



Chickens loose in Leelanau!

Celebrating County dispatch blotter at Glen Arbor Wines

By Katie Dunn
Sun contributor

Winters in Leelanau County are magical: fields and forests blanketed in snow, lakes frozen and dotted with ice fishing shanties, the comforting redolence of fires roaring inside cabins and cottages. Winters in Leelanau County also can be a little lonesome and isolating. To remedy the winter blues, establishments across the county host unique events to get folks out of their homes and into the warmth and conviviality of the community. That's precisely what Glen Arbor Wines provides with its Thursday Blotter Night.

Blotter Night is the creation of Darci Ricker, an historic Glen Arbor gal, whose family owns and operates the Glen Lodge on the western shore of Big Glen Lake. The venue for the weekly blotter reading is the home/business of Lissa Edwards on Lake Street in downtown Glen Arbor. Like Ricker, Edwards has deep roots in the Glen Arbor community, and is a senior editor with *Traverse, Northern Michigan's Magazine* where she has worked since 1989. Edwards converted the first floor of her historic family home into a commercial space back in 2017.

"I prayed and meditated to see what I could do with my property to monetize it after a huge and stressful life change," she said. "I've had a lifelong interest in wine so one thing led to another."

With that, Glen Arbor Wines was founded. Edwards serves up whites, reds, and bubbles—all of which are locally sourced—as well as local cider.

So, what exactly is Blotter Night? Every week, Ricker meticulously reviews the *Leelanau Enterprise's* blotter section for light-hearted entries—only the innocuous ones are selected to be read aloud. At 6 pm sharp on Thursdays, locals and tourists alike gather at the counter of Glen Arbor Wines to listen to what Ricker has to offer. Her aim is to provide a bright space in which to share those blotter entries that are amusing (someone's chickens are loose out on Bodus Road!?) or even perplexing (the mystery of the random maroon suitcase that was found half empty rolling down the street in one township, and then was found abandoned in the woods in a different township the very next week!).

Reading the dispatch blotter has long fascinated Leelanau County residents. During his regular Thursday night Round Up talent variety show at the Hayloft Inn on M-72, Bill Dungen used to read the blotter from the *Enterprise*. Some he included on radio episodes that aired on Northwestern Michigan College's station, WNMC. "People would say, 'You can't put that on the radio!' But we did," Dungen told the *Sun* two years ago. In Decem-

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Leah Turner, Maggie and Dana MacLellan, Isabel and Josh Fast kayaked the Crystal River on New Year's Eve day, Dec. 31, 2022. Maggie started the annual tradition about a decade ago. Whether frigid or balmy, the friends close out each year bundled in warm jackets and with life vests in tow.

Where's the snow?

From staff reports

The first half of January was brown and green in Leelanau County. According to the National Weather Service (NWS) in Gaylord, we're on pace to set a record for lack of snow this month. Even with a few white flurries late in January, we may still eclipse the previous mark. NWS measures snow accumulation in two County locations—Maple City and Northport.

Maple City has recorded an average January snowfall of 46 inches since records were kept beginning in 1959. The record low was in 2006 when the town received 11.4 inches. As of this Jan. 17, the NWS had recorded only 2.9 inches in Maple City.

Northport has recorded an average January snowfall of 25.7 inches since records were kept beginning in 1987. The record low there was in 2021 when the County's northernmost town received 6 inches. But as of Jan. 17, the NWS had recorded only 0.8 inches in Northport.

The average January temperature for Leelanau County is 22 degrees. This month the NWS' recorded average has been a balmy 31.8 degrees Fahrenheit through Jan. 17—barely below freezing.

Want predictable winters? Climate Change says 'Forget it'

By Ross Boissoneau
Sun contributor

It's winter, but through the first half of January, it hasn't looked or felt like it.

"It's milder than normal. It may turn colder toward the end of the month (of January)," said Jeff Zoltowski, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

But there's colder, and there's cold. Where you need coats, hats, gloves, boots, and maybe a couple layers underneath. Where the snow crunches or squeaks under your feet, and the occasional peek from the sun sets the snow diamonds sparkling. Other than the Christmastime blizzard, this year there's been little evidence of the wintry weather we've come to expect.

Leelanau resident and retired meteorologist Dave Barrons, a familiar face on local television for many years, keeps a finger on the pulse of

the weather. He says climate change is making expectations based on past years less reliable. "We've added more carbon dioxide to the air. Carbon dioxide holds more heat," he said.

He goes on to explain how increased carbon dioxide levels are affecting the planet. "When I first started in weather, for a very long time there were 280 parts per million of carbon dioxide. Now it's over 400." That increase acts as insulation. "It's like a blanket that holds heat," he added.

Barrons said historical records indicate colder weather was more common going back 150-plus years. As example A, he pointed out that the first year in which there is a written record of whether West Grand Traverse Bay froze or not was in 1851. It was noted that year that the bay did not freeze, and he said such a distinction indicates that it was more likely at that time that the bay would freeze than it wouldn't.

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Darci Ricker picks light-hearted entries from the *Enterprise's* weekly dispatch blotter.

Habitat for Humanity builds energy-efficient homes in Maple City

From staff reports

One of three duplex units at Maple City Crossings—Habitat for Humanity’s affordable housing project in the middle of Leelanau County—is complete and will welcome homeowners within the next few months. The next unit with two more homes is framed, has a roof, and siding work has begun.

All homes at Maple City Crossings boast energy efficient electric heating and cooling systems, thanks in part to a \$5,000 Energize Challenge grant that Habitat for Humanity received in November 2022 from Leelanau Energy. Eight such grants were given to fund and support innovative clean energy projects across the Leelanau Peninsula. Other winners included Northern Latitudes Distillery in Lake Leelanau

(\$10,000), Bohemian Café in Northport (\$10,000), Inland Seas Education (\$5,000), Saving Birds Thru Habitat (\$3,700), Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum (\$1,000), the May residence (\$1,000), and the Nilsson/Riebe residence (\$1,000).

“The group represents a beautiful cross-section of Leelanau—from local non-profits to the business community, households to affordable housing projects,” said Leelanau Energy Board President Joe DeFors. “We are inspired by all the smart, educational, community-based energy projects out there.”

The 14 homes Habitat for Humanity is building together with New Waves Church at the corner of M-72 and Bugai Road will also use energy efficient technologies.

“We’re spending a significant amount

to make these homes as energy efficient as possible,” said Frank Siepker, engineering and operations manager for Cherryland Electric and president of Habitat GTR’s board of directors. “It’s a significant component for us.

“These homes utilize the electrical

grid for energy as opposed to hydrocarbons. The electric grid is much more capable of decarbonization than fossil fuel networks are. So it’s a win-win on the environmentally responsibility side and on general waste reduction, too.”



Above: The first energy-efficient duplex at Maple City Crossings is nearly ready for its occupants. Below: Emily Kelp and her children, Jayden, 8, Piper, 4, and Jenna, 2, “broke ground” in November 2021 on the affordable housing units as Kristina Eggeman, her eighth grade daughter Keely, and baby Vivian looked on. Both the Kelps and Eggemans will live here.

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GL Chamber selects new officers

From staff reports

The Glen Lake Chamber of Commerce has named its new officers for 2023. Stephen Brotschul of Broomstack Kitchen & Taphouse is the Chamber president; Darci Ricker, of Glen Lodge is co-president; Mara Miller of the Leelanau Coffee Roasters is secretary, and Dotti Thompson of

Grandpa’s Place is treasurer together with co-treasurer Nancy Miller of Devette & Ford Insurance.

Chamber board members are: Katy Wiesen, Crystal River Outfitters; Brooke Hazael-Massieux, La Becasse; Kaitlyn Springsdorf, Crystal River Outfitters; Lizzie Gray, Cottonseed; TJ Shimek, Serbin Real Estate, and Rebecca Benedict, Cherry Republic.

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Iconic Cedar Tavern for sale

From staff reports

The iconic Cedar Tavern in the heart of Leelanau County hit the market in mid-January with a listing price of \$1.2 million.

According to realtors Janel and Taylor Browns' listing, "This beloved establishment is a go-to spot for locals and visitors alike. Under the same management for over 45 years, the Cedar Tavern is one of the most popular destinations in Leelanau County with a 4.5-star rating on Google. Numerous improvements to the property have been made in the past few years including a new outdoor patio area with seating for 20. The expansive upstairs, currently used for storage, was in previous years rented out for additional income. Price includes real estate, fixtures & equipment, liquor license and adjacent parcel which is currently being used for parking."

Owner Ellen Stachnik confirmed the news on Facebook:

"Well it's out there. After a lot of talking we have decided to list the Tavern for sale. We love you all and appreciate your support and kindness over the years. 45 years it's been a great time!!"

In our 2013 feature story about the Cedar Tavern, Stachnik narrated the history of the business and its importance to campers and locals, alike.

It was her father, Ron Alpers, (who passed away in 2008), and her mother, Joan, who bought the place from Frank Schill in 1977. (Schill and a partner bought the tavern in 1957, according to an archived notice in the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*.)

"Mom loves to tell the story," Stachnik explains. "She said my dad, he owned an oil company then, came home one night and told her she didn't have to worry about the oil business anymore because, 'I'm buying a bar.'"

"You're what?" her mother replied. Stachnik, who was 12 at the time, says she has no clue how her father hit



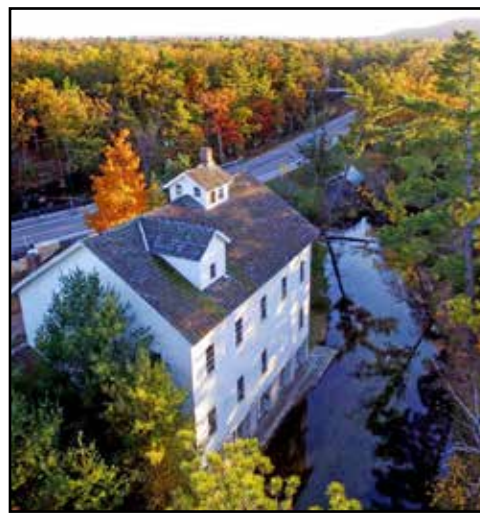
on the idea of owning a bar, or a bar in Cedar. The family lived in Traverse City, though her father had grown up on a centennial farm (now a bed and breakfast) on Alpers Road, near Leelanau. She remembers visiting the farm every weekend during her childhood and hanging out with her cousins in the cherry orchards.

Her father, as the new Cedar Tavern owner, made many improvements over the years. She recalls him removing the long mirror behind the bar, painting the interior brickwork and replacing the old corner kitchen (serving "burgers and frozen pizza") with a full kitchen that serves sandwiches, burgers, homemade pizza, and today's full appetizer menu and dinner specials. Thick, shiny slabs of knotty pine replaced the old tiled Formica bar, with woodworking done by brothers Daryl and Chris Plamondon. At the same time, tall cocktail tables were added, for standing and mingling.

Once she was of age, Stachnik waited tables and tended bar in the tavern for her father.

"He taught me all I needed to know," she says, adding that she spent 12 years working for a travel agency in Traverse City, where she lives with her husband, Roger, and their 15-year-old son, Kyle. She quit the travel business when she became pregnant and returned to work at the tavern after her son was born.

"I've been here ever since."



Iconic Leelanau businesses are changing hands in 2023. Read the *Glen Arbor Sun* for our coverage.

The Mill seeks chef for 47-seat restaurant on Crystal River

From staff reports

The iconic Mill on the Crystal River, which Turner Booth has restored since he won zoning approval in a public referendum vote in August 2021, aims to reopen this spring and include a 47-seat all-day cafe and fine-dining restaurant. The onetime flour mill built in the 1800s, which was used as a recording studio in the 1970s, will also offer lodging, a gallery and museum. Health and wellness classes may be part of the mix, too.

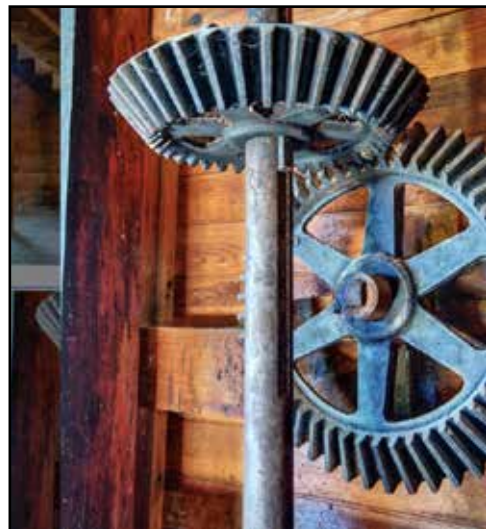
Early in January The Mill posted a job for an Executive Chef.

"As we begin the final stages of finishing the renovation, we are in search of a culinary professional who identifies with the philosophy of hospitality we seek to redefine," the advertisement states. "We believe in creating space for the service worker to shine — a reshaping of the guest perspective."

"The Mill will offer a relaxing and refined atmosphere for discerning guests through design, community and wellbeing principles."

Booth is partnering with Fernhaus, a new Northern Michigan hospital-ity group, to redesign The Mill and restaurant.

Visit GlenArbor.com for more coverage of The Mill, its history and what's next for the iconic property.



Upcoming Events:
Saturday, Feb. 11: The entertaining Luke Woltanski playing 4:45-6:45 pm
Sunday, Feb. 12: Our famous Bloody Mary Bar all day! Also Pouches Cocktails to-go for your Super Bowl fun
Friday, Feb. 17-Sunday Feb. 19: Celebrating Mardi Gras! Friday the Backroom Gang plays great New Orleans Jazz 4:45-6:45 pm.
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Appointments are required for each collection.

Collections are for Leelanau County Households only.

Cost for these collections are covered under

P.A. 69 of 2005—a charge placed on Winter Tax Bills.

Visit Leelanau.gov to schedule your appointment and to view a list of acceptable & unacceptable items.

Contact Leelanau County Planning for assistance at (231)256-9812 or email planning@leelanau.gov

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Great Lakes Humane Society provides Leelanau's only dog shelter

By Sandra Serra Bradshaw
Sun contributor

The Great Lakes Humane Society (GLHS) was founded in the memory of an abandoned mother dog named "Frannie," adopted by Linda Gottwald, the founder of GLHS. The doors opened in 2011 and to date they have been able to place more than 1400 once-homeless dogs. Gottwald has an especially deep passion for animals, and as such has spent her lifetime helping them. She was awarded the Albert Schweitzer Community Service Award for her volunteer work with the Chicago Anti-Cruelty Society.

Gottwald is the author of *Once Upon a Shelter*, a book chronicling her work with abandoned animals. She has a doctorate degree in family

medicine from Rush University and works in telemedicine. A strong animal advocate, she is a member of PETA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Gottwald lives on a ten-acre farm in southern Leelanau County with her dogs Tootie and Panda, along with the various canines that come and go. It is here that the GLHS is located.

As for Frannie, Gottwald explained; "I first saw her many years ago one rainy gray afternoon when I was volunteering at an animal shelter in Oakland, California. She was being dragged into the shelter by an elderly gentleman who was straddling to keep a grip on her collar while he held a wooden chest drawer of puppies. 'Some kids was chuckin' rocks at her and her pups behind the coliseum,' explained the exhausted man, as he wiped his brow. 'I chased 'em off and brought her to you.'"

"I thanked him for his kindness," Gottwald continued. "I set the drawer on the counter and gently moved the pups into a box – five chubby, brown and black fur balls. The mother dog anxiously watched my every move. She was gaunt, terrified, soaking wet – but her eyes never left her puppies. 'Don't worry,' Gottwald told the scared dog. 'We'll take good care of them.'" It was then she decided to name her Frannie in honor of St. Francis, the patron saint of all animals.

Over the weeks, the pups flourished and were quickly placed in new homes. But not so for Frannie. "When people passed her cage, she would cower in the corner trembling. I would bring her treats daily and eventually she began to wag her tail ever so slightly. I wondered if she missed her pups and thought of how lonely she must be night after night in her empty cage," Gottwald said.

Oakland, just like animal shelters throughout the country, has a tremendous number of animals brought in every day and the sad truth is, they simply could not keep every animal indefinitely. "All too soon, Frannie's time was up...but there was one last chance – the Pet Parade," explained Gottwald. Every month volunteers would line up in front of a crowd of potential adopters and march dogs around the shelter grounds. "The parade had been the launch site for a lot of adoptions and I hoped that Frannie would be one of them," she explained.

Gottwald sat on the grass with Frannie watching as each dog was led, accompanied by their new families, into the adoption area. "Frannie wasn't one of them. I knew that meant she would be euthanized," she said. "As if she understood, Frannie turned to me and ever so gently lifted her paw to me



Great Lakes Humane Society founder Linda Gottwald with volunteers Sallie Donovan and Alison Collins and dogs Dollie and Taylor, both awaiting adoption.

to say good-bye, quietly, accepting, resigned to the sad little life fate had dealt her. That did it. An hour later she was mine."

"Over the years, it turned out that actually, I was hers," reminisced Gottwald. "I was captivated by her soft brown eyes, her endless devotion, her gentle offering of her paw, I came to love her in a hundred ways. She was terrified of strangers, ran from other dogs at the dog park, shook in fear at new situations. But Frannie was never more than a few feet from me and she shyly learned to play little games [...]. It took so little to make her happy."

"One cool autumn morning a friend stopped by to borrow a rake – he was going to clean up his summer cottage," Gottwald related. "Would Frannie like to go?" the friend asked. I looked at her sitting quietly watching me. "Sure, why not? It would be better than sitting in the house all day." I reached down and patted her head for what would be the last time."

When Gottwald returned home from work, she was surprised not to see Frannie's face in the window, watching like she always did. When it grew dark, surprise grew into worry. "I called my friend – no answer. Eight, nine, ten o'clock...Something was wrong. Finally the phone rang – it was the police. There had been a terrible car accident...my friend was in the hospital, injured but alive. "Had anyone seen the little brown dog in the car?" Gottwald asked. One police officer said he thought she probably had jumped out the window, frightened by the sirens of the ambulance.

Gottwald drove into the frigid night and started looking near the scene of the accident. "Miles away from home, terrified, – where would she have gone? I drove through alleys, parked the car and walked the streets, calling

her name," said Gottwald. "When the light of dawn came, I prayed someone would call, but no one did. Freeways, intersections frozen ground, cars whizzing by... how terrified she must be, trying to find me. I stapled posters, asked people but no one had seen her."

"Someone once told me nothing good ever happens after 2 a.m.," Gottwald stated. "Sure enough, about 2:30 the following night, the phone rang. Frannie was dead, hit by a car. Her body was lying in the causeway, about 12 miles from home. A passerby had stopped and taken the time to call the number on the collar. I drove to the scene and there she was, lying on her side, still warm. There was not a mark on her," she said. "I cradled her in my arms, looked up to the frozen stars and pledged that she would not have died in vain, that some day, I would make an animal shelter for all the beautiful little spirits like she had been. Those that are lost or frightened, confused and alone."

That heart-wrenching experience was how GLHS was established. "Over the years, we have seen hundreds of animals come through our doors, all with their own sad stories. But there will never be another dog like Frannie. She is with me always, reminding me of how great the spirit of a little stray dog can be," Gottwald said.

"There is such a need – we have to turn away dogs every day," Gottwald said. "On average we can keep six to eight dogs at a time. We have a real high turnover rate. I have never seen it as bad as it is right now." Then she related a harsh reality: "A family came by crying when they dropped their dog off. They drove away and never called back. That black Lab mix would run out to the corner of the play yard – she

See SHELTER on page 5

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Glen Arbor Arts Center invites artists to show their work

From staff reports

Submission deadlines for two artist opportunities at the Glen Arbor Arts Center are near.

Swimming, an exhibition about a familiar activity, takes a metaphoric look at what it means to move through water—both literally and symbolically. The deadline for online submissions is Feb. 1. This juried exhibition runs March 31-June 1.

A second creative, artist opportunity is the GAAC's Artist-in-Residence program, a juried competition. Since the 1990s, the GAAC has offered visual, performing, and literary artists two-week residencies—a chance to live in Glen Arbor and focus on new work, ideas, and more. An artist's residency provide practitioners with the space and time to work independently without the distractions of daily life. GAAC artist-residents are provided with a studio space, lodging, and full, permitted access to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The deadline for online submissions is Feb. 2. Residencies takes place from late April through October.

To read more about both these opportunities and to apply, visit GlenArborArt/ARTISTS, and click on the Call For Entry tab in the drop-down menu.

Current exhibits

The Glen Arbor Arts Center launched 2023 with a pair of exhibitions focused on the power of stories.

A Feral Housewife, a series of collages created from vintage ephemera by Leelanau County artist Mary Beth Acosta, are featured in the GAAC's Lobby Gallery until April 21. Working under the creative nom de guerre "The Feral Housewife," Acosta uses simple, familiar tools and a range of recycled, vintage papers to create collages about mid-century housewives,

big-finned cars, and "labor-saving" appliances that were promoted as drudgery-busting machines that would revolutionize the modern home.

Telling Stories, a juried exhibition, opened January 13 in the GAAC's Main Gallery. Human beings have told stories with images since the beginning of time. Some visual stories are personal. Others are communal. Visual stories record history, respond to and interpret events, comment on the state of humanity and the world. The GAAC's exhibitors tell their own stories in the media of photography, fiber, clay, paint, wood, collage, and more. This show runs through March 23.

Both exhibits may be viewed in the gallery. An online version of each exhibit includes a virtual slide show, and recorded interviews with artists and storytellers. View these exhibits and programs online at GlenArborArt.org/EXHIBITS. The GAAC is located at 6031 S. Lake St. Winter hours are Monday-Friday 9 am-3 pm, and Saturdays noon-4 pm. Call 231-334-6112 for more information.



SHELTER

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could not be budged as she wanted her family to come back to get her. I called her "Sarah, the Good Bye Girl." It was so sad to see her out in the snow, so cold, just waiting for her 'family' to return. We had to physically pick her up to take her back inside."

The Doris Day Animal Foundation (DDAF) has given the GLHS \$5,000 – on two separate occasions – to help keep this well-deserved Leelanau County dog protection agency going in its day-to-day expenses. The Doris Day Animal Foundation (DDAF) is a national, nonprofit 501(c) (3) Public Charity founded in 1978 by the legendary performer, Doris Day. She was affectionately known to many as "The Dog Catcher of Beverly Hills."

"I was watching an old Doris Day movie," explained Gottwald. "I liked it so much I wrote her a letter telling her how much I appreciated her work with animals and that I was trying to start a small shelter here in northern Michigan." Doris Day personally wrote back to Gottwald and took a special interest in her fledgling organization. Another famous actress who took interest was Brigitte Bardot. As a long-time dog-lover, Bardot

sent Gottwald and GLHS several thank you cards in her recognition of their work.

Besides donations, what makes the GLHS keep on ticking are the many volunteers that donate their time, whether it be once-in-awhile or more frequently such as volunteer and self-described dog lover, Tom Wilcox of Traverse City. "Four years ago, I had a black Lab names Jobi. We had a special connection that doesn't always happen with every pet. I lost Jobi when he was very young," he said. "That made me decide I wanted to spend more time helping dogs."

Wilcox spends Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays helping out at GLHS, and "If need be, I'll come on Thursdays and Fridays," he added. "To make these stray dogs adoptable, as in most cases they do not know how to walk on a leash. The biggest thing, beyond that, is to establish trust as "the majority of these dogs have no trust in humans," he explained. There is a certain order he found that works as well: "Feed – Water – Walk. That gets their respect in time," said Tom. "Trust. Respect. Then after that is realized, follows Love: Trust. Respect. Love," he firmly reiterated. "Sadly," Tom added, "many of these dogs are so out-of-touch with reality they do

not even know what a toy is. For a lot of them, being here at the shelter is the best they have ever had."

"I am so thankful for our volunteers," said Gottwald. "I often look out my kitchen window and there they are out there walking a dog – all bundled up - sometimes with an umbrella, and trudge through rain, snow and mud on

our trail," she said with appreciation that she hopes is sincerely conveyed to them all. "I personally wish to thank each of them!"

To volunteer or donate, please contact the Great Lakes Humane Society, at 231-846-8293, email greatlakeshumane@gmail.com or visit online at DorisDayAnimalFoundation.org.

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BLOTTER

continues from page 1

ber 2022, the *Enterprise* published a “Best of the Blotter,” a compilation of the most interesting calls to the county 911 center since Leelanau County’s paper of record began publishing the blotter in 2011.

There are some rules to Blotter Night, and Ricker duly enforces them: a blotter entry involving Glen Arbor Township requires a lifting of the glass; whenever a dog is involved in the 911 matter, requisite woofing by the participants ensues; if the 911 call comes in after midnight, then a chorus of Eric Clapton’s “After Midnight” or Patsy Cline’s “Walkin’ After Midnight” erupts (Glen Arborite Tom Krause likes to lend his melodic, baritone voice). Most significantly, Blotter Night participants raise their glasses when the 911 call ultimately, and happily, settles without incident—“all is well” is recited (thank you, Leelanau Sheriff’s Department!).

The weekly blotter readings bring tremendous amusement and communality. As Ricker aptly states: “It’s a big community hug.” And that’s precisely what the Thursday, Jan. 12, blotter reading was. Once again,

regulars and newbies congregated in the wine tasting room as Ricker held court. Even her 93-year-old dad, Ed, was in attendance. As was Waylon Jennings’ cousin, Larry Whitfield, who will be playing live music at Glen Arbor Wines from time to time. Corinne Cochrane, another Glen Arborite, kicked off the shenanigans with her signature two-fingered whistle—attention! Kathy Warnes, of the storied Warnes clan, jovially impersonated the 911 dispatcher: “911. What’s your emergency?” And, with that, the merriment commenced.

The blotter entries from that evening covered all parts of Leelanau County—from Bingham to Kasson to Empire Township. The nature of the 911 calls ran the gamut, such as: “Dodge Charger pulled into the park. The park is closed. Cannot tell if they are doing something wrong.” And: “Small black and white dog, seems viscous (sic). Chasing a walker. Man standing in driveway.” And, finally: “Ice cream vendor was trying to unload ice cream when a man bumped into her and jabbed his elbow into her ribs.” Lots of levity, and lots of head scratching!

Once Ricker made her way through reading the selected blotter entries,

the fun continued. Next came “The Backstory.” Still at the helm, Ricker chose one entry from that week, and participants were required to deduce exactly what precipitated the reported event. Ricker passed out slips of blank paper on which the contestants wrote their answers. There was real tension in the crowd, which was amplified by Ricker playing the theme song of “Jeopardy” from her cellphone. All submissions were anonymous, and Ricker then read them one by one, assessing their merits. The submissions were quite imaginative—some even lowkey existential. Prizes were then doled out to the winners—Snickers, Milky Ways, Twix—and a photo of the winners’ circle was taken.

With that, the Blotter Night officially ended, but that didn’t mean that

the crowd thinned out. Folks continued to enjoy their wine and one another’s company. Julie Zapoli, proprietor of Glen Arbor’s gourmet shop, Inn & Trail, explained her fondness for Blotter Night: “It’s a little community theater that pops up every week. It’s our own little Lake Wobegon.” Matt Kuncaitis of Maple City wryly explained what he thinks draws folks to the Blotter Night: “Everyone is here wondering if maybe they’re in the blotter!”

Consider swinging by Glen Arbor Wines on Thursday nights. The embrace of the community is warm and entirely sustaining. That’s why so many folks gravitate there. For Edwards, Blotter Night is “Glen Arbor incarnate: light and levity. Why would we want to be anywhere else?” Indeed!

Sleeping Bear Dunes plants beech bark disease resistant trees

From staff reports

The latest effort to combat beech bark disease is underway at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Seven tree saplings made from cuttings taken from resistant American beech trees at the National Lakeshore were grafted and planted in early November 2022. The successful project came as a result of five years of planning and research in partnership with researchers at Michigan Technological University.

Beech trees are a common sight in the National Lakeshore and can be found in roughly 71% of all the forested areas of the park. The seeds of these trees, known as beech nuts, are packed with nutrients and serve as a vital food source for many animals that call Sleeping Bear Dunes home.

Beech bark disease, as the name would suggest, is a disease that is currently plaguing American beech trees. It is caused by two organisms in what is known as a disease complex; an invasive insect native to Europe which feeds on beech trees known as beech scale or woolly beech scale, and

a fungus that infests the tree through the feeding holes left by the insect. The recent planting aims to gradually reverse the decline of American beech trees at the National Lakeshore by spreading seeds which are resistant to the disease.

More seedlings will be grafted from resistant trees in the coming months and will then be planted in a different location next year as part of the same collaboration with Michigan Tech. The Natural Resources team at the National Lakeshore will take what they learn from both plantings and potentially start their own grafting project in-house in the future.



Read the *Glen Arbor Sun* for our series about who is impacting the Leelanau County food scene in 2023.

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WINTER

continues from page 1

This year? The temperature for the bay on Jan. 13 was 40.1 degrees. While expected to drop to 36.3 degrees in the following 10 days, that's a far cry from the bay freezing. "My sense is we won't see it freeze," said Barrons.

So, what is this weather doing for outdoor winter recreation? Nothing good, that's for sure. As the gray, gloomy days continue, those hoping to schuss through the woods or slide down a hill are increasingly downbeat about their chances to do so.

Alec Clarke, the food and beverage director at the Homestead Resort, said there are still options for those looking for fun times and recreation. It's just not going to be zipping downhill what he called "the non-existent ski season." The slopes at the Homestead were open for just two days the week between Christmas and New Year's, traditionally one of the busiest times of the year.

Instead, it's things like hiking the trails, beach walks and bonfires. "There are still family options at the resort," said Clarke.

That includes dedicating efforts to expanding and enhancing the resort's casual eatery. "It's given us time to focus on Whiskers. It's an elevated experience for local (patrons) and our guests," Clarke said.

Which is all well and good. But it

Leelanau Historical Society retires "You Are Here" maps exhibit

From staff reports

After three years of delighting historians and patrons, sparking curiosity, and sharing long forgotten information about this beloved area, the Leelanau Historical Society's "You Are Here: Maps & Roads of Leelanau" exhibit will retire on Jan. 27.

The exhibit features 20 original or reproduction maps of Leelanau County as early as 1850. A variety of prints illustrate land surveying, geography, road maps, and tourism aids. Those elements will all be accessible after the exhibit closes in the Historical Society's Research Center. For more information visit LeelanauHistory.org.



Walking the Lake Michigan shoreline near Sunset Shores Drive on Jan. 15 with her dog and her friend Leslie, Amy Messano noticed the frozen sand forming long, fingerlike stalactites.

would be nice to be able to ski, snowboard or ice skate, right? Clarke undoubtedly agrees with that sentiment, but it's not happening anytime soon.

So, what is going on? Zoltowski says while there is a La Niña effect in the Pacific Ocean, causing rainfall in California, it hasn't corresponded with the typical La Niña impact in this area, which would mean cooler temperatures and increased precipita-

tion. Here, the weather pattern is more along the lines of El Niño year, with milder temperatures and precipitation at or below typical levels.

Zoltowski said while the mild weather is likely to continue, there is a potential benefit for those longing for a frosty coating of white. By this time in a more typical year, there is usually ice cover on at least a portion of Lake Michigan. The more ice, the less lake effect snow. "We are still in play for lake effect snow," he noted.

Barrons says that over the years he's observed that there's typically a period during which the temperature is constantly below freezing, with highs generally in the 20s and lows in the teens or lower, and the occasional below-zero reading. It's what he calls "core winter," but he's unsure whether that will happen this year. "I thought that (Christmas blizzard) would be the beginning of the core of winter," he said.

Instead, it was the last real accumulation the region has seen. Coupled with above-average temperatures, the combination may also portend a further drop in lake levels this summer. According to the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, Lake Michigan can average a loss of ten trillion gallons of water each year. Barrons said that this winter, Lake Michigan has already lost seven trillion gallons due to what he said is extensive evaporation.

Is there any hope for snow and

Sleeping Bear Gateways Council offers housing exchange

From staff reports

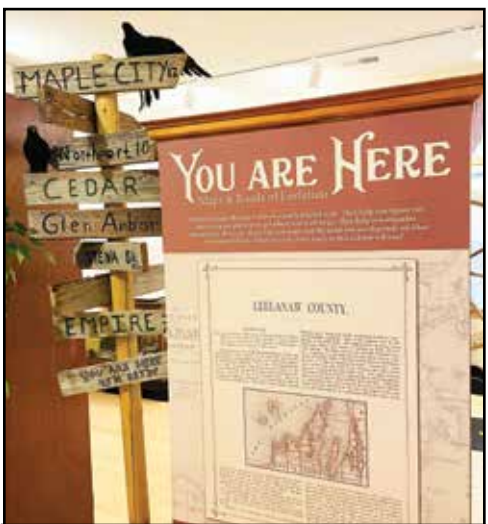
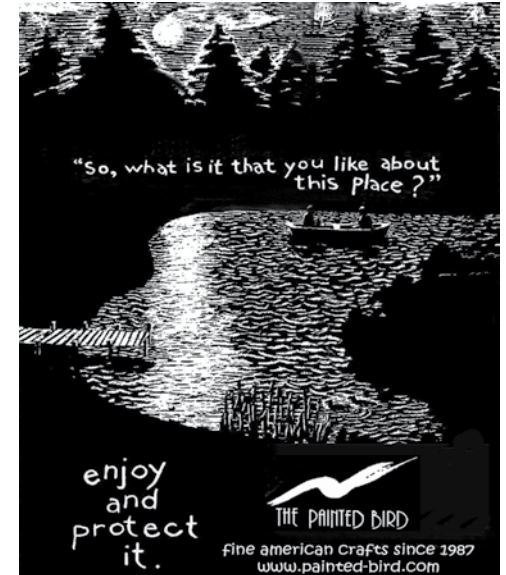
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For more information visit www.SleepingBearGateways.org/housing/ submit-rental-housing.

colder temperatures yet this year? Maybe, but it's far from a sure bet. The long-range forecast through March from the National Weather Service suggests above-average temperatures are likely, as is above-average precipitation. Whether that precipitation is in the form of rain or snow remains to be seen.

Clarke, for one, hopes it's the latter. "If, or when, the plan is to have the ski hill open as soon as it can," he said.

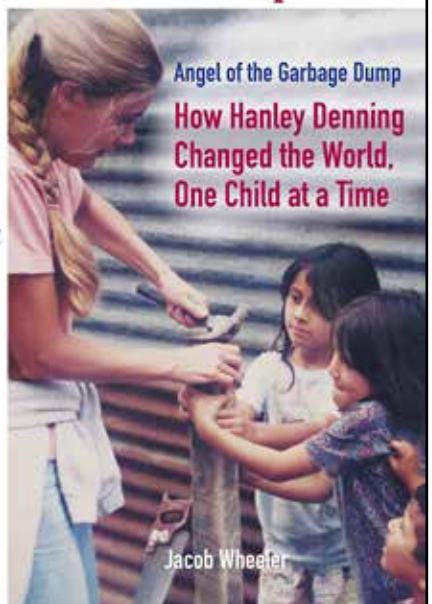


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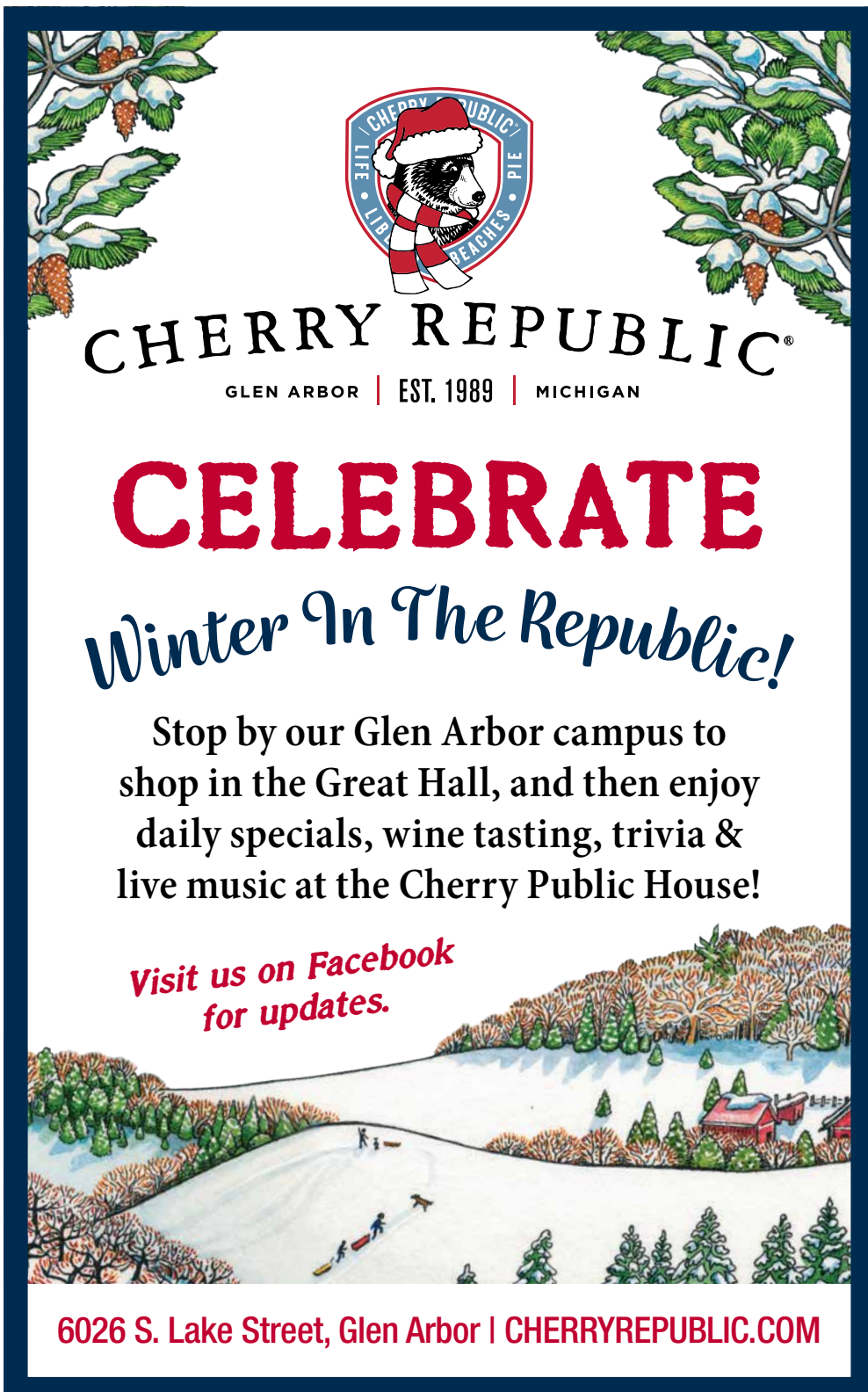
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