

The Betsie Current



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The Witch of November

First-person account of a fall storm from the deck

By Jed Jaworski

Current Contributor

The marine forecast was foreboding, so the captain of the Ann Arbor car ferry *Viking* chose to stay at the dock in Elberta after loading 22 railroad boxcars aboard to “wait for the weather to show its hand.” It was early November 1978, a time for caution amongst Great Lakes mariners. The wind was beginning to rise, but I was now off watch, so I crawled into my warm bunk and drifted to sleep listening to the gentle moan of the wind in the rigging.

My slumber was later broken with a loud knock on the door. “All hands on deck, we are leaving the dock!” shouted the watchstander. Moments later, the ship’s mighty horn sounded one long blast, followed by a short blast and another long one, to summon

any of the crewmembers who had not heeded the captain’s request to stay aboard.

I hurriedly dressed and stepped outside. The wind was howling and nearly swept me down the deck and ladder. I could hear the waves striking the south breakwall



M. V. Viking covered in ice on February 22, 1968. Photo courtesy of Jed Jaworski.

and the hiss of spray.

The scene below, on deck at the loading apron, was tense. One of the steel cables holding the ship to the dock had snapped, and the others were straining as the 350-foot ship lurched at its moorings. The wind had veered enough westward to send storm-wave energy into Lake Betsie, long known to be the harbor’s failing. There was no way to keep the ship at the dock. We would be forced to cross Lake Michigan in a full-on November storm.

Every decision, every movement in such context can be a fatal one. Releasing the ship from its failing moorings could cost a mariner his

Please see Witch on page 7

Crystal Mountain Wastes Not, Wants Not

Successful partnership with Bay Area Recycling for Charities

By Kelly Ottinger

Current Contributor

There is a lot of excitement surrounding a partnership between Crystal Mountain, one of Northern Michigan’s premier ski and recreational resorts (and Benzie County’s largest employer), and Bay Area Recycling for Charities (BARC).

Based out of Traverse City, BARC is a unique nonprofit that was founded six years ago by Andy Gale. Enamored by Northern Michigan’s natural beauty and many opportunities for outdoor recreation, he began wondering how the waste that was generated by the area’s businesses and tourism industry could not only be recycled but bring financial gain to the region’s many nonprofits.

“We are a social enterprise,” Gale says. “We combine a 501(c)3 nonprofit entity

with for-profit business and work within the frame of a mission.”

BARC gives 100 percent of profits that are gleaned from recycling waste materials to local nonprofits. Many local groups such as the Boy Scouts and area school sports teams



A BARC employee sorts recycling by hand. Photo courtesy of Bay Area Recycling for Charities.

benefit from working with BARC to collect redemption-value returnables.

The partnership between Crystal Mountain and BARC began four years ago, when BARC was one of the resort’s contracted service providers. Back then, BARC traveled to the site daily to dispose of waste. Now they have a dedicated on-site team.

“Crystal Mountain is unique in that they have this micro-economy happening. It’s like its own little city,” Gale says. “There is not only the skiing and golf, but there is a hotel, restaurants, spa services, gift shops, convention and meeting areas—just so many facets, and each creates their own challenges in terms of what to do with the waste.”

What began as a consultation and contract to remove daily waste has evolved over the

Please see BARC on page 6

Charlie’s Natural Food Market

Go on an epicurean vacation each week

By Aubrey Ann Parker

Current Contributor

As snow begins to cover the leaves that many of us have not yet found the time to rake, fall is quickly slipping away and a cold Northern Michigan winter is not far off. Some members of our “snowbird” community will be leaving the Great White North soon, if they haven’t already, in search of a more temperate climate. Then there are those who stay and revel in the recreational opportunities that winter brings. Meanwhile the rest of us hunker down in our dens and pseudo-hibernate, only coming out for special occasions.

If a big, fancy, tropical vacation is not in your budget this winter, maybe you can be contented by lunch at Charlie’s Natural Food Market, located next to the Betsie Hosick Health & Fitness Center at the top of the hill just outside of Frankfort.

Started by Charlie McDaniel and his wife, Wendy, back in August 2011, the



Charlie McDaniels prepares a bowl of pho, a vietnamese beef soup. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

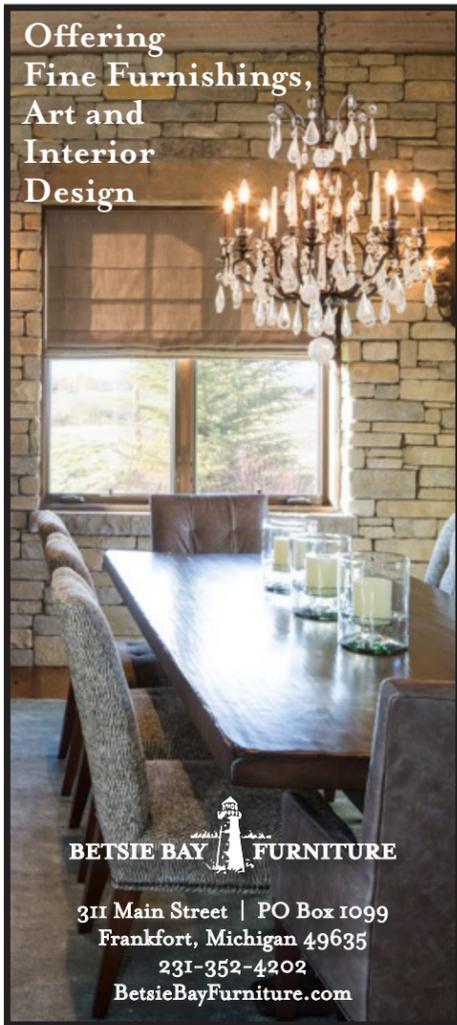
3,200-square-foot grocery store features fresh, local produce and good-for-you, organic groceries. About one-third of the space is dedicated to a café that serves breakfast and lunch, along with fresh-pressed juices and specialty coffee drinks.

Last November, the café started running a lunch special called World Tour Wednesdays. All winter long, until just after the snow finally broke in May, Charlie’s kitchen crew would scour cookbooks, the web, and even their own secret family recipes to find new and interesting dishes to serve each week. The list has included: a Mediterranean platter (Greece), a Middle Eastern platter, vegan lasagna (Italy), sushi and nori rolls (Japan), beet latkes (Poland), bobotie (South Africa), coconut curry (Thailand), and sudza ne nyama (Zimbabwe).

Sometimes the staff went for the more traditional take on recipes, as was the case during the week of St. Patrick’s Day when they served up an Irish boiled dinner of meat and cabbage—instead of corned beef, they served the

Please see Pho on page 6

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When you visit the Sleeping
Bear Dunes, stop by Art's Tavern

Loveless for Art

Questions & Answers with Community Faces

By Jacob Wheeler
Current Editor

Ann Loveless is well known for having won the coveted Grand Rapids Art Prize in 2013 for *Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore*, a 20 foot-long, four-panel quilt that depicted a panoramic beach scene in our National Lakeshore. But long before she won first prize in Grand Rapids, Loveless and her husband, Steve, have been staples of the Benzie County art scene.

For 10 years, they have operated State of Art Framing & Gallery in downtown Beulah. That's where Ann sells her photograph-inspired "landscape art quilts" and Steve, a Traverse City native, sells his photographs. Ann and Steve Loveless will exhibit their work at Frankfort's Oliver Art Center until the end of 2014, with the opening reception on November 14 from 5-7 p.m.

BETSIE CURRENT: How do you describe your art? What's unique about it?

ANN: Traditional quilts are made for function. My quilts are made to hang on the wall. I am inspired by nature and Northern Michigan, and I capture the beauty of the outdoors in my art quilts. I use cotton batik and printed landscape fabrics, which have a "painterly" quality. I also use linen, silk, yarns, netting, and many other interesting fibers to achieve wonderful texture and realistic scenes. My work is unique in that I do not use patterns; I have all original designs, and I work directly from photographs, cutting and placing fabrics directly onto cotton batting.

STEVE: Some people say they can tell when they hold one of my photographs because of my style. I'm a landscape photographer. I photograph Benzie County and some of Leelanau. We're fortunate to have two cool lighthouses here in Benzie. I get to feature those structures, explore them, and work them. I might go to a place multiple times a year to the photograph it under different circumstances.

BETSIE CURRENT: How did winning the Grand Rapids 2013 Art Prize change your life? Did it change your outlook on art? Did it boost sales at your Beulah gallery?

ANN: Winning first place in Art Prize has changed my career and life. I now have wonderful opportunities coming my way and have to be selective in what I say "yes" to. I have a quilting book titled *Landscape Art Quilts, Step by Step* to be published in March 2015 on my "collage" quilting technique. I have had numerous commissions this past year. The largest was a seven-foot quilt for the Michigan State University Secchia Center medical building in Grand Rapids. It is an autumn

to be. I joke with customers about doing photography around here; it's like shooting fish in a barrel! We're surrounded by so much natural beauty, and it's my job to capture that and pass it on to other people. After Ann won Art Prize, one of their directors came here. He had never been here before, and he was amazed that a community of this size could have such a great art center that was so embracing of Ann. The amount of art and galleries here is amazing.



Ann Loveless with her 20 foot-long, four-panel quilt of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, which won the 2013 Art Prize. Photo courtesy of Steve Loveless.

woodland scene in my "impressionistic" technique called *Virtues and Responsibilities*. Sales at our gallery in Beulah and on my website (QuiltsbyAnn.com) have been up about 30 percent since my win. I am also getting numerous requests for lecturers and classes throughout the United States.

STEVE: Winning last year was the pinnacle, but even during the two years that Ann participated in Art Prize prior to that—2011 and 2012—the attention always drove traffic to Benzie County and the gallery. It's a lot of exposure in a venue where 30-40,000 people are seeing your work. A lot of people recognized her. So now business is doing tremendously well. We've talked with other Beulah merchants who have noticed an increase in their sales as well.

BETSIE CURRENT: What should a visitor (or a local) know about the local Benzie County art scene? What's unique about art around the shores of Crystal Lake?

ANN: A visitor to Beulah should know that my 2013 winning piece *Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore* is NOT on display at our gallery but is owned by Art Prize.

STEVE: We have a very strong art scene here, and it has longevity. We have one hell of an art center in Frankfort. Other galleries have been around for decades, so it's a great place

BETSIE CURRENT: What are you working on right now? What's your muse?

ANN: I am just trying to catch my breath from the busy summer sales and the fall lectures and teaching schedule. I will be slowing down for the winter months to work on my inventory and will have time to create new designs. I will be working on something large (16 feet) to display in our gallery for 2015.

STEVE: I'm getting off a fantastic autumn color season. It was actually frustrating for me last year that—after Ann's win and all the attention that followed—I wasn't able to get out last fall and do much photography. Otherwise, I've been working on panoramic compositions and working in multiple role panoramas; I'll have one piece at the Oliver Art Center show from that.

BETSIE CURRENT: We know that writers get writer's block. Is that true for artists, as well? How do you overcome artist's block?

ANN: I get artist's block at times, especially when working on large pieces. I usually hang them on the wall and come back in another day or week. I will work on something else and then come back when I have it all figured out.

STEVE: Sometimes you [get artist's block]. Out at Point Betsie, you think, "How can I possibly get a photograph here that I haven't gotten before?" But any location I've been to multiple times. I have to go there and alter my vision, my perspective. Play with grayscale. Go out and just work a location. I try to look at things from a different frame of mind than before.

BETSIE CURRENT: What are your plans for the winter? Sticking around Benzie County? Heading south? What are you excited about this coming winter season?

ANN: My winter plans are to create new quilts in December, January, and February. In March, I am traveling to Colorado and California to give lecturers and classes. I am also taking my skis to Colorado for six days of skiing, and I plan to hang by the pool in San Diego!

STEVE: I hope to go along with Ann on her ski trip. I hope to keep myself occupied by taking photos in the Rockies. I also hope to complete a Historic Route 66 road trip through California, maybe Arizona, New Mexico, too, in March.

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Bay to Bay Trail Meanders

Navigating through support and opposition

By Jacob Wheeler
Current Editor

A “Bay to Bay” hiking, paddling, and camping trail, proposed for the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, has generated excitement among local business owners and recreation enthusiasts. But the plan has also attracted significant opposition from private property landowners who live near the trail’s potential route. Staff at the National Lakeshore have subsequently slowed planning for the Bay to Bay Trail initiative. They extended the public comment period by an extra month this fall and have drawn out the project’s scoping phase until next summer.

According to Kevin Skerl, chief of natural resources at Sleeping Bear, the Park won’t conduct an environmental assessment for at least another year. Skerl said that the Park received approximately 125 public comments, with views that ranged from support to opposition. Park officials were surprised by the amount of pushback they received. According to executive assistant Gary VanDerziel, the Park will examine the trail’s environmental impacts but also where camping sites are appropriate and whether the National Lakeshore has the manpower to monitor and maintain the trail.

“We’re looking at the big picture here,” VanDerziel says. “We want to get this right.”

The Bay to Bay Trail would roughly follow the Lake Michigan shoreline between Platte Bay (in Benzie County) and Good Harbor Bay (in the heart of Leelanau County). It would allow hikers—and canoers or kayakers—to traverse more than 40 miles of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and sleep at campsites along the way. The Lakeshore currently offers only smaller looped trail routes.

The trail was referenced in the Lakeshore’s 2009 General Management Plan (GMP) as “...a ‘bay-to-bay’ trail for hikers and Lake Michigan paddlers [that] would parallel the Lake Michigan shoreline within the Lakeshore; on land, this trail would make use of active beach areas or existing disturbed areas and corridors.”

The National Park’s website further explains the impetus for a Bay to Bay Trail: “Development of these facilities would fulfill the intent of the GMP and would provide opportunities that do not currently exist in the National Lakeshore. The concept is to develop a trail system for hikers and Lake Michigan paddlers that includes a designated and signed route, lake access points, and backcountry campsites. The routes could be used by through hikers and paddlers, as well as day users.”

Bob Sutherland, CEO of Cherry Republic in Glen Arbor, has become one of the Bay to Bay Trail’s strongest advocates. (He also championed and raised money for the popular Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail, which by spring of 2015 will stretch from Empire to Port Oneida.) In October, Sutherland and four others hiked from Platte Bay to Good Harbor Bay along a route they chose that could become the Bay to Bay Trail. He blogged about their journey on Cherry Republic’s “Orchard Report” (read his story to the right), and he hopes to help raise money for the project.

But the Park has also received pushback from private property owners such as Mary and Frank Crane, who live on Thoreson Road near where the northernmost section of the Lakeshore meets The Homestead.

“Although you have asked for comments on the Bay to Bay Trail, we find we have questions rather than comments,” Mary wrote on October 14. “That in itself is perhaps our comment. We are surprised we have not been included in the loop... Obviously our private property, along the Lake Michigan shoreline and within the boundaries of the SBDNL, will be affected... Working with limited knowledge, I can say we question the necessity of such a trail. We also have other thoughts and concerns about things like liability, impact on the environment, and safety.”

Mary, who has visited this area for 72 years and settled on land that was developed by a descendent of the pioneering Burfield family, told the *Glen Arbor Sun* that she is worried about crowds flocking along the beach and causing erosion to the pristine, 90-foot bluffs. She also worries about campfires and fireworks at campsites or on the beach that could cause grassfires. (Crane says she was assured in a phone conversation with the nonprofit Friends of Sleeping Bear that campfires will not be allowed at these campsites.) Her other worries include whether kayakers and canoers will be safe in Lake Michigan’s open water, which has claimed several lives in recent years.

“I wonder how all the cars on Thoreson Road will impact the wilderness experience,” says Mary, who explains that Thoreson Road has also seen increased activity in recent weeks as the third leg of the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail—running north from Glen Arbor toward Port Oneida—has been cleared. “With the Heritage Trail coming through, people are saying, ‘Let’s slow down, take a few deep breaths, and see what impact that has before we proceed [with the Bay to Bay Trail].’ I’m not necessarily opposed; just alarmed at how fast it seems to be moving.”

Peter and Jane Maher, who also wrote a letter of concern to the Park, concurred that the Bay to Bay Trail, on top of the expanding Heritage Trail, seemed like a pile-on.

“Sleeping Bear Dunes Park already possesses a host of hiking trails, a brand new biking path, and numerous watercraft-usage opportunities,” they wrote in an August 19 letter. “Furthermore, it already offers wilderness backpacking experiences—on the Manitou Islands—for interested Park visitors. In other words, for a Park of its size and natural features, Sleeping Bear Dunes Park already presents a wide variety of outdoor and recreational options for Park visitors.”

The Mahers also worried that a trail connecting the three separate parts of the National Lakeshore would increase traffic in their backyard, which is not public land: “The concept of creating a new hiking and boating trail in the Park, which in effect ‘connects’ the three distinct and separate parcels of the Park—and therefore which must OF NECESSITY traverse the private and community properties [of Empire and Glen Arbor]—would ‘institutionalize’ a significant increase in the number of hikers and boaters who must pass through these two communities... Speaking as owners of private property in one of these communities with land extending to the Lake Michigan shoreline, [we] are concerned that the increased hiker/boater traffic will, either by virtue of ignorance or by willful disregard for the boundaries of private property, be disrespectful of our property rights.”

Hiking the Bay to Bay Trail

From Cherry Republic’s “Orchard Report”

By Bob Sutherland
Current Contributor

It’s an epic hike. From south to north across the entire Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, hiking the Bay to Bay Trail will be an amazing experience.

When we first heard about the proposed Bay to Bay Hiking and Kayak Trail, we were excited. The trail’s planned route ran from the south of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore all the way to the north and passed through much of its most stunning scenery. From the Platte River and Empire Bluffs in the south, past Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive and the Dune Climb, around Alligator Hill, and up to Pyramid Point and Good Harbor



Hiking the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Photo courtesy of Cherry Republic.

Bay in the north. What an addition to the Park this would make.

At Cherry Republic, we’re pretty big fans of an arduous hike. [Editor’s Note: Sutherland and several employees hiked across the ice to North Manitou Island one day last winter!] So naturally we couldn’t wait to get out and hike it. But how do you hike a trail that isn’t built? Easy! Break trail and use the effort as a fundraiser for the Bay to Bay Trail’s construction. (Check out the fundraising campaign at CrowdRise.com/thegreatbaytobaytrail-breaking.)

Taking three days to hike over 40 miles is no simple task, but several of us at Cherry Republic leapt at the chance. I was joined by our corporate chef Tony Finnestad and by North Manitou hike veteran Tom Bisbee. We also put out an invitation to our customers

and were delighted when Alex McGregor and her friend Joe Welklin, both from Cornell University, signed up.

Although we had many other staff members and customers express a desire to join us, it was just the five of us when it came time to set off.

There were lots of questions on the five of our minds as we assembled for the Bay to Bay Trail-Breaking Hikeathon. Foremost on my mind was how the five of us would decide what path our route should take. There is no Bay to Bay Hiking Trail yet; the Park service hopes to have it finished for the summer of 2016. [Editor’s Note: The Park has not determined an official timeframe for developing the Bay to Bay Trail.]

The five of us had to decide between hiking beaches and dunes, short segments of trail and old, barely traceable logging roads, or miles of unmarked woods. And there are lots of obstacles such as lakes and rivers and swamps to go around.

We were all excited about getting to know the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore better. By walking it, we would get a perspective of how large the Park is, and we would

really feel the diversity of its terrain. It also happened to be fall and virtually peak color. With a near-perfect weather forecast, we were thrilled to be fully outdoors enjoying every moment.

It was seven years ago when Cherry Republic’s chief operating officer and I first went to the Park service to meet about this north-south hiking and kayaking trail. We knew it was in the Park’s plans to build it at some point, and we offered Cherry Republic’s help. Now seven years later, we are finally raising some money. After our successful hike, we will hopefully meet with the Park staff and offer some route suggestions. With your contributions and Cherry Republic’s match, we’ve raised \$850 dollars so far. Thank you to all who have supported us.

Jane Darling Rob Serbin Ron Raymond Bob Price

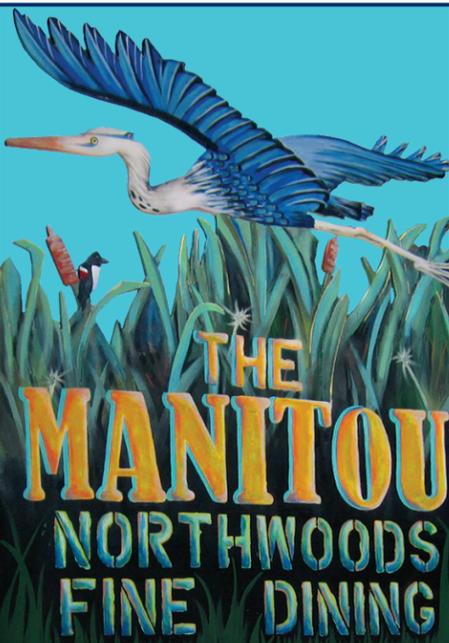

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CONSTANTLY FLOWING

Mondays

Circle Time with Miss Char at the Benzie Shores District Library includes rhymes and movement for infants and toddlers. (231)352-4671. 10am.

Tuesdays

Technology Tuesdays at the Benzie Shores District Library. A library staff member will be available to help with your technology issues. (231)352-4671. 10am-12pm.

Dance Benzie: Improvisational partner dancing at the Mills Community House in Benzonia. Free, donations welcome. 8-10pm.

Wednesdays

Trivia Night at Stormcloud resumes on October 8. 8-10pm.

Thursdays

Open Mic Night at The Cabbage Shed in Elberta. (231)352-9843. 8pm.

Saturdays

Frankfort Farmers' Market at Open Space Park on Main Street. 9am-1pm.

Thanksgiving - New Year's

The Benzie Shores District Library will participate in a FOOD FOR FINES amnesty program. From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day donations of non-perishable food items and other necessities such as toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste and paper towels will be accepted and given to local area food banks. Peanut butter, jelly, soup and toiletries are much needed items. Items donated must be within the product expiration date. In exchange for your donations, the library will erase your overdue fines. This is a great opportunity to wipe the slate clean by returning overdue materials or making a donation to eliminate your fines. The amnesty does not apply to books that are damaged or lost. The library is open Monday and Wednesday 10-8; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10-5; and Saturday 10-3. The library is located at 630 Main St. Frankfort. For more information,

please call the library at 352-4671 or check our website www.benzieshoreslibrary.org.

ON THE DOCK

November 13,

Benzonia Academy Lecture: Serpents in Pre-Columbian Art of the Americas at the Benzie Area Historical Museum. This visual presentation explores the serpent as subject matter for Pre-Columbian art in North and South America. It also looks at the sculpture it inspired at Michigan Legacy Art Park and local students contribution to that artwork. Patricia Innis is a land artist and painter who has exhibited her paintings and participated in environmental art projects throughout the Midwest. <http://www.benziemuseum.org> 4pm - 5pm.

Friday, November 14

Opening Reception at the Oliver Art Center for Ann and Steve Loveless. Member Exhibition. Free and open to everyone. 5 - 7pm.

Thursday, November 6

Potluck Dinner, Annual meeting and Members' Photo Show. Benzie Audubon Club at the Tribal Outpost for a potluck meal (bring a dish plus table service), a brief business meeting and the second annual members' photo show. Members wishing to participate should start collecting their nature photos and stay tuned for details. Tribal Outpost at 7282 Hoadley Road in Benzonia. All field trips and programs are open to the public without charge; everyone is welcome! 871-0503 benzieaudubon.org 6pm.

Thursday, November 20

Benzie County Chamber of Commerce November Business After Hours at Stormcloud Brewing Company, Frankfort. Hors-d'oeuvres, 50/50 Raffle, Door Prizes, \$ Member Raffle (designated member representative must be present to win) \$5 Donation. Sponsored by Stormcloud Brewing Company, State Savings Bank, & The Garden Theater. 5-7pm.

November 22 - December 21

Following the success of last year's Holiday Market, Oliver Art Center has extended the number of days the Market will be open and hoping to expand the types of merchandise being offered. 'Visitors from all over the Northern Michigan region enjoyed the shopping experience of last year's market, that we decided to expand and improve

this year's market', said Steve Brown, OAC Executive Director. The Oliver Art Center exhibits and holiday market are open to the public Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sun. 12 p.m. -4 p.m. www.oliverartcenterfrankfort.org. 231-352-4151

Tuesday, November 24

Conversation Spanish at the Benzie Shores District Library. Practice your language skills and meet fellow Spanish speakers. 7-8pm.

Thursday, November 27

10th Annual 5K Turkey Vulture Trot. Thanksgiving Day. Begin Thanksgiving Day by boosting your metabolism for the feast to come! Crystal's 10th Annual Turkey Vulture Trot 5K run/walk is held on a paved, looped-course thru the scenic rolling terrain of Crystal Mountain. Top male and female finishers overall in the 5k receive a Crystal Premier Season Pass! 9am.

Saturday, November 29

19th Annual Holly Berry Arts & Crafts Fair Indoor Holiday Art Fair at the Frankfort High School, 534 11th St., Frankfort. Over 100 artists. Get your holiday shopping started or finished at this annual popular craft and art fair the Saturday after Thanksgiving. www.frankfort-elberta.com. 10am-4pm.

November 13,

Benzonia Academy Lecture: Cemeteries and Tombstones in TC Area Since the Civil War at the Benzie Area Historical Museum. Design and Appearance of Cemeteries and Tombstones in the Grand Traverse area since the Civil War. The late 19th century saw a change in the appearance of both cemeteries and tombstones in the United States; the Grand Traverse area is no exception. The American Civil War was influential in the way in which war dead and veterans are honored. The war also brought about cultural changes, such as the American Park Movement, which influenced the design and purpose of cemeteries. <http://www.benziemuseum.org> 4pm - 5pm.

Sunday, December 21

Benzie Audubon Societies Christmas Bird Count. Contact Carl Freeman (352-4739) to sign-up with a group to count birds in a defined territory or John Ester (325-2445) to count birds at home. Join the potluck at the end of the day at the Benzonia Township Hall to share birding stories and tally the results. 8am.

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By Stacy Pasche

Current Contributor

It's always interesting to hear people's responses when I say that I'm a librarian. Lately, I hear, "A librarian! I love books! You just can't beat having a bound book in your hand. I support my library. I don't own an e-reader." My response usually catches them off guard when I tell them, "I love my e-reader, and I use it to read library books."

This fall, Benzonia Public Library became the second library in Benzie County to join the Up North Digital Collection, a consortium of more than 35 libraries that have pooled resources to provide digital content (downloadable e-Books, audiobooks, videos, and music) to Northern Michigan library users. Anyone with an active library card from Benzonia Public Library in Benzonia or the Benzie Shores District Library in Frankfort may use this service.

And it is a popular service. Since the Benzie Shores District Library began offering digital downloads in 2011, use of the service has more than quadrupled and continues to grow each month. This past September, e-book circulation counted for 10 percent of the library's total circulation. The digital collection (shared by Benzonia and Frankfort) has more than 10,000 e-book titles, including current bestsellers.

I remember the first time that I held a NuvoMedia "Rocket Reader" in my hands. This would have been around the time we thought Y2K was going to kill us all. The Rocket Reader was a brick of a machine that would hold roughly 10 books. My honest thought at the time was, "Who on Earth would want one of these?" When Amazon announced the launch of the Kindle in 2007, I still felt that way. "Good luck, Amazon—readers like real books."

This bull-headed, know-it-all librarian typically doesn't like to admit when she's wrong. But I was wrong.

According to a 2014 study by the Pew Research Center, roughly 32 percent of Americans now own an e-reader. This number doesn't include the number of people with e-book reading apps installed on their tablets, smartphones, or PCs.

Why are they popular? From my experience, e-book users like the convenience that e-readers provide. Most e-readers today can hold more than 1,000 books. Travelers especially like them because they are small and can hold multiple titles—no more cramming paperbacks into your carry-on luggage. You can also put new books on the device instantly.

What made this librarian finally get her own e-reader? My eyes made me do it. I work many hours on a computer, and I do a lot of reading. Although I feel 23 at heart, my eyes

do not. I enjoy the large print option of the e-reader, and I find that e-ink strains my eyes less. I'm not alone. Several of my patrons who are using e-readers are using them for sight-impairment reasons. Many e-readers even offer text-to-speech technology that will read the book to you.

As the holidays approach, the e-book industry will make the push to sell its products. Millions of well-intending children and grandchildren will purchase e-readers for their parents and grandparents. These parents and grandparents will bring their new devices to the library, give me a very pleading look, and ask, "What do I do with this?"

To help those who are new to e-books, both the Benzonia Public Library and the Benzie Shores District Library offer e-book training. Benzonia offers e-book tech help on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from noon until 2 p.m., and Benzie Shores District Library offers help on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. until noon. During these sessions, a trained staff member or volunteer will walk newbies through the process of borrowing e-books from the library and will answer any questions.

So I admit that I love my e-reader. Does this mean I think print is dead? Absolutely not. I have moved six times in the past 14 years. If I felt my book collection could be replaced by an electronic device, I wouldn't have moved 10 boxes of books with each move. (Should I mention two of those moves were to second-story apartments?) The feel, texture, and even smell of a book is a sensory experience that most of us still enjoy. According to a recent Pew Research study, 87 percent of e-book readers have also read a print book in the past 12 months. It is clear to me there is space in the readers market for both.

So relax, print lovers, the e-book revolution will not harm the printed book, and your local librarians are here for you when you're ready to give them a try.

Stacy Pasche has a Master's in library science from IUPUI and is the assistant director at Benzie Shores District Library. She has more than 10 years of experience working with digital collections. Her favorite print book is Curious George Gets a Job. If you want more interesting stats on reading in general: www.pewinternet.org/2014/01/16/a-snapshot-of-reading-in-america-in-2013/#footnote4



Doug Slessman gets an e-reader lesson from his granddaughter. Photo courtesy of Stacy Pasche.

Pottery Discovered in Dunes

Early Native American sherds

From Staff Reports

Cherry Republic employee Andrew Moore found more than radiant fall colors and beach-grass on a walk in the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes earlier this fall. He came across shards of clay that appear to be specimens of Native American pottery from long before Columbus landed in the Americas.

Moore says the patterned way that the shards, also known as potsherds, were laying caught his eye, as if someone had left a design in the sand. He told Cherry Republic CEO Bob Sutherland, who called the Park service the next day. Park curator and historian Laura Quackenbush visited the site and concluded that the sherds were once the rim of a clay pot, which concurs with pottery discovered from other archeological sites in Northern Michigan.

Quackenbush and other Park officials believe that the specimens are more than 500 years old—probably from the late Wood-

land Period, between 200 BC and 1500 AD. Quackenbush has since contacted Andrew Stewart and William Lovis, archeologists at Michigan State University, who hope to test the soils in the specimens to calculate their age. Cherry Republic will soon launch a fundraising effort to help pay for the soil-testing costs.

Quackenbush believes that more pre-Columbian artifacts may be unearthed in the National Lakeshore as climate change pelts the Park with rain and wind to reshape the dunes.

"The interesting story here is that people lived temporarily in the dunes, in environments that are no longer there, buried in the dunes," she says. "What they left behind is now



An ancient pottery sherd was found this fall in the Lakeshore. Photo courtesy of Cherry Republic.

coming to the surface."

Park officials encourage anyone who comes across more unearthed pottery specimens to respect the antiquities and call Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore at 231-326-5134.

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BARC

Continued from page 1

past four years into a strategy for reducing the overall waste impact from such a large enterprise.

“This has been an incremental process,” says Chris Cargill, on-site supervisor for Crystal Mountain’s waste stream management program. “Our first year, we were showing that we could handle the day-to-day volume of such a large business, and from there we have moved forward implementing best practices from our own experiences and within the industry to increase the amount of ‘no-waste’ business practice.”

“No-waste” is a term used when 100 percent of the by-products of conducting business are negated—either returned to their natural state or repurposed for other use. Very few businesses attain the 100 percent no-waste level. Gale estimates that when the partnership between BARC and Crystal Mountain began, the resort was operating at approximately 10 percent no-waste.

“They had a good foundation to build on,” he says. “Presently they are at about 60 percent, and I think realistically they can go consistently as high as 75 to 80 percent, although I’d love to get them to 90 percent.”

Gale explains that businesses with high client turnover—such as hotels and restaurants—will always struggle to reach 100 percent no-waste. There will always be issues that are difficult to control, like when families bring young children with disposable diapers. But a huge part is education.

“At the end of the day, education and training are some of the most important factors,” Cargill says. “How do we make it as easy as possible to achieve the highest success rate of material recovery?”

Cargill makes note that Crystal Mountain is going green wherever it can, not just for minimizing its waste.

“Crystal Mountain has always been very up front about their initiatives for environmental impact,” Cargill says. “For example, wherever possible they use environmentally safe cleaning products such as vinegar instead of harsh chemicals, and wherever possible the restaurants use compostable servicewear.”

Cargill is at Crystal Mountain each day, and he has spent good portions of his time there getting to know the facets of each job before making recommendations on how to reduce waste in that particular area. He states that he would not be qualified to offer suggestions to a chef or to kitchen assistants without first having gained an understanding of kitchen operations.

“I do a lot of talking to staff, trying to learn about the details and stressors of each job, and think of ways to work around those,” he says.

For example, the housekeeping staff recently said that if they had access to extra carts while cleaning—one strictly for recy-

cling—they could more easily recycle as they go about their daily routine.

“The easier we make recycling for both staff and guests—and sometimes that effort is as simple as putting the proper signage in place—the more likely we are to be successful,” Cargill says.

Raising awareness of practical waste management is an ongoing effort for BARC.

“You have to make this as easy as possible for people, so it becomes second nature. Simple things such as having a recycling bin next to every trash can,” Gale says. With community recycling bins becoming “single stream”—all materials going into one bin instead of being sorted—the community effort is certainly becoming more user friendly.

Winter skiing is Crystal Mountain’s busiest time, and the season presents its own set of challenges. The large composting field, what Cargill refers to as “the back 40,” is less easily accessible due to the snow, and the composting process itself slows considerably in cold weather.

“The focus does not change, but the season can definitely change the pace and way we go about the work,” he explains.

Gale is hopeful that the success of Crystal Mountain’s no-waste effort is scalable for BARC. He

would love for the organization to be able to take the same strategies used there to bring the no-waste movement to other resort areas outside the greater Traverse City area.

The no-waste movement continues to grow rapidly, not just in Northern Michigan, but across the United States. Almost no component of everyday life is without the possibility of recycling or repurposing. For instance, BARC has recently become one of the largest recyclers of mattresses in the Midwest. However, electronic waste presents one of the most challenging current recycling opportunities, from both the standpoint of sheer volume—think how many phones and computers are being upgraded every day—to the potential for profit. For a nonprofit like BARC, one of the positive aspects of this challenge is that the very generation producing such heavy electronic consumption is also the one most motivated to find ways to negate the related environmental impact.

“Sometimes when you are feeling good about being able to process hundreds of cubic yards of waste one day, then turn around and see a much greater amount the next, it can make you wonder if you are making a difference at all,” Gale says. “But in the end, you have to trust that every single bit makes a difference. All you can really do is fix your own little corner of the world and move on.”

With businesses like Crystal Mountain taking a public stance for no-waste, Northern Michigan residents are certainly doing their part to fix our own little corner of the world.

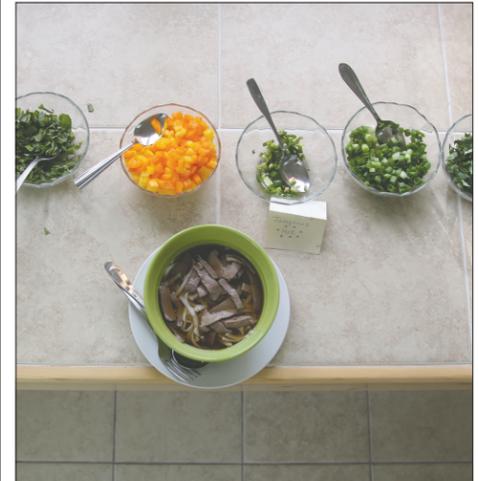
“The people here are very aware and connected to their environment,” Gale says. “Most often, all it takes is a gentle nudge in the right direction.”

Pho

Continued from page 1

more traditional ham. Other times, the team felt compelled to give a spin on traditional recipes, such as sweet potato burrito. Many dishes call back to places that the McDaniel family has lived, such as Cincinnati spaghetti and the African dishes.

Originally from Cincinnati, Charlie followed his missionary parents to Zimbabwe (called Rhodesia back then) in 1972 when he was 18 years old. He stayed in Africa for the



Customize your pho with the toppings of your choice, from mint to jalapenos. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

next 13 years, enduring the before, during, and after stages of Rhodesia’s tumultuous civil war which started in 1974 and ended in 1980.

Upon returning to the United States, Charlie stayed in the Lansing area just long enough to find a wife and start a family. When Charlie returned to Zimbabwe a few years later in 1988, he took his family with him. The McDaniels would run a 400-acre organic farm and raise cattle for the next decade. Little did any of them realize that this way of life was a foreshadowing of what was to come more than two decades later.

The family moved back to the United States in 1988, and they settled in Frankfort. (Wendy is originally from Kalkaska, so she had family in the area.) Charlie dabbled in a little of this and that for employment. By 2010, he had already begun thinking about what was next. But it wasn’t until Charlie began having health problems that the idea of food became so important. After reading studies that linked health to diet, he became vegan and started eating better. But this often included long, expensive road trips from Frankfort to Oryana at a time when gas was more than \$4 per gallon.

“I figured, if I’m sick of driving to Traverse City, then other people are, too,” Charlie says now, looking back. The idea of a natural food market in Benzie County seemed like a good one. So with the help of community investors, Charlie opened his grocery store three years ago. He now stocks fresh produce and meats from five local farms, in addition to vitamins, cereals, juices, snacks, and even organic pre-packaged meals for those who don’t want to cook. Moreover, he’s willing to stock any requests that he receives from patrons.

“As long as I can physically get it here, I’ll order it,” Charlie says.

Originally, the café was meant to be more of a side project, but it has really taken off. It accounts for most of the work that is split between Charlie and his 29-year-old daughter, Ashleigh (both full-time), as well as his wife Wendy (part-time).

Speaking of “ask and you shall receive,” another of the café’s favorite items is Pho Friday, a suggestion from *The Betsie Current’s* own co-editor Jordan Bates. Having seen a television program on the Vietnamese beef noodle soup, he asked if Charlie’s could start making it on a regular basis.

“If you help advertise it and get people through the door, we’ll make it a weekly thing,” Charlie told Jordan.

True to his word, Pho has become a weekly staple to kick off the coming weekend. So stop in around noon and ask for a bowl on Fridays all winter long, and make sure to stop in for the ever-changing specials of World Tour Wednesdays also.

Witch

Continued from page 1

hand or leg if struck by a cable. If not orchestrated perfectly, the ship could careen into the breakwall or run aground and be beaten to pieces. Even the slightest failing of communication, timing, or mechanical ability of the ship could portend disaster.

By means of a good ship and a capable master and crew, we cleared the menaces of the harbor for open water. There, the real magnitude of the storm presented itself.

But one need not be a mariner to understand the fury of fall weather on and around the Great Lakes nor its consequences for those both ashore and at sea. My friend Charles Anderson, 87 years old at the time of his passing, was a long-time Frankfort commercial fisherman who often referenced the "Equinoxial Blow." He explained it as "the definitive storm

of the season, the battle between the north and south winds," by which the north wind would henceforth prevail. He had lived through many of the great fall storms of the 20th century: the "Big Blow" of 1913, 19 ships lost, 250 dead; "Black Friday" of 1916, four ships, lost 42 dead; the "1929 Storm," three ships lost and 75 dead; "Armistice Day Storm" of 1940, five ships lost, 66 dead; and the "November Gale" of 1975 that claimed

the *Edmund Fitzgerald*. Charlie knew a thing or two about fall weather on the Great Lakes.

Like Charlie, those ashore bear witness to the savage waves that strip away and steepen the beaches. They watch the sugar sand from Frankfort's summer beach blow down Main Street as people sit parked at the turnaround being rocked and buffeted in their cars. The sounds of clacking defoliated branches and the howling winds from the woods. Trash cans and a curious array of anything not tied down blow and roll across yards and streets.

The same was true more than 100 years ago. In 1892, there was a political convention in Traverse City that was attended by many Benzie County residents. The din of a fall storm above the roof of the City Opera House was so loud that it drowned out the brass band who were playing for the convention. As the band played on, the steamer *W.H. Gilcher*—the largest and most modern steel ship on the lakes at the time—vanished in the storm near the Manitou islands. As convention goers rode the train back to Benzie County the next day, "there was scarcely a fencerow or barn still standing," according to an old newspaper article. A ballad written and sung about the *Gilcher* tragedy at the time went in part:

"Of death these jolly lads

*Never once did dream:
Brave hearts sailed under canvas
And brave hearts sailed under steam.*

*Lost on Lake Michigan
They failed to reach the shore;
The gallant ships and crews
Will sail the Lakes no more!*

So in 1978, all of this history was racing through my mind as I realized that we were heading into the teeth of a November storm. A railroad car ferry is a sturdy vessel; however, a cargo on wheels and a nearly open stern makes it vulnerable in heavy seas. (To appreciate that, one only need look at the ferry *Ann Arbor #4*'s epic struggle in a storm, as portrayed by the mural in the Frankfort Post Office.)

The *Viking's* speed was 90 revolutions of the propeller per minute, just enough to allow the wheelsman to keep the bow into the storm and the propellers in the water. Each immense wave rose like a mountain before us,



The *Viking* car ferry plows through a November storm. Photo courtesy of Jed Jaworski.

and the searchlight was used to help navigate through them. The beam penetrated deep into water beneath the white frothing tops, eerily illuminating each wall of water a deep iridescent blue-green.

Occasionally, tons of water hurling through the air from a plunging breaker would strike the bow. A loud thud with a resounding jolt and reverberation would run from stem to stern and momentarily halt the *Viking* in its path. The train cars below would groan, straining the chains, clamps, and jacks that were attempting to hold them fast. Every so often, the rifle-like report of a breaking chain or the clank of a falling jack could be heard below on the car deck, further adding to tensions. Should a string of cars become loose and roll out the back of the ship, capsize would be imminent, and there would be no surviving in a lifeboat or raft in such a cold and angry sea. When the car ferry *Milwaukee* sank in a 1929 storm, not a single person survived.

The hours passed slowly as the *Viking* endeavored to make its way to the shelter of the Wisconsin shore, the crew working throughout the night to keep the cars secure. At daybreak, the shelter of the windward shore was at hand and the *Viking* made port. After discharging the cargo and reloading, we put back out onto the lake. The wind, now gusting to nearly 50 miles per hour, had veered to the northwest, and the temperature

plummeted, so the *Viking* traveled up and down the protective shore of the Door County peninsula. By late afternoon, a crossing was attempted. The seas were tremendous. As the Sleeping Bear Dunes and the Frankfort bluffs came into view, what had been golden was now a frozen winter-white landscape. "The Witch of November came stealing" as Gordon Lightfoot put it in his *Edmund Fitzgerald* ballad.

The captain had reservations about attempting to make the harbor. The marine superintendent ashore, determined to keep the freight moving, assured the *Viking* on the marine radio that "winds had dropped to occasional gusts of 30 miles per hour." But when the mate and I looked at the ship's wind speed indicator, it showed a steady 45 miles per hour with gusts to 57.

The ship's best wheelsman was called to the wheelhouse, and an attempt was made to gain the harbor. We could see the spray from the waves going clear over the lighthouse. A tense stillness fell upon the bridge as the

captain, mate, and wheelsman worked in concert to guide the ship. The *Viking* yawed into the deep trough of the waves. As the harbor grew close, we could see throngs of people parked at the Frankfort turnaround and atop Elberta bluff gazing out at our struggle, hoping, like us, that a scene of disaster was not about to unfold. Finally, the moment was at

hand, and the *Viking*, not unlike a surfer riding a chosen wave, slipped at nearly full speed between the breakwalls. Once abreast of the Coast Guard station, the ship trembled as the propellers worked hard astern to check our way and swing into the dock.

In just 24 hours, November had transformed my harbor town from fall to winter. Looking back out to the torrent of wind and water, it hardly seemed possible that we could have survived such freshwater fury, but we had.

This year, not unlike those of the past, all of us who call the dramatic coast of Northwest Michigan home will again experience the exhilarating drama of the seasons changing and the "Witch of November."



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Benzie Bus Open for the Holidays

Public transportation service a life-saver for Lois Weaver

From Staff Reports

Benzie Bus believes in its mission “to connect people to community,” and that requires working some holidays.

“Our customers have spoken about their needs and wants, and we have re-allocated drivers to work on those days,” says operations manager Chad Hollenbeck. The only days that buses will not run are Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Although full service is not available on other holidays, people that need rides will be able to schedule in advance and should be able to ride.

That is great news for Benzie residents like 75-year-old Lois Weaver, who has relied on public transit since her husband passed away three years ago. Weaver, who lives in downtown Frankfort, rides the Benzie Bus three or four times each week: to buy groceries at Shop-N-Save, to visit her son in Benzonia, or to visit her chiropractor on M-115.

“I love riding the Benzie Bus,” Weaver says. “I enjoy sitting and looking at the scenery, which I couldn’t do if I was driving, and I really like all the drivers. I really depend on the Benzie Bus. I couldn’t live without it.”

The bus schedule for future holidays is as follows:

Black Friday: 7 a.m. — 5 p.m.
 Christmas Eve: 7 a.m. — 2 p.m.
 New Year’s Eve & New Year’s Day: Open*
 *Schedule determined by early December

The Benzie Bus has recently undergone significant systemic changes that have made it more adaptable to customer needs. In May, efficiency planning resulted in opening Saturday service and extending dispatch support until 7:30 p.m. on weeknights. Also, TC X (Express), which was launched and had 458 riders in October, has proven to be a popular service. The Transit Summit last spring was attended by nearly 50 community leaders and has generated recommendations that will serve for future needs-assessment planning for the next five years or more.

“We want to be the full-service transportation leader in the region,” says executive director Bill Kennis. “This requires us to support needs like non-emergency medical transportation, to collaborate regionally outside county-lines, to get our residents to Manistee and Traverse City, and to meet seasonal demands for festivals.”

Recently, city leaders in Frankfort have sought Benzie Bus for reducing parking congestion. And the community can expect some creative ideas for next summer. Kennis adds

that Benzie Bus aims to “always improve our delivery with better reservation systems, clean-fuel buses, and efficiently managing our limited financial assets.”

Benzie Bus received an award in Indianapolis earlier this fall for being one of the top-fix fleets using clean propane; they’re getting a new propane bus in December, compliments of a CMAQ grant (Congestion, Mitigation, Air Quality).



Lois Weaver rides the Benzie Bus three or more times each week. Photo courtesy of the Benzie Bus.

Don’t be surprised to see improved bus shelters, bus-stop signs, and opportunities for everyone to ride on the TC X from Frankfort that can get you to Munson, Meijer, and downtown Traverse City in

about one hour. BATA is working with Benzie Bus to improve transfers so that Northwestern Michigan College, Cherry Capitol Airport, and shopping destinations are an easy one-transfer away.

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