

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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Not just a walk in the woods

Story and photos by
STEWART A. MCFERRAN

A forest of large trees dominates the shoulders of Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville. Among the trees is a park with steep trails called the Michigan Legacy Art Park. Founded in 1995 by artist David Barr, the nonprofit park encompasses 30 acres and, according to a statement on the park's website, is meant to be "a place that expresses Michigan's history through the arts."

Sculptures installed in the art park years ago undoubtedly have been touched by falling leaves and twigs, even hit by branches, during that time. Far from the static environment of art galleries and museums, where curators attend to the art objects in climate-controlled conditions, the sculptures displayed at the park bear the full brunt of all seasons.

"Because we are a forested sculpture park, occasionally we have wind events that bring trees down," Angie Quinn, the park's director, said. "We want to protect the art."

Telling stories

On a recent walk in the Crystal Mountain forest, I saw the weathered art along the trail. From the ridge trail above the venue, I noticed the amplified music of the band playing somewhere below me was undiminished — distorted, but not muffled. "The Timebombs" blasted their mix of '90s rock to the approval of the crowd seated in the rustic amphitheater. The guitarist's words echoed from the tree



Above: The art park's amphitheater includes rustic bench seating for concert listeners. Photo by Grace Grogan. Right: Sculptures along the Michigan Legacy Art Park's trail are exposed to the elements, as shown in this partial view of "Mysterious Traveler", a piece made of industrial fabricated steel and repurposed by David Petrakovitz.

trunks as he explained how he got the cast on his foot.

In all, six concerts were scheduled at Michigan Legacy Art Park this summer.

"Although we are primarily a sculpture park, we like to offer other types of arts as well, which is why we offer the concert series," Quinn explained. "The music is

diverse (and) family friendly. We have Eastern European jazz music; we've got world music (and) we've got country music ... The way the amphitheater is designed ... you can sit on benches, but most people bring folding chairs."

Quinn shared the size of the park's art continued on page 6



EVENTS CALENDAR PAGES 7&8

THE SAUCE BOSS



Cowboys, chili sauce and Oak Grove Tavern

Story and photos by **JOSHUA ELIE**

It was 1977-78. They say it was the biggest snowfall of all time in this part of the state. I wouldn't know because I had just learned how to walk, but two master musicians moved up here from Detroit,



The writer's parents, Peter and Patricia Elie, at Oak Grove Tavern.

Michigan during that period and lit the town of Irons afire with great music.

Cars lined up the next summer and many summers to come, every weekend, all the way from Oak Grove Tavern to the Elk Tavern (now Brooks Corner, a restaurant), with people walking back and forth — like a cowboy town in the middle of a gold rush. Other musicians and bar owners would follow.

I remember Gary and Peggy Burg because Peggy was my first Sunday School teacher, and one time she asked us students what song we would like to sing. I raised my hand and replied, "The Lord Knows I'm Drinking". I knew that she knew all the words because I had heard her singing it on stage at the Oak Grove every weekend!

When I think of the term "cowboy," I think about working hard all week, getting a little wild on Saturday night and going to church on Sunday morning. And the person that comes to mind isn't John Wayne, it's Mark Richards. According to Kim Tripp, Mark took ownership of Oak Grove Tavern around 1994, and shortly afterward a piano player named Larry Nigh showed up from somewhere south, like really south, in one of our southern continued on page 6

A DIFFERENT KIND OF ANIMAL FARM

Animal sanctuary offers care, kindness

Story and photos by **RAMONA DEGEORGIO-VENEGAS**

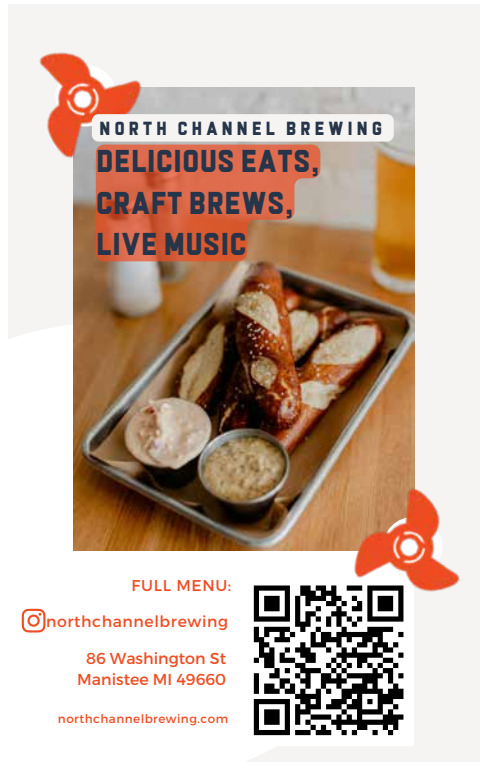


MANISTEE COUNTY — Outside Brethren, on Farnsworth Road, is a special place. The 40-acre farm has been there more than 100 years, but the animal sanctuary only since July 2020. This spring, a discovery was made on the farm: a date etched into the foundation of the barn that appears to read, "Raised May 25, '04," as in 1904.

I met Megan and Rob Scott, owners and caretakers of the animals at Amnesty Freedom Farm, between feedings on a sunny Sunday afternoon. Megan shared the farm's new history and mission while giving me a tour of the property.


Megan grew up in southwestern Michigan, where she still has family. She and her husband Rob are animal advocates with a passion for animal welfare. Megan is also a lawyer with her firm My Scott Law. The couple felt they were better able to affect change in a small town. So, after working in downtown Chicago for 12 years, they purchased the farm.

Their mission is to rescue and rehabilitate continued on page 6



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MI MANISTEE BACKYARD

Blossoming friendship leads to 'native' garden downtown

By **JENNIFER DEVINE**



Blueberries (pictured) and chokeberries are some of the edibles along the Riverwalk. Photo: M. Videan.

If you had told me in May that I would no longer be able to lose myself in the trees, walk barefoot among birdfoot violets, pick native berries or watch my garden grow on our 20 acres in the country, I would have laughed.

Yet, here I am, living in downtown Manistee. It's not as unpleasant as this nature-lover was thinking it would be. A couple minutes from the beach, everything can be delivered or walked to, I've met and befriended a few people, and I found a patch of the Manistee Riverwalk planted with native trees, shrubs and flowers.

Have you taken a stroll behind Anne's Book Store at 380 River Street? It was there I found Gordie Heinold toiling away, creating a beautiful space utilizing native plants from Black Cap Farm in Onkama. The folks at Black Cap even worked with him to create the perfect layout.

So why did Gordie choose "natives" instead of traditional ornamentals, flowering annuals and invasive perennials?

"The interest in native plants initially came out of a desire for low maintenance and pollinator friendliness," Gordie responded. "We all know that pollinator insect numbers have been decreasing, and I became disturbed by the lack of bees, butterflies, etc., on our flowers, which were non-native cultivars. Someone explained

to me the relationship of native insects to native plants, that they co-evolved together. That was an aha moment! Later, I learned that our native butterflies and moths have very specific needs for host plants for their caterpillars. And that our non-native butterfly bush, though it attracted lots of pollinators, provided nothing for the caterpillars, another aha moment. No caterpillars, no butterflies. As we added more natives to our garden, we noticed a striking increase in butterflies, moths, bees, and other insects as well as hummingbirds and goldfinches."

Gordie and his wife, Linda, grow a small garden on his condominium porch facing the Riverwalk and thought it would be a good idea to include a lot of edibles on the Riverwalk for others to enjoy, too, with proper instruction.

"The reason the Riverwalk garden this year has lots of edible natives is due to Marc Qualls-Sanchez, our friend and my partner in this project," Gordie said. "Marc is a highly trained chef who developed a love for using native edibles in his cooking, both foraging for and cultivating them. Marc's enthusiasm is contagious, and I'm grateful to be learning from him."

And then I met Marc. These two, though different in age and life experiences, have become the best of friends as they create a



Harebells bloom throughout summer. Photo: M. Videan



Marc Qualls-Sanchez (left) and Gordie Heinold dig into their native plant project along Manistee's Riverwalk. Photo: Jennifer Devine.

purposeful garden that townsfolk, used to plantings of petunias and pansies, wouldn't necessarily have a chance to enjoy.

When I asked Marc, "Why native?" he replied: "To me they're extremely important to the future of mankind. As we've been disconnected with our natives and the outdoors extensively over the last few hundred years, we've slowly lost connection with how important they truly are. They're the base to our ecosystem and as we are already in what is considered to be an extreme biodiversity extinction, they are even more important than ever to connect and introduce them into our man-made landscapes. They help the bees, birds, insects, and even have fun, medicinal, and edible purposes for us humans. The (Riverwalk) was an open platform to express this as well as a great area that could also utilize beautification, interaction with visitors and locals, and be a great projection for what others can do in their gardens at home or businesses. The idea of it being an extension of us and adding art, solar/wind technologies, and educational factors excites me and I believe is necessary."

Marc said he is excited to bring the concept of a native garden to other places in Manistee and beyond.

"My goal is to create an umbrella throughout all of Michigan that eventually spreads throughout the United States," he explained. "Truly focusing on hyper local situations and environments. This native habitat that we've planted and integrated with man-made concepts is just the start. As I've mentioned to Gordie ... this is just the planting of a seed to the whole entire forest."

And expansion will happen. I was there when Kelly Greive, of Manistee Proud, asked them to think of other areas that don't see a lot of water, meaning anything planted there will die quickly, and what drought- and heat-tolerant plants could be substituted. In a recent DDA meeting, most attendees expressed their desire to see more natives planted in and around town.

I now look forward to writing about native plants found in MI Manistee Backyard.

Jennifer Devine has a passion for writing and plants. She has lived in cities and homesteaded off grid. She likes to hunt, fish and forage and meet like-minded people. She is continuously learning, having adventures and making memories with her family.



Concert series inspired by nature

By **PAT STINSON**. Photos by **MARK VIDEAN**.

Noah Cameron said watching the sun set between the trees on his family's Forest Trail Music Festival property combines northern Michigan's natural beauty with music, an "incredible" experience. As hosts of the third annual Forest Trail Music Festival, Aug. 26-28, the Camerons had another vision for the festival site this year.

"We decided that since we already have a venue for live music, why wouldn't we utilize it all summer long and bring more music to the area," he explained.

Their new "Summer Sounds Series" of concerts are held at the Forest Trail Music Festival's wooded setting along West Forest Trail Road, between Manistee and Ludington. Two concerts remain of the six scheduled for this summer. On July 30, Kyle Brown will open for country band The Bootstrap Boys, and on Aug. 13, local favorite Ben Traverse will open for folk-rockers Erin Zindle and the Ragbirds. Opening acts begin at 5 p.m., main acts start at 7 p.m. and the music continues until 9 p.m.

Forest Trail Music Festival and Summer Sounds Series is located at 352 West Forest Trail Road. For tickets, the festival line-up and information, go to: foresttrailmusic.com.

Find them on Facebook and Instagram.

East of the intersection of M-37 and M-55, south on 13 Road, is Coyote Crossing Resort, a four-season destination. Located on 50 acres south of Caberfae Peaks, the resort includes cabin rentals, a restaurant and bar, and an outdoor music venue. Surrounded by the Manistee National Forest, the setting is rural yet not far from Wellston or Cadillac.

The Coyote Crossing Music Series takes place outdoors, on the edge of the woods, in a semi-shaded setting. A raised and covered stage, outdoor bar, food shack, sound booth, and tables and chairs are situated next to the restaurant. Five of six scheduled concerts this summer include Steppin In It, with opening act Adam Joynt, on July 30; Drew Hale Band, with opening act The Moonhowlers, on Aug. 13; Michigan Rattlers, with opener Raylon Vance and Nick Sake, on Aug. 25; Sam Morrow, with Doug Henthorn Band, on Aug. 27; and The Insiders on Sept. 3.

Coyote Crossing is at 8593 South 13 Road, Cadillac. For tickets and information, go to: coyotecrossingresort.com. Concert times vary. Updates are posted on the resort's Facebook page.

Onekama Days celebration returns

From **STAFF REPORTS**

The 49th annual Onekama Days, to be held Aug. 4-8, promises music, activities and food in this two-lake town along M-22 north of Manistee.

On Aug. 4, Onekama Athletic Boosters will serve a barbecued rib dinner, 5-8 p.m., in the Village Park. A silent auction and the naming of the Onekama Days king, queen, prince and princess will follow.

The next evening, from 4-7, the Onekama Lions will serve a grilled steak dinner inside the Lions' Den at the county fairgrounds. Afterward is Rambling Music and karaoke with Larry and Lexi Bialik.

Events for Aug. 6 begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Village Park with a 5K Race & Walk or 1K Fun Run plus the Trinity Lutheran Church's donut wagon and the Onekama Lions pancake breakfast at the fairgrounds. Also at the Village Park is a classic car show with nearby rock painting and face painting. Events on Main Street include the Portage Lake Association arts and crafts fair and the library's book sale. Glen Park will host nature and history walks, and North Point Park will host a butterfly release. The Onekama Lions will offer a cornhole tournament at the fairgrounds.

Saturday events continue with a 4-7 p.m. craft beer tasting in the Village Park, followed by the PLA "Pig Out for Onekama Schools" featuring locally roasted pork. A concert by Gunnar & the Grizzly Boys precedes the TNT Bump N'Run Derby at the fairgrounds. The Village Park will host a performance by the Feral Cats. The day's events conclude with fireworks over Portage Lake.

Events on Aug. 7 include the Lions Club breakfast at the fairgrounds and a 1 p.m. parade along Main Street, from 8 Mile Road to the Village Park. The Scottville Clown Band is featured and will perform a free concert in the park following the parade. The Onekama Lions raffle and beer tent conclude Sunday's festivities.

Monday's 7 p.m. Concert in the Park, featuring Funtastix, caps off this year's events.

Clues for a "Fast Cash" scavenger hunt held throughout Onekama Days may be found on the Facebook page of sponsor Absolute Auto.

As event information may change, visit the 1,-Onekama, Michigan Facebook page for updates and a detailed schedule.

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Kids rule at Copemish Heritage Days

From STAFF REPORTS

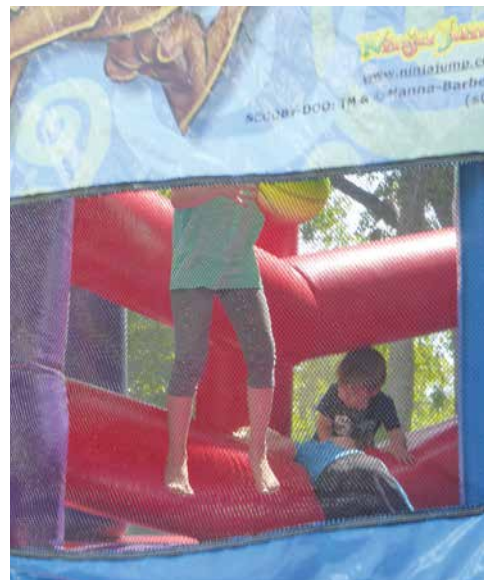
Activities abound for Copemish Heritage Days, to be held Aug. 6-7 in the shady village park north of M-115 in Copemish.

The two-day event begins with a kids' bicycle parade on Aug. 6 at 12:30 p.m. A drawing will be held for those with decorated bikes, to win a new backpack of school supplies. Kids with bikes are asked to meet at 12:15 p.m. at the recycling station right next to Archangel Ancient Tree Archive. A shorter parade route takes kids down Front Street to Cedar Street.

Food trucks and vendors will be set up and ready by noon on Saturday, and a full parade will begin at 1 p.m.

Events in the village park commence at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, with live music by Redux, the husband-and-wife act of vocalist Lexi Kosla and guitarist Dave Kosla performing hits from the '60s to today. Afternoon activities for adults and children include carriage rides, history displays, a cake walk and a dunk tank. Kids' activities include a trout-fishing pond, bounce house, inflatable slide, fire truck rides by the Copemish Fire Department and crafts at the Betsie Valley District Library, 14744 Thompson Road, Thompsonville.

A special puppet show by Pomona Puppets begins at 2 p.m., and Maciek the Magician, voted "Best TV Talent" and winner of AMC's "Showville" TV series,



Kids always have fun in the bounce house. Photo: M. Videan

will perform at 3 p.m., followed by raffles for kids and adults.

Sunday's activities feature a pancake breakfast from 9 a.m. until noon at St. Raphael of Copemish Catholic Church, 18440 Cadillac Highway. Also at 9 a.m. is the annual 5K Run/Walk sponsored by the Copemish Historical Society. Entry forms and a full schedule are available at: copemishheritagedays.wordpress.com.



Copemish Heritage Days features live music. Photo: M. Videan

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New documentary cements Marlborough's boom-to-bust history

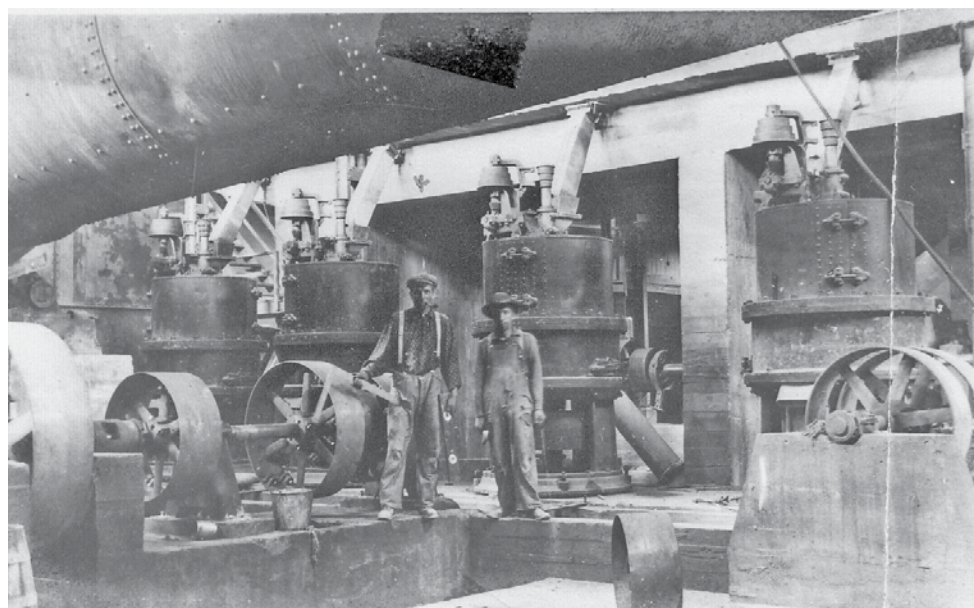
By KEVIN HOWELL

Just a few miles southwest of Baldwin lie the ruins of what once was the largest cement plant in Michigan, if not the world. Rubble of homes, remnants of a storage facility and the old foundation bones of the former Great Northern Portland Cement Company factory are what's left of the short-lived town of Marlborough, Michigan. The ambiance is ghost town, with greenery and graffiti taking over the cement structures still standing.

However, thanks to the Lake County Historical Society, the story of Marlborough will come to life again. Beginning on Aug. 10, the museum will release copies of a professionally produced, full-length documentary called, "Marlborough, A Tale of Riches to Ruins."

Production of the documentary came about coincidentally, arising from another project. Mark Boardman, owner and cinematographer of Boardman Productions, and Mark Jager, author of "Mystic Michigan" books and films, were looking for information for two TV episodes of "Mystic Michigan". The topic was, of course, the town of Marlborough. They ended up at the Lake County Historical Museum and began digging through material provided by curator Jill Engelman. That's when they became enchanted with the story.

"It started about two years ago," Engelman explained. "... They came here that September and Mark expected to be



Above: Wet Grinders for clay. Photo courtesy of Lake County Historical Society. Right: Remains of kilns at the site of the former Great Northern Portland Cement Company, 1929. Photo courtesy of Lake County Historical Society.

here for a shoot of five or eight minutes, but he said, 'You have way too much information; I'm really excited about this, and I want to work with you on a full-length documentary.'

Boardman liked Jager's short stories about interesting places and unique oddities of Michigan.

"I met this guy, like, 20 years ago and said, 'Hey, you should turn your short stories into a TV show.' I said, 'We can probably pitch it to PBS,' and so we agreed to just do a pilot and then kind of sell it and see what kind of reaction we got. So, the first story is the Marlborough story and we ended up doing two episodes because people liked it so much, so that's how we met Jill."

Two years were spent gathering information and conducting interviews. The museum has had a Marlborough exhibit for some time, but during the documentary's production area residents, volunteers and museum personnel discovered artifacts, letters from past workers at the plant, photos and other documentation. The film's length grew from 5-8 minutes to a little more than 60.

It's an amazing story of technology and human incentive that turned the building of a factory into a booming industry and

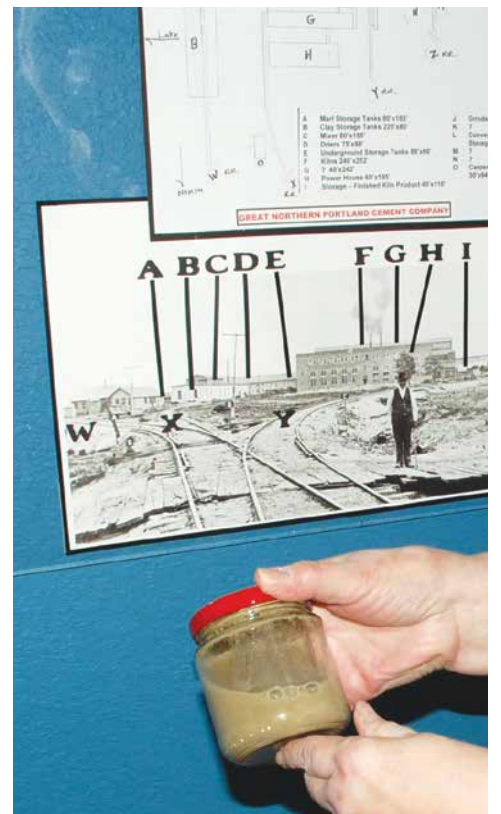


economic boon for Lake County in the early 1900s.

"It was an economic plus for the area," Engelman said. "The company was incorporated in 1901, and by that time the two major investors, Howard Parsons and Frederick Farnsworth, had sold stock in the amount of one million dollars.

"They purchased all the land, nearly 8,000 acres, plus constructed all the cement plant buildings and all the equipment for the buildings, the hotel, opera house, mercantile, an inn, 72 houses (and) a one-room school. All of those buildings were paid for when the plant opened through the sale of stock. That's important to the rest of the story."

It went well at first. The company dug marl — calcium carbonate with a lime-rich mud, a byproduct of receding glaciers — from North Lake. (Combining the words marl and borough, which means "town," gave the place its name.) Then, through a process of drying, burning and grinding, etc., workers turned the mess into particles of cement. About seven railroad cars filled



Marl used in the production of cement in Marlborough. Photo: Kevin Howell.

with bags and barrels of finished cement product were shipped every day.

Unfortunately, technology also led to the town's demise in just a few years. A new process using limestone rock was developed that removed the need for drying the marl. As a result, making cement became much more efficient. The company took out loans to re-tool, but the cost was too high.

"So, they ended up going bankrupt in 1907," Engelman said. "The stockholders lost their yearly income from their stock, and the bank who loaned them the \$600,000 (was) out the \$600,000. That was five years from the time the company's foundation was poured until the company's demise."

There's more to the story, of course, but those untold portions will have to wait for the documentary's Aug. 10 release. At that time, museum visitors may view the updated Marlborough exhibit and purchase DVDs and USB drives of the documentary for \$15 each.

For more information, contact the Lake County Historical Museum at 231-898-6500, or email them at lakecountyhistory@hotmail.com. Find them on Facebook @ lakecountyhistoricalsociety.

Kevin Howell lives in Mason County. He loves the Michigan woods, lakes, people and, especially, Michigan craft beers — not necessarily in that order!



Lake County Historical Museum curator Jill Engelman points to one of the bags that held cement from the Great Northern Portland Cement Company in Marlborough. Photo: Kevin Howell.

Legacy Art Park

continued from page 1

collection with me. She explained that 50 of the sculptures are in the park's permanent collection, some installed since the park's inception almost 30 years ago. She said other pieces are found in a temporary gallery at the park's entrance, and those rotate "every few years."

"Right now, we have a show there that is going into its second year," Quinn said, adding, "and these are all (works by) emerging artists from around Michigan."

Sharing the story of Michigan's history and culture in this natural setting, using contemporary arts, is a work-in-progress.

"Our collection committee will think about what part of the story are we not telling yet," Quinn commented.

In addition to the sculpture trail and concerts, the park offers programs for adults and youth. Spring and summer activities include guided early-morning birdwatching and wildflower hikes and creative time for kids such as haiku-writing and crafts.

Sharing sounds

Bands performing in the Summer Sounds concert series become part of the musical story of the park. Two upcoming concerts promise eclectic, sometimes electric, listening.

On July 29, Yid Vicious, a six-member band, will perform klezmer music crafted using a mix of clarinets, fiddle, horn, vocals, guitar, accordion, tuba, drums and sometimes theremin, an electronic "instrument" played without touching the device, one you may have heard in old science fiction or horror movies.

Hatchwing Rider will take the stage on Aug. 29, closing out the concert series with tunes described as "folk-rock paired with a restless psychedelic Americana." The band plays guitars, keyboard and



Greeting concertgoers at the park's entrance are volunteers Susan and Steven Vegter (seated) and Kerry Winkler, the art park's community engagement manager.

drums to create sounds from rock and country to soul and blues.

Concerts are 7-9 p.m., and tickets to each performance are \$10 in advance (plus a processing fee), \$15 at the door for adults, and free for children aged 12 and under. Tickets are available online by going to: michlegacyartpark.org/summer-sounds-2022.

Listening to all these sounds in the ambiance of the art park is a treat. Those attending a Summer Sounds concert can either walk the quarter mile from the parking lot to the amphitheater or hitch a ride in a golf cart. Either way, your visit is much more than just a trek in the woods.

Stewart Allison McFerran illuminates current environmental issues in a historic context. He hopes readers will gain an understanding and insight into ways people interact with their environment.

Chili sauce

continued from page 1

states. They set up this Tuesday night, 25-cent hot dog gig, and we played what Larry would call "Cowboy Jazz." Family fun with great music and chili dogs. I never liked hot dogs, no matter what you put on them, until I tried those. To this day, they still taste great.

Thinking back, I wasn't even old enough to drive when Larry used to pick me up and drive me to the shows, let me sit in on his guitar and mentor me. I ran off to the city looking for fame and fortune as a lead guitarist, though they stuck it out at the hometown tap. The Oak Grove Company Band released a couple live CDs. If you're interested in those, you should talk to Kim Tripp any Tuesday night at the OG.

Larry passed in 2005, but Kim is the one that kept the band going with a whole new crew of fantastic musicians. Marty Hopkins (vocalist and plays just about everything), Fuzzy Bear (vocals and bass), Don Pelaski (vocals, guitar, harmonica) and, of course, Kim Tripp. Kim, even though we were playing music together starting 30 years ago, is so humble. He calls himself just a drummer, but he is a master percussionist. Then last, but not least, is Ruben Arriaga. He is a great vocalist, guitarist and front man.

Kim would like everyone to know Larry's musical legacy with so many other great musicians: the goal is to keep the spirit of fun and family that began so many years ago.

Thank you to Oak Grove owners Rick Allen and Wayne Hillier for keeping the tradition alive today.

I can't give up the OG chili sauce recipe, but I can give you mine.

Joshua is a musician and retired building contractor. He now enjoys life as a homesteader.



Cowboy jazz in a bun.

Elie's Chili Sauce

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 large, fresh garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp red pepper flakes
- 3T chili powder

Bring the ground beef to room temperature, then pile everything else on top of it in a big saucepan. Set your heat to medium, and simply break it up and stir until the meat is cooked. Leave it a little loose where there is juice still in the pan because the meat will suck it right up as it cools.

Always remember: keep that sauce a-stirrin'!



Animal Farm

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animals while educating and raising public awareness. Volunteers, who help with some of the animal care, are crucial to the farm's success. For instance, in June, volunteers with the Manistee County Big Day of Serving helped them extend fencing for new horse pastures.

The farmhouse and the outbuildings are home to the rescued animals as well as the Scotts. A paid carpenter is improving or refurbishing as I write. In the future, the sanctuary may offer farm stays to the public or volunteer stay opportunities.

Meanwhile, donations to the nonprofit 501(c)(3) help pay for the animals' food, lodging, medication and veterinary care. All donations go directly to the animals and enable the Scotts to rescue more. The farm's recent request for donations, to help with veterinary care for sick animals, was met with enthusiasm on the farm's Facebook page. (The farm uses Square

and can accept payment via PayPal and Venmo.) Items on the farm's Weekly Wish List are posted on Facebook, too.

You can meet the animals, such as "Snortin Norton" or "Roo-dini" and read their bios on the farm's website. (See the URL below.) As I write, there are four indoor pigs, two outdoor pigs — dare I call them hogs? — four indoor dogs, a house cat, three Tom turkeys, four roosters in their own bachelor pad, and three older horses, who just arrived in May. On our walk along the treed boundary, a female turkey lurked, perhaps sneaking in the shadows to hear the domestic Toms crowing.

I immediately felt embraced by the animals and was glad for their well-cared-for habitats. The indoor pigs have their own sleeping place in a large bathroom. These piggies have learned to use the kitty litter in an area previously used as a shower. I petted one dog and a cat before heading outside to meet the other critters.

The property offers views of fields of corn and wheat, as well as trees. There are even mud wallows for the pigs. Fruit trees

were in blossom, and birds occupied the birdhouses during my visit. Those birds are the only wild critters. The Scotts do not accept wild animals but have contacts for places that do.

Megan told me about some of their mentors: Esther, the Wonder Pig; Priscilla, the Mini-Pig of Five Pigs and a Pug; and Gene Bauer's Farm Sanctuary in upstate New York.

As I backed out of the farm's driveway, I felt glad to have met all the living beings there and smiled to myself. We have such an interesting county!

I will be clicking on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) when I purchase a dog clipper. A percentage will go to Amnesty Freedom Farm if I choose and, of course, I shall. I will also consider other methods of support, such as purchasing gifts from their merchandise site or donating in memory of my beloved pets who are no longer with us.

To learn more about the farm, view a list of needed supplies or purchase items in support of the sanctuary, visit www.amnestyfreedomfarm.org. The farm's



Etsy site also offers items for sale. Follow Amnesty Freedom Farm on Facebook.

Ramona DeGeorgio-Venegas is a retiree of the Manistee Ranger District, Huron-Manistee National Forest, where she worked in recreation and as an outdoor recreation planner.

