

Les Cheneaux

Bitter cold weather has finally arrived with this month of February. No matter what the groundhog said, it is winter and I'm sure it will stay that way for more than six weeks. On Sunday morning, I awoke to find my thermometer reading 12 degrees below zero! I hated to let my little dog out, but at times it is necessary. It's been quite a few years since we have had a temperature reading as cold as that. Cedarville's young people and their teachers had an extra day off this week when school was called off because of the bitter cold and wind chill. As children wait for the school bus, freezing noses, fingers, and toes can happen more quickly than one realizes when the thermometer dips below zero.

It is with regret that many are facing the loss of Pastor David Letscher and his wife, Betty, after the Sunday service February 11. Pastor Letscher has received a call to build a new church near his home town in Pennsylvania and so in many ways, it is a happy move for them, although they will certainly be missed here.

The two congregations they have served over the past few years, Bethel Lutheran in Cedarville and Zion in Allenville, are having a farewell potluck luncheon at noon for Pastor David and Betty at Bethel Lutheran Church after the service Sunday, February 11. All are welcome and anyone wishing to attend is encouraged to bring a dish to pass.

We wish the Letschers all good things in their new location. Mary and David Crocket, who

reside on Island No. 8, had an unusual sight the other day while looking out of their window toward Hill Island. There was a dead deer on the ice being devoured by a large wolf, with two eagles waiting on the sidelines for their share. Mary said that as soon as for the wolf left, the eagles moved in for their feast. In how many places can one see a sight such as that from the window?

Our daughter and son-in-law, Ken and Joanna Izzard, have a great variety of birds and wildlife in their yard. With many deer and local winter birds, they frequently enjoy seeing a pair of cardinals. A flying squirrel also makes a pass at their feeder now and then.

The winner of \$500 from the Lions Club raffle January 30 was Caleb Beedle.

I have two stories this week from Bruce Patrick, both about a phenomenon called an ice quake. The first one follows:

"When ice gets very thick, 18 inches or so, and there is no snow on it, and the temperature is way below zero, the sun comes out and the heat of the sun's rays warms the ice up. When I experienced one ice quake, it was between Goose Island and Marquette Island, an expanse of about two miles. The ice gets warm with no wind to cool it, and the pressure of a big field of ice like this gets to be terrific. The ice expands and something must happen, so somewhere in the middle of this field, a crack forms and one piece jumps up and slides over the field. This action is so severe that the ice field moves back and forth. The feeling of anyone on

By Helen Shoberg
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this ice, I think, is just like an earthquake.

"As some of these open leads forms, if a fisherman is outside of this lead, he has to go back and forth to find a place where the movement was not enough to form an open lead. This can be a real problem when one is on the outside of his trail to shore. These quakes don't happen if ice conditions are not right. [There must be] no snow on the ice and warm sun that comes out early in the morning."

The second story is about what happened to Martin Mertaugh's air sled and its riders on one of these "ice quake" days, as Bruce tells it:

"Ice quake is when sometimes one layer jumped up and slid over the field, this leaves a drop off. On one occasion, they were on the outside of one of these layers that had jumped over. Martin said that they ran back and forth along this edge. They could not find a place to run the air sled off to the mainland. So he figured they had to try and get back, and run over the drop. Well, as the sled dropped off the ice, the propeller blade caught on the edge. It split a piece off one blade. This made the motor vibrate terribly. No way could they run into Hessel, so they stopped and Martin took his axe and split off a similar piece off the opposite blade so they could run without the vibration. How do you like that? But it was the only way to get home!"

St. Ignace Library Programs Announced

Friends of the St. Ignace Public Library has announced a schedule of upcoming events to include a Children's Valentine Craft Session Saturday, February 10, at 1 p.m. Family Movie Nights, which are offered free of charge and include popcorn, will be held at 6:15 p.m. at the library on the following schedule: February 15, "Open Season;" March 13, Teen Night showing "Marie Antoinette;" March 29, "Matilda;" April 12, "Inconvenient Truth;" April 26, "Akeelah and the Bee;" May 17, "Flushed Away;" and June 21, "Cars."

Rexton-Garnet

By Linda Livermore
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Welcome to the frozen, white, below-zero Upper Peninsula. We should know better than to expect anything else this time of the year. Traveling was a little dicey though, as we went along with our son, Dave, who is finally home from his tour of duty in Iraq; we returned our grandson to Indian River following a weekend visit. When the Weather Channel calls for flurries and cold temperatures, that's good enough for me. I'm ready to throw another log on the fire, grab a good book, and stay home.

The lazy curl of smoke spiraling upward, the crunch of snow underneath your feet, and the quietness of the whole scene are what our tiny towns are experiencing as we head into February, with a few calls here and there from the snowbirds, whose temperatures indicate the need for tennis shoes and sweaters as

opposed to snow boots, warm hats, and gloves. We've been fortunate not to experience the weather problems those in other states deal with.

Lee and Lenora Kerridge enjoyed joining in the 90th birthday celebration of Lenora's sister, Velma Bushre, which took place in Roscommon.

Sunday dinner guests at the home of Dave and Robyn Albrecht were Robyn's brother, sister-in-law, and niece, Steve, Brenda, and Olivia.

Not too much hype in our tiny towns about the Super Bowl. Folks did gather for munchies and to watch the game. Our son-in-law, Charlie Fosdick, who is a big Chicago Bears fan, was hoping for a different outcome. Maybe next year.

Birthday wishes, a few current and some belated, to Devon Derusha, Ben Wyse, and Janet

Tippett, who celebrated January 28, Andrea Miller and Russ Nelson January 29, Bill Hanson, down Black River way, and Hugh Bigelow, down Epoufette way, January 30, and John Browning, January 31, our bowling buddy and all-around good guy, Dave Lewis, along with a fine and gentle man, Don Frederick, a new addition to the neighborhood February 1, and Pam Paquin, James Varty, and Tim Darknell February 4.

Anniversary wishes to our brother and sister-in-law, Roy and Karen Livermore, who can't always remember how many years, but I know it's 38.

Continued get well wishes to Lee Kerridge, who had surgery Monday, and to Harry Stephenson and others, who continue on the road to getting better.

Stay warm, everyone, this too shall pass.

By Barbara Buschbacher
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DeTour Area

How are you handling the minus zero and zero temperatures we're experiencing? There aren't too many of us out and about, as we're huddled inside near the heat. It's nice to see the sunshine. Take care, and bundle up with warm apparel if you have to venture out.

The benefit fish fry dinner for Dennis Bender will be Saturday, February 10, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Raber Hall. There will be raffles and many door prizes.

A silent auction will be sponsored by the DeTour Friends of the Library at the school library Wednesday, February 14, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Besides the many items to bid on, there will be boxes of homemade candies for sale for your sweetheart for Valentine's Day. Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

Volunteers have been giving their time to the library Tuesday mornings. Their project is replacing the spine labels to make them uniform and more easily read. It was reported the 2006 Book Fair was a great success. All profits from the sale of books and novelty items, which totaled more than \$1,000, were used to purchase new books for the library. This year the fair was chaired by Julie Rucker, assisted by Mary Volkers. Sandra Kraai is stepping down and handing the reins over to Julie Rucker after two years of chairing successful book fairs.

To enroll in the Friends of the Library, the new membership year is from January through December, and the dues are \$10 per person. The dues cover the cost of mailing membership cards and

also help fund additional services to the library. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. at the library. Checks are to be made payable to Friends of DeTour Area Library and mailed to the following address: DeTour School and Public Library, P.O. Box 429, 202 S. Division Street, DeTour Village, Michigan 49725. Many new books have arrived at the library, so stop by and check them out.

Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for this week; parents should check their child's folder for information. Teacher in-service day is Friday, February 9, so there will be no school.

Have a great weekend. The marina has been cleared of snow for ice skating, and the ice is smooth.

By Julie Freeman
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Engadine

Brrrr... It's cold outside. As I'm sitting here, next to a warm wood fire, it's five below zero outside. Some places are seeing lower temperatures than that.

Saturday, February 17, will be the 13th Annual Curtis Winter Carnival, sponsored by the Curtis Area Chamber of Commerce, on the South Manistique Lake ice in downtown Curtis. There will be a chili cook-off, music, Curtis fish coop with ice fishing (the children really enjoy this event), food booths, bake sale, children's games and piñata, turkey bowling, kid's mini sled challenge, family snow-

man building contest, and fireworks over the lake, sponsored by the Independent 3-Lake Area Fireworks Council. For more information, call (906) 586-3700 or 800-652-8784.

Saturday, February 17, and Sunday, February 18, will be the eighth annual Ice Fishing Derby at McDonald Lake in Gulliver, also featuring a Kids Derby for children younger than 14. Advance registration of \$5 is required at the BG's Mini Mart fish registration station at the public access site on McDonald Lake.

Come join the fun Saturday,

February 24, at Millecoquins Lake Winter Carnival, on the east side of the lake. You will find fishing contests, soup and chowder cook-off, polar bear snow-cross ski race and fun run, concessions and games, youth snowmobile slalom race (for children 12 and younger), U.P. championship euchre tournament, predator hunt, and snowmobile runs on the ice. Contact the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club office at (906) 477-6592 for more information.

It's the winter free fishing weekend, Saturday, February 17, and Sunday, February 18. Michigan's free fishing weekends are two days when all fishing license fees will be waived for residents and out-of-state visitors, on both inland and Great Lakes waters. All fishing regulations will still apply. If you need more information, stop by or call your local Department of Natural Resources office.

Happy birthday to Heather Troyer February 8, Stacy Vallier February 10, Sharon Leveille and Roger Berry II February 12, and Jessica Davis, Barb Hobbs, Fred Burton Jr., and Susan Fosdick February 15.

Happy anniversary to Ed and Becky Freed February 11, Mike and Karene Kerbersky February 13, and Leroy and Leanne Frazier February 14.

Happy Valentine's Day to my wonderful family, and to all of you.

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