rd. Shelter open 5:30-7:30pm. Hosted by Friends of Orchard Beach State Park.

Love: An Art Talk, Manistee

6-7pm. \$5 donation. Lynn Williams presents a lecture & slide show featuring great love affairs and the artwork they inspired. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

January 25

"Moonage Daydream", Frankfort **A FRESHWATER REPORTER SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION**

7pm. \$10. Film + \$5 token for a beer at Stormcloud Brewing. Part of Stormcloud Brewing's Dark & Stormy Film Series at the Garden Theater, 301 Main St. The series pairs the film with a small-batch beer brewed especially for the occasion. If you are a David Bowie fan, like we are, do not miss this film sanctioned by the Bowie estate! The cinematic odyssey by filmmaker Brett Morgen explores Bowie's creative and musical journey. An Official Selection at Cannes Film Festival.

January 26-28

Sled Dog Derby, Baldwin

Various times & events. Downtown Baldwin across from the Brown Trout.

January 27

11th Annual Iron Fish Distillery Fat Chance Fat Tire Bike Race, Thompsonville

90-minute race 9am. 45-minute race 10:30am. \$50/rider. Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr. Register online by noon Jan. 26: events.bytepro.net

Winter Hike, Greenpoint Dunes Nature Preserve

10am-12pm. Free. Volunteer Sally Manke will lead this hike, which offers tremendous views of Lake Michigan & Lower Herring Lake. Meet at the Greenpoint Dunes parking area. Bring winter gear, water & a snack. Snowshoes, microspikes, yak tracks, or hiking poles recommended. Registration appreciated: gtrlc.org

Brrrewfest, Ludington

1-6pm, \$40 includes 7 5oz. drink tokens, \$5 for designated driver. Legacy Plaza, 112 N James St. Benefitting the Friends of Ludington State Park, this winter craft beer, wine, and cider festival features 17 Michigan craft brewers. Live music, food. All tickets must be purchased online: eventbrite.com

Metropolitan Opera Live/Encore in HD presents Carmen (Georges Bizet), Manistee

1pm, \$15-25. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Info/tickets: ramsdeltheatre.org

January 27

Book to Big Screen, Frankfort

3pm. Free. Garden Theater, 301 Main St. Read the book "The White Tiger" by Aravind Adiga and see the film, then join the book and film discussion. Sponsored by Friends of Benzie Shores District Library and the Garden Theater.

Rock the 'Stee, Manistee

4-11pm, music begins at 5. \$15. Musicians include Tom Zatarra, Barefoot, The Hangup, and Juicebox Heroes. On the stage at Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: ramsdeltheatre.org

Robbie Burns Night, Manistee

7pm, donations. Bring a favorite poem or song to share. Hosted by Spirit of the Woods Music Association. Brown Township Hall, 8233 Coates Hwy.

January 30

Blood Drive, Ludington

12-6pm. Cornerstone Baptist Church, 121 N. Nelson Rd. To make an appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time

February 2-4

Midwest Kite Jam, Cadillac

Premier snowkiting weekend in the Midwest on frozen Lake Cadillac or Lake Mitchell, depending on conditions. Gear swap, large freeride, kite race, raffle, closing party, pizza, awards. Start at UpNorth Arts, 599 Chestnut St. Info: mwskj.com

February 6

Winter Webinar Series

6-7pm. Free. "The Future of Michigan's Old Growth" with Nick Sanchez, Network Manager at the Old Growth Forest Network. Presented by Benzie Conservation District. Info & registration: www.natureiscalling.org/events

February 10

Blessing of the Sleds, Irons

9am-12pm. Free. Blessing at 11am. Breakfast, coffee, hot chocolate, bonfire, warming shed. Skinner Park, 5074 W 10 1/2 Mile Rd.

Winter Hike, Arcadia Dunes

10am-12pm. Free. Meet at the Old Baldy Trailhead. Volunteer Sally Manke will lead hikers on a 2-mile hike thru Beech-Maple forest with a stunning view of Lake Michigan at the top of the dune. Bring winter gear, water & a snack. Snowshoes, microspikes, yak tracks, or hiking poles recommended. Terrain is steep in places. Registration appreciated: gtrlc.org

Old Fashioned Square Dance, Manistee

7pm, donations. Kids welcome. Hosted by Spirit of the Woods Music Association. Brown Township Hall, 8233 Coates Hwy.

Silent Disco, Ludington

7-11pm. \$20 ADV, \$25 @ door. 125 headphones, 3 styles of music. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Tickets: ludingtonartscenter.org or in the LACA gift shop.

February 11

Airsoft Biathlon, Thompsonville

12:30-3pm. \$25 includes cross country skis and airsoft equipment rental. Ages 8+. One mile loop trail with 2 target stations. Medals awarded for best overall, best ski time, and most targets hit for both men & women. Cross Country Center, Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr. Info: 888.968.7686 ext. 4150

February 17

Cold Chocolate in Concert, Ludington

7-9pm, \$15 ADV, \$20 @ door. Boston area guitar/drum duo. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Tickets: ludingtonartscenter.org or in the LACA gift shop.

February 18

Quilt Trunk Show Dinner Theater, Baldwin

Two limited seatings, 1pm & 6pm. \$50. Featured entrees & dessert, cash bar. \$10/ ticket will be donated to the Lake County Historical Museum. 876 Restaurant, 876 N Michigan Ave. Reservations: 231.791.5876

February 20

Winter Webinar Series

6-7pm. Free. "Michigan's Invasive Species Regulatory Pathway" with Katie Grzesiak, Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator for Michigan DNR. Presented by Benzie Conservation District. Info & registration: www.natureiscalling.org/events

February 24,25

MUSH Sweetwater Challenge Sled Dog Sprint Race #2, Baldwin

Various times & events. Stearns Siding parking area.

March 2

Kanin Wren's Taylor Swift Experience, Ludington

5pm friendship bracelet making, 6pm show. \$20 ADV, \$25 @ door. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Tickets: ludingtonartscenter.org or in the LACA gift shop.

March 8

O'Brien & Flick, Ludington

7pm. \$15 ADV, \$20 @ door. Musical duo playing violins, guitar & nyckelharpa. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Tickets: ludingtonartscenter.org or in the LACA gift shop.

March 9

Metropolitan Opera Live/Encore in HD presents La Forza Del Destino (Verdi), Manistee

1pm, \$15-25. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Info/tickets: ramsdeltheatre.org

Song & Story Night, Manistee

7pm, donations. Local minstrels & storytellers will spin tales. Hosted by Spirit of the Woods Music Association. Brown Township Hall, 8233 Coates Hwy.

Cabin Fever Reliever Party & Chili Cook-off, Irons

8pm-12am. Live music & prizes. Inside Skinner Park Hall, 5074 W. 10 1/2 Mile Rd.

March 16

Run Ludington Irish Jog 5k, 10k, Ludington

9am-12pm. Legacy Plaza, 150 N James St.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Ludington

Various events, times, locations TBA. Usually includes a pub crawl and parade. For updated info: <https://visituludington.com/st-patricks-day>

DONATE NOW!



HAM the Chimp spaceflight marks anniversary

By PAT STINSON. Photos by GORDON BERG.

How do I know that it will be 63 years on Jan. 31 since a chimpanzee named HAM flew into space? Writer Gordon Berg, who was exploring the southwest U.S. earlier this month, sent some text messages and photos to me that included the news. He assured me that he did not use Atlas Obscura to find the New Mexico Museum of Space History and International Space Hall of Fame located in Alamogordo, a town whose name suspiciously includes our writer's nickname, "Gordo."

"Nope. Just stumbling," he texted back to me, using a smiley face emoji.

Rather than paraphrase a sign that tells the interesting and amazing story of HAM the Chimp, I'll include most of what it says for you here.

Our state has a connection to this chapter of spaceflight history. The Dearborn, Michigan Department of Libraries' audio-visual division produced a 9-minute film in 1961 called "Trailblazer in Space" showing footage from HAM's spaceflight as well as the special chimp suit in use.

HAM, the First Chimpanzee in Space

These artifacts were used to train the "space chimps" who were part of NASA's Mercury Program. The chimpanzees learned to operate a single control panel for use during spaceflight. (See exhibit to the right.) HAM, whose acronym-generated name stood for "Holloman Aerospace Medical," became the first chimp to enter space. He learned to pull a lever with his right hand when a white light flashed and another with his left when a blue light flashed, and to do so within 2.5 seconds. For correct (and timely) answers, a machine rewarded him with a banana pellet; incorrect or tardy responses and even not paying attention resulted in a mild electric buzz to the sole of the left foot. On January 31, 1961, HAM entered space in a Mercury capsule on top of the MR-2 Mercury-Redstone rocket. He traveled 5,857 miles per hour to an altitude of 127 miles. He experienced almost 7 minutes of weightlessness and then endured almost 15 "G" forces during re-entry. He performed all his required tasks during the 16-minute mission. His only visible injury was a bruised nose.

With this successful test of the Mercury capsule and no signs of serious injury to HAM by his exposure to weightlessness, the sub-orbital flight of Alan Shephard and Gus Grissom soon followed. After his mission, HAM lived in the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., until 1979, when he was moved to the North Carolina Zoo, in Asheboro. He died on January 19, 1983.

Lightspeed, HAM!



Chimpanzee Restraint Suit. Donated by the Primate Research Institute, New Mexico State University.

Mercury Primate Capsule. Courtesy of the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Quilts

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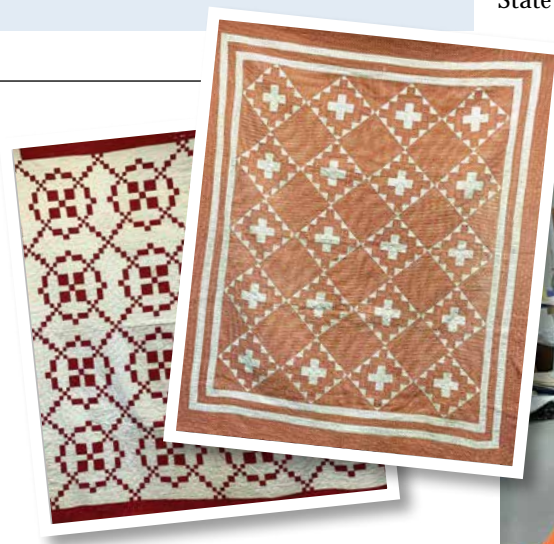
trunk, talking about the quilt pattern and quiltmakers, and telling stories and draping them (quilts) over a rack," Engelman explained. "It's really for people who love quilts for themselves, quilt-making or quilts for art."

She said quilting groups from White Cloud and Scottville have already made reservations.

Engelman, who curates a collection of quilts at the museum, said that family stories about quilts can be incorrect and "might be more folk history than fact." She added that the fabric, thread and dye colors of each quilt can suggest clues to its age.

"I come to it from a historic standpoint, and I want to preserve these quilts," she said, adding, "I am not a member of a quilt group, but I have a number of ancestors that were quilters" and she is proud of that heritage and the 4-5 quilts in her personal collection.

Jamie Russell took over the Fabric Peddler in August 2021 when her Aunt Lee Ann Russell, who owned and operated it for 15 years, died suddenly. Russell said she served as a dental hygienist in the Navy (and still practices) and moved from Massachusetts to keep the shop running.



"I'd never sewn before, never quilted before," she said. "I could barely thread a needle two years ago and learned a lot on YouTube and just kind of went full in."

Russell said she does all the quilting in her shop, offering longarm quilting services for customers from Texas to Michigan and "all over." She described the longarm process and product as three layers (batting between two pieces of fabric) sandwiched together and stitched, with a design on it, using a machine "like a CNC machine."

She said she has more than 3,500 customers in her data base, so the quilt trunk show "seems as though it could be popular."

"My responsibility (during the show) goes from 1980 and newer ... talking about how



Left: ca.1900 Burgoyne Surrounded or Odd Patchwork quilt pattern and 1870 Chimney Sweep quilt pattern. Photos courtesy of Lake County Historical Museum. Right: Jamie Russell at her longarm machine. Photo by Jill Engelman.

the industry has changed from hand stitch to machine," Russell said. "It's more industrial ... with table runners and hangings ... and I'll just (be) trying to expand the extent of what quilting and sewing actually meant."

The menu for the event, according to a post on the 876 Facebook page, includes chicken pane with a green salad and mashed potatoes, spinach lasagna served with a green salad, and salmon with a green salad and "forbidden rice." Desserts include Tiramisu,

French silk pie and Chocolate pot de crème. "Save the date for the coziest upcoming dinner and show you ever did see," read a headline on the restaurant's post.

To make a reservation, call 876 between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, at 231-791-5876. The restaurant is located at 876 Michigan Ave. The Fabric Peddler can be found at 815 Michigan Ave., and the Lake County Historical Museum is at 915 N. Michigan Ave.

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

P.O. Box 188, Manistee, MI 49660 231-835-0867 editor@freshwater-reporter.com

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Authors

continued from Page 7

authors often do when they borrow from us to write about us). Through his humor, Taylor allows Anishinaabe people to be human, to have flaws, to be contemporary.

If you enjoy Taylor's first book, I think you might consider moving on to some of his more recent work. "Cottagers and Indians", (Talon Books, 2019), has also been produced as a wildly successful play. It highlights clashes between cottage country non-Indians and Natives who are trying to reestablish cultural autonomy, being Indian while being contemporary. As an Anishinaabe author,

I find Taylor's work a refreshing change from children's books harvested from the writings of Schoolcraft, whose history of profitable land speculation in Michigan is well-documented, but rarely spoken of.

We're well into the third decade of the 21st century, so I think it's a good time to rethink what we've been taught about Michigan's Indigenous populations and to give Anishinaabe authors a chance.

Lois Beardslee is an Anishinaabe (Ojibwe a.k.a. Chippewa Indian) award-winning illustrator and author of both fiction and nonfiction. She is the author of several books, including "Not Far Away, The Real Life Adventures of Ima Pipiig".