

# FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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May 24 - June 27, 2023 FREE

## Idlewild music fests draw on rich local history

By KEVIN HOWELL

Three Idlewild summer music festivals are carrying on a musical tradition begun 80 years ago in this Lake County community, where the likes of Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Aretha Franklin, B.B. King and many more once performed.

This summer, the 10th Annual Meeks Homecoming Jazz and Blues Festival, the Summer Oasis Music Festival, and Grier Music Fest III will entertain audiences with exciting musical experiences offered by contemporaries like Houston Patton Trio, Al Lindsey, the top names in house music and more.

### Grier

First up on July 1 is Grier Music Fest, now in its third year and the youngest of the festivals. The event began as a memorial to Dorothy Lee Grier, a classical pianist and violinist, who died in 2020.

Chris Grier, Dorothy's son, currently lives in Holland but was born and raised in Idlewild where he runs his own consulting agency. He also owns property in Idlewild and is the historian for Yates Township. Chris said people were mostly sequestered due to COVID-19, so the memorial to his mother for friends and family was planned for a later date.

"Because she was a music teacher, and ... had played in (Historic) Tabernacle Church, which is directly across from Meeks Park, I said, 'We invite you on the



Above, Summer Oasis Music Festival organizer Cedric McDougale, center, waves during last year's event. Photo courtesy of C. McDougale. Right, Festivalgoers enjoying themselves at the Summer Oasis Music Festival. Courtesy photo.

first Saturday in July. We're going to have an outdoor memorial, and it's going to be a music festival.'

"My mother was a classical music person, so we had classical music, we had Jazz, we had Blues, R&B and Gospel, and then we had a

church service outside in the park, and that's really how the Grier Festival began."

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## Return of the Hummers

By VALERIE CHANDLER



Two ruby-throateds at the writer's feeder. Photo: Valerie Chandler.

As the seasons change, so do the landscape, the people visiting the area and the winged creatures that take flight. Probably the most eagerly awaited is the return of the ruby-throated hummingbird with its iridescent green feathers, bright white belly and the brilliant, red-feathered throat of the male. These diminutive birds only grow about 3-and-a-half inches tall and weigh less than a quarter of an ounce or about 7 grams. (For comparison, that's less than the weight of a nickel.) These tiny birds are eastern North America's only hummingbird, and by autumn they make their non-stop migratory journey back to Central America. Such an amazing feat for a bird the size of a large peanut!

### Flying

Hummingbirds are the only birds able to fly backward, forward and hover in place. The ruby-throated variety can beat its wings about 53 times per second, resulting in the humming sound we hear, hence its name. If caught off guard and at first glance, the quick blur of a hummingbird may be mistaken for a large bee. Their short, tiny legs and feet reduce aerodynamic drag while flying, but also prevent them from walking or hopping around. They either fly or shuffle wherever they perch. The ruby-throats have tiny squeaky chirps they use to communicate with each other.

All hummingbirds have muscle and skeletal features that enable agile, precision flight. Their wings include a flexible shoulder joint that permits the wing to rotate almost 180 degrees while moving forward and backward in a horizontal figure-eight pattern. This pattern generates lift on both forward and backward wing strokes and allows for their extreme maneuverability in flight. A hummingbird's chest muscles are notably well-developed, comprising up to 30 percent of its body weight, a higher percentage than any other bird group.

### Planting

The ruby-throated hummingbird can be found in flower gardens, fields, parks, woodland edges or where hanging plants, flowers or feeders are placed to attract

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## Area Events

Always check with the venue before attending as event dates may change or be canceled.

### FARMERS MARKETS

#### Thursdays

##### Elberta Farmers Market

8am-12pm, May - October. Dudley Penfold Memorial Marina Park, corner of M-22 & M-168

#### Fridays

##### Onkama Farmers Market

12-4pm, Through Sept. 1. Parking lot 4850 Main St. Info: patinamichigan@gmail.com

##### Ludington Artisan/Farmers Market

3-7pm, May 26 - September 22. Legacy Plaza Pavilion, 112 N. James St.

#### Saturdays

##### Manistee Farmers Market

9am-12pm, May 27 - Oct 7. Wagoner Community Center, 260 St. Mary S. Pkwy.

##### Frankfort Farmers Market

9am-1pm, May - October. Open Space Park, 832 Main St.

### ONGOING EXHIBITS/EVENTS

#### Thru June 9

##### "Wordless Connections" Art Exhibit, Frankfort

Free. Artworks by Rebecca Casement, Cherie Correll & Susan Thompson. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

#### Thru June 17

##### Nanok & Kowaleski Art Exhibit, Manistee

Free. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

#### Thru June 30

##### Emily Cook Art Exhibit, Onkama

Free. Yellow Dog Café, 4850 Main St. (M-22). Watercolor/gouache with ink. Cook is an Arcadia artist/illustrator, writer & conservationist.

#### Thru Aug 4

##### Etchings: Escaping the Frame, Scottville

Free. Artworks by Dorothy Anderson Grow. Manierre Dawson Gallery, Arts & Sciences Center, West Shore Community College, 3000 N. Stiles Rd.

#### June 2-30

##### Love Ludington Art Exhibit, Ludington

Free. Artworks featuring scenes of Ludington past & present. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

#### June 16-July 28

##### Annual Summer Member Art Show, Frankfort

Free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Opening reception June 16, 5-7pm.

#### Fridays, May 27, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 24, 25

##### Come Walk With Me, Thompsonville

10am. Mich. Legacy Art Park walk led by Angie Quinn. Focuses on a different sculpture each week. Check Facebook 1 hr. prior for weather cancellation. Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.

#### Saturdays & Sundays June 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24

##### Drop-in Art Activities, Thompsonville

10am-1pm. Join artists/educators/staff/volunteers to create a "Michigan Blue" wood disk for a community art project. Other family-friendly activities at Art Park entrance. Mich. Legacy Art Park, Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.

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# Community Calendar

**TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN FRESHWATER REPORTER!**

**To be included in our June 28 print edition, please submit your events by June 16.** Be sure to include the address where the event takes place.

Email to: [editor@freshwater-reporter.com](mailto:editor@freshwater-reporter.com). Always check with the venue before attending as event dates may change or be canceled.

Despite our best efforts, errors may occur. For brewery/bar entertainment, see our online calendar: [freshwater-reporter.com/calendar-2](http://freshwater-reporter.com/calendar-2)

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## May 27

### Laying of the Lilacs Community Ceremony, Benzonia

11am, Free. Ceremony honoring the area's Civil War veterans & the memory of former Senator William Case, author of "The Tragedy of Crystal Lake", his account of the lowering of the lake 150 years ago this summer. Violinist Dorothy Byers will perform. Bring lawn chairs.

### 16th Annual Michigan Beer & Brat Festival, Thompsonville

4-8pm, \$50 for 1-8oz. beer glass & 10 event tickets. Extra tickets \$1 ea. Brewers, meadmakers, wine makers & distillers. Music: Barefoot (3-5pm), Jedi Mind Trip (5:30-8pm). Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr. Tickets: [crystalmountain.com](http://crystalmountain.com)

### Coyote Crossing Music Series: Myron Elkins with North 44 Band, Cadillac

7:30-10:30pm, \$23.18 ADV, \$30 DOS. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. Info/tickets: [coyotecrossingresort.com](http://coyotecrossingresort.com)

## May 27, 28

### West Shore Family Support Craft Fair, Ludington

10am-4pm. Rotary Park, 500 W. Ludington Ave.

## May 28

### Horse Pull & Activities, Fountain

9am, activities. 1pm Horse Pull. Includes bake sales, vendor/craft show/food/raffles/horseshoe tourney. Delaney's, 4018 E. Main St.

## May 28

### Blessing of ORVs, Irons

10am. \$5/vehicle all-day pass. Skinner Park, 5074 W 10-1/2 Mile Rd. Blessing at 1pm. Law enforcement workshop, vendors, food, Manistee Forest ORV merch. & more.

## May 29

### Memorial Day Observance, Manistee

9am. Poppy placement & rifle salute @ Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, 1628 Maple Rd. 9:30 Poppies & salute at Oak Grove Cemetery, 1040 Veterans Oak Grove Dr. 10am Parade, corner of River & Division streets ends at Veterans Memorial Park, 177 Memorial Dr.

## May 31

### GTRLC Spring Wildflower Hike, Arcadia Dunes

10am-12pm, Free. Join Paula Dreeszen. 1.5-mile hike on the Pete's Woods loop trail. Wear hiking shoes, bring water & snack. Sunscreen, bug spray & camera/binocs suggested. Register: [gtrlc.org](http://gtrlc.org)

### Music in the Park: Adam Joynt Band, Luther

6-8pm, Free. Purchase Pavilion, 209 State St. Bring lawn chair/blanket

## June 1

### Legacy Plaza Music Series: Ben Traverse, Ludington

5-7pm, Free. Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.

## June 2

### Native Plant Event, Onekama

11am-3pm. Native plants for sale, raffle prizes & experts from the Manistee Conservation District, Plant It Wild, Go Beyond Beauty & the US Forest Service answer questions/have handouts. Black Cap Farm, 5265 Crescent Beach Rd.

## June 2-4

### Anne C. Calhoun Artwork Exhibit, Onekama

11am-3pm. Patina Gallery, 4850 Main St. (M-22). "Otherly Originals" mixed media.

## June 3

### Youth Birding Hike, Ludington

10am-12pm, Free. Ages 7-12 with adult supervision. Limited attendance/binocs avail. Register: [president@affew.org](mailto:president@affew.org) or 231.690.9561. Ludington State Park, 8800 M-116.

### Water Safety Day, Ludington

11am-2pm, Free. Activities promoting water safety, giveaways & free lunch. Loomis Street Boat Launch, 905 Loomis St.

### Metropolitan Opera Live/Encore in HD presents Die Zauberflote (Mozart), Manistee

1pm, \$25 adults, \$15 under 18. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Info/tickets: [ramsdelltheatre.org](http://ramsdelltheatre.org)

### Marilla: Memories of a Century Past, Copemish

1-5pm. Tours of historic buildings, displays, Katelyn Bass on hammered dulcimer, old time children's activities, cookies/lemonade, hear about olden Marilla & forgotten villages by historian Dana Johnson. Marilla Museum & Pioneer Place, Marilla Township Hall, 9991 Marilla Rd.

### Summer Sunset Music Series: Chloe Kimes, Manistee

6pm, Free. Rotary Gazebo, First Street Beach. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

### Coyote Crossing Music Series: Full Cord with Cold Leather Seats, Cadillac

7:30-10:30pm, \$17.85 ADV, \$30 DOS. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. Info/tickets: [coyotecrossingresort.com](http://coyotecrossingresort.com)

## June 7

### Music in the Park: Frank Blanchard, Luther

6-8pm, Free. Purchase Pavilion, 209 State St. Bring lawn chair/blanket

## June 7-11

### Midwest Jet Pilot's Spring Fling, Baldwin

10am-5pm, Free for spectators. Over 70 RC (remote controlled) jets soar all weekend. Music. Food & beverages to purchase. Free parking. Baldwin Airport, 8140 M-37. Bring lawn chairs or sit on bleachers.

## June 8

### Benzie Area Historical Society's Benzonia Academy Lecture Series, Benzonia

7pm. \$5 donation. "Car Ferries in Ice" by historian Grant Brown. Learn how car ferries crossed Lake Mich. in winter 100 yrs. ago. Mills Community House, 891 Michigan Ave. Info/Zoom link: [benziemuseum.org](http://benziemuseum.org) or 231.882.5539

## June 9

### Environmental Health Summit, Scottville

9am, Free. Continental breakfast at 9. 9:30 presentation. District Health Dept. #10 to present enviro. health initiatives & explore trends. Open to all. West Shore Community College, 3000 N. Stiles Rd. Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/4ebpmb5s>.

### Love Ludington Street Party, Ludington

6-10pm, Free. Live music, activities, fireworks. Ludington Ave. & James St. (closed to traffic).

## June 10

### 43rd Annual Lakestride 5k, 10k, Half Marathon & Family Fun Run, Ludington

6am-12pm. \$40-50, Family Fun Run is free. Stearns Park Beach, 421 N. Lakeshore Dr. Info/registration: [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com)

### Benefit Golf Outing, Beulah

8am Regis., 9am Shotgun start, \$75/pers. 4 Pers. Scramble: Men's, Women's, Co-ed Teams. 18 holes w/ cart. Lunch after golf. Proceeds: Habitat for Humanity, Benzie. Crystal Lake Golf Club, 8493 Fairway Dr. Info: 231.882.4061. Register: [benziehabitat.org](http://benziehabitat.org).

### Northern Michigan Lupus Walk, Frankfort

9-10am Regis./silent auction, 10am walk begins. In memory of Josephine VanHam. Free picnic after for registered walkers. Mineral Springs Park, 630 Main St. Info: [joannwalrad@yahoo.com](mailto:joannwalrad@yahoo.com)

### Birdwatching Tour, Thompsonville

10am. Led by Angie Quinn. Meet at Mich. Legacy Art Park Trailhead, ¼ mile from parking area, rain or shine. Bring binocs if avail. Check Facebook 1 hr. prior for cancellation. Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.

### Oak Grove Tavern ATV Fun Run, Irons

11am registration, 12pm run starts, \$30/person. All proceeds to Wertz Warriors/Winter Special Olympics. Dinner at 6pm after the ride. Oak Grove Tavern, 5482 W. 10 ½ Mile Rd.

### Coyote Crossing Music Series: Michigan Rattlers with Adam Joynt Band, Cadillac

7:30-10:30pm, \$33.85 ADV, \$30 DOS. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. Info/tickets: [coyotecrossingresort.com](http://coyotecrossingresort.com)

## June 10, 11

### Michigan Free Fishing & ORV Weekend, Statewide

Fishing license fees waived for weekend. All fishing rules & regs apply. ORV riders may use DNR-designated trails without ORV license/trail permit.

## June 10, 11

### Historic Homes Tours, Ludington

1-3pm, \$20. Walking tours of historic homes on Saturday, Bed & Breakfasts on Sunday. Tickets: Mason County Emporium & Sweet Shop, 130 E. Ludington Ave.

## June 11

### Young Life Pickleball Tournament, Manistee

12-5pm, \$25. Help send kids to camp. Food & drinks provided. Parkdale Pickleball Courts (corner of US-31 & Hill Rd.) Info: 989.513.7596 or [LukeTrombley.YL@gmail.com](mailto:LukeTrombley.YL@gmail.com).

## June 13

### Weed the Park, Ludington

10am-12pm. Free. ID & remove Garlic Mustard, Mugwort, Dame's Rocket. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts. Bring gloves, trowel, water. Meet near Rath Ave. dog park. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr.

### State Park Concert Series, Ludington

7pm. Free. Michigan folk legends Ruth & Max Bloomquist. Ludington State Park amphitheater. Hosted by Friends of LSP. MI recreation passport required for vehicle entry.

## June 14

### Guided Bird Walk: Birding by Ear, Onekama

8:30am, Free, registration required. Led by Dr. Brian Allen. North Point Park, 8999 Greenway St. Register: [OnekamaTwp.org](http://OnekamaTwp.org)

### Music in the Park: Sam Cronkite, Luther

6-8pm, Free. Purchase Pavilion, 209 State St. Bring lawn chair/blanket

### Live Music: Scottville Clown Band, Ludington

7pm, Free. Waterfront Park, 391 William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

## June 15-18

### Frankfort48 Film Contest, Frankfort

7:30pm, Thurs. Showing 2 free UM student films + Q&A. 9am, Fri. Get a line from a movie, a prop & a locale for your film. 8:59am, Sun. Film submissions due. 8pm, Sun. All films shown. Garden Theater, 301 Main St.

## June 16

### Fish on for Freedom. Ludington

6am, Free. Veterans' fishing event on Lake Michigan. Info/registration: [fishonforfreedom.com](http://fishonforfreedom.com)

## June 17

### Spring Wildflower Walk, Thompsonville

10am. Led by Angie Quinn. ID wildflowers & their place in park ecology. Meet at Mich. Legacy Art Park Trailhead, ¼ mile from parking area, rain or shine. Check Facebook 1 hr. prior for weather cancellation. Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.

### Frankfort Craft Fair

10am-3pm. Over 75 crafters & artists. 517 Main St.

### 45th Spirit of the Woods Folk Fest, Brethren

12-8pm, Free/donations encouraged. Live music, Arts & Crafts. Dickson Township Park, 14279 Coates Hwy. See our story on page 3.

### Summer Sunset Music Series: Nomads, Manistee

6pm, Free. Rotary Gazebo, First Street Beach. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

### State Park Concert Series, Ludington

7pm. Free. Celtic music trio Selkie Sounds. Ludington State Park amphitheater, 8800 W M-116. Hosted by Friends of LSP. MI recreation passport required for vehicle entry.

### Coyote Crossing Music Series: Josh Meloy with Zak Bunce, Cadillac

7:30-10:30pm, \$28.52 ADV, \$30 DOS. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. Info/tickets: [coyotecrossingresort.com](http://coyotecrossingresort.com)

### Live Music: Abbadabra (Tribute Band), Manistee

8-10:30pm, \$25-40. Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy.

## June 17,18

### Gus Macker 3-on-3 Charity Basketball Tournament, Ludington

\$180/team. Spectators free. Stearns Park, 950 W. Ludington Ave. Register to play by 5/29. Info/regs.: [macker.com/ludington-mi](http://macker.com/ludington-mi)

## June 17,18

### Annual Idlewild Juneteenth Festival

Williams Island. Begins 12pm Sat. with Parade. 2-6pm Sat. Festival. 11am Sun. Church Service. 1pm Sun. Juneteenth Play.

## June 18

### Birdwatching Tour, Thompsonville

10am. Meet at Mich. Legacy Art Park Trailhead, ¼ mile from parking area, rain or shine. Led by Angie Quinn. Bring binocs if avail. Check Facebook 1 hr. prior for weather cancellation. Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.

## June 19

### Jammin' Mondays Concert Series: Sunset Groove, Elberta

7-9:15pm, donations requested. Elberta Amphitheater @ Elberta Waterfront Park, 1120 Furnace St. Rain site: Waterfront Park Picnic Pavilion, 1110 Furnace St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

## June 20

### Shoreline Showcase: Sunset Groove, Manistee

7-9:15pm, Free. Rotary Gazebo, First St. Beach, Douglas Park. Rain/Cold/Wind Site: Orchard Beach State Park Shelter House, 2064 Lakeshore Rd.

### State Park Concert Series, Ludington

7pm. Free. Acoustic folk & bluegrass by 80 Cows. Ludington State Park amphitheater, 8800 W M-116. Hosted by Friends of LSP. MI recreation passport needed for vehicle entry.

## June 21

### Music in the Park: Tim Krause, Luther

6-8pm, Free. Purchase Pavilion, 209 State St. Bring lawn chair/blanket

### LACA Summer Concert Series: Sunset Groove, Ludington

7pm, Free. Waterfront Park, 391 William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

### Beach Sweep, Ludington

7-8pm, Free. Volunteer to help AFFEW.org clean up the beach. Stearns Park, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr.

### Manistee Community Band & Choir Concert, Manistee

7:30pm, Free. First Street Beach. Rain site: Manistee United Methodist Church, 387 1st St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

### Live at the Garden: The Mountain Grass Unit, Frankfort

7:30pm, \$25. Garden Theater, 301 Main St.

### Echo through the Timber Concert Series: Ben Turner Trio, Baldwin

7-9:15pm, Free/donations. Jazz/Blues Organ trio & vocalist. Wenger Pavilion (behind Jones' Ice Cream). Bring lawn chair/blanket.

## June 22-25

### 47th Annual Flea Roast & Ox Market, Irons

Carnival Midway, Flea market, music, games, beer tent, food, fireworks. Info: [fleauroast.com](http://fleauroast.com)

## June 23

### UpBeat Cadillac Music Series: Sunset Groove, Cadillac

7-9:15pm, Free. Pop/Classic Rock/R&B. Rotary Performing Arts Pavilion, 100 S. Lake St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

### Manistee Community Band Concert, Scottville

7:30pm, WSCC Center Stage Theatre, West Shore Community College, 3000 N. Stiles Rd.

## June 23, 24

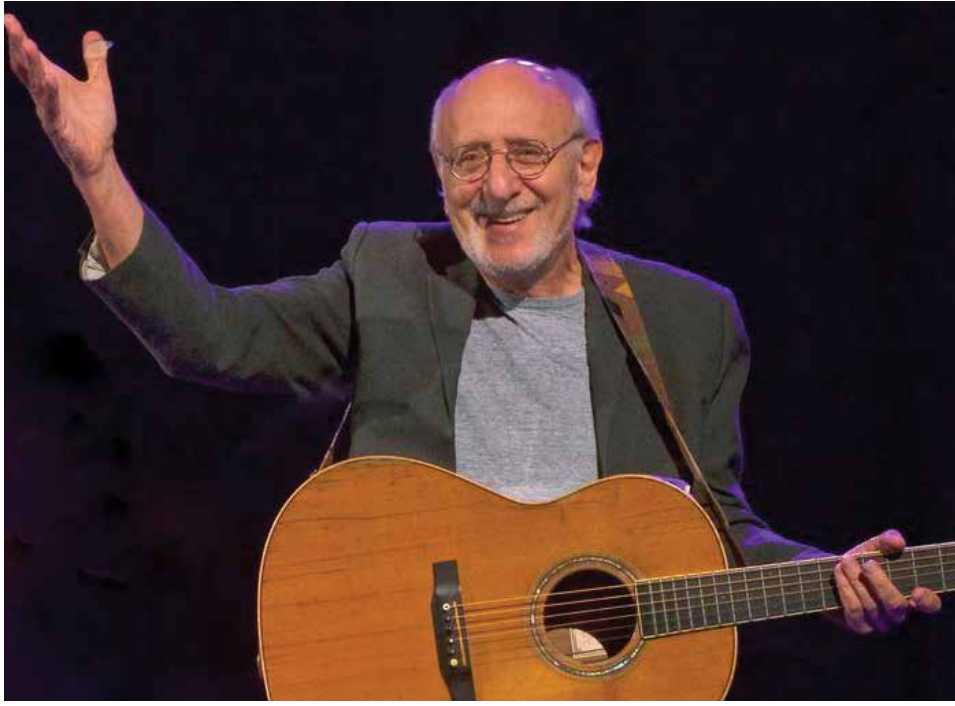
### Nightcrawler Hunt & Take a Kid Fishing, Frankfort

9:30pm Fri. Bring flashlights, buckets, rain gear & hunt for worms. 8am Sat. Family day of fishing. No fees or licenses for kids. Parents required. Rods avail. to borrow. Kids get teas, pizza, drinks, sweets. Mineral Springs Park, 630 Main St.

## June 24

### Coast to Coast Gravel Grinder Bike Races, Ludington

6:30am. Two races: A Coast to Coast 213-mile race from Au Gres on LK Huron to Ludington. A 100-mile Ludington-Manistee National Forest Loop back to Stearns Park Beach, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr. Register: [micoasttoeast.com](http://micoasttoeast.com)



Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary fame will headline this year's Spirit of the Woods Folk Festival on June 17 in Dickson Township Park, Brethren. Courtesy photo.

# Spirits of the Woods Part One

By **RAMONA DEGEORGIO-VENEGAS**

Four groups of "spirits," all with the same first name, may be found near Manistee. Each is unique, with diverse members, purposes and goals. We will highlight one Spirit in each of the next few issues.

## Spirit of the Woods Folk Music Association

We begin with this small group of dedicated volunteers best known for organizing and hosting the annual Spirit of the Woods Folk Festival. This year marks the 45th festival, always held on the third Saturday in June. The festival takes place from noon to 8 p.m. at Dixon Township Park in Brethren.

Headlining this year's festival is Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary. The rest of the line-up can be viewed online at [spiritofthewoods.org](http://spiritofthewoods.org) and on the organization's Facebook page. Previous festival musicians have come from Detroit, Louisiana, Quebec, Minnesota, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

This free music festival depends on generous donations and many helping hands to offer the one-day event. Several area artists painted the canvas backdrops for the stage. Besides great music heard from two stages, the festival offers crafts by local artists and food for sale. The latter will be sold this year by and for The Arts and Cultural Alliance, which is currently working on the James Earl Jones sculpture project.

## History

In 1978 a group of folk music lovers from Manistee and Benzie counties got together at the beach and over potlucks. Back then there were few area venues for live music, and an idea for a festival in the park blossomed. Early members

included Tim and Wanda Joseph, Byron and Sharon Joseph, Chris and Joe Ferrer, Jack and Trish Buchanan, Jeff Rose and Mary Sue Wilkinson. The new group's goals included promoting folk music and related arts in the area, introducing regional musicians and encouraging and helping musicians get started.

Back in the eighties, the festival was held at the Manistee County Fairgrounds and at the Kaleva Norman Dixon School for half a day, due to rain.

Some musicians who have played at Spirit of the Woods music events early in their careers are Ruby John, Seth Bernard/Earthworks and Billy Strings. One of the association's first planned events was a winter concert by The Williams Family performed at the Ramsdell Theatre.

Over the years, the music association obtained a series of grants for "folk music in the classroom." Thirty years later grown kids still approach Tim Joseph saying, "I remember you playing the banjo in my third-grade class." Besides occasional concerts, the association has also sponsored The Manistee Benzie Children's Chorus, held square dances and offered poetry readings. Brown Township Hall on Coates Highway is the venue for many of these events.

On behalf of the organization, I hope to see you there on your blanket or in your lawn chair under the shady trees.

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. She has been involved with three of the four Spirit of the Woods' organizations.



All ages enjoy the music at the annual folk festival in Brethren. Photo: R. DeGeorgio-Venegas.

## PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION FREE SUMMER 2023 Concerts in the Park

### Monday Nights

June 26 - August 14

Concerts begin at 7:00 pm

*And more fun coming!*

### Onekama Days

August 4-7

### Fall Festival

October 7

### Christmas in Onekama

November 18-19

For more information or to volunteer  
[www.Onekama.info](http://www.Onekama.info)



Volunteers dedicated to making the area a great place to live, play & stay!

## Farmers markets: a vibrant food community

From staff reports

REGION – Area farmers markets will once again provide fresh produce and a chance to connect with friends and neighbors when markets open for the season in May and June.

In Benzie County, the Elberta Community Farmers Market will be open Thursdays, 8 a.m. to noon, from May 25 through Oct. 12 at Dudley Penfold Memorial Park located near the causeway on M-22. After Labor Day, market hours will be 9 a.m. to noon. Shoppers can listen to live music as they browse and buy. To sign up for the market's newsletter, find vendor information or read the latest announcements, visit the market's updated website at: [elbertacommunityfarmersmarket.com](http://elbertacommunityfarmersmarket.com).

Fresh produce and other goods can be found 12-4 p.m., Fridays, at the Onekama Farmers Market located in the parking lot at 4850 Main St. (M-22). The village is found along Portage Lake in western Manistee County. For information, contact: [patinamichigan@gmail.com](mailto:patinamichigan@gmail.com).

The Ludington Artisan/Farmers Market will be held 3-7 p.m., Fridays, May 26 through Sept. 22, at the Legacy Plaza Pavilion located at 112 N. James St. As the name suggests, the market also features artisans and their wares. Live music performances add to the ambiance. For more information, follow them on Facebook @Ludingtonfarmersmarket, go to [www.ludington.mi.us/195/Farmers-Market](http://www.ludington.mi.us/195/Farmers-Market) or call Heather Tykoski, community development director, at 231-845-6237.



### Three area farmers markets will take place on Saturdays.


The Scottville Farmers Market runs from 9 a.m. to noon, June through October, at Miller's Marketplace located at 202 N. Main St. According to the online schedule, times may vary. Go to: <https://nfmfd.org/mi/scottville/1011280/>.

The Manistee Farmers Market's is located at the Wagoner Community Center, 260 St. Mary's Parkway in Manistee. Blocks from downtown, the venue offers plenty of parking and an expanded space for vendors and musicians. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon, May 27 through Oct. 7. <https://manisteeekitchen.org/farmers-market/>

Perhaps the busiest of the area markets is the Frankfort Farmers Market in Benzie County. Located in Frankfort's Open Space along Main Street, the market is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., May to October. Crafters as well as farmers are on site. Parking spots near the venue go quickly, so plan to walk a block or two. Find them on Facebook @FrankfortFarmersMarketMichigan.

**Stapleton Realty**  
www.cd Stapleton.com


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**Reopening Fri., May 26**  
**thru Labor Day**

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Learn more at: [zenfarmllc.com](http://zenfarmllc.com)

# Red wine rebellion

By **GORDON BERG**

I like wine. Reds mostly. But I must confess. I'm not a wine connoisseur. Sure, I like my cabs, my merlots and my malbecs. But if I'm being truthful, I can't tell one from the other. I've tried. My palate is untrainable. It's like trying to teach an Irish Setter puppy with a short attention span.

A congenial wine attendant in a tasting room can educate me about all the subtle notes of its coffee, pecan and anise flavors. Astutely I swirl the wine in the glass, watching how uniformly it coats the inside. I put my nose deep in the glass and breathe in, suggesting to others that I've trained my olfactory nerves to retrieve whatever it is they should be looking for. Sometimes it feels like I really am tasting and smelling what that patient wine pourer has enthusiastically asked me to sense. But, after that first taste, my inner Irish Setter takes over. I'm hopelessly distracted by conversation. Stunning views of the bay command my attention. The next thing I know the glass is empty and the wine attendant is asking me, "So, how did you like our 2018 grenache?"

"It's alright," I reply, trying my best to sound discerning.

Not fully comprehending what she said, I look down at the list of wines to sample. It looks strikingly similar to a scorecard for a round of golf. Right down to the stubby #2 pencil. A reminder of yet another activity I lack the skills to enjoy.

So, when my wife turns me loose in Meijer to pick out our wine for the week, my instincts rely on the only truly discerning method I have of making my selection ... the wine label.

## Exotic labels

To illustrate what I mean, walk with me down one of those long aisles of red wines in the grocery store. You're overwhelmed. It's all a blur of stately colors and staid artwork featuring a vineyard, or the vintner's name, or a cute dog, or a wood duck maybe. How do you choose? I dunno. "Maybe I'll just get something that's on sale," you mutter to yourself in defeat.

All these labels create a sea of blandness, row upon row. It's like your great-grandfather's collection of records from the forties and fifties. Bing Crosby. Frank Sinatra. Peggy Lee. Remember? The covers all had the same predictable look. A suave artist, a sport coat casually draped over one shoulder, standing against a monochromatic background. A brief description informs the potential listener that the music inside is "swingin'."



Photo: M. Videan

Ooof.

Back in that wine aisle, you're about to give up until your eyes land on one of the fresh, new, rebel labels. They remind me of the golden age of album covers from the sixties and seventies when graphic design ruled. They grab your eyeballs and won't let go. Like The Beatles' iconic "Sgt. Pepper's" cover with its splashy psychedelic colors surrounded by a hip crowd of culturally historic figures. Or any Yes or Moody Blues album with ethereal artwork inviting you to fall into its imagery. Or Led Zeppelin's first album featuring the Hindenburg airship exploding in flames.

Today, any teenager shuffling through their grandparents' album collection would know, just by looking at the cover, that something unexpectedly amazing is going to greet their ears for the first time when they give it a spin on that old Garrard turntable.

## Alluring words

Similarly, even the names of these new wines suggest that the winemakers are going for something edgier, riskier, fun or even dangerous. It's like the mind-bending leap from The Lawrence Welk Orchestra to the Jimi Hendrix Experience.

Let me stumble on one of these Janis Joplinesque wine labels, and I can tell you I'll love what's inside just by looking at the

artwork. I am the embodiment of a wine marketing department's dream consumer. Pull me in with a compelling graphic. Hook me with the creative description on the back. The better the label, the better the wine. Must be true, right?

One such wine is called "Abstract." A red blend so abstract that it's hard to even find the name on the bottle. The only words scrawled on it are, "Vandalism Is Beautiful." Its imagery conjures up the Rolling Stones' "Exiles on Main St." album – a collage of dozens and dozens of tiny, sepia-tone photos. All seem to represent a blend of iconic and obscure pop culture. Collectively, these images tell you what to expect when you pop the cork. In their words, you find, "...opening aromas of muddled blue and blackberries with a frame of dark chocolate brownie and seasoned leather." Doesn't this sound a little bit like Mick Jagger? Or wait ... maybe it's a blend of Mick Jagger and Tina Turner. "...The wine enters with class, being soft and lush, with notes of ripe plum, boysenberry and Santa Maria tri-tip. Grippy, chewy tannins, the wine closes with pleasing sarsaparilla and black currant." Whoa. Sign me up!

Here's another. Juggernaut Cabernet. Its label features a fierce lion – monstrous in its rage. Claws out, teeth bared, it's ready to tear into something, like perhaps your preconceived notions of cabernets as being boring reds. This, they're telling you, is entirely different. It is "Harnessing the Power of Nature." Its grapes are grown in such a challenging, steep, rocky hillside environment that its sheer "true grit and determination yield spectacular results." Words like "bold," "fierce," and "brave" describe its flavor. And perhaps with a nod to relating to how difficult it is to make it in today's craggy, uncertain world, Juggernaut knows that "overcoming hardship builds character."

## Good times

Arguably my favorite is a wine whose label features dozens of sideshow performers from an old turn-of-the-century traveling carnival. The cabernet is rebelliously named, "Freakshow." Front and center the label features The Strongest Man on Earth .... Huh? ... On a bottle of wine?! Picking up the bottle, you peer at the label more closely and mutter to yourself, "Who else is on this?" Look at that! There's a magician who can levitate a woman. Wait! There's a mermaid! What's this? ... A chimpanzee dressed as a ringmaster, complete with a top hat?!

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Curious about what it tastes like, you cradle it in both hands as you turn the bottle around to read the back label, which is literally in the shape of a circus ticket. "Admit One," it reads. Aside from the usual health warnings, that's all it says.

What it's really telling you is that the wine you're so carefully holding is your ticket to a good time. Depending on who you drink it with, it might even be the greatest show on the planet! One reviewer was even delighted to learn that the label glows in the dark.

Hmmm...\$20? "Oh, what the heck," you might say to yourself. "I'm worth it!" And into your grocery cart it goes without giving a second thought to what it tastes like. All the other wines around it plead with you to buy them because they're bursting with a blend of fruit flavors with blah, blah, blah undertones.

Well, let me tell you, Freakshow could taste like monkey piss, but I don't care.

I'm gonna have a three-ring circus in my home tonight!

Gordon Berg is a descendant of Manistee's Bergs, Swansons and Martinsons. His debut book, "Harry and the Hurricane," is about his father's life as a young boy and how he survived the Miami Hurricane of 1926. [www.harryandthehurricane.com](http://www.harryandthehurricane.com)

"The simple act of opening a bottle of wine has brought more happiness to the human race than all the collective governments in the history of Earth."

~ Jim Harrison, author



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Emily Cook photo by Joe Frederick.

## Gathering

By Louisa Loveridge Gallas  
Freshwater Reporter Poet In Residence

When gathering, first alert the plant you will be coming. Then, take only what you need: the plant will let you know. When leaving, give thanks, for this is a sacred exchange of energy.

Tahnahga, Mohawk/Taino friend/mentor

Do you know a morel can't live in just any neighborhood? That's right.

It's the wisdom of fungi! The elusive mushrooms prefer to make a home near the sycamore, ash, aspen, elm, oak, or sometimes old apple orchards flourishing with the crenillated fissures like brain tissue, the shape of their luscious tips. The trees are generous, never say: Sorry, not in our neighborhood. They host any shape or color nourishing with their roots the fungi that produce so many wild mushrooms.

Truly the mushroom is a blossom, an offspring of the sensitive forest floor who knows every being that lives in its soil and may mourn their departure when gathered and taken away. It's well known plants communicate together, sense their environment and respond. How might they feel as our heavy rubber boot approaches their town. Perhaps the morel has become wary, retreats for protection even further from reach.

The morels don't give themselves up easily.

We may assume they have no feeling as we pluck them joyfully from their privacy. Perhaps they would like to stay nestled in the forest with their communities. Perhaps they remain so secretive for a reason, cherishing their underground fungal pals who are great chefs preparing just the right food, the velvet mosses all around who sing in luminous choirs of green; their neighbor, a great oak, is possibly an enchanting story teller, full of forest tales, or an ancient apple tree shares touching memories of seasons when severe frosts brought down so many of their blossoms before their time.

Hmmph, some gatherers may say.

But do we know how any lowly living thing feels? Removed/stolen/ snatched from its home, a brief refugee before landing in our well-heeled frying pan?

What about those left behind who wait for our return fearing the loss of all they know as we pluck every mushroom standing.

When we reach down, crowing with delight, let's be sure to say thank you.

Leave some sweet grass and a prayer for our mysterious relatives.

# Yellow Dog Café features playful critter portraits, colorful landscapes

From staff reports

Emily Cook is the featured artist from mid-May through June at Yellow Dog Café, 4850 Main Street (M-22) in Onekama. Both her original watercolors and prints will be available for sale.

Cook, a contributing writer for Freshwater Reporter and other area publications, said she has been creating two-dimensional imagery of the natural world for nearly as long as she can remember.

"With no television growing up and environmentalist parents, I was encouraged to be outdoors as much as possible," she said.

Memories from her childhood, and experiences since, have provided the foundation for her work. Starting with crayon-drawn landscapes, and the occasional portrait of the family dog, she has since transitioned into her preferred medium of watercolor or gouache with ink accents.

Aside from a single semester



"Otter Dance," by Arcadia artist Emily Cook.

of art school, Cook said she is a conservationist at heart. With more than 13 years as a natural resources professional — at organizations such as the Nature Conservancy, the National Park Service and various nonprofit organizations — her work encompasses what she loves most about nature, especially nature in Michigan. She explained that much of her most recent work includes highlights of



"Arcadia Sunrise" by E. Cook.

Arcadia's landscapes. From spring trilliums in Pete's Woods to sunrises over Lake Michigan, she finds endless inspiration for her work.

Primarily self-taught, Cook's pieces utilize bright colors and almost fantasy-like elements. Though the finished works look quite different, she marks Vincent van Gogh as one of her favorite artists.

Shifting to the world of freelance in late 2022, Cook said she has enjoyed spending the last six months outside exploring even more places and using those images to create her next piece.

She can be reached at cookemilyk@gmail.com.

## Living the high life: shaken, not stirred

Story and photo by JOSHUA ELIE

Have you ever been in surroundings so luxurious that, even though quite pleasurable, you didn't feel like you belonged there? I have. I choose to live the life of a simple country boy because that is where I am comfortable. When it comes to food and drink, though, I get to splurge a little because I use my own kitchen rather than eating in ridiculously expensive restaurants.

What do you imagine when you think of the most intense luxury? Wearing a million dollars' worth of diamonds? Flying above the clouds in a \$42 million Gulfstream G550? Living in the Trump Palace doing your "thing" on a golden toilet?

The most luxurious place I've ever been is on a Qatar Airlines jet. The airlines had a slogan about a decade ago, something like "Fly like Royalty," and they lived up to it, even when seating customers in the cheapest seats, like the one I booked. As soon as we

were safely in the air, drinks were served (for free, by the way) by the sweetest, most attentive and attractive young Filipinas you could imagine. On the back of the seat in front of us was a personal console where you could watch movies or TV or play video games. Great food was served next, followed by moist hot towels and candy, then it was more drinks. They were always offering blankets and pillows, too. Another fantastic meal came by, followed by the towels and the candy, then everything again and again. I think it was a 16-hour flight, though hard to say because everyone fell asleep after such incredible service.

After landing in Qatar, I did my African part of the trip. ("Dancing in the Kitchen", F.R., Nov. 30, 2022) On the way home it was back through Qatar, and I found I had a 24-hour layover at the most amazing hotel, all compliments of the airline. It was the

## NORTHWOODS SAUCE BOSS



country's Independence Day festival. I asked the taxi driver who they got their independence from, and he said, "From the British." My response was, "So, you kicked them out of your country, too? Cool!" I was so embarrassed when I heard a voice from the back seat, with a very strong British accent, saying, "He can't tell you because he is not from here." Turns out, I was sitting in front of a British history professor who spent all his holidays going from country to country doing research. Of course, I apologized, and he jovially responded, "It's OK. You can't help that you are a Yank!"

Now, the hotel where they put me up was unreal. They gave me one of those plastic cards that are door keys

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# Hummers

continued from Page 1

them. They can often be daring and feed at plants and feeders next to windows or on porches where humans and pets may be present. If planting flowers to attract more hummingbirds, choose tubular-shaped ones they love — such as petunias, fuchsia, trumpet vine, columbine, salvia, delphinium, bleeding hearts, foxglove, zinnias and bee balm — in shades of red, orange and bright pink. They have good color vision and can see into the ultraviolet spectrum, unlike humans. Planting flower gardens also provides them access to tiny insects for protein. The hummingbirds have long tongues inside their needle-like beaks which help them eat nectar from flowers and occasionally tree sap.

## Feeding

If considering purchasing a hummingbird feeder, make sure it is easy to take apart to clean and it is large enough to refill every day or two. It is better to have several feeders than a single large one since the birds tend to be territorial and will be aggressive when defending their territory.

Rather than buying a pre-mixed nectar, a homemade version is easy to make using one-quarter cup of granulated white sugar per one cup of water. Use only white sugar as brown, turbinado, confectioners, raw or organic may adversely affect their health. Make sure all the sugar is completely dissolved before filling your feeder. Red food coloring is not necessary and may be harmful for the birds; they can locate the nectar without the coloring. Flower nectar is clear; it's the bright colors of the flowers that attract them. Never use honey to sweeten the nectar because it can cause bacteria and fungus to thrive in the water.



Ruby-throated hummingbird. Photo: Joshua Cotton, Unsplash.

During colder or rainy conditions when the birds may need more energy, concentrations of one-third cup of sugar may be mixed with one cup of water to help sustain their metabolism.

Be sure to make new nectar and change it before it gets cloudy or discolored, especially during hot days, because sugar water can ferment quickly and produce toxic alcohol. To avoid this, keep your feeder out of direct sunlight. Always make sure to wash/scrub and thoroughly rinse your feeder, including any flower stations, bee guards or perches, before refilling to prevent any mold, mildew or dirt buildup. If you mix large batches of nectar to store for later use, make the mixture with boiling water, cool, and store in the refrigerator. If you mix the nectar every day or two, just enough for the feeder(s), there's no need to boil the water.

Hummingbirds expend a great amount of energy during flight; thus, they need to feed almost constantly throughout the day. They consume up to half their weight in sugar to

maintain their energy. On cold nights, to conserve energy, hummingbirds can enter controlled hypothermia. They lower their body temperature and heart rate, entering a state of torpor. The next morning, within a few minutes, the hummingbird speeds up its metabolism and gets its body temperature back to normal.

If you live in wooded areas or where bears have been spotted, it's always a good idea to remove your hummingbird feeder at night, otherwise you may find that Yogi or other critters enjoyed a sweet drink and will come back for more.

## Nesting

Ruby-throated hummingbirds make their delicate, thimble-sized nest in a deciduous or coniferous tree, usually 5-20 feet off the ground. They have also grown accustomed to humans and sometimes make their home on chains, loops of wire or ropes. The nest is built by the female and takes 6-10 days to complete. This tiny nursery is made of grasses, plant fibers and spider silk, is lined

with more plant material and camouflaged on the outside with dead leaves or lichens.

During courtship, the male hummingbird will fly back and forth in a u-shaped arc in front of a female, sometimes swooping up to 50 feet; his wings make a whirring twitter sound on each diving pass. He may also make short back and forth passes in front of a perched female accompanied by a high-pitched squeaky chittering. The male hummingbird stays around long enough for courtship and mating before going solo. The female will lay 1-3 tiny white eggs and she incubates them for about two weeks. The chicks will fly as soon as 20 days after hatching. The female usually produces one to two, sometimes three, broods per year and may start building a second nest while still feeding young in the first nest.

## Protecting

The ruby-throated hummingbird is not endangered but, unfortunately, they are victims of window collisions and prey for cats and other predators. The oldest known ruby-throated hummingbird was a female at least nine years and two months old when she was recaptured and rereleased in 2014 during banding operations in West Virginia.

Help keep the hummingbirds thriving around you by adding native plants to your garden, avoiding pesticides and keeping cats indoors.

Sources: National Wildlife Federation (nwf.org), Audubon Society (Audubon.org) American Bird Conservancy (abcbirds.org)

Valerie Chandler lives in Wellston with her husband Matthew and their border collie/Australian shepherd. A citizen and employee of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, she is also a cancer survivor who loves to spend time with her family and has many interests.



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## Idlewild

continued from Page 1

In honor of his mother, the price of entry is by donation only and the proceeds go toward music scholarships.

"Each year we name one or two students to learn music, have lessons, and then they perform for the following festival ... It's been a wonderful thing; it's what people have been asking for," Grier said.

Attendance grew from about 250 to 500 or more last year, with folks bringing coolers and blankets and chairs to sit on the lawn and enjoy good music. This year's line-up includes Gospel music by the Grier Ensemble, Blues by DJAM and Gezelle Grier-Myers, Jazz by the Houston Patton Trio, and R&B by Nikell Johnson. Food and other vendors will also be on hand. Festival hours are 1-6 p.m. at Meeks Park. For details, go to [www.dorothygriermusic.com](http://www.dorothygriermusic.com).

### Meeks

Next up on August 5 is the Meeks Homecoming Jazz and Blues Festival.

"In about 2000, we were getting ready for it," Chris Grier, a long-time friend of Idlewild resident John Meeks, said. "There were some community people, including John Meeks, saying we really need to bring a music festival to Idlewild."

For six or seven years, he noted, the festival was held at the beach on Idlewild Lake. And, for a brief time, it became more of a cultural event with a music component which eventually moved to Big Rapids.

According to Grier, John Meeks, who died a few years ago, decided to revive the festival in Idlewild, but he ran into an issue with the township, which owned the Idlewild Lake property.

"So, he said: 'You know what? I've got this property. I'll clear out some trees. I'll put up a quasi-stage, a band thing, and voilà.' That became the Idlewild Homecoming Jazz and Blues Festival; that's how that started."

Charlie Martin, Meeks' son-in-law, explained that Meeks "wanted a festival to draw people to Idlewild because Idlewild has a rich history in music and black entertainment ..." Martin said the first festival was in Meeks' backyard and bankrolled by him. After John Meeks died, his daughter Janet (Meeks) Martin and husband Charlie took over.

The festival has become so popular that this year it had to be moved from the



Music lovers at last summer's Meeks Homecoming Jazz & Blues Festival, where everyone is welcome. Photo courtesy of Chris Grier.

Meeks' property to the grounds of Yates Township Hall.

"I anticipate 1,500 people this time, with 6 to 11 buses coming," Martin said. "It's a big event," he added. "We draw people from all over."

Folks come from Detroit, Lansing, Chicago and further to sit on the lawn and enjoy the bands and the camaraderie. Picnic tables and tent space can be reserved as well.

This year's featured performers are Nikkel Johnson & Band from Saginaw, with a neo-soul sound mixed with R&B; Asamu Johnson & the Associates of Blues; recording artist Al Lindsey, and a few surprises.

The festival runs from noon until "whenever" at Yates Township Hall, 6437



A nighttime of glamping at last year's Summer Oasis Music Festival. Photo courtesy of Cedric McDougle.



Glampers enjoy their top-tier dinner at the Summer Oasis Music Festival in Idlewild. Courtesy photo.

S. Nelson Road, and is sponsored by the Idlewild African American Chamber of Commerce. For more information, go to [www.IAACC.com](http://www.IAACC.com), or contact [meeksi@aol.com](mailto:meeksi@aol.com).

### Summer Oasis

If you're looking for a festival that offers a choice of bring-your-own coolers or a more luxurious we'll-provide-everything event, the Summer Oasis Music Festival fits that bill, according to organizer Cedric McDougle.

"I wanted to create a unique experience crafted for those who wanted to do something different," McDougle explained. "So, I just combined the best of both worlds, the beauty and pageantry of Glamping — glamorous, luxurious camping — and non-stop music of the music festival, and it was the perfect

combination."

This year's event takes place Aug. 18-20 and is a full three-day weekend of fun and music.

"I've crafted three registration packages so everybody can enjoy this music festival on whatever amount of money they want to spend," McDougle said. "I have a low-end package, a mid-end package, (and) ... a high-end package.

"The low-end package and the mid-end package, (festival goers) bring everything they need for the weekend: their own tents, their own beds, all their grills, their own coolers, their food, everything.

"The high end — that's all-inclusive; that's my glampish Eden experience. It comes with a professionally glamped-out tent, a private chef providing brunch and dinner daily, ... a private bartender with unlimited drinks, access to the outdoor shower/bathroom trailers, and ... a concierge team to serve you. Service is part of your package and experience. If you don't want to go to the eating area, we'll bring your food to you. Don't want to go to the bar, we'll bring your drink to you. We're going to spoil you all weekend long."

McDougle, a Detroit native, spent time with family in Alabama where he gained an appreciation of the outdoors which inspired his idea for the glamping experience. He was also inspired by a movie titled "Idlewild".

"At the time (1990s) I was working for a club in downtown Detroit, and the promotional team of 'Idlewild' booked our club to do a promotion, so the seed was planted for the love of the movie and the name Idlewild."

In 2014 he developed the idea for the festival, and in 2016 he brought it to Lake County on Paradise Lake. The festival has grown each year — from 1,500 to 3,000 attendees — and will take place at the larger Yates Township Hall grounds.

Music for the festival is provided by professional DJs and music producers.

"I play all genres of music, and we feature the big names in house music, and house music has a loyal following because people will travel the world behind their favorite DJs," McDougle said.

More information can be found at: [glampishlife.com](http://glampishlife.com).

Kevin Howell is a Mason County freelance writer. He loves the Michigan woods, lakes and especially Michigan craft beers — not necessarily in that order.

# Community Calendar

continued from Page 2

## Fairies & Forts, Thompsonville

10am-12pm, Free park entry. For kids up to age 12. Art projects at Discovery Grove, stories/songs at amphitheater, parade to the Stockade Labyrinth. Dress in Fairies & Forts attire. Mich. Legacy Art Park, Crystal Mountain Resort, 7300 Mountinside Dr.

## 5th Annual Blessing of the Boats, Ludington

11am-7pm. Benefits Friends of Ludington State Park. Waterfront Park, 391 William St.

## Let's Go Fly a Kite, Frankfort

3-5pm, Free kites on Lake Michigan Beach. Lake Michigan turn-around.

## Sounds from the Forest Concert Series: Sunset Groove, Baldwin

7-9:15pm, Free/donations. Pop/Classic Rock/R&B. Wenger Pavilion (behind Jones' Ice Cream). Bring lawn chair/blanket.

## State Park Concert Series, Ludington

7pm. Free. Jazz classics Django style by Third Coast Swing. Ludington State Park amphitheater, 8800 W M-116. Hosted by Friends of LSP. MI Recreation passport needed for vehicle entry.

## Coyote Crossing Music Series: Roosevelt Digs with Silver Creek Revival, Cadillac

7:30-10:30pm, \$12.51 ADV, \$30 DOS. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. Info/tickets: [coyotecrossingresort.com](http://coyotecrossingresort.com)

## Classical Concerts: Cochran & McAllister, Frankfort

7:30pm, \$15. Garden Theater, 301 Main St.

## June 26

### Live Music: Awesome Distraction, Onekama

7pm, Free/donations encouraged. Americana/folk/rock. Onekama Village Park. If rain: Onekama School, 5016 Main St. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, picnic baskets, kids, etc.

## Jammin' Mondays Concert Series: Organissimo, Elberta

7-9:15pm, By donation. Elberta Amphitheater @ Elberta Waterfront Park, 1120 Furnace St. Rain site: Waterfront Park Picnic Pavilion, 1110 Furnace St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

## June 27

### Weed the Park, Ludington

6-8pm, Free. Learn to ID/remove invasive Garlic Mustard, Mugwort, & Dame's Rocket. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts. Bring gloves, trowel, water. Meet near dog park, end of Rath Ave. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr.

## Live Birds of Prey, Ludington

7pm. Owls, hawks and more at Ludington State Park amphitheater, 8800 W M-116. MI Recreation passport required for vehicle entry.



## Shoreline Showcase: Organissimo, Manistee

7-9:15pm, Free. Rotary Gazebo, First St. Beach, Douglas Park. Rain/Cold/Wind Site: Orchard Beach State Park Shelter House, 2064 Lakeshore Rd.

## June 28

### Music in the Park: Michelle & Friends, Luther

6-8pm, Free. Purchase Pavilion, 209 State St. Bring lawn chair/blanket

## LACA Summer Concert Series: Organissimo, Ludington

7pm, Free. Waterfront Park, 391 William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

## Echo through the Timber Concert Series: Harper & Midwest Kind, Baldwin

7-9:15pm, Free/donations. World Jazz/Blues/Roots. Wenger Pavilion (behind Jones' Ice Cream). Bring lawn chair/blanket.

## June 29

### 25th Annual Rotary Stride for S.T.R.I.V.E. 5k, Cadillac

8:30-10:30am, \$25. Fundraising run for a student mentoring program. Info/register: <http://cadillacrotary.org/sitepage/stride-5k-race>

## Special Needs Barn Dance & Pot Luck, Free Soil

11:30am-1:30pm, Free. Must RSVP by June 26. Circle Rocking S Farm, 5487 N. Tuttle Rd.

## Legacy Plaza Music Series: Merch & Miller, Ludington

5-7pm, Free. Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.

## Music in the Street, Beulah

7-8:45pm, Free. Downtown.

## UpBeat Cadillac Music Series: Organissimo, Cadillac

7-9:15pm, Free. Blues/Jazz/Latin. Rotary Performing Arts Pavilion, 100 S. Lake St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

## Revival: A Tribute to the Allman Brothers Band, Manistee

7:30pm, \$20-50. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

## Jazz Nights at the Garden: Andrew Dost & Metal Bubble Trio, Frankfort

7:30pm, \$15. Garden Theater, 301 Main St.

## Coyote Crossing Music Series: The War & Treaty with Bros. Eley & Clint Park, Cadillac

7:30-11:30pm, \$44.52 ADV, \$30 DOS. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. Info/tickets: [coyotecrossingresort.com](http://coyotecrossingresort.com)

## Sunset Beach Bonfire & Live Music: Retrovibe Band, Ludington

8-10pm, Free. Music, a bonfire & sunset. Stearns Park Beach, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr. Bring beach chair/blanket.

## Sauce Boss

continued from Page 5

and gave me a room on what I am guessing was the 20th floor. I unlocked the door, but nothing worked in the room, so I asked a maid. They were everywhere and, I am telling you, the place was immaculate. Well, you must place your card in the slot and leave it there to power the room. I had AC, hot showers and a king-sized perfect bed. After Africa, I really needed this. I turned on the big screen TV to check the news, walked onto this beautiful balcony, and admired the architecture of cloud-busting structures made of stone and mortar. To leave your room, you have to pull the "key" out of the slot and use it again to let yourself out of the room. Think about how genius this is. You can't lock yourself out and no energy is being used in your room if you're not in it. I go down to the restaurant and my food/drink vouchers are all on the same key. Here are these five buffets, each one as long as a Walmart aisle.

Something else I learned was: people were paying no taxes, whatsoever. All the medical, good medical, was free, not self-funded or paid by taxes. That is how these oil-rich countries are. All I could think was, wow, what if the U.S. were oil rich... Wait a minute, we are... plus coal rich! The technology isn't ready for widespread, dependable wind and solar power, though I expect to see it in my lifetime, plus with the hydroelectricity options like Tippy Dam... just imagine what we could do!



## Elie's Luxurious Dirty Martini

Fill metal cocktail shaker 1/3 with ice.

Add 2 parts Polish vodka

Add 1 part green olive brine (juice).

Shake hard until your hand gets so cold it starts to numb. Quickly pour into martini glasses (NOT plastic) and garnish with skewer of 3 olives (for the vitamins).

Now you are drinking better than the rich; they water it down with vermouth. Yuck!

## Happy National Martini Day!

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

## Case of the Missing Planets

By BROOKE EDWARDS

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) did it again. It has awed us once more, this time revealing a secret long hidden around a star. Fomalhaut, the 18th brightest star visible from Earth (not counting our sun) and 25 light-years away, has been targeted in the search for worlds beyond our solar system.

There is a mysterious dust ring around the star that the Hubble telescope, Herschel Space Observatory and the ALMA telescope in Chile have focused on in the past, yet it was not until JWST captured the star system in infrared light that the secret was exposed. When the data was studied, the result shocked astronomers. What they discovered is not just one, not two, but three belts around this star. Still, this left out an important piece of the puzzle — how and why they exist.

These discs of rock, dust and ice resemble the belts in our own solar system. The circular asteroid belt is just beyond the orbit of Jupiter, and the huge Kuiper belt of icy objects (including Pluto) is just beyond the orbit of Neptune. Simply stated, the Sun's gravity keeps everything orbiting in place around it. All planets, belts and comets flow like traffic on solar highways circling our Sun.

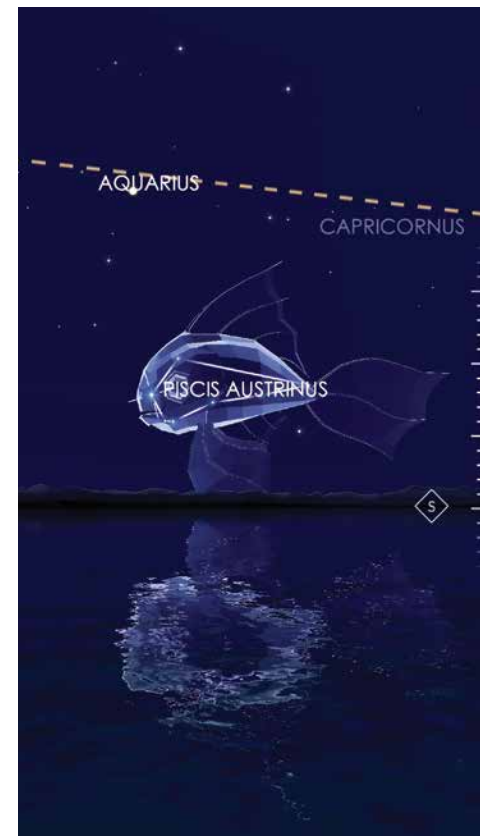
Astronomers have not detected any so far, but there must be planets between Fomalhaut's dust belts.

The current space telescope imagery is just not there yet, but astronomers can clearly see the patterns of a planetary system. Something is gravitationally directing the movement of Fomalhaut's belts.

According to George Rieke, U.S. science lead for Webb's Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI), "The belts around Fomalhaut are kind of a mystery novel: Where are the planets?"

These planets must be very tiny or may even be just forming. Who knows what will be discovered in time.

It is not known if NASA plans to use this technique, but a sure way to detect planets is through the transiting method. This entails observing a celestial body (in this case, a planet) transiting — moving in front of — its star. When this happens, the brightness of the observed star dims,



Fomalhaut: Look up pre-dawn next month. Image from Star Walk 2 App.

signifying that a body has moved in front of it from our point of view.

You can see Fomalhaut, the star of this show, in the night sky. Starting in mid-June, those up before sunrise will be able to see Fomalhaut in the pre-dawn sky. It is the brightest star in the constellation Piscis Austrinus, which is known as the southern fish. Look toward the south, southeast after 5 a.m., to see this secret-harboring star with your own eyes.

Here's to clear skies for us and amazing discoveries for the JWST team.

Source: <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2023/webb-looks-for-fomalhaut-s-asteroid-belt-and-finds-much-more>

Brooke Edwards is a JPL/NASA Solar System Ambassador for the Manistee area. She is passionate about all things related to space exploration. Learn more about her summer star parties on Facebook @Brooke Edwards — Solar System Ambassador.

## FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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