

# Freshwater Reporter



Serving Coastal Communities from Arcadia to Ludington

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Aug. 21-Sept. 24, 2019 **FREE**

## “Brethren Days” expands Labor Day weekend events

By Pat Stinson

**BRETHREN** – Best known for excellent fishing and hunting within the Manistee National Forest, Brethren also hosts a Labor Day weekend’s worth of lively activities, this year from August 30 through September 1.

**N**ow in its 50th year, Brethren Days continues to offer crowd-pleasing favorites attendees expect: afternoon and evening music, kids’ games and contests, adult tournaments, arts-and-crafts vendors, concessions, fireworks, a community church service and pancake breakfast, a pig roast and a parade. (See a complete list of events on page eight.)

Most take place in Dickson Township Park, 14270 North Coates Highway, approximately 18 driving miles northeast of Manistee.

“We’ve stuck with our classic event,” said Joseph Gutowski, board president of Brethren Boosters, the nonprofit which plans and oversees Brethren Days. “We’ve tried to make it bigger, to make it a full event.”

He said adding a Friday-night activity and extending Sunday’s schedule an extra hour are two ways the board built a bigger Brethren Days.

### FRIDAY FEATURES RETURNING ACT

Friday evening’s beer tent includes a mix



This foursome was all smiles during the Brethren Days’ Grand Parade. Courtesy photo.

of standard beers plus craft brews, hard cider and wine coolers. Entertainment is provided from 8 p.m. to midnight by Whiskey Bound, which describes itself as

a “high-energy country classic rock band.” Gutowski said the band performs its own variation of popular music with Live Wires Entertainment adding lasers and lights.

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## Minnehaha Brewhaha quenches thirst on Aug. 31

From staff reports

**ARCADIA** – Sixty-plus craft brews will “compete” with six musical acts for center stage during the second annual Minnehaha Brewhaha, a fundraising event held noon to midnight, Saturday, Aug. 31, at Arcadia Marine.

Craft-brew tastings take place 12-7. After 7 p.m., the tastings morph into a beer tent. Tokens purchased but not spent during the tasting event can be used toward full beers in the beer tent.

Five of six bands will play 90-minute sets, with a half-hour between bands. Musical acts include Jake Allen, Cindy Lou and the Red Hot Royals, Full Chord, Sweetwater Blues and The Accidentals.

At 9 p.m. the final act of the evening will take the stage: Cousin Curtiss.

A special appearance by treasure hunter Kevin Dykstra, of the History Channel’s “The Curse of Civil War Gold,” is also planned. Dykstra is part of the team looking for a boxcar of Confederate gold on the bottom of Lake Michigan, an ongoing odyssey which has aired on TV for two seasons.

Advance tickets are \$25, \$30 at the door, and include 5 tasting tokens, music and a souvenir glass. Designated drivers

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## Making a difference

By Ron Schmidt

The first thing I do when I wake up in the morning is turn on the radio. I want to hear what is happening in my neighborhood, city, state and the world while I have been sleeping. I always hope for good news, but too often it is discouraging.

It makes me think there is so much wrong in the world, how can I make a difference?

I went to a concert recently and I heard a great singer say, “You can’t do everything, but you can do something to make the world a little better.”

It reminded me of what my dad always

said: It doesn’t have to be a big gesture, it just needs to be something helpful that you can do.

It could be helping someone change a flat tire along the highway, or opening the door to the grocery store, or helping someone with their loaded shopping cart. It doesn’t have to cost money and only takes a few seconds of our time to help make somebody’s life easier, to make their day better or happier.

I will always remember about 15 years ago when my daughter was driving me back to this area from the Upper Peninsula in a terrible snowstorm. Someone ahead of us at the Mackinac Bridge tollbooth paid our toll for us. I thought, “What a kind thing to do,” and I have tried to do the same since.

As depressing as the world sometimes is, it seems we can always do something, even if we cannot do everything. If everybody does something, it will end up making a difference.

Be well.

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## Four hours of kindness

From staff reports

**LUDINGTON** – A road rally will take place around the city on September 21, and finding landmarks is not the mission.

It’s a rally of a different kind called The Kindness Rally, and 19 Michigan communities are signed up so far to participate.

Teams of 2-5 members give themselves a name then set out with a list of random acts of kindness to perform called “challenges.” As they complete them, they cross them off the list and compare their results with other teams at the end of the competition.

Some of those acts might include cleaning up litter, writing thank-you notes or helping carry groceries. Teams cross off their completed kindness challenges and use social media with the hashtag #TheKindnessRally to encourage others and document their impact in the community.

No matter who wins, the idea is the community becomes a better place to live.



The Michigan Jaycees founded the rallies, begun in 2016 in Redford Township, Mich. That rally tallied 250 acts of kindness. Last year 77 teams performed 3,000 acts of kindness in Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Colorado and

Australia, according to information shared on the organization’s website.

On the same site, it was stated: “Our mission is to provide a fun way to inspire others to be kind while combatting negativity with acts of positivity in local communities.”

To register for the Ludington event, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-kindness-rally-ludington-mi-tickets-67084927825>

Those interested in forming a team or sponsoring the event can visit: [www.thekindnessrally.org](http://www.thekindnessrally.org) or find The Kindness Rally on Facebook.

Email them with questions at [info@thekindnessrally.org](mailto:info@thekindnessrally.org).

# Lunker alert: River runs around the bend

By Greg Gielczyk

It's still a bit early for the major runs, and the fishing has been a bit spotty, but if you're patient and don't mind working for your catch, the odds are good a big one is out there waiting to swallow your bait.

Whether they are fishing in Manistee or Mason counties, people are coming into tackle shops grinning from ear to ear as they display their catch.

Yup, we're talking lunkers. According to Randy Dereske, of Captain Chuck's II in Ludington, people haven't been bringing in huge numbers of fish, but they are all big fish. He said the store weighed more than 30 fish weighing 30 pounds or more this year, and that trend is expected to continue when fall fishing picks up at the end of this month and into September.

"The quality of fish is incredible this year," Dereske said, adding:

"River fishing right now is pretty slow. There's a few Kings trickling up there, but it hasn't started running it. That's about it for the river. Steelhead don't start until October and the beginning of November. We're only seeing a handful of them (Kings) in there right now. Usually the end of August and beginning of September is when we see that big push."

Gordie Parks, of Andy's Tackle Box in Brethren, four miles from Tippy Dam, also said the fish coming in are on the larger side and breaking the scales. He said the Big Manistee River is usually the first to start "kicking out fish." The Betsie, Pere Marquette and Platte rivers start seeing fish coming in a couple weeks later.

"We've had a good amount of King salmon at Tippy Dam for about a week," Parks said. "That doesn't mean there's 100,000 fish, or big, big runs. But, there's a few hundred fish up there."

"The other news is the summer run Skamania (steelhead trout) have been up at the dam for a couple months, in good numbers. Between the trout and salmon, you've got some good fishing going on there right now."

Although Skamania steelhead run in summer and their brothers in winter, both have long, slender bodies and perform some incredible acrobatics when hooked.

First introduced to Lake Michigan in 1975 - courtesy of Indiana, where they were raised - Skamania resulted from a broodstock program in the 1980s at the Skamania Hatchery in Washington state.

Parks added that the salmon fishing will just improve for the next month, while the steelhead will thin out day-to-day as the salmon take over. It's just a transition period right now.



A King salmon joins the 30-pound club at Captain Chuck's II, of Ludington. Courtesy photo from the store's Facebook page

Greg Gielczyk covers athletics in Manistee high schools for the Ludington Daily News. He also writes a weekly column for the TV 9&10 website, MISportsNow.

# Minnehaha Brewhaha

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Courtesy photo.

Last year's event included 32 brewers, 60 different brews and 5 food trucks, according to Rachel Lowe, Minnehaha Brewhaha president.

"For the first year, we had over 800 through the gate," Lowe said. "It was an amazing turnout; it was very humbling."

"We had close to 80 volunteers who wanted to help out."

A couple of additions to this year's event: a third tent will be erected for kids' games (and possible face painting) and 5K and 15K runs will begin at 8 a.m.

Minnehaha Brewhaha is hosted by Music Moves Me, a nonprofit organized by family members in memory of Ronald Stoops, a bass player, who passed away in 2016.

Funds raised will benefit the Ronald Stoops Memorial Scholarship Fund which supports local musicians and music within area schools.

Last year donations were made to Bear Lake, Onekama and Frankfort schools,



Ronald Stoops. Courtesy photo.

according to Lowe, Stoop's daughter.

"We're working on an endowment fund at Interlochen," Lowe said, referring to Interlochen Arts Academy. "Our goal is to fulfill that endowment."

For more information, visit: [www.music-moves-me.org](http://www.music-moves-me.org) or [www.facebook.com/MinnehahaBrewhaha](http://www.facebook.com/MinnehahaBrewhaha)

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# LaborFest powers up with Here Come the Mummies

By Pat Stinson

Area salt, lumber and sand industries will be celebrated in a big way when the 2nd annual LaborFest takes place August 31 in Douglas Park, at the west end of First Street.

MANISTEE - Over 1,000 attended the first LaborFest last year, which was partly rained out, and this year's event is expected to draw 2,000-3,000, according to Tom Volkema, president of Salt City Rock and Blues, the nonprofit organization hosting the event.

LaborFest is a fundraiser to support the organization's efforts to build a public, open-air, multi-use amphitheater near the shore.

Activities include a car and motorcycle show, local food truck and beverage vendors, kids' activities, hot-air balloon tethered rides, a parade with representatives of area labor, an afternoon of free musical entertainment and concerts (for a fee) in the evening.

The evening's headliner is Here Come The

Mummies (HCTM), the bandage-wrapped, audience-wowing musical group which claims its "mysterious personas, cunning song-craft, and unrelenting live show will bend your brain and melt your face."

The band, which may or may not consist of Grammy award-winning musicians brought together by Scott Baio, describes its music as "terrifying funk from beyond the grave" and includes 11 members whose musical talents range from guitar, drums and synthesizer to saxophone, small woodwinds and trumpet. The band regularly tours North America and makes appearances on television shows.

All V.I.P. tickets to their 9:30 p.m. concert are sold out, which Volkema said is "real promising."

"I think we made the right call with Here



Come The Mummies," he added.

Regular concert ticket prices are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. You must be 21 to purchase tickets to HCTM.

"We have three or four board members, groupies, who've seen them (HCTM) three to five times," Volkema said. "They're a band with a large following and we're happy we could get them. We tried last year but they weren't available. The input

and response from our float in the parades (with HCTM signage), fourth of July and Onekama, and at Grapes on the River have been great.

"I think we have a great festival," Volkema said. "I believe if we get good weather this could be the biggest event Manistee has seen in a long, long time."

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# A summer's day in the marsh

By Katie O'Reilly

*There is no place like a marsh in summer. Dense patches of cattails sway like waves in the breeze, a breeze that carries the trilling of a red-winged blackbird and the aroma of blossoming milkweed. In the golden light, a jewel-toned dragonfly speeds through the air with the reflexes of a fighter pilot.*

Marshes, swamps, bogs, fens: no matter what you call them, wetlands – places where the ground is saturated with water for most or all of the year – are important parts of a healthy environment. Wetlands that are directly connected to the waters of the Great Lakes are considered “coastal” and form in protected areas like bays and river mouths. A majority of the coastal wetlands in the Great Lakes basin are found in Michigan; of the basin’s over 500,000 acres of coastal wetlands, the state has approximately 275,750. Even the name of the city of Muskegon is derived from the Ojibwe word meaning “swamp” or “marshy river.”

European settlers viewed Michigan’s extensive wetlands as dangerous places of disease that were unsuitable for agriculture. Settlers solved what they thought of as the wetland “problem” by draining and filling in wetlands to transform them into agricultural land. As a result, nearly half of all coastal wetlands around the Great Lakes basin have been lost since European settlement, and Michigan alone has lost nearly 71 percent of its coastal wetlands.

## HOW WETLANDS BENEFIT PLANTS, FISH AND OTHER CREATURES

But despite these losses, remaining coastal wetlands still provide humans with numerous benefits. Like coral reefs and rainforests found in other parts of the world, coastal wetlands teem with life and are

home to many different plants and animals. Nearly 90 percent of Great Lakes’ fish species depend on coastal wetlands during at least part of their life cycles, with many sport fish such as northern pike and yellow perch relying on these habitats when they are young. In spring and fall, large numbers of waterfowl use coastal wetlands as rest stops during their migrations. Wetlands are also important for federally endangered or threatened species such as the dwarf lake iris, Karner blue butterfly and Blanding’s turtle.

But animals aren’t the only ones who depend on coastal wetlands – we humans do too. Coastal wetlands protect shorelines from erosion by absorbing wave action, and the root systems of wetland plants help hold the soil together. Like a sponge, a coastal wetland prevents flooding by retaining excess water during storms and releasing it slowly over time.

In this way, wetlands also act as the planet’s kidneys, filtering runoff from the surrounding land and improving downstream water quality.

Beyond benefits like protecting property and improving water quality, wetlands also support recreational activities like fishing, waterfowl hunting, bird watching and photography – activities that account for more than \$50 billion dollars annually in economic activity across the Great Lakes region.

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Researchers from the University of Notre Dame set a net in a Lake Huron coastal wetland to sample the fish community. Photo courtesy of Katie O'Reilly.



Blossoming common milkweed is a frequent sight in coastal wetlands. Photo courtesy of Katie O'Reilly.

## Great Lakes Revival Report: Good News from the frontlines

From staff reports

REGION – A report detailing the lessons and achievements of communities working to clean up 10 polluted “areas of concern” around the Great Lakes is now available online.

Three of the 10 areas are in Michigan: Muskegon Lake, River Raisin and the Detroit River.

The report, called Great Lakes Revival, shares the story of how people in each of the communities worked together to develop an action plan “to clean up the foulest waters in the Great Lakes Basin.”

One conclusion reached in the report after 10 case studies were reviewed:

“The communities all came to incorporate in their work the restoration of habitat for fish and wildlife, resulting in a powerful and satisfying restoration of the life in and around the lakes...”

The report also enumerates the many benefits of cleanup, including economic, to the people living in those Great Lakes’ states and provinces.

Its authors state: “It provides a powerful case for sustaining the flow of cleanup funding that has revived these and other communities: the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Great Lakes Legacy Act in the United States and the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health and the Great Lakes Protection Initiative in Canada.”

The report was made possible by a grant from The Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation to the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR), tasked with reviewing and evaluating over 30-plus years of efforts to clean up Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

IAGLR is a scientific organization of researchers studying the Laurentian Great Lakes, other large lakes of the world, and their watersheds. Other members include those interested in this research.

The full report is available at <http://iaglr.org/aocdocs/GreatLakesRevival-2019.pdf>



# New Arcadia Marsh boardwalk brings nature to all



All photos by Brian Allen.

By Brian Allen

Over 200 people attended the grand opening of the new Arcadia Marsh Preserve boardwalk last month. What’s the excitement about? What’s out there?

After being a dedicated observer of the marsh for over 30 years I also was excited to check it out and walk across it, instead of having to launch a kayak or put on mud boots. As Glen Chown, the director of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, said during his dedication speech for the opening of the boardwalk: “This is a rare place; over 80 percent of Great

Lakes’ Coastal marshes are now gone, filled, dredged or drained. This is one of the best of the remaining marshes on the Great Lakes.”

Parking at either the Arcadia trailhead lot south of town or the lot on St. Pierre Road will give you access to a nearly mile-long trail and boardwalk across the marsh. This is a universal access trail, so you can use a wheelchair or push a stroller the entire way.

## BOARDWALK ENVY

Let’s go back a few years – or 33, to be exact. I had just moved to Manistee and met fellow birders Carl Freeman and Keith Westphal who told me about the fantastic Arcadia Marsh. Just like this year, the water in 1986 rose to record-high levels and Arcadia Marsh was more like a lake than a marsh. In 1987 and 1988 we had hot, dry summers and mild winters with little snow, and Lake Michigan dropped drastically. The effect on the marsh was almost magical, with new mud flats and islands appearing and marsh vegetation returning. For the next several years hundreds of ducks, shorebirds, egrets, herons and Sandhill cranes visited the marsh in migration. Reports of this wildlife viewing opportunity spread throughout the state and people would stop on the shoulder of the M-22 causeway to watch the spectacle.

Carl, Keith and I have led many field trips to Arcadia Marsh since that time and there had always been the concern of watching for traffic on the causeway. Launching a kayak or canoe helped us get up close to the wildlife of the marsh, but it was also difficult and carried the chance of spills and risk to equipment. We had all seen the boardwalks at places like Point Pelee National Park in Ontario and often thought how great it would be to have one here and to watch the birds, but we never dreamt it would happen.

Now, 33 years later, the dream has come

true. Thanks to many others that enjoyed the marsh teaming up with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, the land was purchased and now there are 305 acres in the Arcadia Marsh Preserve. To fund the \$1.2-million boardwalk, local families like Brad and Jan Hopwood contributed, in addition to the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Manistee Community Foundation (from the Minger Family Endowment Fund) and many individual contributors. Groups like Ducks Unlimited, the Little River Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Conservation Resource Alliance and the Manistee Road Commission all participated in the work to make the preserve and boardwalk a reality.

## NEW REWARDS

So, what’s out there? Have you ever walked close to a great blue heron or a trumpeter swan? The first weekend in August both were so close to the boardwalk that I didn’t need to use binoculars to appreciate their size and beauty. There were families of pied-billed grebes, a relative of the common loon, with freshly-fledged young scampering about and diving for food. A pair of falcons called merlins were dashing over the marsh and chasing each other like a pair of small jet fighters. Dragonflies and butterflies glided overhead and over the wildflowers near the railing. Carnivorous plants (yellow

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# Home treasure seekers strike gold at Patina

By Pat Stinson

*A love of collecting brought Karen Kolb, of Manistee, and Nikki Schneider, of Bear Lake and Chicago, together, but it was the way their two styles blended that sealed their relationship and led to the May opening of Patina, in Onekama.*

The two met as vendors with rented booths at an art-and-furniture mall in Manistee.

"Karen and I started working together on projects for the store outside of our own booths," Schneider said. "We really enjoyed working together and did that a lot. She taught me what color and texture is all about. I'm not afraid of color anymore."

Kolb chimed in.

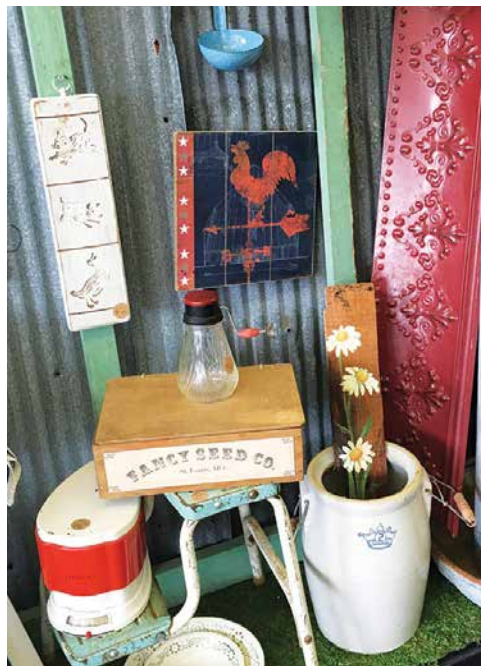
"Nikki always likes a little bling and rust, and I like color."

Set inside a two-story, wooden building with a wide porch and a bygone era's character, Patina feels more like a comfortable living room and parlor at grandma's house than a retail store. There's the couch and coffee table lit from the side by the large front window. Stretched out and sleeping on the couch's cushions is curly Joe Brown, Kolb's quiet dog companion. Plates, pitchers and knick-knacks displayed on old hutches and end tables harken back to grandma's.

Of course, there are differences. One is the artful arrangement of their collectibles, with gallery-type lighting and a quirky blend of "old" and refurbished set beside the "new" and decorative throughout Patina's two showrooms. There's the wagon wheel, the weathered wooden thingamajig hanging on the wall above the sofa, and rusty whatchamacallits leftover from someone's kitchen, barn or fence deliberately placed on tabletops, garden stuff on floors ... definitely not grandma's style.

Kolb and Schneider said they wanted to have an open gallery feel to the store, and customers enjoy the way things are thoughtfully displayed. In fact, customers often ask them how long they have been in business and assume it has been a long time, because of the building's age and contents.

The pair said a lot of the pleasure of having a storefront, as opposed to selling



Courtesy photos.

on eBay, includes having conversations with customers about the various pieces.

"We like to ask them, 'What do you think it was?' and 'What are you gonna use it for?' and 'Where would you put this?'"



Schneider said. "That's the fun of it."

They said that's why they have couches, to encourage their customers to sit down and look around, think and share ideas, and ask questions.

"We learn a lot from other people," Kolb said. "We want them to bring pictures in when they buy something and take it home, whether they kept it like it was or if they did something different with it."

"It's a part of the fun, and then whatever we learn we can turn around and share with somebody else or try it in the store."

The two said they feel fortunate much of what they like and sell appeals to people in their 20s up to those in their 60s – and a lot of them are men.

"Nikki brings in some great industrial pieces," Kolb said. "They like that a lot."

Kolb and Schneider said they keep their eyes open for mid-century items currently popular with millennials, and they will search for particular items for customers when possible.

## FOUND. FLAWED. FABULOUS.

Kolb said she bought her first piece at 15, stripped and refinished it, and became hooked on collecting. Schneider said she has spent 15 years collecting and repurposing.

Between the two, they own an 1,800 square-foot basement, three storage buildings and a huge barn to store their collectibles.

When they are on the "hunt" at yard and barn sales and, in Nikki's case, at places in Chicago, they know what catches their eye.

"Texture," Schneider said. "Something unique, things a lot of times from other countries, other eras ... things that are different."

"Quirky," Kolb replied. "Things you're not going to see every place you go ... I don't know what it is about it, but I love it."

So, what about the name, Patina?

"We really wanted it to reflect who we are, what we want people to understand what the store is," Kolb said.

"It's something that's earned," Schneider replied. "It's aged naturally, it adds value ... Bottom line is, we want people to be inspired and we want to be inspired. That's what it's all about."

Patina is located at 4850 Main Street, Onekama. Their Facebook page is Patina Designs.

## Beloved animals to be blessed at farm event

**FREE SOIL** – Bring your pet or stuffed animal to the 29th annual Blessing of the Animals, 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Circle Rocking S Children's Farm, 5487 Tuttle Road.

The event is free and all are welcome, according to the farm's president Nancy Supran. She added that the yearly affair is a "giant open house" to introduce visitors and welcome returning guests to the nonprofit farm.

"It's better than a fair; it's free," she explained. "Some people come just to watch."

The blessing of the animals begins promptly at 1:30 p.m. and guests are asked to arrive early, with their pets in a carrier or on a short leash.

The Rev. John Brown and the Rev. John Hansen will officiate. Supran said the blessing is similar to a regular church service, with ushers, flowers, gospel readings, a homily and a general blessing.

"It's ecumenical," she explained. "Animals don't know what denominations are and don't care."

People and their pets form two lines, one line per minister, and blessings are given individually.

"Of course, humans receive the blessings too," she said.

The usher-servers bring water to the altar as needed, but sometimes things get busy and the attention of the ministers is focused only on the blessings.

"One time we had a German shepherd drinking out of the holy water," she said, with a hint of glee.

Pets blessed in previous years include dogs, cats, chickens, sheep, pigs, goats, hedgehogs, a parrot, and even bugs in a jar.

"The service looks like Noah's Ark out here," she quipped.

If a favorite pet has died, the owner can bring a real or silk flower and picture of the pet to be blessed during a special service held in the St. Francis garden.

If, after the service, a guest wants to speak to a minister, he or she can find a private place outside to do that.

"The farm is a neutral zone," she said.

### HUMOROUS CONTESTS AND GAMES OF SKILL

In addition to the blessings, afternoon activities include a silent auction (with a twist), pet shows, farm "Olympic" games



Courtesy photo.

for humans (all participants receive medals, ribbons, trophies or other giveaways), live accordion music by Traverse City musician Helen Herzberg, wool-spinning demonstrations by Loretta Gunberg and a visit by the Fountain Fire Department, which allows children to try on gear and sit in the fire truck.

The "Look-Alike" contest is for humans who resemble their pets, or vice versa, and no costumes are allowed. Supran laughed

as she remembered one contestant with a long beard and headband who resembled his goat, also wearing a headband.

The farm offers 11 costume contests for pets and humans. Then there are contests for dog talents and pet talents.

"If your dog has a talent, it has a good chance of winning," Supran said. "We have a lot of misbehaved dogs around here."

She recalled the time an owner sang the

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# LaborFest

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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Volkema said he is excited about this year's car and motorcycle show, which begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. Organizers mailed invitations to 37 car clubs.

"We're getting good response from them and from local people," he said. "We're hoping for 200 entries."

The 12:30 p.m. parade begins at the fountain on River Street and ends at the festival site at Douglas Park.

Of the six unions invited to participate in the parade, four are from Manistee. Some of the participants include the Operating Engineers Union 324 of Muskegon, the pipefitters' union, city workers, and employees of Morton Salt and Martin Marietta (where Volkema works).

Free concerts begin 1 p.m. at the Lions Pavilion, beginning with Larry Bialik and the Ramblin Band, followed by Rock Supply and Chad Rushing.

Also at 1 p.m. are free family activities, including kids' games, which run until 5 p.m.

From 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Re/Max will offer hot-air balloon tethered rides.

Concerts requiring admission begin at 6:30 p.m., with music by Clear Heels and The Change, followed by HCTM.

Persons entering concerts carrying bags will be subject to size limits imposed by the group for safety reasons. Bags must be clear plastic and no larger than 12 inches by 6 inches by 12 inches. One-gallon clear plastic bags are allowed, as are clutch bags 4.5 inches by 6.5 inches, or smaller.

"With all of the terrible things going on in the world, we thought maybe we had better follow suit (with bag limits) for everyone's protection," Volkema explained. "You can't go to a football game these days without (submitting to) a bag search or going through a metal detector."

LaborFest wraps at 11:30 p.m.



## WHO IS SALT CITY ROCK AND BLUES?

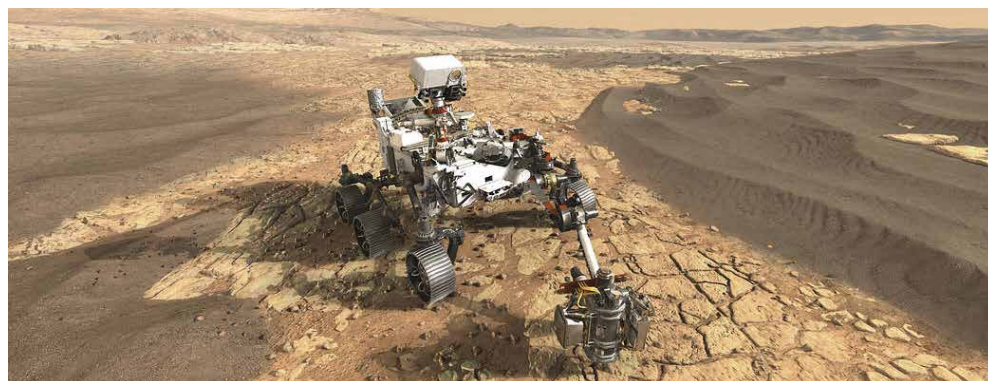
Salt City Rock and Blues is a nonprofit organization with 11 board members whose goal is to build a public, open-air, multi-use amphitheater between First Street Beach and Douglas Park. Volkema said the amphitheater idea has been on the "back burner" of the city for a while, and his group hopes to raise \$29,000 for a feasibility study. The study would tell them if it's feasible for them "to spend this kind of money" on a 2,000-seat structure, which Volkema said "takes up the whole area" between the beach and park. He explained that the amphitheater would be a tribute to Manistee's logging days, salt operations and ironworkers.

The organization's mission, as stated on its website, is: "to enhance the arts and entertainment in Manistee. By capitalizing on our area's foremost natural resource, the Lake Michigan shoreline, and working in conjunction with the local government, funds raised will be endowed for future entertainment facilities."

Monies raised from the group's previous ventures were donated to Homeward Bound Animal Shelter, North Pierhead Lighthouse and the Boy Scouts.

Proceeds from LaborFest will go toward the feasibility study, Volkema said.

For more about LaborFest visit the group's Facebook page or website: [www.manisteelaborfest.com](http://www.manisteelaborfest.com)



Artist's rendering of the new Mars 2020 rover. Courtesy of NASA/JPL-CalTech.

# Your Ticket to Mars

By Brooke Edwards

NASA has explored Mars using the robotic rovers Pathfinder, Spirit, Curiosity, and Opportunity. Each of these missions was able to hint at the possibility of previous microbial life on the planet, such as signs of past flowing water. Pathfinder ended a few months after it landed in 1997. Spirit and Opportunity landed in 2004, with Spirit lasting until 2010. Opportunity was last heard from June 10, 2018 amid a planet-encircling dust storm, leaving many space enthusiasts saddened and expressing grief on social media.

This leaves Curiosity as the only active rover currently exploring Mars, but this is soon to change.

In less than a year, NASA will be sending another rover to explore the red planet. The launch window runs from July 17 to August 5, 2020. The Mars 2020 mission will land in February of 2021 and explore the planet for over a year. What makes this rover unique from its predecessors is its ability to drill and collect samples from the planet's surface. Mars 2020 will also explore deeper into whether or not microbial life existed on

Mars, and if so, how long ago. Even more exciting, the rover will test the atmosphere of the planet for production of oxygen. The findings will be extremely useful when the first humans eventually explore Mars, which is the goal of the upcoming Artemis Program.

As in many past missions, NASA is inviting the public to take part in the excitement. Anyone can submit their name to be put on a chip that will be flown on the Mars 2020 Rover. Participants receive a printable certificate to acknowledge their participation in the mission. The opportunity is free and available until September 30. Participate at <https://mars.nasa.gov/participate/send-your-name/mars2020/>. This may be the closest most of us will ever get to Mars, so don't miss this opportunity.

Learn more at <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/>

The next program is 9 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Lions Club pavilion, First Street beach., Manistee.

Brooke Edwards is a NASA Solar System Ambassador. She lives in Manistee County.



Corey Mikus at Northern Michigan Dragway. Courtesy photo.

# Northern Michigan Dragway: Breaking Records at 50

By Greg Gielczyk

*Only six races remain in the 50th season of the Northern Michigan Dragway (NMD) in Kaleva, including the third leg of the annual manufacturer's showcase races.*

The second leg was the 22nd annual Mopars Against the World (MATW) event on August 3, after the Bowtie Challenge known as Chevrolets Against the World. These typically draw the largest crowds of the year and attract racers from all over Michigan, with some from Ontario, Canada.

Now, it's Ford's turn. The event is called the Blue Oval Battle VII (BOB) scheduled August 24-25 and the prize money is substantial, with \$5,000 for the winner in one class the first night and \$3,000 on the second night.

"It draws them from all over," said Brian Ledford, owner and manager of NMD. "It's kind of like a points race on steroids. They're running for a lot more prize money, and a lot more people come other than our usual local racers, which isn't a small group. Our normal, regular race ... is in the neighborhood of 200 entries, but when we get to those bigger races we get between 350 and 400 entries."

The dragway is taking a hiatus the weekend of Aug. 16-17 before kicking off its stretch run with the BOB, and Ledford is hoping for better weather. Rain showers during Mopars Against the World had the dragway staff mounting an extensive track-drying effort. A furious pace was set after racing resumed, in an attempt to finish in a reasonable amount of time.

Despite a couple other non-weather-related delays, the Mopar racers topped the other makes, known as "the world", 188-160 in head-to-head races with a top prize of \$6,000 in Bracket I. Bracket II

paid out \$10,000.

A race was washed out July 20 and is rescheduled for September 28.

Going into racing August 10-11, Corey Mikus, a former track champion from Bear Lake, was clinging to a slim lead over Onokama's Eric Johnson in Bracket 1.

Johnson temporarily grabbed the points lead with a runner-up finish in MATW, but Mikus took a sixth place on the second night of MATW to pass him up.

"They're both former track champions," Ledford said. "I would guess when it comes down to it, it's going to be one of them pulling off the championship just because of where they stand right now, because they have a good lead above the rest of the pack. Corey was a back-to-back champion two years ago. Eric actually won three track championships in a three-year span. I believe it was 2011-13. Right around that time span."

Phil Anderson, of Maple City, began the Aug. 3-4 weekend in fourth place in Bracket II, but moved up to first place. He won the points championship last year.

The dragway's own records continue to fall, also. Ledford reported that NMD has maintained or grown in every category. He said that the track really saw a huge increase in participation in the early season, and it has carried through. He added that, for the Memorial Day weekend races, the NMD had over 150 more entries than it had last year.

Over 400 racers have accumulated points this season, which is another new record.



Courtesy photo.

# Later Splash raises hopes of larger catch

By Greg Gielczyk

For the first time in its long and successful history, the Manistee Salmon Splash fishing tournament will take place later in the season, Friday, Aug. 23-Sunday, Aug. 25. Which could be good news if, as tournament director Scotty Mac of Tournament Trails expects, it means better fishing and bigger fish.

MANISTEE – Weigh-ins take place each day at Lions Pavilion on First Street Beach, where an awards presentation will take place 2:30-3 p.m., Sunday.

“We’re hoping (the change in dates) is a positive thing,” tournament director Scotty Mac of Tournament Trails said. “A lot of times with the tournaments boats are hanging out early to pre-fish anyway. Since we have back-to-back tournaments in Manistee County, teams will stick around to do them both. I guess we’ll see. People are going to be fishing competitively out of Manistee at a time when traditionally fishing should be pretty good.”

Mac said that a lot of 30-pounders have already come across the tournament scales this year, more than in past years. Although fishing has been a little sporadic, he said that the kings are “healthy, big ... and they’re out there.”

Contestants will be permitted to fish out of Onekama as well, but the proviso

is that they return to Onekama after each day’s fishing and transport their catch to Manistee. Onsite registration begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by a 7 p.m. captains’ meeting which includes the ladies/kids contest as well as the main event. The ladies’ and kids’ portion of the tournament is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 22, while the main event – which has three divisions – hits the water on Friday, Aug. 23.

Divisions include Pro (\$100 entry fee) with a best two-man Department of Natural Resources (DNR) limit each day, Am (\$300 entry fee) with a one-man DNR limit each day, 333 (\$100 entry fee) with the three best fish over both days and Big Fish (\$50 entry fee) weighing in the biggest fish each day. The Pro/Am entry fee includes the Big Fish Division.

“Anybody can fish against the pros if they want,” Mac said. “Or, if they don’t, they can fish in the (amateur). The amateur is open to anyone who is not a professional.



Last year’s pro division winner, Win N Angel, finished with a total score of 214.80. Courtesy photo.

With the big fish, you can go out and fish tournament hours and weigh your biggest fish each day. Some just compete in that. Prizes will be based on registration.”

Last year, 41 boats registered for the tournament. Mac said that some tournaments draw up to 80 boats, while others may get only 30. He added that this year’s tournament will probably fall somewhere in the middle.

He also said there’s no time limit. People can sign up Thursday or Friday evening right at the beach.

Last year’s pro division winner, Win N Angel, finished with a total score of 214.80. Her crew caught seven fish the first day weighing in at 64.05 pounds and reeled in four the second day at 40.75 pounds, for a two-day total of 104.80 pounds. Their biggest fish tipped the scales at 26.90 pounds.

Buck Fever took home the top prize in the Am Division, hauling in 10 fish over the two days, five each day, with a total weight of 129.70 pounds. The biggest fish weighed 29.40 pounds, which was the biggest fish overall.



Courtesy photo.

## Animal blessing

continued from page 4

Happy Birthday song to her dog, and the dog howled along, “really loudly.”

The Woof It Down contests are for classes of small and large dogs, and a pie-eating contest is for humans, exclusively.

“We would love more men with beards to try,” she deadpanned. “They get their choice of pie flavors.”

The judge of these events is a dyed-in-the-wool, retired court judge, who has discretionary power to name two winners, if both are worthy.

One event is reserved for persons with

disabilities and that is the free clothespin-drop-in-the-bottle contest.

“Last year a blind girl won the clothespin contest,” she said.

A new game of quarter toss was added this year, to get more men interested in participating.

All activities will take place rain or shine, Supran said. No preregistration is required. For a complete list, visit the farm’s website: [www.circlerockingfarm.org](http://www.circlerockingfarm.org) and click on the blue link to the scrolling, two-page 2019 Blessing Program. Call (231) 462-3732.

## Children’s farm offers touch therapy

FREE SOIL - Circle Rocking S Children’s Farm is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that offers therapeutic animal touch therapy and recreation for persons with disabilities, free of charge. The farm opens its doors in April to offer regular programs for close to 1,000 individuals with special needs each year. Programs are held outside the farm, too, such as weekly children’s music therapy and choir at United Methodist Church in Manistee. The farm also hosts special events, and this year’s posted schedule includes an Easter egg hunt and bonnet contest, sheep shearing and wool spinning demonstrations (open to the public), 4-H group participation at the Western Michigan Fair, a barn dance, a hayride and a stuffed-animal holiday giveaway

for service groups and low-income individuals.

The idea for the nonprofit sprang from a tragic accident in 1993 that killed everyone who lived at the farm, except Supran.

“I needed a reason to keep living,” she said. “I always wanted to have a children’s farm and if God wanted me to do it, I would.”

Donations fund all farm programs, and an anonymous donor is offering a matching grant of up to \$1,500 for contributions received by September 14. Contributions made by check to Circle Rocking S Children’s Farm should reference “matching grant” in the memo line. All donations will receive a receipt. Email: [circlerockingsfarm@att.net](mailto:circlerockingsfarm@att.net) or call (231) 462-3732.

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# A summer's day

continued from page 2



A coastal wetland in the Upper Peninsula's Les Cheneaux Islands. Photo courtesy of Katie O'Reilly.

## MONITORING COASTAL WETLANDS IN THE GREAT LAKES

While the rate of wetland loss has slowed since the 1970s thanks to state and national protection measures, new threats are emerging such as invasive species and climate change. Many environmental challenges in the Great Lakes are closely tied to the historic decline in coastal wetland area including water quality concerns, decreasing fisheries and flooding.

To address these challenges, it's essential to protect existing wetlands and restore those that have been lost.

As a biology graduate student at the University of Notre Dame, I've been involved with the Great Lakes Coastal

Wetland Monitoring Program, a collaboration of federal agencies, states and universities that are working together to monitor the health of coastal wetlands throughout the Great Lakes basin. With funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, this collaboration has sampled over 1,000 coastal wetlands since it began in 2011. The data that we collect help agencies and managers make informed decisions about protection and restoration efforts.

By monitoring coastal wetlands, we are not only working to keep a finger on the pulse of these unique and important ecosystems but also to ensure that future generations can enjoy a summer's day in the marsh.

Katie O'Reilly is a Ph.D. candidate in the Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame.

# Arcadia Marsh boardwalk

continued from page 2



the marsh was and wanted to come back to paint it someday.

## PEOPLE ONLY, PLEASE

Remember when you visit the boardwalk to leave your dog at home, as they are not allowed. (Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy rule, posted on kiosks and reminder signs, states: "No dogs with the exception of service dogs and actively working hunting dogs during the applicable seasons.")

Even if dogs do not chase the wildlife, the waterfowl on the marsh easily see the dogs on the elevated boardwalk and are frightened and stressed by their presence. They then associate the boardwalk as a place with predators, and this makes it harder for people to see wildlife there. Remember: this is a rare preserve for wildlife, and there are many other places for walking dogs. Thanks for helping us protect it.

We are so fortunate to live in this beautiful part of Michigan with forests, rivers, inland lakes, sand dunes and Lake Michigan. Now we have access for all to one of the most interesting and rare places in Michigan, right here in Arcadia. I hope to see you out there someday too.

bladderwort) were blooming and floating on the surface of the water next to me. Even the sky was an attraction. In the open marsh the sky seems even larger, and the thunderheads in the distance reflecting over the water added to the wonder of the place.

I met another hiker that had stopped here from Chicago. She was visiting for a year in the US from her home in Europe. She said she had seen the sign for the trail and stopped, not knowing what it was but wishing to explore it. She said it was one of the most beautiful places she had seen.

I was reminded of a trip to the marsh with a group of artists from the Cadillac area. I thought they might be a bit bored, as it was on a day with not much activity, but they were amazed and delighted at how beautiful

Brian Allen is a long-time birdwatcher and bird researcher based in Manistee County. Each spring he counts birds and bird species from Bear Lake to Wellston as a volunteer with the U.S. Geological Service Breeding Bird Survey. Reach him at manisteebirder@gmail.com.

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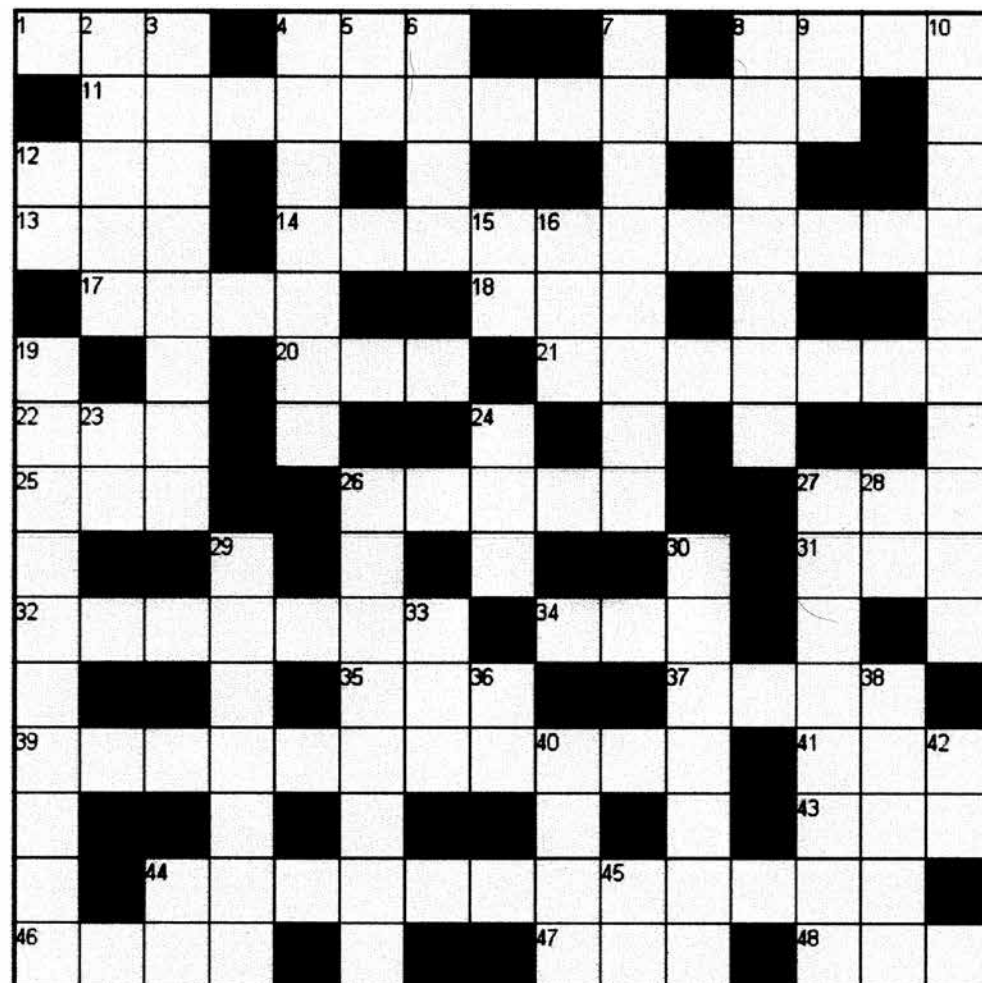
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# Mason County Mysteries

by Mark Videan

## ACROSS

- Amazement
- It may be clicked on a computer or run up in a bar
- Plow pullers
- The market value of \_\_\_ products sold in 2018 from Mason county producers was almost \$53,000,000
- Who am \_\_\_ judge?
- What the sun will do over the Lake Michigan horizon
- Pope from 2005 to 2013
- Ready for picking
- Loud racket
- Baseball stat. that #19 Down had 820 of
- Rhyming draft pick?
- Final finish or fatal ending
- Hwys.
- Drop in on
- Airport screening org.
- Lose crunch, like breakfast cereal
- "Go see a therapist!"
- May be found in #25 Across
- Records played at 33 1/3 rpm
- Lincoln's coin



- First person of European descent who, with his family, permanently settled in the Ludington area in 1847
- Miracle-\_\_\_
- Start of a launch countdown
- The only great lake located completely in the USA
- When shadows are shortest

## DOWN

- Mason county has a total area of 1242 square miles, of which 60% is \_\_\_
- People with "I" trouble
- Beams or rafters

- Air conditioning, for short
- Word following sun or wind
- Cow or goat
- Acorn, eventually
- Husky dude's T-shirt size
- Renamed Mason in 1843, it was originally created in 1840 by the Michigan legislature as \_\_\_ county
- Exists
- Harris who played John Glenn in "The Right Stuff"
- Quick swim
- He clinched the 1984 World Series for the Detroit Tigers with a 3-run homer
- Mount Rushmore state
- Winter hours in Michigan
- Of the 39 documented historical settlements in Mason county, only 2 cities and 6 \_\_\_ remain
- Founded in 1903 by German settlers, it is China's second largest brewery
- Arranged in a neat and tidy way; just \_\_\_
- Only township in Mason county to still have a working lumber mill
- Michigan/Ontario border river
- Second addendum to a letter (abbr.)
- From Hamlin Lake to Scottville
- What a graph may reveal
- A piece
- Atop
- \_\_\_ mein
- Symbol for element #2

# “Brethren Days”

continued from page 1



Plates of whipped cream atop maraschino cherries await Brethren Days' pie-eating contestants. Courtesy photo.



Whiskey Bound returns Aug. 30 to Brethren Days. Courtesy photo.

“We had them perform last year,” he recalled. “They were a huge hit. It’s a great show with room to dance. The audience loved it. With Whiskey Bound there, the park was packed full.”

### SATURDAY: GAMES, MUSIC, FOOD AND FIREWORKS

While some will be heading to the school at 8 a.m. to sign up for the High Bridge Hustle 5K, others will make a beeline for the gazebo where community members host an annual pancake breakfast, 8-11 a.m.

Co-ed adult softball also begins 8 a.m. Gutowski said 14 teams out of a possible 18 are already signed up. Games will continue until dark. (There are no lights on the softball field currently – something the 11-member Brethren Boosters’ board may address in the future, he said.)

If softball doesn’t appeal, an adult cornhole tournament and horseshoe-pitching contest take place at 1 p.m., followed by an afternoon of music.

Besides the egg race and balloon toss for kids, there is a donut-eating contest. Donuts are dangled from strings and eaten hands free. Gutowski said last year’s event

was so well attended they ran out of donuts, donated by Wesco in Manistee, so they bought all the local donuts and still ran out. (Get in line early.)

The Penny Scramble and yard games (Jenga, Large C-giant dice) are overseen by the school’s support-staff union, ESPA KND, which includes teachers’ aides and kitchen and custodial staff, among others. According to Gutowski, support staff are not well known, except by students.

“To have them be out there and seen by the community and known by them, we are excited to expand this in future years.”

Fireworks start at dusk over Lake Elinor. “You can view them from most of Brethren,” he explained. “You can see it from different vantage points.”

The headliner Saturday night is a band competition between Barefoot Gypsies and Blunt Band, with Gutowski as the emcee and the audience as participants.

“Last year was the first year we did it and it was a great success,” he said.

Each band performs a 15- to 20-minute warmup. A music category is chosen at random and whichever band wins the coin toss performs a song in that category first, followed by the second band. Back-and-forth performances continue in different categories. The audience “votes” for their favorite performances by placing tips in five-gallon buckets near the band they think performed best in each category.

The band with the most tips at the end of the competition is declared the winner and performs by themselves for the last hour.

“Both bands get their bucket of tips,” Gutowski said. “Dublin General Store has been the only sponsor (of this event) for several years and the winner gets 60 percent and 40 percent goes to the loser, so each band is paid.”

### SUNDAY: JOIN THE PARADE

All are welcome to attend Sunday’s 10 a.m. community church service in the gazebo, Gutowski said. Both churches in Brethren come together to give a service that is a blend of both denominations.

“It’s very popular,” he said, “and we do coffee and donuts for a donation during the service.”

Among the children’s events on Sunday is the pie-eating contest. Gutowski said the “pie” consists of maraschino cherries topped with whipped cream – a big hit last year.

“Kids thought it was great,” he said. “They wanted to do round after round after round.”

The noon pig roast is one of the highlights of the day. Sanders Meats, of Custer, helps with a donation, and Gutowski said his father roasts the pig for the event.

Profits are donated to the Brethren High School’s robotics’ team, known as the Bot-Cats, which serves and preps all the food. Though the team receives grants from the state for the first three years to fund their projects, Gutowski said members are

## Event schedule, Aug. 30 – Sept. 1

### FRIDAY, AUG. 30

7:30pm - 12 am Beer Tent Gate Opens, \$5 cover  
8pm - Midnight Music by “Whiskey Bound” Last call 11:45pm

### SAT., AUG. 31

8am Sign up for High Bridge Hustle 5k at Brethren High School  
8-11am Pancake Breakfast under the gazebo  
9am High Bridge Hustle 5k Run/Walk  
9am-8pm Arts & Crafts Vendors  
10am-5pm Brethren Museum open, near Lake Elinor  
11am-12am Cook Shack  
12-5pm “Brethren Industries” Heritage Lane Assn., Dickson Twp. Hall  
8am-Dark Co-ed Softball Tournament, Brethren Park  
12-6pm Family Fun Zone Penny Scramble, Yard Games, PLUS: 1pm Egg Race, 3pm Donut-eating Contest, 5pm Balloon Toss  
Noon Sign up for Horseshoe Pitching Contest  
Sign up for Cornhole Tournament-\$20 per team  
Noon-1am Beer Tent Last call at 12:30am  
Noon-2pm “Love Peace Music” Live Music  
1pm Horseshoe Pitching Contest begins  
Cornhole Tournament begins  
2-4pm “Awesome Distraction” Live Music  
4-6pm “Fremont John’s Acoustic Duo” Live Music  
6-8pm “The Feral Cats Deluxe” Live Music  
8pm-1am BATTLE OF THE BANDS \$5 cover – “Barefoot Gypsies” vs “Blunt Band” Winner to be chosen by the audience.  
Dusk FIREWORKS over Lake Elinor

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 1

8am-Dark Co-ed Softball Tournament at Brethren Park  
10am Community Church Services under the gazebo. All welcome.  
10am-Noon Cook Shack coffee & donuts  
Noon-11pm Beer Tent with Live Music  
Noon-2pm Pig Roast  
Noon-2pm “The Nephews” Live Music  
Noon-4pm Brethren Museum open, near Lake Elinor  
Noon-6pm Arts & Crafts Vendors  
Family Fun Zone Penny Scramble, Yard Games, PLUS: 1pm Hula Hoop Contest, 3pm Pie Eating Contest, 5pm Kids’ Cornhole Tournament  
“Brethren Industries” Heritage Lane Assn., Dickson Twp. Hall  
Noon-10pm Cook Shack Menu options available after 2pm  
2-4pm “Barefoot” Live Music  
3pm Line up for GRAND PARADE, Brethren High School  
4pm GRAND PARADE  
After parade “Duke and the Studebakers” Live Music until 8pm  
8-11pm “Sufferin Suckatach” \$5 at the gate in the Beer Tent

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responsible for finding funding after that.

“For our small school, they’ve done very well as far as the tournaments go.”

Look for them in the parade, which begins at 4 p.m. and heads east from the school along Coates Highway.

“We get a lot of our community sponsors who come with floats ... businesses, school groups and area fire departments,” he said.

Others are welcome to take part and there is no fee for parade participants, who begin lining up in the school parking lot at 3 p.m. Due to insurance restrictions, those in vehicles are not allowed to throw candy, though parade walkers may.

“The side of the road is packed,” Gutowski said, of the parade route. “We get a ton of people there.”

### AROUND THE COUNTIES

Each issue, we will feature photos of something fun or unusual around Manistee and Mason counties. Can you figure out where they are?

*First correct answer emailed to editor@freshwater-reporter gets a \$5 gift certificate*



Where in Manistee County can you feel the Jedi Master’s Force?

### Mason County Mysteries

Mark Videan 2019

A	W	E	T	A	B	R	O	X	E	N			
A	G	R	I	C	U	L	T	U	R	A	L		
I	T	O	M	R	M	K	T						
S	E	T	B	E	N	E	D	I	C	T	X	V	I
R	I	P	E	D	I	N	R	P					
K	S	R	B	I	P	A	L	E	A	L	E		
I	S	T	S	E	N	E	K						
R	D	S	V	I	S	I	T	T	S	A			
K	S	I	T	S	S	O	G						
G	E	T	H	E	L	P	R	U	T	I	O		
I	E	L	P	S	C	E	N	T					
B	U	R	R	C	A	S	W	E	L	L	G	R	O
S	M	G	A	A	T	E	N						
O	L	A	K	E	M	I	C	H	I	G	A	N	
N	O	O	N	S	H	E	R	O	D	D			

# Freshwater Reporter

Serving Coastal Communities from Arcadia to Ludington

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