

‘Days for Girls’ Helps Women Thrive Worldwide

Every girl. Everywhere. Period.

By Greta Bolger

Current Contributor

“When girls and women do better, everyone does better,” says Katherine Ross of Beulah. “Whatever we can do to raise up girls and women directly contributes to the welfare of families and communities.”

These are the values that have motivated Ross—along with tens of thousands of other volunteers all over the world, and about 15 to 20 at Grow Benzie—to organize and work for Days for Girls (DfG), an international organization that currently provides sustainable feminine-hygiene kits and education to more than 300,000 girls in more than 100 countries. The organization’s long-term vision is to increase their impact by providing every girl and woman in the world with access to



Volunteers cut, pin, sew, iron, and assemble women’s hygiene kits from pretty fabrics at Grow Benzie’s sewing studio in Benzonia. Photo by Greta Bolger

quality, sustainable hygiene kits and health education by 2022.

Ross, a Benzie County native, first learned about Days for Girls from an article in the *Detroit Free Press* featuring the work being done by a DfG team in Livonia. In late August, Katherine Ross and her husband, Mike Ross—both retired educators—visited the Livonia group and worked with them as they cut, pinned, sewed, ironed, and assembled the DfG kits.

“When we came home, I was confident that we could launch a similar effort in Benzie County,” Katherine Ross says. By October, the group was up and running, with work sessions each Thursday afternoon at Grow Benzie.

Mike became his wife’s co-leader—and not in name only. Mike attends all the DfG

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From Wounded Knee to Standing Rock

A Benzie Thanksgiving among the Dakota Sioux to protest an oil pipeline

Jacob Wheeler

Current Editor

*“They made us many promises, more than I can remember, but they never kept but one; they promised to take our land, and they took it.” —Dee Brown, **Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West***

Back in December 2014, Energy Transfer Partners LP first applied to build the 1,172-mile Dakota Access Pipeline, which would carry as much as 550,000 barrels of oil per day from western North Dakota to a terminal in Illinois. In the sixteen months that followed, the company and its subsidiaries went about checking off a list of state and federal regulators, trying to get the project going.

In July 2016, preparatory construction work began—but the pipeline would face strong opposition.

In April 2016, a group of 200 Native Americans first rode on horseback to protest the pipeline’s location. The pipeline would allegedly compromise the drinking water and land that is considered sacred by the Standing Rock Sioux.

In the months since, the Standing Rock Sioux—and



The Standing Rock protest encampment, with roses on a sign in the foreground. Photo by Cathye Williams.

“water protectors” from many other tribes nationwide—occupied land along the Missouri River in an effort to stop completion of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Solidarity activists poured in from all over the continent and built yurts, tepees, and bunkhouses; they vowed to stay through North Dakota’s brutal winter. The demonstration escalated further in the first weekend of December, when the protesters were joined by thousands of U.S. military veterans, led by Wesley Clark, Jr. (son of the former supreme allied commander of NATO and one-time presidential candidate).

Then, on December 4—just one day before the threat of eviction—the months-long struggle paid off. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that it would not allow the

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On Tap Along the Sleeping Bear Ale Trail

A tour of brewpubs in Leelanau County

Jacob Wheeler

Current Editor

This has been a banner year for the craft beer scene, particularly here in Northern Michigan. In August, two of six breweries on the recently minted “Sleeping Bear Ale Trail” made the top five of *MLive’s* “Best New Michigan Brewery” search—Frankfort’s Stormcloud Brewing Company won the gold medal, and Hop Lot Brewing Co. in Suttons Bay came in fourth.

The Ale Trail celebrates half a dozen (relatively) new breweries along the M-22 and US-31 corridors in Leelanau and Benzie counties. Patrons could foreseeably visit all six over the course of a weekend. The Ale Trail complements the region’s already well-established wine-tourism pilgrimages and traditional drinking holes.

“We are kind of the outliers of the Traverse City region,” Matt Therrien, owner of Lake Ann Brewing Co., told *MLive*. The six breweries—which include Big Cat Brewing in Cedar, Green Bird Organic Cellars in Northport, Hop Lot, Lake Ann Brewing, Stormcloud, and St. Ambrose Cellars in Beulah—wanted to set themselves



Nicki and Aaron Ackley of Big Cat Brewing Co. in Cedar serve up a quintet of pints. Photo by Jacob Wheeler.

apart from the more urban Traverse City Ale Trail.

“The name was kind of a no-brainer,” Therrien added. “With the popularity of Sleeping Bear Dunes, to latch onto that made sense.”

The brewpub owners pooled their money to produce a brochure rack card that describes the beverages at each establishment, along with a map that shows customers how to get from one drinking hole to the next. Plans for a website are in the works.

“It has given us a great deal more of a reach to attract people we wouldn’t normally see,” says Big Cat Brewery owner and chef Aaron Ackley. “It helps, too, because it gives people an activity; a trail to follow, where they can hit five breweries in half a day.”

Please see Ale on page 7

Gretchen Eichberger: Frankfort’s History Comes Alive

Questions and Answers with community faces

Frankfort citizens and tourists will soon be able to explore this city’s history with *Stories of Town and Harbor*, a 1.5-mile-long walking path that leads visitors to nine historically significant sites.

The project was born in the summer of 2014, when a local group began collecting stories from legendary personalities in the Frankfort area. Over the past two years, the stories have been culled, compiled, and edited, and a historic “audio-tour” walking path is nearly complete. Each site along the path tells the city’s story through written word, photographs, and audio recordings, which are accessible by using your phone or wireless device. (The online portions are live now, and the hope is to have interpretive signs in place by next spring.)

Stories of Town and Harbor—which was created by Gretchen Eichberger, in collaboration with editor and writer John Laubach, videographer and writer Liv Buzzell (whom we featured in *The Betsie Current*’s Q&A section back in 2015), and others—offers a strong case for preserving and narrating Frankfort’s history.

The project was inspired by the belief that all generations of people are naturally inquisitive about the nature and origins of the immediate surroundings that shape their daily lives. Frankfort’s own story parallels large changes in our nation’s history, specifically in the areas of transportation, agriculture, and resort culture.

Continuing with our interview series on impactful Benzie County characters, *The Betsie Current* caught up with Eichberger while she was making Christmas wreaths with her daughter, Gwen.

THE BETSIE CURRENT: What was the impetus or inspiration for this project? How did it get off the ground?

GRETCHEN EICHBERGER: We started in the summer of 2014 by collecting stories from legendary personalities in the Frankfort area. Primarily it was area youth who were helping with story collection, because they were really interested in the history of Frankfort. Prior to the formation of this team of field historians, I was collecting oral histories as a hobby. We interviewed Frankfort-area citizens who were witness to or had strong knowledge of the city’s history and culture. These people and their stories, along with artifacts and historical references, were cornerstones in this project. From these stories, a historic walking path was developed to tell the story of Frankfort. Frankfort Parks and Recreation, Frankfort Willoughby Rotary Foundation, and some private citizens funded the initial research.

CURRENT: Tell us about your own interest in history. How does a connection to one’s history enrich a community?

EICHBERGER: My own interest in history is credited to my grandparents; they told me their stories. I have connected their stories to the textbooks and articles that I have read; to the museums and places I have visited. All people and peoples are living histories—understanding history is integral to a good understanding of the condition of being human. The stories that we have collected [for this project] have been assembled to interpret the history of Frankfort. This kind of interpretation engages people and builds connections between personal interests and a place, event, resource, or landscape. The result is a deeper sense of history and appreciation for the place and/or resource. This heightened appreciation usually leads

to resource protection and preservation.

CURRENT: As an eclectic artist, musician, dancer, and teacher, you have played many roles in the Benzie arts scene. What has this project meant for you, creatively?

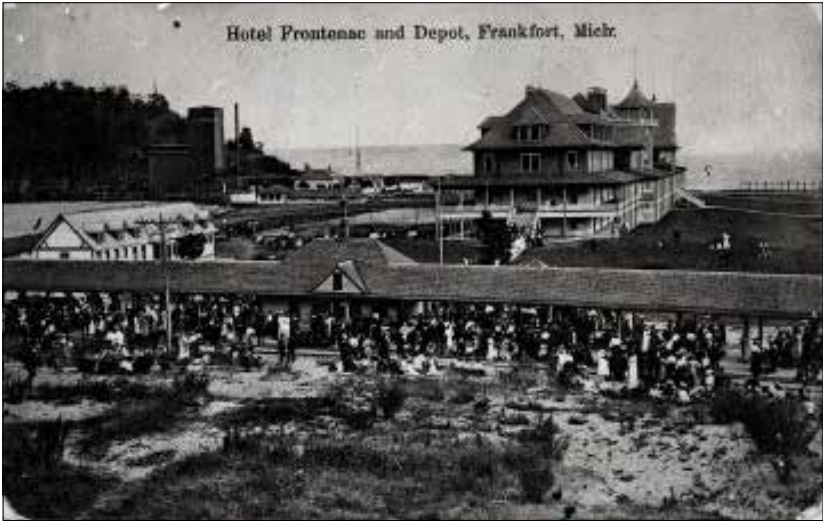
EICHBERGER: I like to get people together and create art and culture. I like collaboration. We learn the most about ourselves through art, and we learn about society through history. These days, unfortunately, people don’t go to historical museums anymore. But they should. When you’re a tourist, you should go and learn about a place’s history. This project brings archives out from filing cabinets and into the streets. The website is a montage of great historic photographs, combined with good writing that will pique people’s interest.

CURRENT: Who are some of the legendary personalities in Frankfort’s history? Any parallels with contemporary characters?

EICHBERGER: Every community has its legends. Frankfort has some living legends. I think one of the living legends is Helen Erginkara, a student at Frankfort High School. She was integral in developing the playground near Mineral Springs Park. She thought that the children needed a place to play. The funds began with [Helen] donating her babysitting money, and then people got inspired and contributed enough to make the dream a reality. Some of the people that we talked with [for this project] are now legends. Our group was fortunate to have spoken with some people who have just recently passed—for instance, Robert Laubach, a decorated WWII veteran, recalled the Park Hotel and The Seven Spot, which is now the place where Stormcloud Brewing Company resides. Laubach also recalled E.R. “Duke” Luedtke, who was one of the “real leaders on a quiet basis” in the Frankfort community. Then there was Berdyll “Bert” Hanrath, of the old Hanrath fisheries, telling us about the time that he begged his grandfather to let him off at the pier, “because it was so damn rough” during one of their fishing trips. Clinton Smeltzer was an excellent storyteller and one of the reasons that this region is the Cherry Capital. He had stories of migrant labor and of Rose, an African-American woman from the south, who supervised a migrant labor camp in the early ’40s. While the camp was under her supervision, “there was never one crime or escalated dispute. People respected her, and she meant business.”

CURRENT: What has been the most surprising thing that you have discovered during your research?

EICHBERGER: There were many surprises! For instance, the 1956 Supreme Court case between the City of Frankfort and the Village of Elberta. From the document: “We are asked, in this case, to reverse a decree determining that an uninhabited peninsula *175 separating Lake Michigan from Lake Betsie



Historical photos of Frankfort. Photo courtesy of *Stories of Town And Harbor*.

in Benzie county, belonging entirely to the Ann Arbor Railroad company, lies within the corporate limits of Elberta village (formerly a part of Gilmore township) and is not a part of the city of Frankfort. The peninsula extends in a northwestward direction between the 2 lakes and is a part of fractional section 28. Its boundary on land is the east line of section 28, which east line is the west line of adjacent section 27. The principal question is whether a plat made in 1868, of the then town of Frankfort (later village and now city of Frankfort), then and there operated to include the peninsula within corporate confines of the town. If it did, then the defendant city of Frankfort is entitled to reversal of such decree. If not, then lawful action taken later, the result of which brought the peninsula within corporate limits of Gilmore township, is controlling.” The discovery was surprising because it’s not discussed much these days—there were lifelong residents of Frankfort who didn’t know about this decision!

CURRENT: The beginning of the promotional short film for *Stories of Town and Harbor* features a quote by Bruce Catton. Can you explain why you used it?

EICHBERGER: Bruce Catton is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, and he was raised in Benzie County. His memoir *Waiting for the Morning Train* is a must read for all Americans. Catton was actually a Benzonia boy, an alum of the Benzonia Academy [now Mills Community House], which is not in Frankfort institution. However, his quote about being isolated from the rest of the world and how that was a good thing just seemed to fit, so we used it.

CURRENT: Did you find yourself drawn to

any particular historic spots or characters?

EICHBERGER: The entire City of Frankfort is living history. As you walk along the harbor, you can’t help but wonder, *What happened here?* There are so many lingering signs, from the historic commercial buildings along Main Street to the stately homes on Michigan, Forest, and Leelanau avenues to the mural in the Post Office.

CURRENT: How will the historical interpretive signage enhance the experience for locals and tourists, alike?

EICHBERGER: The signage will include photographs from private and public archives, as well as a written summary of the various activities that took place at each marked location. Signage will describe past eras and industries, such as the Ann Arbor Railroad and the commercial-fishing and lumber industries. The website will include audio links of interviews and the voices that witnessed Frankfort’s changes during the 20th century.

CURRENT: Frankfort seems to be an interesting mix of blue-collar, working-class roots and the current summertime visitors. What has your study of Frankfort history revealed about these two groups, then and now?

EICHBERGER: The families who were the Ann Arbor Car Ferry and Railroad are an institution. There was also the legacy of the commercial-fishing and lumbering industries. The muscle, endurance, and character that operated those engines in and out of the Betsie Bay harbor are still the backbone of this community. There is a small manufacturing element that remains, along with, of course, Graceland Fruit. I think the multitude of private institutions in our area—particularly the summer institutions—are also remarkable. The Congregational Summer Assembly [CSA], Chimney Corners, Crystal Downs, and Watervale are reflections of strong families—these institutions thrive on the strength of their families. Many of these institutions have surpassed the centennial marker, while others are approaching that milestone. Is it a coincidence that there is a concentration of these institutions near Frankfort?

CURRENT: Anything else to add?

EICHBERGER: *Stories of Town and Harbor* created a template and reference for future interpretation and education in a comprehensive plan for Frankfort. While the immediate goal will include installation of interpretive signage, additional goals and recommendations include the development of an archival plan, as well as dedicated time to effectively manage and grow a volunteer program to support interpretive services and preserve historic sites, namely the North Pier Lighthouse, which is Frankfort’s most iconic cultural asset. The best way to learn about Frankfort is to take a walk through the city itself!

This project is supported through a crowdsourcing campaign, going on now through March. The online campaign seeks to raise \$16,000 from citizens, with matching funds provided by Networks Northwest, a local nonprofit. To donate, visit FrankfortHistory.org/support/.

Full disclosure, Gretchen Eichberger is sister-in-law to Jacob Wheeler, co-editor of The Betsie Current.

Sewing

Continued from page 1

work sessions and is an expert at cutting the various sizes of fabric that go into making the kits.

Each Days for Girls kit is made up of eight washable, soft, flannel liners; two moisture-barrier shields; two pairs of underpants (a first for many girls); a washcloth; a small bar of soap; and two gallon-size Ziploc® freezer bags to transport soiled items, as well as to wash items in a small amount of soap and water.

Katherine Ross calls these bags “the world’s smallest washing machines.” After they are laundered, the dark-colored, printed shields and liners can be hung in the sun to dry and be sanitized without embarrassment. The completed kits are packaged in drawstring bags, made of pretty cotton, so they can be carried to school or work as an attractive accessory that maintains the privacy of the girls.

180 Days

The slogan of Days for Girls International is: “Every girl. Everywhere. Period.” The driving forces behind the nonprofit’s vision go way beyond personal hygiene and convenience, though.

In countries where adequate feminine hygiene options are not available—especially to impoverished families—girls and women are often restricted to their homes during their menstrual cycles. This forces them to miss school and work, causing them to fall behind educationally and economically. Moreover, the girls can be further disadvantaged by taboos and cultural beliefs about basic female biology, isolating them and causing them to feel tainted or “less than.” This, combined with the prevalence of early marriage and early motherhood, puts girls in situations that compromise their long-term health and severely limit their options.

The high-quality, washable, and sustainable hygiene kits provided by Days for Girls can help these girls and women to maintain their dignity, productivity, and self-value, allowing them to reach their full potential.

The kits are designed to last three years, during which a girl can regain up to 180 days—a full six months—of active life. All

components of the kits are made according to strict standards and are carefully quality-controlled to ensure that they will work well and hold up for their intended life span.

The kits are made by concerned, caring people—like those at Grow Benzie or down in Livonia—and are then sent to DfG headquarters in Washington state. They are then delivered to women in the developing world via international NGOs or other organizations that request the kits and pay the shipping from DfG headquarters.

No kits are distributed without the presence of a qualified teacher, who ex-

plains how to care for the kits over their three-year life cycle, along with information about personal hygiene, ovulation, sexual safety, and related topics that help give girls control of their lives and the ability to be equal participants in their communities.

dition to the current Thursday afternoon session; during this second session, volunteers would focus on perfecting a specific step in the process of creating the kits.

For those who would like to support the project, but are not able to volunteer, Ross welcomes the donation of materials that meet the requirements of Days for Girls International:

- New 100% cotton flannel or 100% woven cotton in dark, pretty patterns that help to conceal stains.
- Patterns must not include animals, words, or anything with eyes, as these are taboo in some cultures. The best choices are florals and botanicals, as well as abstract patterns.
- One-gallon Ziploc® freezer bags.
- Small bars of soap (from hotel stays).
- One-inch-wide grosgrain ribbon, any color.
- Polyurethane laminate (PUL) for waterproof shield layers (contact Ross for details).
- Cash or check donations to allow the team to purchase their own supplies (which can often be acquired more economically in bulk).

Benzie County Days for Girls is a part of Days for Girls International, which is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible, and a receipt will be provided. All in-kind donations must be valued by the donor for tax purposes. For more information, contact Kathy Ross at BenzieCountyMI@DaysForGirls.org or visit DaysForGirls.org.



Each ‘Days for Girls’ kit is made up of eight washable flannel liners; two moisture-barrier shields, two pairs of underpants; a washcloth; a small bar of soap; and two gallon-size freezer bags. Photo by Greta Bolger.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CONSTANTLY FLOWING

Mondays

Pilates with Anna at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. Email annamallien@gmail.com if interested. 9-10am.

Circle Time for infants and toddlers (+ their parents/caregivers) will have fun rhyming and moving with Miss Char, as well as a focus on repetition. Each week, children build their repertoire of rhymes, both old and new. There is an informal playgroup following Circle Time. Benzie Shores District Library in Frankfort. 10-11am.

Yoga class for seniors led by Michelle Leines. The Gathering Place Senior Center at 10579 Main Street in the Honor Plaza. Free! 231-525-0600. 10-11am.

Cards at The Gathering Place. We have a dedicated group of card sharks who play Pinochle weekly during lunch, but we aren't limited to Pinochle; join us for euchre, cribbage, and rummy, too! 12-1pm.

Zumba at The Gathering Place. Your first class is free, and then it's only \$3! All ability levels are welcome. 2:30pm.

Yoga Fitness Fusion: This all-in-one class combines vinyasa, static hatha postures, and traditional body-weight exercises to provide a full-body workout that is designed to strengthen and lengthen muscles and build a strong core. 5:30pm.*

Warm Gentle Yoga: Practicing in a warm studio is not only a great way to temporarily escape from the cold weather; it also provides an ideal environment to improve flexibility. By allowing the muscles to warm more quickly, this practice allows for deeper release than gentle classes that are held in a non-heated studio. 7pm.*

Tuesdays

Rise & Shine Yoga: A gentle, yet energetic early-morning practice that combines intentional breathing with intentional movement. You will leave feeling grounded, receptive, and fully prepared to meet the challenges of the day ahead. 7:30am.*

Sunrise Rotary Club's weekly meetings are over breakfast at the Cold Creek Inn of Beulah. Come join us! 7:30-9am.

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art

Center. 231-383-1358. 9-10am.

Music by the Melody Makers at The Gathering Place. 10:30am-12pm.

Knitting Group at Benzonía Public Library. A "knit-along" project for those who want to work on the same project, or bring your own project, if you prefer. Call Michele at 231-383-5716 with any questions. 1-3pm.

Chair Yoga class for \$5 at The Gathering Place. 3:30-4:30pm.

MakerSpace Club: Be part of a community and get creative by playing Minecraft, building with Legos, coloring, making something unique using our random craft bin, teaching yourself to code, and the like. Benzonía Public Library. 5-7pm.

Zumba at The Gathering Place. 6pm.

Yoga with Kari at Pleasant Valley Community Center in Arcadia. 231-383-1883. 5:30-7pm.

Wednesdays

Zumba at The Gathering Place. 8:30am.

Stay Fit with Doris at The Gathering Place. 10-11am.

Open art studio at the Oliver Art Center. Participants are strongly encouraged to become members and to contribute a donation of \$2 per visit. 11am-5pm.

Bingo at The Gathering Place. Cost is \$1.00 per card or bring a prize. 12:30-1:30pm.

Hot Yoga with Megan, a Bikram-trained instructor. Taught in the traditional Bikram style, performing the same sequence of 26 postures (each two times) over the course of 90 minutes. The studio will be heated to around 90 degrees 5:30-7pm.*

Yoga with Kari at the Oliver Art Center. 231-383-1883. 5:30-7pm.

Trivia Night at Stormcloud Brewing Company in Frankfort. Compete for weekly prizes and overall grand prizes (for the eight-week tournament). Teams (of up to four) can join at any time and can attend as many games as they choose. 7:30 pm.

Thursdays

Rise & Shine Yoga. 7:30am.*

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. 231-383-1358. 9-10am.

Bible Study at The Gathering Place. 10-11am.

Bunco at The Gathering Place. 1-2pm.

Ask Carol computer-related questions. Read to Rosie, the cute little dog! Darcy Library of Beulah. 1-5pm.

Storytime for preschoolers: Miss Amanda will lead us through an informal time to

socialize, make new friends, and hear great stories, plus a craft or whimsical coloring sheets. Benzonía Public Library. 3-4pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend Open Clay Studio at the Oliver Art Center, including families! Per 4-visit block (12 hours total, used how you like), \$60 covers one adult or one adult/child pair. Includes 25 pounds of clay, glaze, and firings. It can be as fun or focused as a student prefer. For all skill levels. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 3:30-6:30pm.

Yoga with Kari at the Ware Farm of Bear Lake. 231-383-1883. 4-5:30pm.

Yoga Fitness Fusion. 5:30pm.*

Pajama Storytime is a warm and open space for young children and their parents to enjoy the magic of storytelling just before bedtime. Darcy Library. 6-6:45pm.

Open Mic/Thirsty Thursdays: Get 35% off your growlers at St. Ambrose Cellars at 841 S. Pioneer Road, Beulah. 6-8pm.

Warm Gentle Yoga. 7pm.*

Open Mic with Bill Frary at The Cabbage Shed in Elberta. 8pm.

Fridays

Bunco at The Gathering Place. 9:30-10:30am.

Wii Bowling at The Gathering Place. 1-2pm.

Saturdays

Body sculpting on the ball with Anna or Deanne at Oliver Art Center. Email annamallien@gmail.com. 10-11am.

Hot Yoga with Megan. 10-11:30am.*

Dog play groups at Benzonía Memorial Dog Park are lots of fun and open to the public! 10am for small dogs; 11am for big dogs.

Sundays

Church services all around Benzie County.

Hot Yoga with Megan. 10-11:30am.*

Free Teen Yoga: Available to students in grades 6-12.*

Meditation Yoga: After a brief instruction/discussion time, we will sit in silent meditation for 30 minutes. If you are curious about the many benefits of developing a regular meditation practice, this is your opportunity. 6:15pm.*

Integrative Yoga: A constantly evolving practice, designed to expose students to a variety of yoga traditions and styles. While you never know what "type" of class you're walking into, rest assured that it is always appropriate for all levels of practitioners and first-timers. A lovely way to prepare for the week ahead, by setting clear intentions and aligning the body and mind. 7pm.*

*All asterisked classes take place in Frankfort. Must pre-register with Jessica Ryan at 231-620-3529 or jessayogini@gmail.com. No drop-ins.

ON DECK

Thursday, December 8

Grinchmas: Come eat “Who Pudding” and “Who Hash” while watching “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” Make a fun, Grinchy craft. For preschoolers and kindergartners, but all are welcome! Darcy Library. 6-7pm.

Christmas Carols & Beer: Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to sing “Joy to the World” and lift a glass of good cheer. This is an outreach event, sponsored by Advent Lutheran Church and hosted by Lake Ann Brewing Co. 6-9pm.

Doc Probes at Cold Creek Inn: Doc sings and plays guitar on his own singer-songwriter compositions, plus a wide range of musical genres including folk, traditional, gospel, old time, Irish & Celtic, blues, mellow rock, easy listening, jazz standards, country & Western, Russian love songs, and Latin music in both Spanish and Portuguese. No cover. 6-9pm.

Women’s Christmas Tea: An annual tradition for community ladies, featuring music and a play, followed by refreshments. This year is a ’60s theme. “Tinsel.” No charge. No need to RSVP; just come and enjoy the evening! Onekama Church of Brethren at 8266 Mill Street. 7:30-9pm.

Thurs-Saturday, December 8-10

Interlochen’s Department of Dance re-imagines “The Sleeping Beauty,” the classic storybook ballet, accompanied by the Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra. Tickets are \$28; \$25 for seniors; \$10 for youth. Corson Auditorium. 7:30-10pm. (Also a matinee from 2-5pm on Saturday, December 10.)

Friday, December 9

Barefoot at St. Ambrose Cellars: Mellow moods and classic tunes with rich, soulful vibes. Lead vocalist Jenni Rae glides listeners through a myriad of poignant selections with; her smooth tone is highlighted by the unmistakable and tasteful expressions of Phil Coryell, one of Northern Michigan’s well-known harmonica players. The foundation of each piece is pounded out of raw wood and steel by Bee Jay Refitt on bass. The “toe jam” that binds the rhythm section together is Nathan Lane on acoustic guitar. Time to take off your shoes and do a little Barefootin’! 6-9pm.

Winter Songs & Carols: Manitou Winds is excited to be a part of the 2016 Manitou Music Festival with this special encore performance of our Winter Songs & Carols concert! The concert will feature all five members of the ensemble, nine different instruments, and two guest vocalists, creating a unique tapestry of musical colors and textures. The concert will also feature a reading by our 2016 Collaborating Artist, Ellie Harold of Frankfort, who has loaned us her painting “Winter Sunset” to promote this performance. Admission is free. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit The Leelanau School, where the concert is taking place. 7:30-8:45pm.

Music of “The Nutcracker”: Alumni from The WMU Symphony Orchestra—named the “best classical university symphony orchestra” in *Downbeat* magazine’s 2005 student music awards competition—will perform. All ages are welcome! Manistee High School Auditorium. 7:30-9pm.

Annual Christmas Concert: A gift from the Benzie County Community Chorus to you! Join us, as we immerse ourselves in the beauty of the season. A freewill offering will be taken. St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 8190 Lincoln Road, Beulah. 7:30-9pm.

Friday-Saturday, December 9-10

Annual Christmas Magic cookie and book sale—sponsored by the Friends of Darcy Library—at the Betsie River Trailhead in downtown Beulah. You can hand-select your

cookies for \$7 per pound, and the books are gift quality. Bakers and workers are needed; call 231-882-4037. This event helps to support Library events and the book fund. 10am-2pm.

Saturday, December 10

Holiday Story Time: A warm and open space for young children and their parents to enjoy the magic of storytelling at the Darcy Library. And be sure to look for us in the parade that evening! 10-11am.

Christmas Magic is always the second Saturday in December in downtown Beulah. Fun events going on all day include a parade, cookies, Santa, kids’ activities, and a storefront-decorating contest. Stores stay open late for holiday shopping. (Parade begins at 5:15pm.)

Lake Ann Holiday Market and LulaMall: Finish your holiday shopping or pamper yourself this season with unique gift options. Shop and support local lady entrepreneurs; merchants include Lularoe, Norwex, Jamberry Nails, It Works, Thirty-One, Matilda Jane, JuJus Nature, Tastefully Simple, Pampered Chef, Origami Owl, Usborne Books, Pallet Party, Warped Weaver’s Studio, Tricia Morrow Jewelry, and designs by Jess Jobson. The Holiday Vendor Market runs from 10am-2pm, then the LuLaMall will be from 5-8pm. Shop local this holiday season! Almira Township Hall at 19639 Maple Street in Lake Ann.

Benzonia Public Library’s Holiday Party: Hosted on the upper level of the Mills Community House, where we will have plenty of room for all activities and wonderful decorations to get us in the holiday mood. Stories, carols, puppet show, ornament & craft workshop, gift making & wrapping, and a festive photo booth—all family fun! Sweet and savory snacks. Everything is free; all are welcome! 11am-1pm.

Book Signing: Lake Ann resident Chris Convisor will be reading from and signing copies of her first novel, *The Urn Carrier*. Red Door Coffee House in Lake Ann. 11am-1pm.

Our Alaskan Adventure: A presentation by the Boy Scouts of Honor, Troop 267, in which the Tundra Knights will talk about their trip to Alaska. This event is free; all are welcome! Betsie Valley District Library. 2-4pm.

Annual Christmas Concert by the Benzie County Community Chorus. St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. 3-5pm.

The Feral Cats at St. Ambrose Cellars: Stop out to see Phil Coryell and his mad harmonica skills, Monte Klein on guitar, and Professor Dave Grimes on bass. 6-9pm.

Public Reading & Music at Stormcloud: For the third year in a row, the brewery hosted a story-writing contest to celebrate the annual release of “Gerald’s Talking Dog,” a Belgian Rye Dubbel that is fermented with a blend of Michigan-grown sweet and tart cherries. The top three stories will be presented at a public reading in the pub. Following the presentation will be live music from Dale Wicks, a Grand Rapids musician and composer. With the recent release of his rootsy but traditional country album “Someone Else’s Songs,” Dale has stepped up his touring with shows scheduled throughout Michigan. According to *Local Spins*: “He’s sincere without being sappy, and smooth without being glossy.” 7:30-10pm.

The Fillmore’s 1st Annual Ugly Sweater Party: Sweater categories: all-around ugly sweater, most original, funniest, best couple combo. Prizes for each category; sweater judging begins at 9pm. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots, and we will give you a \$1.00 Egg Nog to kick off the festivities! DJ Cole spins tunes. 318 River Street in Manistee. 8-11pm.

Sunday, December 11

DIY Holiday Gift-making Fair: Lake Ann

Arts & Natural Sciences Center (LAANS) invites families to participate in a day of enrichment and holiday cheer. Each project station will provide the materials and instructions to create a unique and valuable gift of art, in a simplified way. Great for kids of all ages; adults may want to make some of these beautiful gifts, too! The cost is \$15. Almira Township Hall. 11am-4pm.

Annual Christmas Concert by the Benzie County Community Chorus. Frankfort United Methodist Church at 537 Crystal Avenue. 3-5pm.

The Cookies at The Cabbage Shed. The Cookies are a hot, dance-pop group out of Northern Michigan specializing in motown, oldies, funk, disco, and Top 40. It’s gonna be a dance party, so bring your dancing shoes! 8-11pm.

Monday, December 12

Blood Drive at Shop & Save: Schedule an appointment to donate blood by going to MiBlood.org or calling 1-866-MIBLOOD. Or just show up. 2-6:30pm.

Youth Writer’s Club for Kids & Tweens: Share what you’re working on—novel, comic book, or anything else—and get feedback from your peers. Darcy Library. 3-5pm.

Doc Probes at Bud’s in Interlochen: No cover. 5-pm.

Tuesday, December 13

Grief Support Group: Are you grieving the loss of a partner, family member, or friend? Support can make a real difference. At Darcy Library, facilitated by Heartland Hospice. 231-935-3089. 1-2pm.

The Traveling Busboys at Lake Ann Brewing: Mike Moran is Traverse City-based songwriter who has traveled the country performing his originals songs since 2004. Mike was voted best solo musician by the *Northern Express* in 2007 and 2009, and his songs have been heard on the Golf and Discovery channels. Mike joined forces with percussion player Pauly Jams in 2007 on the patio at North Peak Brewing Company. Together, as The Traveling Bus Boys, they play a mix of Mike’s originals and cover songs that they both grew up listening to. 6:30-9:30pm.

Wednesday, December 14

Find Your Ancestors: The Benzie Area Genealogical Society welcomes you on a field trip to the Benzie County Government Center. During our visit, you will learn how to find your ancestors’ information in local records. County government records can be one of the most productive sources for genealogical research! Please plan on meeting in the lobby of the Government Center about 10 minutes early, as we will be breaking up into smaller groups and rotating through three presentations given by the Registrar of Deeds, County Clerk, and Probate Registrar. All are welcome. 2-3pm.

Wine Cork Craft Night at St. Ambrose Cellars: Get ready for the holidays. \$25 per person. 6-9pm.

Thursday, December 15

Darcy Library Book Club: Want to read and discuss interesting and challenging titles next year? Help select the 2017 line-up. Ursa Major Bistro in Beulah. 12:30-1:30pm.

Super Awesome Robot Ninja Book Club at Darcy Library. 5-6pm.

Free Youth Wrestling Clinic at Frankfort High School. 5:30-7:30pm.

Holiday Program & Silent Auction in the Crystal Lake Elementary gym. Come enjoy some treats while you browse and bid on silent auction items, donated by local businesses and families. Doors open at 6pm; the

children will perform their holiday program at 6:30pm. Silent auction bidding ends at 7pm. Fundraiser for Crystal Lake Cooperative Preschool.

Ugly Christmas Party: A night of crazy games and awesome food Grades 7-12. Ugliest sweater wins Beat by Dre headphones! Free. Cornerstone Assembly of God Church at 15505 Cinder Road, Beulah. 6pm.

Sounds of the Season: Interlochen’s much-loved and highly anticipated holiday show, performed by students and faculty in both the Jazz Band and Choir. Repertoire will include family-friendly holiday favorites for all ages and tastes: classical holiday music, actors, dancers, jazz, and a sing-along of popular carols. Tickets are \$15; \$12 for seniors; \$10 for youth. Corson Auditorium. 7-9:30pm.

Friday-Sunday, December 16-18

“The Nutcracker” Ballet: Dancers from Manistee, Mason, and Benzie counties present Tchaikovsky’s 1892 holiday classic at the historic Ramsdell Theatre in Manistee. The production is a collaborative holiday celebration, involving over 150 cast members and volunteers from across county lines. Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm. Sunday at 2pm. Tickets are \$20. 800-836-0717.

Friday, December 16

\$6 for \$60 at Crystal Mountain Resort: In celebration of our 60th Anniversary, bring a group of six people and you all ski and ride for only \$10 each!

Alfredo at St. Ambrose Cellars. Join for another wild night of jamming! 6-9pm.

Youth Holiday Presentation at Hilltop Tabernacle at 7383 Hoadly Road, Benzonia. 6:30-8:30pm.

Holiday Ukelele Strum & Sing at Stormcloud: Ben Hassenger from the Ukulele Kings and Interlochen’s Uketoberfest will be hosting. Bring your uke and play along, or just come and sing—the more the merrier! 8-10pm.

Saturday, December 17

Community Dinner: Free food and fellowship at Elberta’s United Methodist. 4-6pm.

Winter Sounds Holiday Concert: Enjoy this festive outdoor concert, a celebration of the season! Warm beverages, a bonfire, lamp-lit winter hike, and a lovely holiday performance by students from the Benzie Central Chamber Choir. \$10 suggested donation for fundraiser. Dress for cold weather; arrive early to allow for one-quarter-mile hike to the amphitheater. Michigan Legacy Art Park at Crystal Mountain. 5-6pm.

Tuesday, December 20

Benzie County Central Schools Community Forum will present a “state of the district,” a talk about where we are and where we are going. Topics include school funding, infrastructure, academic achievement, long-term planning, mission, and vision. Opportunities for Q&A. Please attend! Held in the Benzie Central High School auditorium. 7-8:30pm.

Saturday, December 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship: Bring family, friends, neighbors, and strangers to join in celebrating. Service begins at 7pm, but Open Communion will be available for anyone beginning at 6:45pm. First Congregational Church at 431 Forest Ave, Frankfort.

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Brunch at Petals & Perks in Frankfort: Join us Christmas Day from 11-1 for a holiday brunch. Don’t spend the holiday alone. Instead, join us on Christmas Day for a free meal that will feature french-toast casserole, scrambled eggs, sausage, and other homemade items. Donations will be accepted but are not expected. 11am-1pm.

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The Cookies in Concert Dec. 11th @ 8pm No Cover
New Years Eve Party with Live Music and FREE Champagne Toast at Midnight
Open Mic Every Thursday @ 8pm
New Hours: Thurs-Saturday 4-midnight (Food till 9pm)

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Saturday, December 10, 3:00 p.m.
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
8090 Lincoln Rd., Beulah

Sunday, December 11, 3:00 p.m.
Frankfort United Methodist Church
377 Crystal Ave., Frankfort

A freewill offering will be taken.

Standing

Continued from page 1

pipeline to be drilled under a dammed section of the Missouri River and would seek alternative routes for the \$3.7 billion pipeline.

Thanksgiving of Solidarity

Just two weeks before, however, the situation still looked unclear, and supporters from all across the nation were taking time away from work and their families to drive supplies to North Dakota.

For instance, Benzie residents Joshua Stoltz and Cathye Williams, did not overeat turkey, then fall asleep to a football game this past Thanksgiving. Rather, they—along with Antrim County’s Ric Evans—observed the holiday of “gratitude” and “giving” in a much more authentic manner. They traveled to Standing Rock, near Cannon Ball, North Dakota, to join the largest First Nation protest and land defense in more than a century. They brought with them supplies to support their friend, Lee Sprague, a Native American activist from Manistee County.

Stoltz is executive director of Grow Benzie, where more than 50 people attended a November 16 community dinner, raising \$750 in donations for the water protectors. After the event, donations of fresh local produce, a generator, kerosene heaters, batteries, medicine, subzero sleeping wear, camp safety gear, ropes, building supplies, and herbal remedies came rolling in. So, the day before Thanksgiving, they packed it all into a car and headed West. They also transported a bag of sage and fresh-cut, local cedar branches that were to be blessed and hung in the camp’s main fire shelter.

After a brief nocturnal respite in the Twin Cities with their friend, Pastor Justin Grimm (who led a congregation in Lake Ann just a few years back), they left at 6 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day to reach Oceti Sakowin Camp before nightfall and to break bread with Sprague.

Williams, a social worker with Child and Family Services of Northwestern Michigan, proclaims to be an advocate for the environment. She attributes her work with Citizens’ Climate Lobby as what attracted her to the struggle at Standing Rock.

“Anybody working peacefully and legally to keep fossil fuels in the ground garners my support,” she says.

She also wanted to bear witness. She questioned the tone of the media coverage that she had been reading about Standing Rock, and she suspected the characterizations of the protest and water protectors.

“They just didn’t jibe with what I was hearing from people I knew who there on the ground,” Williams says.

Eating and Ingenuity

On Thanksgiving afternoon, Stoltz posted on Facebook: “We’ve reached Dakota Territory. Plains are desolate and barren, only broken apart by scattered patches of trees. These timber stands seem to grow around bogs and creeks, and most are inhabited by homesteaders for water source and wind protection. Temps have dropped to near freezing, fog is spotty.”

Once they arrived at the Pueblo Camp where Sprague was staying, together with tribes from the Southwestern United States, they took advantage of the remaining daylight and got to work. Temporary buildings made out of sticks had to be insulated for the frigid winter to come; kindling was distributed around camp to keep the home fires burning; dishes need to be washed; incoming donations of goods needed to be organized, and water-rescue equipment was delivered to the

Michigan canoe team, which Sprague was a part of. (The team helped to forge the water between main camp and Turtle Island, where Standing Rock Sioux ancestors are buried.)

Only after the sun set did the cooking begin. Stoltz made what he called a “freaky-fresh Thanksgiving salad” using heirloom tomatoes from Grow Benzie, cucumbers, greens, eggplant, peppers, and honey from

celebrating our time together.”

As the workers grazed on the food before them, they constantly surveyed the work that needed to be done next. Stoltz would awake early on Friday morning to cook breakfast for a group of 50. Then they set up snack and lunch buffets at different intervals. Huge quantities of traditional Thanksgiving fare also arrived on that Friday.



Top: Josh Stoltz, Ric Evans, and Cathye Williams brought cedar branches from Northern Michigan to be blessed and adorned at Standing Rock. Above: Support for Standing Rock came from everywhere, even Harvard. Photos by Cathye Williams.

Benzie and Manistee counties. Someone delivered a duck soup and homemade bread, which Stoltz found delicious. To the salad, the Benzie contingent added a cooked squash and mushroom stuffing. Some sat to enjoy the meal. Others nibbled as they continued to work. Stories abounded.

Williams remembers that one of the cooks was a young man from Chicago who played other roles in camp, such as a builder and water rescuer. Like many others, “he was still hurting from the teargas and pepper spraying” that the militarized police had fired at occupiers the previous Monday morning, November 21, in an effort to break up the peaceful demonstration. (One woman, Sophia Wilansky from New York City, all but lost her left arm to a police concussion grenade and had to be evacuated by helicopter to Minneapolis.)

Despite the violence inflicted on Standing Rock just five days earlier, and the threat of more police actions to come, the water protectors found joy in the presence of the newcomers. Over duck soup and bread, Stoltz joined a daily meeting.

“I listened to an elder from Pueblo Camp talk specifically about how he was thankful for neighbors and new folks to join them and help with the work,” Stoltz says. “We were

Stoltz was impressed at the structure and communal living that was spontaneously growing out of the plains—in what felt like a war zone.

“I was really in awe of organization that was happening, witnessing leaders making decisions based on things happening on the ground,” he says. “They were building solar and wind to help power the camp. They were finding experts to fix problems. There was ingenuity and communication. For them to grow exponentially in a small period of time is pretty inspiring. And to be resilient against obstacles and the unknown.”

When Williams looked around Pueblo Camp, she saw people from all walks of life: native, non-native, young, old, students, teachers, artists, engineers, doctors, and military.

“All were grounded and carried respect for ancestors, elders, and the earth in all their tasks,” she says. “All were solemn and steadfast in their cause, without losing their spirit and good humor. There was peaceful intent with every act undertaken in this camp. We were thankful and honored to be there—sharing food, energy, and work with these people as they took on this monumental task of standing for their land, their water, their sacred sites, and their culture. In doing so, they

protect the water and earth for all of us.”

True Meaning

Though the Benzie activists were delivering supplies—including a harvest meal—during our American Thanksgiving weekend, Williams found little synergy with our popular folk tale of the holiday’s genesis.

“Long ago, I came to realize that Thanksgiving—as the quaint story of settlers breaking bread with natives—was a myth,” she says. “[Rather, what’s] challenging for me is the guilt and sorrow that America’s wealth and all-too-easy way of life is built on the mistreatment and disenfranchise of indigenous people.”

Other Northern Michigan activists who traveled to Standing Rock during Thanksgiving expressed similar sentiments.

“Colonization has been devastating to the native culture,” says Suttons Bay original Luke Speicher, who traveled to Standing Rock from Marquette. “Celebrating a pleasant feast on the basis of pilgrim-and-native interaction feels so false.”

Traverse City teacher Jamie Lee Schaub traveled to North Dakota in her Volvo with her partner, Brenin Wertz-Roth. They brought winter outdoor gear, dry suits, neoprene gear, blankets, boots, propane, tools, building materials, space blankets, batteries, a turkey, squash, corn, maple syrup, hot sauce, potatoes, and nearly \$3,000 that they received in donations from friends and family. Along the road, they kept getting donations and stopped at stores and homes (via Craigslist) to purchase more supplies.

“I was teaching my students about Thanksgiving only a couple weeks ago,” Schaub says. “Now I am here, giving what I can to native people who are standing and protecting. Thinking about actually giving during Thanksgiving—instead of sitting around a table and eating—felt much more important and meaningful. I can only hope this becomes a strong, sustainable community, without a black snake polluting the land and water.”

Schaub is referencing a native prophesy of a “black snake,” which many have been interpreting as the oil pipeline. If the Army Corps of Engineers do, in fact, reroute the Dakota Access Pipeline away from Sioux territory, it may spare Standing Rock, but the “black snake” will still slither the earth. What then?

“I hope that word spreads and support grows for Standing Rock,” Speicher says. “I hope people wake up and realize how oil dependence is affecting our earth. I want people to know the indigenous struggle is not over. This is just another example of white people doing whatever they want to native people. The people are strong. The oil companies have force, but Standing Rock has power.”

“While the denial of the permit by the Army Corps of Engineers for the DAPL pipeline is a historical victory in terms of the acknowledgement of indigenous rights, and private property rights in general,” Evans says, “the crushing fact remains that the pipeline CEO stated that ‘this decision changes nothing—the pipeline will be built, at it’s current location.’ So don’t let up; don’t keep your eyes off this for a second—this is far from over.”

Williams hopes that the David vs. Goliath-like struggle on the North Dakota plains holds a lesson for the fossil fuel industry.

“My hope is that the movement will prevail, cause the fossil fuel companies enough expense and trouble to see the writing on the wall for destructive extractive processes,” she says. “My hope is that our leaders will realize that voices for the Earth won’t be silenced and that clean air water and land are more important than giant corporations and personal wealth beyond all reason.”

Jacob Wheeler has taken a full-time job with Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities (formerly the Michigan Land Use Institute). Following this issue, he will step down as editor of The Betsie Current, though his byline may reappear from time to time. Wheeler will continue to publish our sister publication, the Glen Arbor Sun. He wishes the remaining editors of The Betsie Current the best of luck.

Ale

Continued from page 1

The Betsie Current has featured the three Benzie locales along the trail—Lake Ann Brewery, Stormcloud, and St. Ambrose Cellars. Now it is time to visit the Leelanau County spots: Big Cat (Cedar), Green Bird (Northport), and Hop Lot (Suttons Bay), as well as a sneak preview of Cherry Republic’s coming beer production in Glen Arbor.

Big Cat Brewing Co.

Cedar Rustic Inn became Big Cat Brewing Co. in early 2016, after Ackley became more interested in microbrews and decided he wanted to broaden the restaurant’s appeal to also include the millennials and young professionals who have grown more numerous in the Traverse City region.

“The inspiration was my continuing appreciation of craft brews and my ever-improving abilities as a home brewer,” Ackley says. “We also wanted a new and interesting challenge. We had been doing the same thing here for almost 10 years and really needed to make things more interesting for ourselves and our guests. Brewing has also made me get more excited about our food and to try some new things in the kitchen.”

Ackley reports more traffic and increased beer sales, which has boosted wine and liquor sales, too. He has upped the amount of small plates on the dinner menu in order to cater to beer tasters who may want munchies instead of full entrées. Big Cat also draws additional people who are on wine tours, because of Longview Winery next door.

Currently on tap are: Indian Summer (cherry/strawberry wheat), The Crowd Pleaser (blonde ale), Greyfriar’s Bobby (Scottish wee heavy), Hoppy Hoppy Joy Joy (American IPA), and Peninsula Porter (English-style porter). New items will be added soon to the dinner menu, and Ackley plans to redecorate the bar area to create a pub atmosphere—that will include installing dartboards and adding high-top tables.

“We love being able to get so many high-quality hops from our peninsula and take pride in being able to make local beers with local hops,” Ackley says. “Now we just need a local maltster!”

Hop Lot Brewing Co.

Over on the east side of Leelanau County, Hop Lot is winning awards and earning a reputation as providing a quintessential “Up North” experience. Why sit inside at the bar when Hop Lot’s beer garden features an expanse of outdoor picnic tables, several fire pits, s’mores for those too young to drink, a kids play area that includes wooden blocks and toys and a wooded bike parking lot, all watched over by a mini forest of 20-foot-tall hop vines?

This summer and fall, the picnic area was packed, but the friendly atmosphere made Hop Lot feel like the setting for a family reunion. Pizza slices flew off an outdoor grill and satiated a cross-section of revelers—Yale and U-M graduates, Bernie Sanders supporters, hippies in Westphalia vans, jocks, parents pushing baby strollers. This felt like an outdoor music festival.

Green Bird Cellars

Down a winding dirt road off M-22, two miles south of Northport, a treasure awaits amidst rolling vineyards and orchards. The farm boasts six acres of apples, 10 acres of grapes, and a half-acre of lavender. Green Bird Cellars replaced Good Neighbor Organic Winery this spring, because the new owners wanted a fresh, clean slate. Green Bird—which is Michigan’s only organic vineyard—

offers wine, cider and beer all made on-site.

During my autumn visit, parents chased toddlers through the backyard, while 20-somethings from Grand Rapids sipped pints of Blackberry pear noiret rose sangria at the bar. Like at Hop Lot, Green Bird patrons can sit on picnic tables outside and play lawn games, or belly up to the bar inside. Local snacks such as Red Heads’ hummus and Carlson’s whitefish are available, and co-owner Ben Crow plans to unveil more food choices next year. Crow, a Traverse City native, has been a chef at restaurants from Michigan to Hawaii to Alaska, where he cooked at a Japanese fishing lodge.

“The Sleeping Bear Ale Trail has created another loop for us, another opportunity to bring folks off the beaten path,” Crow says. “I see couples bringing in the Ale Trail map and making a stop. We have to create these unique marketing experiences that anyone can see and try.”

The other co-owner, Court Wengreen, plans to launch a hot sauce company this fall, featuring peppers, carrots, and garlic that is grown here on the property.

Cherry Beer in Glen Arbor

Cherry Republic plans to add a small brewing operation, with taps flowing some time next summer.

“We are working with our pals at [Bellaire-based] Short’s,” says Cherry Republic owner Bob Sutherland. “We will make a little in Glen Arbor, but mostly Short’s will be making our beer for us—some under their label, and some under ours. The beer will all have an element of cherry, of course, but our core beers will all be mainstream enough to meet all palates.”

Sutherland says that the expansion into microbrews will include a big renovation of Cherry Republic’s café, including a beer garden and an overhauled kitchen. This could lead to Cherry Republic adding beer in its other locations: Traverse City, Charlevoix, and Ann Arbor.

Northport Brewing Co.

In downtown Northport, the Northport Brewing Co. merged with Grand Rapids-based Mitten during mid-summer 2016, when it struggled to keep up with local demand. The doors remained open, the crowds kept coming, and an on-site food truck continued to produce tacos on the grill. The bulk of the beer is shipped from Grand Rapids, though brewing (particularly Belgian-style sours might resume here come May).

More information at [BigCatBrewingCo.com](#), [HopLotBrewing.com](#); [GreenBirdCallers.com](#); and [LocalBeersIsBetter.com](#).

Christmas Magic

Downtown Beulah

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 9 | 2016
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4:00p
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12/22 Annual Ugly Sweater Party with Blake Elliott

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Moonlight Madness – Friday, November 25
Extended hours-Check with your favorite stores for hrs.

Small Business Saturday, November 26
Check with your favorite stores for hrs.

Christmas Magic- Saturday, December 10
Breakfast with Santa, Activities, Family Fun & Lighted Parade

WinterFest – Saturday, February 11, 2017
Children Activities, Chile Cook-Off, Parade, Out House Races & fireworks

CRYSTAL LAKE COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
Visit clcba.org for more events!



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