

# FRESHWATER REPORTER

A fresh approach to storytelling in Manistee and Mason counties...and a bit beyond.

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freshwater-reporter.com

July 14 - July 28, 2021 **FREE**

## COMIC BOOKS ARE COOL!

By GREG GIELCZYK

*Comic books can introduce a young person to reading, long before they tackle more challenging literature. For Greg Hiltz, of Rebel's Sanctuary in Manistee, comic books were the beginning of what has become an extraordinary, lifelong obsession. Today, his one-year-old comic-book store on Washington Street is the culmination of his passion and a family enterprise he manages with his father, Randy.*

The younger Hiltz grew up reading comic books. His favorites included Spiderman and X-Men. As he got older, Hiltz became more interested in Bat Man and Flash. His older brother, Cam, was really "into" comics and toys, collecting all the Transformers and G.I. Joes, which spurred Hiltz's interest in starting a collection of his own.

However, his growing collection is not why he decided to open Rebel's Sanctuary.



Spiderman made his second annual appearance at Rebel's Sanctuary and handed out free comic books to passersby in downtown Manistee. From left: Randy Hiltz, Spiderman and Greg Hiltz.

### From the track to the rack

A race car driver, Hiltz and his chums were more interested in cars than comics. They were all gear heads. That changed after high school when he and a couple friends began playing Magic: The Gathering and formed groups of players. When the computer game World of War Craft was released, he started playing the game online every weekend.

His life pivoted after a racing accident forced Hiltz off the track and laid him up for some time. While recuperating from his injury, he began to draw and one day drew a store. That got him thinking it might be

"cool" to open a comic book and gaming store.

"I came up with some ideas, and one thing rolled into another, into another and into another until eventually I had so many comics, I didn't know what to do with them," Hiltz said.

Hiltz recalled his father read a few comics but wasn't as taken with them, until his son showed a passion for them.

And now?

"He runs the store just as much as I do," Hiltz said.

As for the store's name, Hiltz replied:

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## Area Events

Some events may change or be canceled due to weather, schedules or COVID-19. Always call ahead.

### JULY

Thru **Ludington Offshore Classic/**  
July **Big Boys Fishing Tournament**

18 6am-6pm, Waterfront Park, 300 S. William St., Ludington. Events for pros, amateurs, ladies and kids.

For info, go to: [offshoreclassic.com](http://offshoreclassic.com)

Thru **Art Divas Art Show**

July 11am-1pm Tues. & Wed., 4-6pm Thur. & Fri,

23 free. Art from 5 talented local artists on exhibit and for sale, featuring works by Terri Barto, Jeanne Butterfield, Mary Wahr, Lynn Williams, and Chris Wucherer. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee

Thru **Summer Member Art Exhibition**

July Free. Ludington Area Center for the Arts,

30 Rd., Frankfort

Thru **The Artists of Epworth Art Exhibit**

July Free, Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard

30 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington

Thru **Small Works, Big Impact community**  
Aug **collage project**

28 Sale of 200 6"x6" donated canvases done by local artists to benefit Art Center operations impacted by Covid-19. Finished canvases may be purchased for \$40/each starting June 28. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd., Frankfort

14 **Classics at The Vogue Theatre -**  
"The Muppet Movie"  
10am & 7pm. \$2. 383 River St.

14 **Summer Music Series with**  
**J & B Beats**

6-8pm, free, Purchase Pavilion, 301 N. State St., Luther

14 **Benefit BBQ for Jordan Jacobi**

6:30pm. 5th Avenue Beach, Manistee. Lake Gulls Concession. Brats, sandwiches and hot dogs featuring Sanders Meats. Silent auction. Live band. Help with the cost of Jordan's treatment for T-cell lymphoma.

14 **Friends of Ludington State Park**  
**Summer Music Series with Mike**  
**Dvorak**

7pm, free, Ludington State Park, Lake Michigan Beach House, 8800 West M-116, Hamlin Township

14 **LACA Summer Concert Series**  
**with Nick Moss Blues Band**

7-9pm, free. Chicago blues & funk. Waterfront Park 300 W. William St., Ludington

14 **Echo Through the Timber. Live**  
**music with Fremont John's**  
**Acoustic Thunder**

7-9:15pm, free, donations gladly accepted. Acoustic rock and blues. Wenger Pavilion, downtown Baldwin

15 **First Person Story and Songs:**  
**"Move better and Feel Better"**

by Barb Skurdall and Ann Strehle of Mobility Now for Life. 10am, free, Old Kirke Museum, 304 Walnut St., Manistee

15 **Music Live in the Plaza with**  
**Merchant & Miller**

5-8PM, free, Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St., Ludington

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Hubble, during a 1999 servicing mission. Image credit: NASA/JSC.

## Hubble Trouble

By BROOKE EDWARDS

Launched on April 24, 1990, in the Space Shuttle Discovery's payload bay, the Hubble Space Telescope was deployed into its orbital home 340 miles above the earth. After many obstacles to its operation, and several service visits from astronauts through the years, Hubble managed to provide us with decades of beautiful images of our universe.

A little over 30 years ago, we could only imagine what distant galaxies look like. Thanks to Hubble, we now have stunning digital infrared, ultraviolet and visible light images that have changed our understanding of space. Deep-field images have provided us with a better estimation of the age of our universe.

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# Community Calendar

Some events may change or be canceled due to weather, schedules and COVID-19. Always call ahead. **To be included in our printed paper, email your July calendar events or press releases by July 20 to:** editor@freshwater-reporter.com. Or snail mail them to: Freshwater Reporter, P.O. Box 188, Manistee, MI, 49660.

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- JULY**
- 15 Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Wink**  
5:30-8:30pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 15 Roots on the River Music Series with Luke Winslow-King**  
7pm, free, Jaycees Riverwalk Bandshell, Memorial Dr., Manistee
- 15 Live Music with Standing Hamptons**  
7pm, free, Downtown Beulah (not in the park)
- 16 Ludington Farmers Market**  
3-7pm, N. James St. Legacy Plaza, Ludington
- 16 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Blair Miller**  
6:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibane Rd., Thompsonville
- 16 Live Music at the Brewery with Lynn & The Moonshine Runners**  
6-9pm, free, Ludington Bay Brewing Co., 515 S. James St., Ludington
- 16 Live music at Northern Natural Cider House & Winery with Laurel Premo**  
7-10pm, free, 7220 Chief Road, Kaleva
- 16 Live Music at Portage Point Resort with Barefoot**  
7-11pm, free, 8567 Portage Point Dr., Onekama
- 16 Night Sky Viewing, Fifth Avenue Beach, Manistee**  
9:30pm. Outside the pavilion. View the moon and visible planets from an Orion telescope. Hosted by NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador Brooke Edwards. Bring binoculars and bug spray. In case of rain or clouds, the event will be held Friday, July 25.
- 17 Manistee Farmers Market**  
9am-12pm, parking lot on the corner of Memorial Dr. and Washington St., Manistee
- 17 Pine Forest Freedom Market**  
9am-4pm, free to attend, \$6/space to sell. Crafters, bakers, makers, food trucks, etc. Pine Forest Campground, 10169 M-37, Irons. For more info, call 231.742.6934
- 17 Kaleva Car Show**  
9am-3pm. Walta Street, next to Kaleva Tavern, Kaleva. View the FREE car show and vote for your favorite by 1:30pm. Votes counted and trophies awarded beginning at 2:30pm. \$15 to register your vehicle as a participant between 9am and noon. Awards for: foreign car, truck, motorcycle, street/rat rod, drag strip car, original to 1960 car, original to 1961 UP car, Best in Show, Spectators Choice. Music by Stephen D. Food specials at Kaleva Tavern.
- 17 Kaleva Art Gallery First Annual Art & Craft Show**  
10am-4pm, free, Wuoski Ave., Kaleva
- 17 Western Michigan Old Engine Club Antique Tractor Pull**  
10am, Scottville Riverside Park, 700 Scottville Rd., Scottville
- 17 Downtown Scottville Farmers Market**  
10am-2pm, sidewalks of Main St., Scottville
- 17 Onekama OneFifty Sailboat Regatta**  
2-3:30pm, free, Portage Lake. To register to sail, contact the Portage Lake Yacht Club at 231.889.4739 or plyc49675@gmail.com. View the race from Onekama Village Park, 4775 Main St.
- 17 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Evie**  
6:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibane Rd., Thompsonville
- 17 Friends of Ludington State Park Summer Music Series with Road Less Traveled**  
7pm, free, Ludington State Park, Lake Michigan Beach House, 8800 West M-116, Hamlin Township
- 17 Live Music at LACA with Bradford Loomis**  
7pm, \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door-150 tickets avail. Rustic Americana/folk. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison, Ludington.  
**For event details and tickets, go to: ludingtonartscenter.org**
- 17 Sounds from the Forest. Live music with Nick Moss Band**  
7-9:15pm, free, donations gladly accepted. Chicago blues. Wenger Pavilion, downtown Baldwin
- 17 Live music at Northern Natural Cider House & Winery with Audra Kubat / Luck Dragon**  
7-10pm, 7220 Chief Road, Kaleva
- 17 Regular Event at Northern Michigan Dragway, Kaleva**  
northernmichigandragway.com
- 17 Live Music at Portage Point Resort with Frantic Kingdom**  
8-11:59pm, free, 8567 Portage Point Dr., Onekama
- 18 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Sam & Bill**  
3:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibane Rd., Thompsonville
- 19 Honey Bee Market**  
1-7pm, free. Numerous arts, crafts, and other goodies for sale by local vendors. On the grass at St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd. Beulah
- 19 Yoga in the Barn at Iron Fish Distillery**  
5:30, 14234 Dzuibane Rd., Thompsonville
- 19 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Steve Leaf**  
6:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibane Rd., Thompsonville
- 19 Onekama Concerts in the Park with the Benzie Playboys**  
7pm, free, donations gladly accepted. Village Park, Onekama. Rain venue is Onekama Community Schools Cafetorium
- 20 Talks, Tunes & Tours: "The Hurdles Involved in USDA Certification"**  
by Mark Coe, Sales Manager, Northern Natural Cider House & Winery. 10am, free, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 20 Manistee Shoreline Showcase Summer Concert Series with Serita's Black Rose**  
7-9pm, free. Douglas Park Gazebo at First Street Beech, Manistee. Wind/rain site: Armory Youth Project, 555 First St., Manistee
- 21 Classics at The Vogue Theatre - "Gilda" (1946 Noir/Romance)**  
10am & 7pm. \$2. Stars Glenn Ford, Rita Hayworth, George Macready
- 21 Summer Music Series with Karaoke with Jen**  
6-8pm, free, Purchase Pavilion, 301 N. State St., Luther
- 21 LACA Summer Concert Series with Serita's Black Rose**  
7-9pm, free. Chicago blues & funk. Waterfront Park 300 W. William St., Ludington
- 21 Echo Through the Timber. Live music with the Mustang Band**  
7-9:15pm, free, donations gladly accepted. Wenger Pavilion, downtown Baldwin
- 22 First Person Story and Songs: "Summer Songs: Music for Lake Living" by Kit Holmes**  
10am, free.. Old Kirke Museum, 304 Walnut St., Manistee
- 22 Live music in Ludington State Park with Gordy the Grinder**  
1pm, free, Big Sable Point Lighthouse, 5611 N. Lighthouse Dr., Ludington
- 22 Music Live in the Plaza with Brad Lee**  
5-8PM, free, Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St., Ludington
- 22 Roots on the River Music Series with Feral Cats Deluxe**  
7pm, free, Jaycees Riverwalk Bandshell, Memorial Dr., Manistee
- 22 Live Music with Rick Hicks Band**  
7pm, free, Downtown Beulah (not in the park)
- 22 Sunset Beach Bonfire with Medium Well**  
8pm, free, Stearns Beach Park, Stearns Outer Dr., Ludington
- 22-24 MOPARS Against the World, Northern Michigan Dragway, Kaleva**  
northernmichigandragway.com
- 23-25 Arcadia Daze**  
Food, parade, music, art fair, cornhole tournament, car show, 5k and a whole lot more.  
**For a schedule of events, go to http://www.townshipofarcadia.org/arcadia-daze.html**
- 23 Ludington Farmers Market**  
3-7pm, N. James St. Legacy Plaza, Ludington
- 23 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Delilah DeWylde**  
6:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibane Rd., Thompsonville
- 23 Manistee Community Band Concert in the Park**  
7-8pm, free, Mineral Springs Park, Frankfort
- 23 Live music at Northern Natural Cider House & Winery with the Mark Lavengood Band**  
7-10pm, free 7220 Chief Road, Kaleva
- 23 Live Music at Portage Point Resort with The Broom Closet Boys**  
7-11pm, free, 8567 Portage Point Dr., Onekama
- 23 Resurrection: A Journey Tribute**  
7:30-10pm, \$25-35 for adults, \$10 for under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee.  
**For event details and tickets, go to ramsdelltheatre.org**
- 24 Help Clean Up the Manistee River**  
9am-noon, free, High Bridge Boat Launch, 4311 N. High Bridge Rd., Brethren  
**Register to volunteer at: https://mucc.org/on-the-water/**
- 24 Manistee Farmers Market**  
9am-12pm, parking lot on the corner of Memorial Dr. and Washington St., Manistee
- 24 Pine Forest Freedom Market**  
9am-4pm, free to attend, \$6/space to sell. Crafters, bakers, makers, food trucks, etc. Pine Forest Campground, 10169 M-37, Irons. For more info, call 231.742.6934. Downtown Baldwin
- 24 Downtown Scottville Farmers Market**  
10am-2pm, sidewalks of Main St., Scottville
- 24 Muddy Fox Trot on the West Shore Community College campus**  
10am, \$20 adults, free for WSCC students with ID and those 16 and under (minimum age 4). Family-friendly 5k mud run with boot-camp style obstacle course: muddy trenches and hillsides, shallow water crossings, hay bale climbs. West Shore Community College, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville  
**Register at westshore.asapconnected.com.**
- 24 Live Music on Bear Lake with Straits Shooters**  
1-4pm, free, Bear Lake
- 24 Rhythm & Dunes Concerts: Beach Party with the Landsharks Band**  
6pm, free, Waterfront Park Pavilion, Ludington
- 24 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Chris Sterr**  
6:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibane Rd., Thompsonville
- 24 Friends of Ludington State Park Summer Music Series with Jim Key (dulcimer)**  
7pm, free, Ludington State Park, Lake Michigan Beach House, 8800 West M-116, Hamlin Township
- 24 Sounds from the Forest. Live music with Serita's Black Rose**  
7-9:15pm, free, donations gladly accepted. Wenger Pavilion, downtown Baldwin
- 24 Live music at Northern Natural Cider House & Winery with Joshua Davis & Jordan Hamilton**  
7-10pm, \$10, 7220 Chief Road, Kaleva
- 25 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Matt Gabriel**  
3:30-5:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibane Rd., Thompsonville
- 26 Honey Bee Market**  
1-7pm, free. Numerous arts, crafts, and other goodies for sale by local vendors. On the grass at St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd. Beulah
- 26 Yoga in the Barn at Iron Fish Distillery**  
5:30, 14234 Dzuibane Rd., Thompsonville
- 26 Onekama Concerts in the Park with Ben Traverse**  
7pm, free, donations gladly accepted. Village Park, Onekama. Rain venue is Onekama Community Schools Cafetorium
- 27 Talks, Tunes & Tours: "Ballet: An Unconventional Career"**  
by Paul Craig, Principal Dancer, Boston Ballet. 10am, free, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 27 Manistee Shoreline Showcase Summer Concert Series with Greg Nagy's Men of Leisure**  
7-9pm, free. Douglas Park Gazebo at First Street Beech, Manistee. Wind/rain site: Armory Youth Project, 555 First St., Manistee
- 28 Classics at The Vogue Theatre - "Twister" (1996, Action/Adventure)**  
10am & 7pm. \$2. Stars Helen Hunt, Bill Paxton and Cary Elwes.
- 28 Summer Music Series with The Briar Payne Band**  
6-8pm, free, Purchase Pavilion, 301 N. State St., Luther
- 28 Friends of Ludington State Park Summer Music Series with Canopy Space**  
7pm, free, Ludington State Park, Lake Michigan Beach House, 8800 West M-116, Hamlin Township
- 28 LACA Summer Concert Series with Greg Nagy's Men of Leisure**  
7-9pm, free. Chicago blues & funk. Waterfront Park 300 W. William St., Ludington
- 28 Echo Through the Timber. Live music with Jenna Mamma**  
7-9:15pm, free, donations gladly accepted. Wenger Pavilion, downtown Baldwin
- 29 First Person Story and Songs: "If You Couldn't Change a Thing, What Wouldn't It Be?"**  
by Brian Iler. 10am, free. (45 minutes of comedic irrelevance). Old Kirke Museum 304 Walnut St., Manistee
- 29 Music Live in the Plaza with Canopy Space**  
5-8PM, free, Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St., Downtown Ludington
- 29 Live Music with The Wayouts**  
7pm, free, Downtown Beulah (not in the park)

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ABOVE: Glen and Laurie Lillie, of Houghton Lake, met up with their friend Allison Hedstrom, of Grand Rapids, at Whiskey Creek. It was the Lillies' first visit, and they said they loved the experience. Pooch "Haily" was along for the ride. Photo by P. Stinson.



RIGHT: A group of happy trail riders in front of their Polaris ORVs at Best Bear Lodge and Campground. Photo by S.A. McFerran.

# Smiles and miles of sandy trails

By STEWART A. MCFERRAN

I had a recent encounter with a beast while steering my car along the perimeter of Arcadia Marsh in Manistee County. A lanky young bear came out of the swamp from the right, stopped for a moment on the pavement, looked my way, then trundled down the road's left bank, into the off-road area.



Quad and dirt bike riders have some fun at Whiskey Creek. Photos by Mark Videan.



People can be bear-like when planning their summer vacations.

Some folks like to stay in campgrounds near the road. Some like to stay close to off-road areas in public lands. And some prefer to stay near trails where they ride in vehicles off the road.

**Best Bear Lodge and Campground, Irons** Roads and trails lead to Best Bear Lodge and Campground in Irons. Find a place to park, then climb out of your car and into an ORV or "Off Road Vehicle." From here, aboard the likes of a Razor 1000, the off-road areas are your oyster. With an off-road vehicle, you can go anywhere the ORV trails take you in Lake County, including mapped areas within the Huron-Manistee National Forest.

Carrie Bearup owns Best Bear with her husband Matthew. The Bearups bought the property and campground in 2013, when the only buildings on the grounds were a manager's house and four-unit lodging suites. They added four RV sites the first year and 14 the following year.

"We totally gutted that lodge," Bearup said. "We put in Dish satellite, and we put in air conditioning and new furnaces. And then we added a couple brand new cabins that the Amish (in Tustin, by Leroy)

built. We rent RVs too. I can fit about 200 (people, in total) in every cabin ... and RV."

The campground currently has 22 sites with 40 more recently developed which include electricity, water and sewer drop. Some of the new sites already have a waiting list of RV campers. (The campground announced June 10 on its Facebook page that the sites are completed.)

"We don't have any (down) time," she said, adding that the first two weeks of April and December are their slowest times.

"I have wonderful staff."

Jason Wilson works at Best Bear. He manages ORV rentals, a total of 15 machines. The Polaris Razor four-seater 1000s have "ride command Global Positioning Systems." Campers can rent the Polaris Razor for four, six or eight hours.

"We have a mid-week special that is killer and includes free meal tickets to the Speedy Bear Diner, our restaurant, and they get free ice cream also," Bearup said.

From Best Bear, those renting or bringing ORVs can access 230 miles of Lake County's ORV trails, plus "a lot of" roads that are now open to off-road vehicles. With a plated ORV, she said a person can go on roads almost "anywhere you want."

"The Manistee National Forest is

beautiful; you feel like you are in a jungle," she added.

Best Bear programs its ORVs with waypoints, interesting places riders might like to stop or have lunch.

"The Pine River is a good waypoint," she said. "You cross over this little bridge; it's brand new, they just rebuilt it."

Though the Bearups have thought about renting snowmobiles in winter, they are still pondering.

"It's a big gamble on the weather," she said. "We don't know if we are going to have the snow."

Polaris is expected to shoot a commercial in Irons — complimentary 30-second and 2-minute spots for Best Bear, because they were rated number one in Michigan with 430 rides in 2020.

"They (Polaris Adventures) want to wait until all the greenery is on the trees, so it's a beautiful filming," Bearup said.

The company's website, Destination Polaris, includes short films produced to highlight areas of the country where off roading takes place.

"It was pretty cool to see Irons on Destination Polaris," she enthused. (See Episode 9, "Michigan," which includes Lake County trails and other areas of the state.)

### Whiskey Creek Campground, Custer

Michelle and Norm Gilliam bought the Whiskey Creek Campground on June 18, 2020. Located near Custer on 226 acres in southern Mason County, the campground has 112 sites, from primitive to those with full hookups. An RV is available to rent as well.

The campground is situated among mature trees offering shade and includes an elevated view of the pond and a portion of the adjacent ORV trail, which encircles a large, green field. The setting is quite beautiful, and the atmosphere is laid-back and friendly.

They do not rent ORVs, but most campers bring their own and access the Whiskey Creek trails. The trails link to the

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ORV trail system in the Manistee National Forest, giving riders many options.

The camp store is located at the lodge, where campers check in. The store has pizza, sandwiches, coffee, hand-dipped ice cream, kid's toys, logowear and camping accessories. The pool is open for campers to enjoy, and there is a pond with a fishing dock. Play areas include a bounce pad, swing sets and slides for kids. A disc golf course is also on site. There are bathrooms with showers and a laundry room.

Almost everyone who comes to camp at Whiskey Creek brings their own "quad," dirt bike or side-by-side. The Big O trailhead is close, (for highway-legal motorcycles, 40" or smaller).

Live bands perform at the campground once a month in summer and a printed list of camp activities is available at the camp store.

"It's a fun place; there's a lot to do here," Michelle Gilliam said.

"Rangers from the Manistee National Forest stop out occasionally, and they will drop off maps to us that we can pass out to people that have the trail markings and what (trail riders) can and can't do."

She said the campground closes prior to Thanksgiving, although they allow hunters to camp.

"They are not allowed to hunt on our property," she said. "But since we have state land right behind us, it's a big attraction."

She added: "It's not as busy as it could be, but it takes word of mouth for people to know that we are open now for next deer hunting season."

Stewart illuminates current environmental issues in a historic context. He hopes readers will gain understanding and insight into ways people interact with their environment. He is our Freshwater Reporter Ambassador-At-Large.



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jfsanborn80@gmail.com



A display case at Rebel's Sanctuary features highly sought-after and/or collectible comic book editions. Photo by Stinson/Videan.

## Comic books

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"My nickname since middle school is Rebel, and comic books, card games and D&D (Dungeons and Dragons) have always been my escape from everyday life. So, when we were coming up with a name, I said, 'Well, comics have always been my sanctuary, so let's just call it that.' I wanted it to be a sanctuary for others, a chance to get away from everything, like it was for me."

### The comic book outlook

Hiltz said the comic book market is booming, and summer is the hottest time for comic book sales.

"People have really gotten back into them," he said, "especially with all the movies and television shows ... they want to know more about back stories and the characters."

He shared that the best way to learn more is to read a comic book paperback, (a trade paperback of collected comic book issues). The store offers a wide selection of comic book brands organized in neatly alphabetized vertical stacks, racks, bookshelves and display cases.

"We sell a little bit of everything ... Marvel, DC, Image, Boom," Hiltz said. "Pretty much anything anyone could want. We either have it on the shelf or we can get it, for the most part."

He explained that the older comics can be more difficult to obtain, but they will try to get them in the store.

There is also a market for used comics, and Rebel's Sanctuary purchases comics from customers if they are in good condition and Hiltz thinks he can sell them.

To see what's new in the comic book world, Hiltz has attended conventions, such as Michigan ComiCon, as well as some smaller "cons." During them, he also meets new artists.

Plus, he just likes to look at comics.

"I have to keep up with the times, so I spend all day reading comic books," he said, with a chuckle.

Hiltz reports that there is a core group of dedicated customers who visit the store regularly, and new customers walk through the door every week. If a customer sees something they want, they can ask to have it set aside for them.

When asked about the store's online sales, he said they keep them to a minimum.

"We want to keep the comic books local," he stated, explaining that he and his father want customers who visit their store to have the opportunity to purchase their comic books.

Now in its 20th year, "Free Comic Book Day" is August 14. To celebrate the occasion, Rebel's Sanctuary will hand out free comic books to everyone who comes into the store that day.



When Greg's mother told him the painted murals of Manistee on the shop's walls had to stay, he decided some additional decoration was needed. Photo by Stinson/Videan.

Rebel's Sanctuary is open 12-6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 12-8 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 12-6 p.m. Sunday. Find them on Facebook @RebelsSanc.

Greg was sports editor for the Manistee News Advocate for 36 years and currently covers high school athletics for area media.



Dave Lein devours an installment of his favorite comic book series as "Buddy," 12, feigns interest. Photo by Pamela Lein.

## Comic books inspire

By GREG GIELCZYK

Dave Lein began reading comics when he was in the fourth or fifth grade. Lein, who lives in Elk Rapids, grew up in Kaleva.

"I really liked Spiderman back then; this was, like, the early 1970s," Lein said. "There weren't a whole lot of comics out there, like there are now. I think they helped me achieve an appreciation of reading."

Lein went on to become a writer and newspaper editor.

"Back in the day, you could afford to buy three or four comics for less than a buck," he explained. "Today, comics are about \$4 each. And while that might seem costly, the stories, art, vivid colors and grade of paper are so much higher in quality that they're worth it."

As an eighth-grade student, Lein created, wrote and illustrated his own comic book character. That effort won a young authors' and illustrators' contest.

"I like art, but I was never any good at it," he added.

Lein said he used to collect quite a few comic books and had a collection of up to 4,000. Now, that number is closer to 400-500.

Currently, he is into "The Shadow." "I don't know why," he said. "I think the stories are just really good, and it makes you go back to when 'The Shadow' used to be on the radio and in pulp magazines, during the 1930s and '40s, and you really appreciate the story writing."

## Hubble

continued from page 1

When the Space Shuttle was retired in 2009, NASA had no way to ferry astronauts to the telescope to service it. Today, no spacecraft possesses the robotic arm manipulator (Canadarm) and payload bay that made the Space Shuttle the perfect service vehicle. Without them, there can be no plan to repair or update Hubble. As with all untended technology, the hardware onboard the telescope will one day run its course and cease functioning.

On June 13, for unknown reasons, Hubble's payload computer stopped collecting science data. In response, NASA began to run a series of tests from the ground to diagnose the problem. This included switching on the telescope's backup payload computer for the first time since it was placed in orbit. Tests run June 23-24 showed the same result on both computers, yet the issue was not solved. It

is suspected the trouble may lie in either the Command Unit/Science Data Formatter (CU/SDF), which sends data back to Earth, or in the telescope's power supply. Whatever the cause, it is a hard reminder that Hubble's days are limited.

The space telescope's legacy of discovery will continue with the James Webb Space Telescope, which is planned for launch later this year. Thank you, Hubble team, for opening our eyes to the vastness of our universe.

Source: <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2021/operations-underway-to-restore-payload-computer-on-nasas-hubble-space-telescope>

Brooke Edwards is our area's NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador. She lives in Manistee. Look at the moon and visible planets through a telescope during her next night-sky viewing, beginning at 9:30 p.m., July 16. In case of cloudy skies, the event will be held July 25.



This stunning image by the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope features the spiral galaxy NGC 5643 in the constellation of Lupus (the Wolf). NGC 5643 is about 60 million light-years away from Earth.



# MI BACKYARD



From left: Fern, Sweet Fern, maturing Sweet Fern Leaf (will get bigger).



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## Sweet Fern: The shrub you didn't know you needed

Story and photos by JENNIFER DEVINE

*"I perceive that scent from the young sweet-fern shoots and withered blossoms which made the first settlers of Concord to faint on their journey."* – Thoreau's Journal, June 11, 1856

This year I found a plant I cannot stop thinking about. As I read about it, document it and experiment with it, I fall harder in love with it. I want more. I want people to experience it. The color. The crazy flower. The medicinal uses. The smell ... there's a hint of spice ... nutmeg, allspice, citronella, bayberry, (it's in that family). All I know is that it calms me, and I always lean down to smell the sweet fern. You don't even have to squeeze a leaf, that's how aromatic it can be. Its smell is said to repel mosquitoes, whether using fresh leaves or burning them.

In early spring, when everything blooms and nature's perfume is hanging in the air, you'll find Sweet Fern rising from the ground in stalks. You can find it alone or in a colony. As spring turns to summer, Sweet Fern's lustrous green stalk starts turning brown and more branch-like. It rises 2-5 feet high and expands an average of 3 feet. It enjoys a very sunny or partly shaded area with sandy, acidic soil that is prevalent in northern Michigan. If you've tried to grow anything by just putting it in the ground without amending the area first, most of your plants will die. Another cool thing is, it's a nitrogen fixer. Similar to legumes, the roots form nodules that house rhizobia, a special nitrogen-fixing bacteria.

Though the name suggests it is part of the fern family, *Comptonia peregrina* is a flowering deciduous shrub in the Myricaceae family of small shrubs and



Sweet Fern female burr-nut fruit

trees. Sweet Fern is the only LIVING plant in the *Comptonia* genus. Sweet Fern leaves start small, growing larger and longer as summer progresses. They keep their lobed shape and spicy aroma which help differentiate the two fern plants. They are extremely low maintenance and deer resistant, which makes having this shrub around even more enjoyable.

This captivating plant has male and female flowers, which are not showy, but if you happen to spot a female after fertilization, you'll have a smile on your face. The flowers are monoecious, meaning they are separated by sex but on the same plant. They start off as catkins (cylindrical wind-pollinated spikes without petals). Males appear in clusters at the end of last year's twigs and remind me of pinecone starts. Females are found farther back on the branch and have fine reddish hair protruding from the shorter more-rounded catkin. She turns into a green burr-like flower. Turning brown and maturing in late summer, the nut-fruits can be eaten.

Establishing a perennial Sweet Fern is difficult. The seeds can stay dormant for up to 70 years, and they absolutely hate having their root cluster disturbed. As much as I want to transplant a few of these beauties closer to my house, I'm going to choose nature over my human compulsion. Some nurseries and Etsy sellers do offer little starter plants for \$10 and up. That is probably your best bet to add this attractive, aromatic wonder to your garden. However, you need to keep the above facts in mind and know that the plant may not take.

While searching for the plant online, you may find soaps, salves and teas touting the properties of the plant. Sweet Fern has been used for decades in many cultures to remedy many ailments; survivalists swear by its itch-relieving power in an already established poison ivy, sumac or oak rash. I am by no means any kind of medical doctor, nor do I hold any certificates, but as a homesteader I do believe in the power of nature.

To make instant itch relief, simply start by plucking a good handful of leaves. Boil for about 20 minutes in 2 cups of water until the liquid is dark green, possibly brown if roots and stems are included. Strain the leaves and let cool. Dip a rag, ring it out, and apply for about 5 minutes, 4-5 times a day. Itching should cease almost immediately,

and any residual rashes or issues should subside in 24-48 hours. Harvesting now and drying for later use is also an option. You can visit [www.naturespoisonivyerelief.com](http://www.naturespoisonivyerelief.com) to order or learn more.

Read Whittier's Poem "Sweet Fern," and find multiple other writings and songs about this intoxicating plant.

The forests are plentiful here, so if you cannot find any Sweet Fern on your property and cannot purchase it, I encourage you to safely forage for some and, as always, enjoy MI Backyard.

Jennifer is a homesteader living on 20 acres. She and her husband have a license to sell black cherry, white oak and white pine. They live off grid and have chickens, ducks and rabbits, a large garden and a lot of woods. She is helping to grow a farmers market in her small community. She considers homeschooling her two young ones "an adventure."

## Baldwin's 'Folk Fridays' concerts return

From STAFF REPORTS

BALDWIN – An audience participation concert with Chris Vallillo will kick off the Lake County Historical Museum summer folk concert series at 7 p.m. on July 30, in front of the Boat House on the museum grounds, 915 N. Michigan Ave.

In the first concert of the museum's "Folk Fridays" series, Vallillo will perform songs sung by students and those sung in the Singing Schools often held in the One-Room School. The museum's new book, "One-Room Schools of Lake County, a History and Self-Driving Guide" will be available for sale.

The free concerts are held outdoors, rain or shine, and offer a wide range of folk music, from traditional to contemporary. Performers will play from the open doors of the Boat House. Attendees are asked to bring lawn chairs and sit in the designated seating area in the parking area to the north of the building. Those who wish to remain seated in their cars will park beyond the audience. The museum grounds open at 6 p.m. on concert days.

The public is encouraged to pack a picnic dinner, bring takeout from a

local restaurant or make a stop at Jones Homemade Ice Cream prior to the concert.

Other concerts slated for summer include the inspiring folk duo **Patchouli and Terra Guitarra** performing on Aug. 6 with a soulful fusion of blazing Spanish guitar and heart-stringing lyrics. One week later, on Aug. 13, contemporary folk performer **Joel Mabus** brings his lyrical style, reminiscent of Mark Twain and Will Rogers. Concluding the summer series on Aug. 20 is **Common Chords**, the American roots duo of Robert Jones and Matt Watroba, with music that celebrates diversity and reflects history and social change.

This summer's concerts are made possible through private donations as well as grants from the following organizations: Lowell Arts Council/Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Michigan Humanities Council, a National Endowment for the Humanities affiliate and the Lake County Community Foundation.

For additional information, contact the museum at: (231) 898-6500.

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# Verne's Emporium takes on a Patina

By NIKKI SCHNEIDER

For nearly 17 years, 1969-1986, Verne's Emporium was said to be the most unique drugstore in Michigan, if not the country. The building at 4850 Main Street, known as Knuth's Drugstore Building, was constructed sometime prior to 1895, according to an insurance map referenced by Tom Gerhardt, University of Michigan. An addition was built later. As a drugstore, it had various owners — Knuths, Ellises, Ensigns — before Verne Hutchinson carried on that tradition. He was a pharmaceutical student in the days when capsules and ointments were mixed on the premises.



Postcard of Verne's Emporium. Photo by Verne Hutchinson.

In addition to pharmaceuticals, Verne carried everything from silk fans, ice picks, ice cleats and hula skirts to fountain pens, hair tonic and corks in nine sizes. Reportedly, Easter and Christmas candy could be found at any time of year.

Verne also loved collecting antiques. Music boxes, arcade games, World War II Flags. The sign on the building read, "Looking for an Unusual Store? Look No Further!"

Although every inch of space was filled with thousands of items, the store's owners claimed they could find 99% of them within minutes. "If we get a call for an item, we'll stock it," Verne was quoted as saying. Shopping there was said to be an "adventure" and "fun."

I recently spoke to Holly Milks, Verne's daughter.

"He proudly opened his store 365 days a year, so that people could have their 'needs' (beer, liquor, a gallon of milk, newspaper, etc.) available to them, even on the holidays," Milks said.

Karen Kolb and I signed a lease for the west portion of the building in 2019. The space had a great history and vibe. All our treasures for Patina, our gallery of repurposed household and decorative items, seemed to naturally fit.

Customers share their stories with us, or we overhear them telling their kids as they're shopping, "This is where the comic books were," and "I used to come in with my parents every summer for (fill in the blank) and get candy from over there."

An older couple told me they still have the wine bottle they bought at Verne's right before they got engaged. Because we love old things, we naturally love the old stories that go with them. The building included.

Like Verne, if we are asked for an item, we will search our backroom and our off-site storage locations. If we don't have something, we surely know who does. A customer asked me for an old bedspring for an art project. I located one for her



Building that formerly housed Verne's is today the home of Patina and Yellow Dog Café. Photo by P. Stinson.

in minutes from my local metal recycling guy.

Our customers come to our shop to have "fun" and we love that. Even the fellas sometimes skip the hardware store across the street to hang out.

A couple months ago, a grandmother, mother and daughter browsed for over an hour. They reminisced and brainstormed ideas about how to repurpose an old piece. We like when that happens. They each purchased something before they left.

Most of America shops online now and in big box stores. We are happy our customers use all their senses and imaginations when they visit us. It is magical and inspiring to listen to their conversations. It gives us energy and motivation to keep finding more unusual things. Patina is a place where people tend to linger, chat (in person!), connect with neighbors, make new friends and share ideas.

We proudly continue Verne's tradition of making the discovery of an unexpected "find" a fun adventure.

Verne used to place a barrel on the sidewalk to let folks know he was open. When you see our barrel propping the door open, venture inside ... you never know what you might discover.

Nikki lives in Bear Lake with her husband Mark and her best furry friend Max. She combines her love of junkin' and repurposing as co-owner of Patina, a resale home-and-garden shop in Onekama.



A cozy community destination for fresh homemade treats, coffees and uniquely delicious sandwiches. Locally sourced ingredients.

THAT'S THE  
SPIRIT  
By CHELSEA WHITE



## Creation

I've always been a creative type of person. It's typically felt fairly easy to me to envision an idea and execute it, from color schemes in my home to creating pieces of clothing. My hair has gone through nearly every color in the rainbow over the years. The thought of a new writing project makes me giddy.

Even when making dinner I love to play with merging and blending flavors to bring something a little new and different to the table. A few years ago, though, I was so overwhelmed and tired by my everyday life that the creative spark in me had fizzled. The energy and enthusiasm had grown stagnant as I kept my head down and muscled through incredibly long hours at work and frustration at home. Then, barely out of bar training at The Franklin in downtown Traverse City, I got a little push.

### Under pressure

Summer months at The Franklin, as one can imagine in the downtown area, were constantly busy. There was no time to think beyond the massive list of wines and spirits, and as such our summer menu didn't change often. But with the quieter fall and winter months came bi-monthly wine classes, a constantly rotating food menu, and cocktails created by the bartenders that often featured spirits from Michigan distillers we knew and loved.

I think I'd completed the intensive bar training only a week before when, at our pre-shift meeting in front of God and all my co-workers, my manager announced the first round of house-created cocktails for the season. She looked me straight in the eye and said, "I'll need your recipe Thursday, Chelsea." I cannot stress enough that I was brand new to the bar, and though I'd worked hard at educating myself, I was working with bartenders whose knowledge was so exhaustive I often felt the years of experience I'd already accrued meant nothing. I was terrified. But I'm nothing if not stubborn, so ... I leaned in.

### Bird by bird

The creation process for a cocktail isn't much different than other methods of creation. You start with your base: the foundation of the drink. That first time, we were featuring spirits from Valentine Distilling Co. in Detroit, so I chose their



"Mayor Pingree" rye whiskey. After you choose your base, you need to figure out what you want to convey with your drink, once again, like any other project. We were coming up on the holidays, the days were getting dark and cold, so I wanted flavors that felt warming and festive. I wandered the expansive bar, sniffing liqueurs and bitters and amaros until I found a walnut liqueur and Allspice bitters that made me think of pie on Christmas. The next step is the balance. (This is always vastly important.) I played with fractions, I shook it, stirred it, put it on the rocks, tried it up. It was good, but there was a sharpness to it that I just couldn't get past. So, I added an egg white (more on those another day), and just like that, as if by some strange alcoholic magic, the "Shut Ya Pie Hole" was brought to life. Two days later, next to other beautiful cocktails created by bartenders who I could only dream of being as skilled as, my cocktail was on the front of a menu.

### Importance of gratification

Since that first cocktail, I've created many more, and each time it gets a little easier to go through the steps. It gets a little more fun, and honestly, the cocktails get a little bit better as my creative muscles get a little stronger. That one cocktail has helped revitalize my creativity in other ways too. I started sewing again, I started writing for fun, I found an overall sense of pride in my work that I hadn't realized I had been missing. And in all these endeavors, the process remains the same: start with a focal point and a goal for elevating that focal point, and add pieces until you have a complete picture. It may feel intimidating or overwhelming, but the end result, that sense of pride and accomplishment, will be worth it.

**Please enjoy the Monk Margarita recipe on page 8.**

Chelsea White grew up working in her parents' former restaurant on Beaver Island. She's been behind the bar on and off since she was 20 and is passionate about all things alcohol. When she's not working or on the beach, you can find her homeschooling her daughters, dabbling in writing or experimenting with new cocktails at home.



# Birding, recreation abound at Ludington Pumped Storage

By KEVIN HOWELL



The view from the overlook at Ludington Pumped Storage provides a wide vista of Lake Michigan, with the facility below. Photo by Mark Videan.

*Take a ride down Lakeshore Drive, south of Ludington, until a panoramic view of Lake Michigan appears. Along the shore, below the road, sits the Ludington Pumped Storage power generating plant. Turbines at the plant produce enough power for 1.6 million Michigan homes.*

As part of the facility's operating permit, 144 acres of land were developed for recreational purposes. Owned by Consumers Energy and DTE Energy, the site is one of the premier bird-watching places along Lake Michigan and a favorite lookout of Mason County birder and author David "Dave" Dister.

The facility grounds include an overlook high above the lake, a rocky 1,700-foot breakwater and miles of shoreline. From the overlook, you can spot ducks, gulls and the occasional eagle. After a couple of visits, I contacted Dister about the spectacular assortment of avians.

"When I first went to the overlook there,

(I found) you're looking over the outflow from the reservoir," Dister said. "You're about 150 feet above Lake Michigan.

"You can see eagles flying (at) eye level, basically, and then you can look down on gulls. If you're a gull fanatic, like I am, you can see the wing pattern from above, probably the single best way to identify gulls."

Dister moved to the Ludington area in 2008. A botanist, he has been birding for about 50 years. He found the Pumped Storage facility while scouting places for bird watching. He discovered the area is in a tension zone, a place where the boreal forest and northern hardwood forest overlap.

"... You realize there should be a higher-than-average number of bird species as well as plant species," he explained.

Indeed, at Ludington Harbor he had a rare bird sighting: two purple sandpipers on a rock in late November. He also spotted Harlequin ducks.

About six years ago — when he said "the only place Lake Michigan wasn't frozen was the outlet of the reservoir, the spillway, and about a third of the way to the edge of the channel" — he estimated he saw 600 White Wing Scoters, a "fairly rare" duck and that winter's highest documented number of Scoters.

Since then, he has seen rare birds on a consistent basis. He documented his sightings, including 11 species of gulls, his favorites, in his 2020 book, "The Birds of Mason County, Michigan, Including Ludington State Park." (The book is available at the Bookmark and Windowsill bookstores in downtown Ludington, West Shore Community College and the Conservation District office in Scottville.

Dister worked with Consumers Energy's environmental group to create interpretive signage at the overlook about the birds and other wildlife attracted to the area around the facility.

The overlook on the west side of Lakeshore (reached by a walkway above the road) is one of two at the storage facility. On the road's east side, a paved trail climbs several hundred feet to a 27-billion gallon reservoir with a viewing tower. Migrating birds often visit the area.

The reservoir overlook was closed for replacement of a liner, but according to Terry DeBoes, Senior Public Information director for Consumers Energy, it was scheduled to reopen July 11.

## Pumped Storage Facility

The facility was built between 1969 and 1973 at a cost of \$315 million.

continued on page 8

## Arachnophobia 2.0: Tick, Tock

Story by JUDY COOLS. Images courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control.

This is part two of our two-part article about ticks, the disease-carrying insects we love to hate. If you missed part one in our June 30 issue, look for it online at: <https://freshwater-reporter.com>.

### Coming Home

If you're driving home from an adventure, do a tick check before getting into your car. Otherwise, you may find yourself driving home with a hungry tick. They are attracted to carbon dioxide (your breath) and sweat, so they'll know right where to find you.

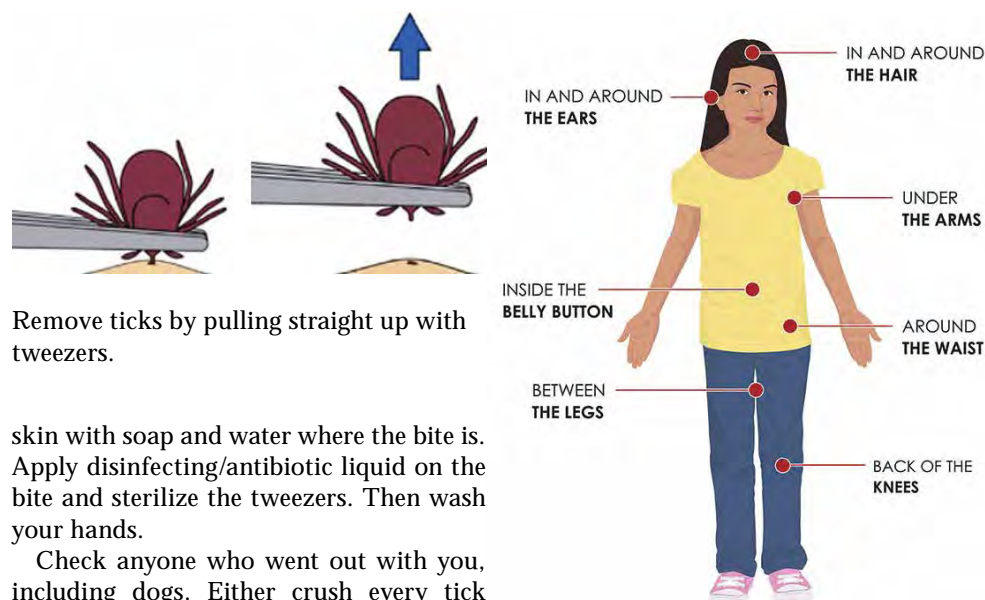
Let's talk a minute about not bringing ticks into your home. Some people use lint rollers or whisk brooms outside the door before they enter the house. While a whisk broom may get a tick off your body, it can also fling a tick into your yard where it will continue to look for a meal. I recommend a lint roller or duct tape. Once inside your home, undress over a light-colored sheet, piling the clothing there and nowhere else. Kill any ticks you see on yourself, the clothes or the sheet. Try using pliers or rolling over them with the back of a spoon against a hard surface. Flush the bodies, once you're sure they're dead. Wash whatever you use in soap and water when you're done.

Use a fine comb through your hair,

either over that sheet or in a shower stall or tub. Kill any ticks you find. Shower and shampoo, lathering up everywhere, especially those dark, damp places that ticks like. Loose ticks will fall off. If you find a bump, it may be an attached tick, so don't pick at it; wait for help. Ticks can be maddeningly small — the size of a sesame seed or smaller. It may look like a bit of dirt or a sliver stuck on you. Look for legs.

Have someone else look you over for embedded ticks you may have missed or to help you with any you found.

To remove them, the safest method is to get as close as you can with fine-pointed tweezers. Press into your flesh with the sides of the tweezers above and below the tick's mouth parts. Once you're as close as you can get, firmly grasp the tick and slowly but firmly pull straight away from the skin. Do not squeeze or crush the tick, as that increases the risk of contracting a disease if that tick is a carrier. In Michigan, 40% of ticks test positive for Lyme, and 1 in 3 ticks carry transmittable disease. Put any ticks found into a container. Wash the



Remove ticks by pulling straight up with tweezers.

skin with soap and water where the bite is. Apply disinfecting/antibiotic liquid on the bite and sterilize the tweezers. Then wash your hands.

Check anyone who went out with you, including dogs. Either crush every tick in your container or add alcohol to the container and kill them. Then close the container and throw it away or flush the dead ticks. Make certain they are dead. You don't want a Twilight Zone episode unfolding in your bathroom. They can survive being flushed and crawl back out.

Monitor any tick bites for redness or infection. Look for signs of a rash anywhere on the body. If those appear, or you have any symptoms such as blood pressure changes, general malaise, dizziness, etc., seek medical help and be certain to mention you've had a tick bite.

Ticks, wicked little things that they are, can survive in the washing machine, even with hot water and detergent. More effective is to throw all those clothes and

Where to check for ticks.

the sheet into the dryer on high heat for 20 minutes or more. This will likely kill any ticks that rode inside on your clothes. You'll still want to wash them, of course, but roast the ticks to death first.

Be careful, be sensible, be safe, and you'll still be able to enjoy the outdoors.

Judy Cools has been a columnist, web designer, feature and business writer, and an editor for nearly 30 years. She and her husband make their home in the woods near Ludington. Ticks drive her batty. Don't even get her started.



# Community Calendar

continued from page 2

- 29 Roots on the River Music Series with Awesome Distraction**  
7pm, free, Jaycees Riverwalk Bandshell, Memorial Dr., Manistee
- 30 Ludington Farmers Market**  
3-7pm, N. James St. Legacy Plaza, Ludington
- 30 Portage Lake Yacht Club Open House & History Presentation**  
12-3pm, free, fun stories and refreshments, 8061 Portage Point Road. For details: 231.889.4739
- 30 Benzie Bayou: Blues & Zydeco Fundraiser**  
Luke Winslow-King, Airey B and her Blues Troupe, Jazz North, K. Jones and the Benzie Playboys. 4-11:30pm; \$25/adult in advance (\$30 at the door), \$10 ages 13-18, free for 12 and under. Featuring live & silent auctions, Cajun food vendors, beer, wine, spirits, sodas. Bring beach chairs/blankets for sitting on the grass at Elberta Outdoor Amphitheater, 1120 Furnace St., Elberta. All proceeds benefit Grow Benzie. Event details and tickets available here:  
<https://mynorthtickets.com/events/bayou-in-the-barn-blues-zydeco-fundraiser-7-30-2021>

- 30 Portage Point Resort History Tour**  
5pm, free, Front Porch of the resort, 8567 Portage Point Drive
- 30 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with the Wayouts**  
6:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibane Rd., Thompsonville
- 30 Live music at Northern Natural Cider House & Winery with Luke Winslow-King Quartet**  
7-10pm, free, 7220 Chief Road, Kaleva
- 30 Live Music at Portage Point Resort with The Flying Toasters**  
7-11:59pm, free, 8567 Portage Point Dr., Onekama
- 30 Folk Fridays Performance & Concert Series with Chris Vallillo – Songs of the One-Room School**  
7pm, free. Held on the Lake County Historical Museum grounds, 915 N. Michigan Ave., Baldwin. Vallillo performs songs sung by students in the Singing Schools often held in the One-Room School. This is an audience participation concert. NOTE: The Museum's new book "One-Room Schools of Lake County, a History and Self-Driving Guide" will be available for purchase at this concert.

- 31 Manistee Farmers Market**  
9am-12pm, parking lot on the corner of Memorial Dr. and Washington St., Manistee
- 31 Pine Forest Freedom Market**  
9am-4pm, free to attend, \$6/space to sell. Crafters, bakers, makers, food trucks, etc. Pine Forest Campground, 10169 M-37, Irons. For more info, call 231.742.6934. Downtown Baldwin
- 31 Downtown Scottville Farmers Market**  
10am-2pm, sidewalks of Main St., Scottville
- 31 Portage Lake Yacht Club Onekama Oneifty Sunfish Invitational**  
Open fun race for Sunfish sailors. 2-3:30pm, free, Portage Lake. To register to sail, contact the Portage Lake Yacht Club at 231.889.4739 or plyc49675@gmail.com. View the race from Onekama Village Park, 4775 Main St.
- 31 Rhythm & Dunes Concerts: 80's Retro Night with Mega 80's Band**  
6pm, free, Waterfront Park Pavilion, Ludington

- 31 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with McKenzie Rosin**  
6:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibane Rd., Thompsonville
- 31 Sounds from the Forest. Live music with Greg Nagy's Men of Leisure w/ Jim Alfredson**  
7-9:15pm, free, donations gladly accepted. Wenger Pavilion, downtown Baldwin
- 31 Live music at Northern Natural Cider House & Winery with Steve Leaf & Patrick Booth**  
7-10pm, 7220 Chief Road, Kaleva
- 31 Live Music at Portage Point Resort with The Flying Toasters**  
7-11:59pm, free, 8567 Portage Point Dr., Onekama
- 31 S.S. Badger Shoreline Cruise**  
8:30-11pm, \$42/person, children 4 & under are free. Cruise will sail rain or shine.  
**For more info and tickets, go to: [ssbadger.com](http://ssbadger.com)**



A herring gull family rests on part of the 1,700-foot rocky breakwater offshore of the Ludington Pumped Storage facility. Photo by David Dister.

## Pumped storage

continued from page 7

Interpretive signage at the overlook explains how the facility pumps lake water up to the reservoir at night, when electric usage is at its lowest, and back down during the day to power turbines that create the electricity.

I wanted a little more information so I contacted DeBoes, who passed along some interesting notes.

"The Ludington Pumped Storage plant is owned 51 percent by Consumers Energy and 49 percent by DTE Energy and operated by Consumers Energy," he told me. "There is the popular public overlook site that provides spectacular views of the project's reservoir, which is approximately 2.5 miles long and one mile wide."

He noted that more than 6,000 people visit the overlook every year, and about 8,000 people use the Lake Michigan reservoir overlook annually.

"The markers and signage are our way of providing education about the site and area to the public at those sites," DeBoes said.

He added that a fish-barrier net is deployed in Lake Michigan at Ludington Pumped Storage. The net, just visible below the water line from the overlook, is about two miles long.

"It has been continuously monitored for more than 30 years and has proven to be greater than 80 percent effective at

preventing passage," DeBoes explained.

"Also, as part of our license to operate Ludington Pumped Storage, funding is provided for unavoidable fish damage to the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, which benefits Great Lakes research, education, and recreational fishing access throughout the state."

### More than Birds and Power

Just around the corner, on Chauvez Road, are several recreational opportunities.

Included in Consumers' 144 acres are the Mason County Campground and picnic area, a disc golf area with three courses (touted as the third largest disc golf course in the world), Hull Field (a radio-controlled airplane airfield), and the Lakeside Links Golf Club. A paved lane through the picnic area also links to the Pumped Storage overlooks. Mason County manages the recreation sites. During my drive-through, I found them well-maintained and great places to visit.

The main entrance to the campground and picnic/disc golf sites is at 5906 W. Chauvez Road. Chauvez Road is just north of the parking area for the Pumped Storage overlooks on South Lakeshore Drive.

Call (231) 845-7609, or check [www.masoncounty.net](http://www.masoncounty.net) for more information and directions to these sites.

Kevin is a transplanted freelance writer from Indiana currently residing in Mason County. He loves the Michigan woods, lakes, people and, especially, Michigan craft beers – not necessarily in that order.

## That's the spirit

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### Monk Margarita

This is a cocktail I recently created for the restaurant where I currently work. Maybe the Pie Hole will make an appearance at some point in the future, but it's summer, so I think it's best to give you something that can be enjoyed now on your deck. Typically, a margarita is made with an orange liqueur, but here I've substituted Yellow Chartreuse to make a slightly more savory and refreshing drink.

#### Ingredients:

- 2 oz. Reposado Tequila (Corazon is a good, affordable choice. You'll definitely want reposado, as that slightly smoky, dry flavor from being aged in oak barrels will come through beautifully in this drink.)
- .75 oz. Yellow Chartreuse (This liqueur is made exclusively by Carthusian monks in France, developed from a highly secret recipe containing over 130 herbs, spices and flowers.)
- 1 oz. lime juice
- .25 oz. agave nectar
- pinch salt
- 2 slices cucumber
- 6 leaves mint



The only special term one needs to know to create this cocktail is "muddling". You'll want to either acquire an affordable bar muddle or improvise: the thick handle of a spatula or a pestle will do in a pinch. In your mixing tin, add the salt, cucumber, mint and agave, and muddle it together. You want to really break up all these ingredients. Then add your liquids and ice, shake them vigorously, and strain them into a fresh glass with fresh ice, leaving the mint and cucumber behind. (They've already done their job at this point.) As always, enjoy responsibly.



## FRESHWATER REPORTER

A fresh approach to storytelling in Manistee and Mason counties...and a bit beyond.

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