

ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WINTER

21 WAYS to shake it up this season.

TEXT BY EMILY BETZ TYRA ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREW TYRA



1 Ski in peace
Wilderness State Park is the kind of uninhabited wonderland you're drawn to when you crave clean and soothing white space. Six miles of groomed skiing. 903 WILDERNESS PARK DR., CARP LAKE, 231-436-5381.

2 Date at the mountaintop
Nestle under a blanket as hill groomers pull you in a snowcat-drawn sleigh to the top of the Boyne Highland's North Peak. Your chosen wine bottle and a candlelit table await in the warming hut with a crackling fire and a rustic menu of roasted beef au poivre and Michigan apple and raspberry crisp. AONACH MOR CAFÉ, 231-526-3059, BOYNE.COM.

3 Take tea
On comes a lavish parade of tea sandwiches like cucumber pesto, warm scones with clotted cream and homemade lemon curd, steamy Italian wedding soup and rich bacon quiche. Dress up if you like, but if you're going for coziness over couture, a turtleneck and mukluks works too. Owner Andrea Schuldt assures: "It's okay, the Queen isn't coming." FOUR SEASONS TEA ROOM. 606 SHELDEN AVE. (U.S. 41), HOUGHTON, 906-482-3233.

4 Bowl some 10-pin and eat kafta
Come as you are to Whitetails Steak N Ale, unleash hat-cooped hair, approach the gleaming lane at this restaurant's vintage bowling alley, and swing yourself free. At the bar, grab an après-bowl beer and a Middle Eastern beef kafta made with parsley and spices. 510 N. CEDAR ST., KALKASKA, 231-258-6800.

5 Test your XC-ski power
Choose from the 10-, 20- and 50-K (that's 32 miles) and glide to personal victory through Antrim County's frosted hills. The 32nd White Pine Stampede starts at Mancelona High School and ends at Shanty Creek's Summit Village. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 231-587-8812, WHITEPINESTAMPED.ORG.

6 Drink hot toddies on the beach
Toast how lucky you are to live in a place where you can ski and soak up sparkling waters on the same day with a mood-warming cocktail. **GO CLASSIC:** Whisky and hot water, honey, lemon. **GO LOCO:** Cocoa spiked with coconut rum.

7 Ride a dog sled
KALKASKA WINTERFEST They don't call Kalkaska "Alaska with two extra K's" for nothing. Get out in Up North's snow-drenched oasis on dog sled rides. 11 A.M. TO 3 P.M. JANUARY 19 AND 20 AT THE KALKASKA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS (ON M-72 WEST), OR BY APPOINTMENT WITH KALKASKA NATIVE TERRY NOFFSINGER, 231-322-4403.
BOYNE HIGHLANDS Hour-long dog-powered excursions with a stop for scenic photos and a cup of hot chocolate. RESERVATIONS AT 231-526-3000, BOYNE.COM.



3 CHAIRS: TODD ZAWISTOWSKI. TU KALUTHIA: BRIAN CONFER.

Find a porcupine picnic

Spy a random pile of freshly snipped pine needles and bark on your winter walk? Look up. It's likely there's a porcupine in the tree above. The thorny rodents are sloppy eaters, dropping twigs and branches as they chew. Their telltale scraps are easiest to spot in winter, when they contrast with the white blanket over the forest floor.



9

TAKE UP CURLING

Come see what's so oddly addictive about this ancient Scottish ice sport.

989-786-3888, LEWISTONCURLING.COM.



10



Eat muffins in the library

When you've tired of the tomes, hit Tu Kaluthia Caffenia in the basement of Marquette's Peter White Public Library. This funky coffee shop serves wild blackberry muffins, homemade spelt chocolate chip cookies, baklava or, on lucky days, double-chocolate espresso cake with buttercream frosting. 217 N. FRONT, MARQUETTE, 906-226-4326.

12 Wine dinners at Luciano's

Once a month, Chef Leo's family ristorante is Ludington's little island of warmth, lavish courses and wonderful wines. 103 W. LUDINGTON AVE., LUDINGTON, 231-843-2244, LUCIANORISTORANTI.COM.

13 Eat snow candy

Create a pioneer treat with maple syrup and a fresh snowfall. Fill a few pie tins with snow. Heat a quart of pure maple syrup and ½ teaspoon butter in a heavy pot. When the syrup reaches 234 degrees on a candy thermometer—just before boiling—take the pot outside. Using a spoon, quickly drizzle the hot syrup over the snow in patterns that will harden like taffy.



11

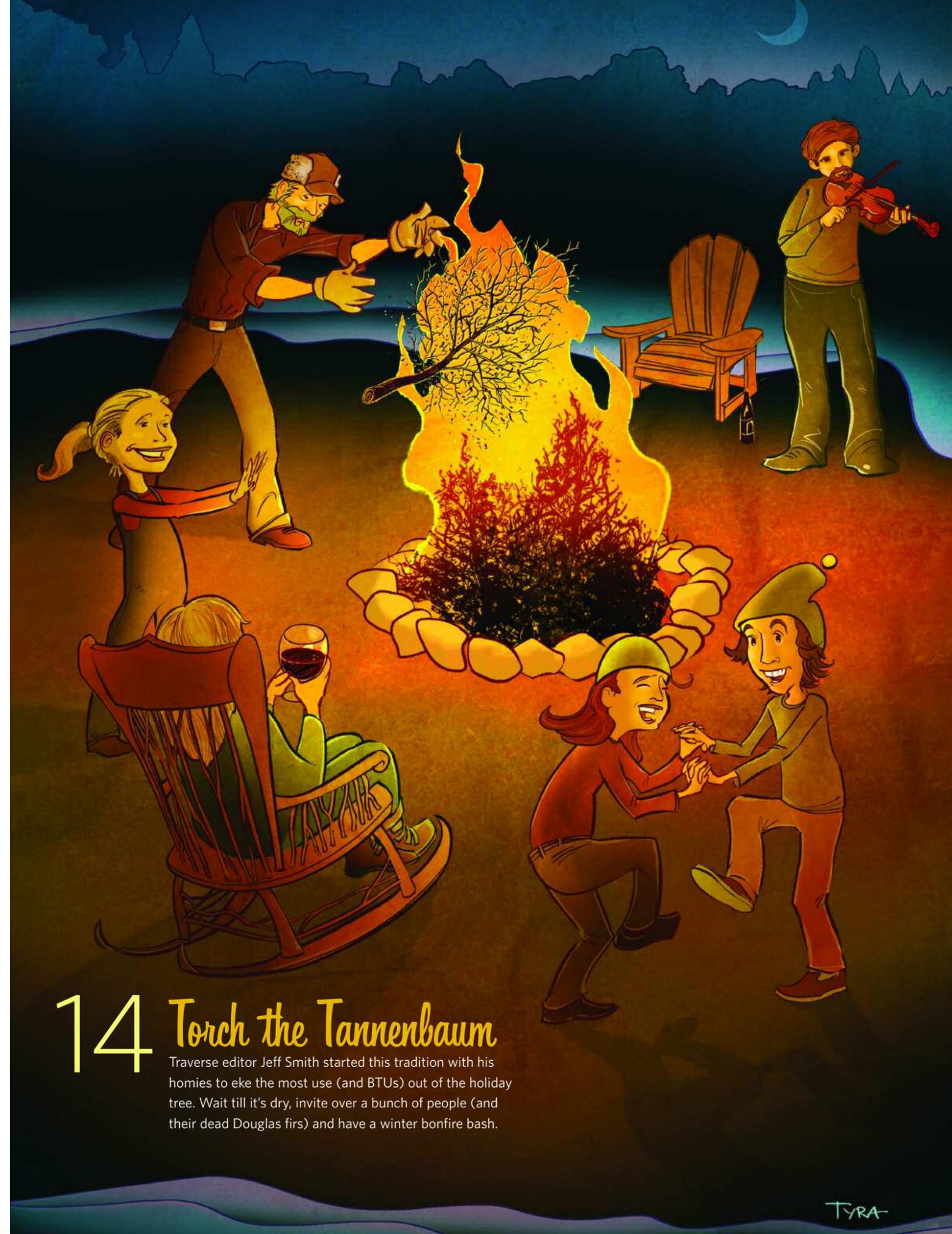
Play table tennis at the town hall

Rally with a Northern neighbor. Every Wednesday is Ping-Pong night in Glen Arbor. 6394 W. WESTERN

AVE. (M-22), GLEN ARBOR.



PHOTOS: TODD ZAWISTOWSKI.



14 Torch the Tannenbaum

Traverse editor Jeff Smith started this tradition with his homies to eke the most use (and BTUs) out of the holiday tree. Wait till it's dry, invite over a bunch of people (and their dead Douglas firs) and have a winter bonfire bash.

TYRA

15 HUNKER DOWN IN SHANTYTOWN

The state only allows five venerable sturgeon to be taken from Black Lake each winter, but there's plenty of muskie, pike and walleye for all. Pull up a bucket in shantytown, or better yet, Black Lakeside Resort owner Gary Roberts will hook you up with locals who rent shanties. ROOMS OR CONDOS AT THE RESORT ARE \$60-\$250/NIGHT. 231-420-0011, BLACKLAKESIDERESORTS.COM.



16 GET ABOVE THE CLOUDS

The uphill snowshoe hike at Pyramid Point on the Lake Michigan coast leaves you energized and loose to take in over-the-top views of the big drink on a clear day.

MAPS AT SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE'S PHILLIP A. HART VISITOR CENTER, 9922 FRONT ST., EMPIRE, 231-326-5134, NPS.GOV/SLBE.

17 MAKE RACLETTE FONDUE

Keep the ingredients on hand for a stormy night; if you can't get out, you may as well eat cheese.

RECIPE

Raclette Fondue

- 1 clove garlic, peeled and halved
- ½ cup Riesling
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 8 ounces Swiss Emmentaler cheese
- 14 ounces raclette cheese (BLACKSTARFARMS.COM/CREAMERY)
- 4 tablespoons kirsch
- ¼ teaspoon cornstarch
- Fresh ground black pepper
- Pinch nutmeg

Rub the interior of a stainless steel pot with the garlic halves and discard them. Place the pot over medium heat, add the wine and gently heat about 5 minutes. Add the lemon juice, add the cheeses. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. When the cheese is melted, stir in the kirsch and cornstarch. Season with black pepper and nutmeg. Serve in a fondue pot over a flame with crusty baguette cubes, tart apple slices or roasted potatoes. Serves 4.

From Anne Hoyt of Leelanau Cheese Company, Suttons Bay's national award-winning creamery.

18 Sew a shirtdress

Channel some restless creativity, and make this winter the one you sew yourself a cashmere coat or a short-and-sweet dress to reveal in the spring. Behind the drawn shades at Traverse City's Fine Fabric and Design is a secret world of designer fabric stocked with textiles that owner Debbie Alton buys at New York design houses like Ellen Tracy, J. Crew, Anne Klein, DKNY and Elie Tahari. Whether you like classic or *au courant*, you'll get staff help all the way through the final stitch to make sure you look smashing in your creation. After all, says Alton, the difference between a garment that's homemade or handmade is, simply, the fit. 511 E. 8TH ST., TRAVERSE CITY, 231-933-1521, FINEFABRICSTORE.COM.

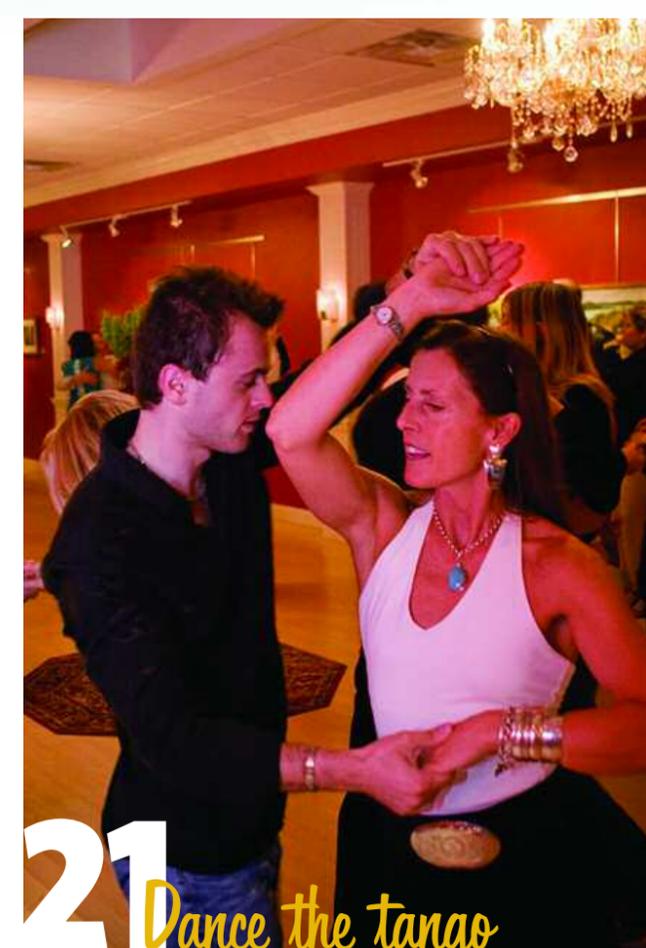
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19 Snowshoe the Jordan River Valley

Stamp some tracks in the snow alongside other critters' near this designated National Wild and Scenic River. Jordan Valley Outfitters rents shoes \$7 for a half day; \$10 for a full day. 311 N. LAKE ST., EAST JORDAN. BOOK BY EMAIL: INFO@JVOUTFITTERS.COM, 231-536-0006, JVOUTFITTERS.COM.

20 Wear a union suit

Why? 'Cause Duofold's figure-skimming classic red one-piece thermal underwear enrobes you with cozy cotton and merino wool to wick and keep you warm. 'Cause when you're toasty inside your own personal tent, you can live it up out there, indefinitely. \$39.95. JAY'S SPORTING GOODS, 150 DALE DR., GAYLORD, 989-705-1339, JAYSSPORTINGGOODS.COM.



21 Dance the tango

Learn the passionate turns and embraces of the original, Argentine style of tango at T.C.'s Gallerie Medici. Cindy Carleton gives private lessons by appointment and two workshops a month in her ruby-walled art gallery. 535 W. FRONT ST., TRAVERSE CITY, 231-995-3633, GALLERIEMEDICI.COM.

CANDY: TODD ZAWISTOWSKI. TANGO: DAVID L. FOX.