

Muskegon Chronicle

SWIFT SLIDE

THE DETROIT TIGERS LOST TO CLEVELAND TUESDAY NIGHT, MARKING THEIR 12TH LOSS OVER THE PAST 14 GAMES. DETROIT IS TIED FOR LAST PLACE IN THE CENTRAL DIVISION STANDINGS. **C1**

Say goodbye to gutter cleaning for good
 No clogging
 No cleaning
 No leaking
 No water damage
 No ladder accidents

Leafguard
 A Great Day Improvements brand
 www.leafguard.com

Call now for your free estimate!
 Financing available 313-486-0895

Clean up your home, we'll give you \$500 for your old gutters toward the purchase of a Leafguard system.*
*This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Leafguard or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Previous/future purchases are not eligible for a discount or sale price adjustment. Sales tax does not qualify for discount. This offer cannot be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. This promotion has no cash value. Leafguard reserves the right to end any promotion at any time without notice. Offer ends 5/31/26. Leafguard operates as Leafguard of Western Michigan in Michigan under license number 272000011 and in Indiana under GL1100049.

MACKINAC ISLAND

Former summer worker now is a popular island shop owner



Nicole Doud owns Little Luxuries gift shop on Mackinac Island. She stocks items with various price points so that there's something for everyone who might stop by. *Sara Wright photo*

Nicole Doud's journey from serving tables to owning businesses reveals the determination behind her success.

Tanda Gmitter tgmitter@mlive.com

MACKINAC ISLAND — When you step inside the Little Luxuries store on Mackinac Island's Main Street, you find yourself surrounded by a treasure trove.

From the sought-after candles and lotions to children's books, games and the store's signature Island Girl branded gear, this is the downtown shop where locals come to find a gift for a friend, and where island visitors can find a little piece of Mackinac to take home.

The store is the colorful brainchild of Nicole Doud, an island businesswoman and mother of three whose family name is part of the bedrock of Michigan's favorite island vacation destination.

But as Little Luxuries turns 18 this year, it's worth remembering that Doud started it all before she was a Doud, and that she began building her island legacy just a couple of years after taking her first summer job on Mackinac as a waitress.

THE REAL DEAL

Fast-forward nearly two decades, and her popular shop is busy during the tourist season and takes online orders year-round. She

"She's an inspiration to me. I think she had a lot of courage as a young woman (to start the store) on her own."

Brigit Martell, longtime customer

has become a mentor to other downtown shop owners and has a long list of customers who think of her as a personal friend.

They follow her Mackinac life on Instagram and exchange emails that make them feel like they have a connection to a woman they call "the real deal."

Laura Cline, who owns the nearby Mackinac Birkenstock shop, described Doud as a genuinely welcoming person when Cline and her husband bought their store several years ago.

"She will always stop and talk to you — even if she has 7,000 things to do," Cline said.

This spring, Cline encountered a few challenges opening her store. She said Doud was quick to text her: What help did she need? Could she send a few of her employ-

ees over to lighten the load?
 "She is the most genuinely authentic person here," Cline said. "She truly cares about the island."

CONNECTIONS

Doud also keeps a connection to her longtime customers, such as Brigit Martell from Haslett. Martell took a trip this month to Mackinac — a visit that her husband had planned, but one she'd be making with her daughters after his recent unexpected death. Martell said when Doud learned of her husband's passing, she sent a care package to Martell's home with items from the store.

"She's an inspiration to me," Martell said. "I think she had a lot of courage as a young woman (to start the store) on her own."

So how do you go from snagging your first summer job on Mackinac to becoming a go-to force on the island? From Doud's perspective, it takes a lot of determination and a belief that everyone deserves to treat themselves to a little something special.

THE FIRST TASTE

Doud, who grew up in St. Johns, was looking for a summer job in 2006 before her junior year at Albion College, when a friend and cousin steered her toward Mackinac Island.

She knew she wanted to work in Northern Michigan. She had been eyeing Harbor Springs or maybe Charlevoix. She wanted to escape the geography of mid-Michigan, have an adventure and earn some money for a study-abroad trip to Australia that she had her heart set on.

SEE MACKINAC ISLAND, A3

PCB CONTAMINATION

Michigan gets \$108M from Monsanto for toxin cleanup

A settlement with the company and affiliates could raise the total to \$240 million.

Garret Ellison gellison@mlive.com

LANSING — Michigan will receive at least \$108 million from Monsanto to help clean up and restore areas damaged by toxic PCB contamination.

On Monday, Attorney General Dana Nessel said the negotiated agreement will address the long-running toxic legacy of polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, which were widely used in industrial products before they were banned domestically.

The settlement with Monsanto and its affiliated entities, Solutia Inc. and Pharmacia LLC, guarantees Michigan \$108 million, but the total could rise to \$240 million, depending on the outcome of related legal actions, according to Nessel's office.

As part of the deal, Michigan will cooperate with Monsanto's litigation in federal court in Missouri against companies that bought or used projects with PCBs.

Michigan agreed to share documentation and says that there is a "substantial basis" for Monsanto's indemnification claims against companies such as General Electric, Magnetek, Paramount, Kyocera AVX, Cornell Dubilier and Gillette.

BANNED CHEMICALS

Monsanto will pay Michigan an initial \$32 million in June and \$32 million by March. The agreement also includes a contingent payment of at least \$44 million and potentially as much as \$176 million more, depending on federal case outcomes.

SEE PCB CONTAMINATION, A2



PCBs remain a concern in water bodies and sediments across Michigan — particularly in the Kalamazoo River, which is undergoing a federally-overseen cleanup of the chemicals from old paper mill waste discharges. Pictured is the cleanup operation as contaminated sediment is dredged at Verburg Park in Kalamazoo in 2022. MLive.com files

Advice, D1 Classified, C7 Comics, D3 Local, A4 Michigan, B1 Puzzles, D2 Sports, C1 Weather, B2 Your Money, A6
 169th year, No. 136 © Muskegon Chronicle Feedback: Send your comments to comments@mlive.com



SAY GOOD-BYE TO YOUR OLD GUTTER PROBLEMS

Find out more about the revolutionary Leafguard system and how it can protect your home!

Seamless, one-piece system keeps out leaves, pine needles, and debris
 Eliminates the risk of falling off a ladder to clean clogged gutters
 Durable, all-weather tested system not a flimsy attachment

Leafguard is guaranteed never to clog or WE'LL CLEAN IT FOR FREE*

Special Offers for Our Readers

Clean up your home, we'll give you \$500 for your old gutters toward the purchase of a Leafguard system.*

*This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Leafguard or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Previous/future purchases are not eligible for a discount or sale price adjustment. Sales tax does not qualify for discount. This offer cannot be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. This promotion has no cash value. Leafguard reserves the right to end any promotion at any time without notice. Offer ends 5/31/26.

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE AND DEMONSTRATION

CALL NOW 313-486-0895
www.leafguard.com

Leafguard
 a Great Day Improvements brand
 SERVING THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we'll clean your gutters for free. Leafguard operates as Leafguard of Western Michigan in Michigan under license number 272000011 and in Indiana under GL1100049.