

### YUMMY POT PIE

Aebra eats some home cookin'

# GEOCACHING

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## TRY HOMEMADE POT PIE

GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER AEBRA COE SAMPLES A TRADITIONAL DINNER MADE FROM SCRATCH:

went to the Good Hart General Store for a pot pie and found a tribute to smalltown life.

Carolyn Sutherland makes homemade pot pies and sells them out of the tiny store. She declared her affection for the town, "We're the luckiest people in the world living here."

This was evident as I ordered up a chicken pot pie. Two men on break from a construction project had stopped by for lunch and were joking around with the store manager. Douglas Carlson, of DWS Builders, expressed his enthusiasm for relaxing at the store on his break and for the hot, meaty pies. "They're good energy food, heat in the wintertime," said the store regular.

Sold for \$5 a piece and served in a tin pie pan, the thick, flaky crust is filled with white meat chicken (or beef), carrots, peas, spices and Sutherland's secret gravy. After my first bite, I had a hard time slowing down enough to let it cool off.

I like that the ingredients tasted fresh and the pie was not overly dense. It was similar to chicken vegetable stew in a personal-sized crust. The recipe for these handmade pastries was handed down to Sutherland from her grandmother. She has been selling them out of her store for 30 years, but a recent event spurred significant interest in the small town delicacy.

"Tim Harper, a radio DJ in Detroit, has eaten my pies on the air," Sutherland said.

Usually sold to locals or people visiting during the summer, the customer base consequently expanded.

"We make them to order now," Sutherland added.

Because every element of the pot pies is made from scratch, the recent influx in business keeps the store owner busy during hard economic times.

"We have a great local trade," Sutherland said.

While her store may have received recognition in the big city, it still maintains a friendly atmosphere and small town spirit.  ${\bf G}$ 

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Aebra Coe can be contacted at acoe@petoskeynews.com.

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