

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

FREE Vol V, No. 7

freshwater-reporter.com

July 19 - Aug. 8, 2023 FREE

OUR ANNUAL CAMPING ISSUE

By VALERIE CHANDLER

Our most beautiful area attraction is the water, whether it's Lake Michigan's rolling waves, swift river currents or the peaceful flow of creeks. Below are some favorite waterside campgrounds ... and a few more that may float your boat.

Lake Michigan

To capture some of the most spectacular sunsets over Lake Michigan and hike on exceptional birding trails, reserve your site at **Orchard Beach State Park**, just north of Manistee near a giant sequoia and a bird sanctuary.

Perhaps the area's most popular Lake Michigan campground is at **Ludington State Park**. The park has 355 sites in four areas, three mini-cabins and is surrounded by natural woodlands, water and sand dunes. The campgrounds are near Hamlin Lake, with access to two beaches. You'll find numerous hiking trails — one leads to a lighthouse. The park has several accessible features, such as a kayak launch and two off-road track chairs for wheelchair users, and Enchroma-enabled viewers for those with color blindness.

Lesser known and beloved by locals, county-run **Buttersville Campground** south of Ludington offers camping on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan plus a quarter mile of Lake Michigan beachfront.

Pine River

It's no secret that Michigan is home to some of the nation's best fishing. The Pine River is a designated National Scenic River and a Blue Ribbon Coldwater Trout Stream.

West of M-37, hidden within the Manistee National Forest, you'll find **Loomis Landing Campground & Marina**. The state's record walleye was caught here! Pontoon and boat slips are offered, and there's a private launch and boat rentals.

East of M-37 is **Peterson Bridge South Campground** offering canoe/kayak rentals and guides, a sandy beach and a boat landing area. Further east and south, into Lake County, the Pine River flows through the **Silver Creek State Forest Campground**. Seven of the 26 sites are



Top: Orchard Beach State Park offers Lake Michigan views. Left: Shenanigans at the beach. Above: The Sportsman's Port takes canoes and you to the Pine River. Photos: P. Stinson

on a small peninsula jutting into the river. Hike, mountain bike, canoe and fish. If hiking and mountain biking are preferred, you'll also find opportunities at the **Lincoln Bridge State Forest Campground**. Campsites are on the Pine River and Silver Creek, with access for fishing.

The **Cool Water Campground** has access to the Pine River via flights of stairs and a hike to a canoe landing on the shore. Campsites are modern and rustic with trailer and cabin rentals.

Off-the-water destinations with service

to the river include **The Sportsman's Port Campground & Canoe Livery**, along M-55, and **Pine River Paddlesports Center** along M-37. Sportman's Port has served Pine River paddlers and campers since 1970 and offers canoe/kayak and raft rentals and has a camp store of goodies. Pine River Paddlesports Center rents the latest paddling equipment, including canoes, kayaks and rafts for trips on the Manistee or Pine Rivers. Second generation family owned and operated, the center

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AREA EVENTS CALENDAR ON PAGES 7 & 8

NORTHWOODS SAUCE BOSS



Piece of Cake. Blueberry Cheesecake, that is.

Happy National Cheesecake Day, July 30.

By JOSHUA ELIE

What could be easier? That is what I was thinking when I started my first business. Putting together a band can be a "business," though everyone is their own boss. You work hard to put together a great product, sell it and try to grow it. Most of the time, it is just one setback after another. Unless you have been in the music business, you likely have no idea of the time involved and the blood, sweat and tears it brings.

Many of us start with an instrument and practice, practice, practice countless hours. Then you get together with some friends in a basement or garage, and you rehearse, rehearse, and rehearse until you get a listenable sound. If you manage to stay together that long, chances are —



Yankee Blue. Photo: Patricia Elie

even if you make it through your first show — the longevity of your band is about that of a street corner lemonade stand. Some band members will try again with other musicians; some will give up and go from part time to full time scooping ice cream. The ones who go on do so for only one reason: that sweet, sweet rush you get from the stage with all eyes on you, your audience cheering you on. You continue to get better and so do the musicians you work with, who are always coming and going. To quote Kid Rock: "The shows is great. It's the times in-between that will (expletive) kill ya."

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Arcadia Daze takes flight with Quimby author

From STAFF REPORTS

A celebration of the historical achievements of Harriet Quimby, known as the Pioneering Woman of Flight and one of Arcadia's own, will take place during the 42nd annual Arcadia Daze, July 21-23.

A highlight of this year's festival, hosted by the Arcadia Lions Club, is a presentation and book signing by award-winning journalist and author Don Dahler, who wrote "Fearless: Harriet Quimby A Life Without Limit", (Princeton Architectural Press, June 26, 2022).

Dahler's appearance is scheduled for 1 p.m., Saturday, July 22, at the Pleasant Valley Community Center, 3586 Glovers Lake Road.

Born in 1875, Harriet Quimby spent her childhood in Arcadia, was the first American woman to earn a pilot's license



Harriet Quimby in her Blériot monoplane. Photo: Library of Congress.

and the first woman to fly solo over the English Channel. This year's festival will focus on her accomplishments

Arcadia Daze activities include arts and crafts, carriage rides, races and relays,

specially planned meals, a food truck, beer tent, 5K run, pickleball tournament, fishing tournament for kids, car show, bounce house, balloon artist, live music with the Scottville Clown Band, fireworks and a Harriet Quimby-themed parade with Grand Marshal Wes Hull, Arcadia's volunteer fire chief. The Arcadia Historical Museum will be open for visitors who wish to see the Harriet Quimby exhibit.

A full schedule of events and activities can be found on the Township of Arcadia web page at <http://www.townshipofarcadia.org/arcadia-daze.html>. For more information or to purchase advance raffle tickets for \$25, email ArcadiaDazeLions@gmail.com. The Arcadia Lions sell tickets each year as a fundraiser for area nonprofits and student scholarships. Over \$18,000 was raised last year. More Quimby, pg. 4.



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“The bottom line here, the ultimate takeaway (I hope) is that camping is subjective. There is no right way to do it. As long as it makes your soul move and your heart flutter, and you’re grateful for the experience, it will be worth every second.”

~ Chelsea White

Camping

continued from Page 1

offers guided river trips, even in winter, a store with outdoor gear and an extensive list of activities for campers. Their new wooded campground is quiet and can accommodate groups.

Manistee River

A favorite among travelers to Manistee is **Coho Bend Riverside RV Resort**, featuring 128 sites with full hookups, 54 boat docks with access to the Big Manistee River and a fishing pond. Close to downtown, the **Insta Launch Campground & Marina** offers full hook-up and rustic RV and camping sites plus furnished cabins and trailer rentals. The marina has access to the Manistee River, Manistee Lake and Lake Michigan. A camp store is stocked for your fishing needs, including referrals to a champion fishing charter boat. A smaller, quaint, local favorite via “Bullfrog Highway” is **Penny Park**, with 37 campsites, boat docks and access to Manistee Lake, the Manistee River and Lake Michigan.

Nestled within the Manistee National Forest is **Matson’s Big Manistee River Campground** of riverside campsites. Highlights are a Steelhead Tournament and a Labor Day Pig Roast and Salmon Tournament for their guests. Amenities include canoe, kayak, boat and tube rentals, or they can hook you up with a local fishing guide. For one of the finest trout, steelhead and salmon fishing areas in Michigan, you’ll want to head to the **Tippy Dam Campground and Recreation Area**. Rustic camping is open year-round here on the Manistee River and upstream of the Tippy Dam backwaters. When the Chinook salmon run in the fall, you’ll see anglers lined shoulder to shoulder along the banks just below the dam.



Buttersville beach. Photo: Kevin Howell.

Pere Marquette River

This is a designated National Wild and Scenic River, with multiple favorite fishing holes and paddling galore. Southwest of Baldwin, explore camping at **Gleasons Landing**, which has a boat ramp, dock,



When camping near water, bring kayaks. Photo: P. Stinson

and riverfront trails for anglers and hikers. Or check out the **Bowman Bridge Campground** for fishing, hiking and canoeing. It features a connector trail to the North Country Scenic Trail. In Scottville, the privately owned **Henry’s Landing Campground & Canoe Rental** offers riverfront sites. The camp store includes bait and tackle and rents boats, kayaks and SUP boards. Across the road is **Riverside Park**, a city-owned tent/trailer/RV campground with spacious public river frontage, an inground pool, a playground and disc golf course, basketball/volleyball courts, shuffleboard and more.

Inland lakes

Is your picture-perfect vacation spot amongst hardwoods, tall pine trees and sandy dunes along a quiet lake? Located west of Scottville on Crystal Lake, the **Crystal Lake Campground** features these plus boat rentals, an ice cream parlor, sandy beach, miniature golf, lighted roads and lots of family-friendly activities. Southeast, in Baldwin, **Leverentz Lake State Forest Campground** is rustic and secluded and is a year-round destination on the shores of Little and Big Leverentz lakes. Highlights include a boat launch, 50-foot floating dock and access to the Sheep Ranch Pathway. Also in Baldwin, try **Adventures of Putnam Lake**, only minutes from the Pere Marquette River. Enjoy a private lakefront beach and swimming platform, plus free use of its kayaks, rowboats and life jackets.

Heading north, but south of Irons, **Leisure Time Campground** provides 250

feet of waterfront on spring-fed Seaman Lake for swimming, boating or fishing. Rent rowboats, kayaks and paddleboats or enjoy other guest activities. Just beyond Lake County in Manistee County is **Sand Lake Recreation Area Campground**, a local favorite with wooded sites, a sandy beach for swimming and 50 acres of mostly shallow water. The rustic **Pine Lake Campground** in Wellston has 12 sites, a boat launch and two picnic areas. Swimming is good, with shallow water some distance from its sandy shores. The lake’s west side is federally owned and occupied by bald eagles.

If you want to be within walking distance of shopping and dining, head to **Hopkins Park Campground** on Bear Lake. For a more secluded experience, drive almost to the Manistee-Benzie county line, where you’ll discover the **Healy Lake State Forest Campground** with 24 sites and a launch for small boats and kayaks.



No need to wait ‘til dark to roast marshmallows. Photo: P. Stinson

Off-the-water, notable campgrounds

South of US-10 in Branch is the **Ludington East/Pere Marquette KOA Holiday**. Here in the woods west of Baldwin are RV sites, RV rentals, premium tent sites, deluxe cabins, camping cabins and a vacation lodge. Highlights are a heated pool, playground, dog park and park store with groceries. The campground hosts many activities as well as themed weekends.

The friendly **Kestelwoods RV Resort and Campground**, just east of M-37 between Cadillac and Manistee, offers a heated pool, pavilion and all the necessities for enjoyable camping. ORV trails are



Several campgrounds are near the Hoxeyville Music Festival site. Photo: P. Stinson

immediately accessible. Just a hop away is a corner store/bakery. A few hops further and you’re at the Pine River. The campground is popular with attendees of the mid-August Hoxeyville Music Festival, a few miles west.

If you’re an RV camper seeking a luxurious experience with pool, clubhouse and guest rental cabins, try **Vacation Station** or **Poncho’s Pond**, with pools, pond and fitness center, both in Ludington. North of Manistee is **Little River Casino Resort RV Park** with 95 sites and access to the resort’s pools, saunas and fitness center, plus transportation to the casino. Good Sam and AARP member discounts apply.

Looking for a military discount? Stay at **Kampvilla RV Park & Campground**, five miles from Lake Michigan, north of Bear Lake. Tents, trailers, RVs – all are welcome. Enjoy a swimming pool, fishing pond, basketball and shuffleboard, planned activities and more. The **Rally Point Veterans Campground** is a free rustic camping experience for veterans in the heart of the Manistee Forest. Connect with others in a campground run by veterans, for veterans.

Northern Michigan is blessed with some of the most serene and beautiful areas in nature. Pick a camping location that speaks to you. Pack your gear. Get ready to relax. Then, be prepared to come away with a contented heart.

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

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My Little Green Tent

Lessons on the Manistee River Trail

By **EMILY COOK**

My parents took my brother Adam and I camping often. We would venture north from our home in lower Michigan to rustic campgrounds, spending our days hiking and swimming. In middle school, we piled into the family minivan and drove to Maine, stopping along the way in Canada and New Hampshire. As we all lined up next to one another in the L.L. Bean dome tent, we became the self-proclaimed, “Three Hot Dogs and a Vienna Sausage.” I was the Vienna Sausage — the youngest and smallest of the four of us.

As we got older, my parents began to dabble in backpacking versus car camping, and family excursions as we knew them became less frequent. The “Three Hot Dogs and a Vienna Sausage” dynamic changed as Adam graduated from high school, and I wasn’t far behind.

Despite these changes, I was an outdoorsy teenager who was intrigued by backpacking and eager to try. I had watched my parents go on their own micro-adventures and my mom had returned from several women’s adventure hikes to the Appalachian Trail with incredible stories. In 2005, the July before my senior year of high school, I finally got my chance to throw on a pack and attempt my own hike. I was going to accompany my parents on a one-nighter around the Manistee River Trail.



Emily and Doug Cook set out on the trail. Photo: Sally Cook

At just over 20 miles the trail was the perfect length for a newbie hiker, and the weather looked perfect. The bugs were bearable, and I was armed with everything I would need for my one night on the trail, including my parents’ original tent from “before Peace Corps” which is often how we date things in my family. (“Before Peace Corps” meant it was an item they’d



Emily setting up her family’s 30-year-old tent. Photo: Sally Cook

purchased before serving overseas from 1982 to 1984.)

The hiking was pleasant, and the views of the Manistee River were stunning. Despite being midsummer the trail was not very busy. After hiking about halfway we found a nice space to camp near the river flats. I immediately hauled out the blue tarp I was using as a ground cloth and confidently got to work assembling my little green tent.

Dinner was simple but delicious, as most meals are when eaten outdoors. I learned how to hang a bear bag and spent the hours until dark sprawled on the riverbank, listening to the rushing water. My dad, the lifelong birder, was nearby listening for owls. My mom journaled. I could certainly understand why they had caught the backpacking bug. Working your body, carrying what you need to survive, and being surrounded by nature brings with it a special kind of peacefulness.

Influenced by exhaustion, sleep came quickly as I burrowed myself into my sleeping bag a short while later. It rained that night, unexpectedly. A series of thunderstorms seemed to circle us for hours, resulting in my tent becoming flooded. I sat in the middle with everything piled on my lap, a moat surrounding me, wondering if this was my fate for the next six hours. Eventually my dad appeared at the entrance, soaking wet. He swapped spots with me until morning. The aforementioned blue tarp was ultimately blamed for the flooding ... but the 30-year-old tent was also retired upon returning home.

We ate breakfast quietly, none of us well-



Hanging a bear bag. Photo: Sally Cook

rested. The river raged with its influx of water. After packing our soaked gear (no bears that night!), we hiked the remaining 10 miles back to our car, the sun eventually emerging to dry us and brighten the mood after a long night. Legs were weary and brains were foggy with little sleep, but despite this I knew I would be seeking out more trails soon. And that rain-soaked night on the Manistee River Trail would hardly be my most miserable night spent in a tent. The worst (or best?) of those were yet to come.

Emily Cook is a resident of Arcadia where she lives with her husband and two collies. She is a conservationist by training and a writer and artist when the time allows. She explores the nearby nature trails and Lake Michigan beach as much as possible. Her parents, Doug and Sally Cook, have since section hiked almost the entire Appalachian Trail (just Vermont and New Hampshire to go!).



Manistee River Trail views, 2021. Photo: Emily Cook

Notes on the Manistee River Trail

By **EMILY COOK**

The Manistee River Trail loop is a gem in Northwest Lower Michigan. At 23 miles long, it makes for a perfect backpacking weekend. Managed by the Huron-Manistee National Forest and the North Country Trail Association — one side of the river is a portion of the latter’s longer trail system — visitors are served with a variety of habitats, changing topography and stunning river views. If you are planning on doing this hike soon, here are a few considerations:

- There are a handful of ways to access the loop, including two that are free: Red Bridge River Access (my personal favorite) and Upper River Road Trailhead. No permits are required for small groups.
- The trail has gotten busier in recent years, but it can still provide great solitude, especially if camping away from larger campgrounds. (Remember to practice Leave No Trace principles: www.lnt.org.)
- Black bears (and smaller animals) tend to avoid people, but smelly human food is always tempting. Hanging a bear bag (or using a bear canister) is recommended.

More trail information can be found by contacting the Huron-Manistee National Forest Ranger Station - (231) 848-7090

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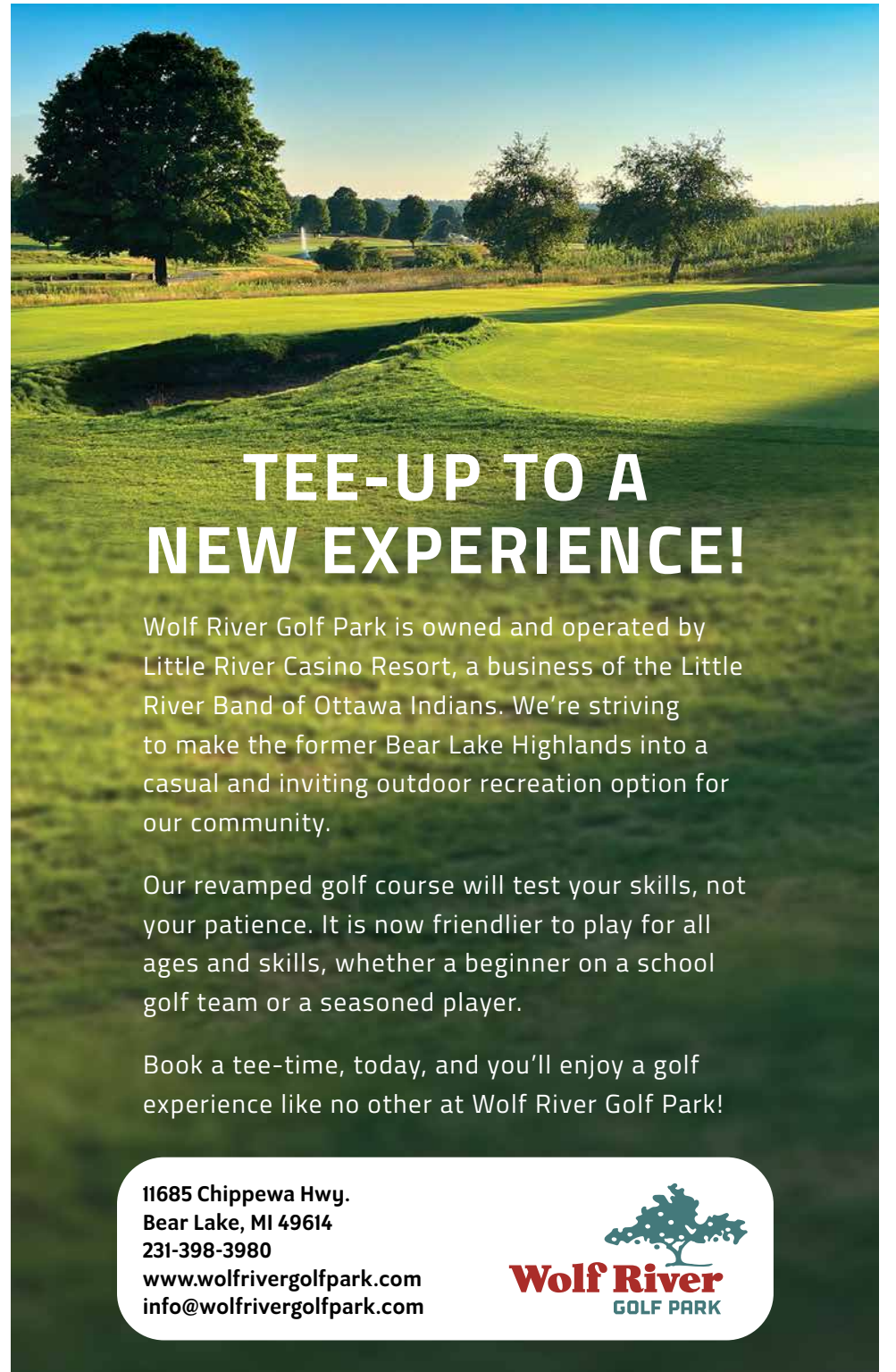
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Harriet Quimby: Her writing soars

By LOUISA LOVERIDGE GALLAS

Harriet Quimby (1875-1912) embodied the soul of the following quote, often attributed to Oscar Wilde: “Be yourself. Everyone else is (already) taken.” Beyond her own path and distinctive individuality, she encouraged that dream for all of us.

Her fame as a rare woman pilot and pioneer in aviation was my first knowledge of Quimby’s talent and courage. A deep dive into research led me to find her early passion, sustained until her death, was as a writer and investigative journalist.

In Don Dahler’s biography of Quimby titled, “Fearless: Harriet Quimby, A Life Without Limit” (Princeton Architectural Press, June 2022), the author wrote: “She discovered in herself a passion and ability that would eventually lift her to breathtaking heights ... a natural born literary mason. She would build her own future on her ability to pave a path of words toward new adventures”

Author Leslie Kerr (“Harriet Quimby: Flying Fair Lady”, Schiffer Military, 2016) saw biographical documents in which Quimby’s occupation was entered as “Special Writer.” As a journalist, Quimby’s research during an investigation into New York City’s police force helped bring down the commissioner, exposing issues of prostitution in the U.S. Her ambitions, not only for personal fame, propelled her advocacy for others. She left us abundant articles, including those written as a drama critic, screen writer and playwright. Many of her writings focused on social and cultural inequities of poverty, working

conditions and discriminatory laws. Even the rights of birds! In “Flying Fair Lady”, Kerr related that Quimby — appalled at the abuse of wrens, thrushes and egret mothers killed to decorate women’s hats — wrote a protest article in Leslie’s Illustrated Weekly. In it, she urged readers to contact their legislators, resulting in a protective law to ban hunting birds solely to use their plumage as fashion statements.

Poet Mary Oliver said, “Attention is a form of prayer” to discover and cherish our world. To be fully present. Quimby was a genius at paying attention, with a range of styles and curiosity. Venturing unescorted into San Francisco’s Chinatown, she was intrigued by a penniless old man who was somehow finding ways to feed stray cats. In “Fearless” Dahler included this quote from her story, in which she shared these touching details of the old man’s belief in reincarnation. “Maybe they (the cats) are my grandfather, my brother, or my uncle.”

She reveals generosity with a sensitive heart, as in this reflection: “No matter how homely the exterior, a pure soul will so light up a personality that the plain personal appearance will be obliterated in its radiance.”

One feels her ease in a witty turn of phrase, the choice of just the right word, in passages from Leslie’s Illustrated Weekly. As a drama critic, Quimby wrote: “The Production of ‘The Foolish Virgin’ falls flat as an overdone omelet souffle.” In her social commentary, she ventured: “... almost any woman may tinker about the machinery and accomplish about the same

results ... as the opposite sex does. If she will only lose that dread of getting her hands all greasy and grimy.”

At breakneck speed, Harriet Quimby lived her brief time in many dimensions, hoping for fame. “I only wanted to be first, that’s all,” she wrote in Leslie’s Illustrated Weekly (1906). But she shared a larger vision in the New York Times (1912): “I would never give up my work for flying.”

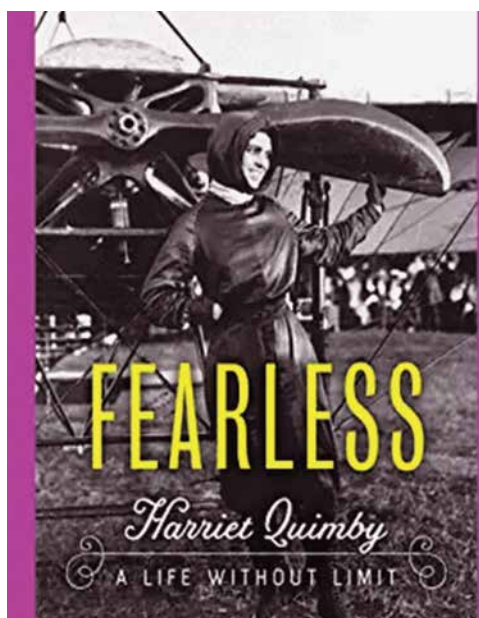
On the immortal wings of words, Quimby flew beyond boundaries and influenced social and legal justice. She continued flying, despite her extreme disappointment that newspapers of the day buried on their back pages, behind the Titanic catastrophe, her achievement of being the first woman to fly solo across the English Channel. She wrote articles about the dangers of flying. She knew the risks. In “Fearless” Dahler included this Quimby remark: “If bad luck befall me, I want you

to know that I will meet my fate rejoicing.” It is poignant that the aviator-journalist, who flew in several dangerous air shows, wished to retire soon after the show that claimed her life, to be able to add writing novels to her repertoire.

Harriet Quimby illuminated early 1900s America.

A Comet.
A Shooting Star.
Her Words: An Enduring Constellation.
Imagine one evening during Arcadia Daze, before fireworks blaze across the sky. A small biplane overhead, as in festivals of yore, trails a banner that simply reads: HARRIET.

Louisa Loveridge Gallas is a retired therapist and published, award-winning poet and author of several books. Meet her at Patina in Onkama on Aug. 25, 4-6 p.m.



Author Dahler’s thoughts on Quimby’s career as a journalist

Louisa Loveridge Gallas asked author Don Dahler (“Fearless: Harriet Quimby, A Life Without Limit”) about his impressions of Quimby as a writer. His below response is edited for brevity.

I think Harriet’s talents as a reporter and writer have definitely been overshadowed by her other achievements. After reading the 200+ articles she produced during her short career I was struck by her grasp of language and description, and her keen awareness of the little things people do that define their character. One example is from one of her earliest articles about a trip with commercial fishermen, when she notes the man in charge of collecting the dock fees often helped out workers financially whose nets came up less-than-full.

She was witty and clever and often self-deprecating in her first-person accounts, like the hilarious story about riding in a race car at over 100 miles per hour and losing her hat in the

process. This ability to draw readers into her ... life (and others’ lives) is all the more remarkable given her limited formal education. The time she spent in that one-room Michigan schoolhouse was impactful.

Honestly, reading her columns and articles made me respect and love her even more, and I feel a deep professional kinship to her style of writing, the telling of other people’s stories in a respectful yet revealing way.

... (S)he was obviously shaped by her years there (in Arcadia), but it was also obviously a very difficult time for her family, with the death of siblings and the constant toil and hardship. In my mind, you can take the girl out of Arcadia, but you can never take Arcadia out of the girl.

CAMPING MISADVENTURES

By GRACE GROGAN

In the U.S., 77 million households have at least one family member who camps. Every year, an additional one million families take their first camping trip. Whether you're new to camping or you're one of the 60% of people who camped as a child, you can probably identify with and maybe learn from these true stories.

Karen and I were co-leaders of a Junior Girl Scout Troop (ages 8-12). We thought taking the girls to a Girl Scout camp that supplied tents would be fun. What could go wrong? Assembling the two tents should have been easy, but we couldn't find any poles. We called the ranger, who brought two more tents without enough poles to assemble one tent, much less two. The weather turned from a drizzle to a downpour. The ranger came back and moved us to a cabin because the tent camping area floods. The cabin had a covered front step, perfect for teaching the girls how to use a buddy burner. Things were going well until fire alarms began blaring throughout the campground. The ranger reappeared; we had set them off due to a smoke detector directly above the step. Oops! Later, I built a fire in the fireplace, carefully pulling the chain marked for opening the flue. The roaring fire quickly filled the cabin with smoke and set off the campground-wide alarms. The ranger, now a regular visitor, said the flue was improperly marked. On our last day, the ranger arrived to tell us the campground was flooded, and he would have to lead us out. Water was over the bridge. As we drove across, water flowed into the lower step of my van's interior. We definitely gave the girls a memorable weekend.

Caroline was one of the Girl Scouts on the above trip, but the experience didn't dampen her love of tent camping. A young, single mother, she enjoyed camping in the wild with a group of friends. They frequently went to Beards Hills, north of Port Huron. On their last trip, the selected spot was down a steep incline. With a 5-year-old son and an infant, Caroline was hesitant about the location, but the guys said they would haul all her extra childcare gear up and down the hill for

her. The group was sitting around the campfire at about 11 p.m. when a DNR officer appeared. He told them they couldn't camp there and would have to break camp and leave. With the baby on her lap, Caroline looked at him and said, "Are you seriously going to make us leave tonight?" He told them they could stay until morning.

Ninety percent of teen campers say they plan to camp as adults. Paul was a teen when he and five friends went camping with gender-specific tents. The guys, with an ulterior motive, offered to set up the tents. Building a large fire, they put the girls' tent close to the fire and theirs behind it. The fire illuminated the female silhouettes as they undressed, and the guys enjoyed the show. The gals never caught on.

Renee and John were using a pop-up camper during a cross-country trip, exploring Colorado, Montana, and Idaho. After setting up camp, their four-year-old daughter, Chelsea, was the first to use their portable toilet. When Chelsea finished, John pumped water into the toilet to flush it. Instead of going down, Chelsea's pee erupted like a volcano into John's face. Elevation changes in the mountains caused a pressure buildup, resulting in a portapotty explosion.



Photo by Cottonbro Studio, from Pexel.

You don't have to leave your driveway to experience a mishap, as Lori and Dave discovered when prepping their travel trailer for their first seasonal campout. Dave was



Anatoliy Gleb, from Adobe Stock.

flushing the antifreeze out of the trailer. Lori was carrying supplies from the house to the camper. When she stepped inside, she found it flooded. Dave had switched over to fill their freshwater tank and forgot he left all the faucets open for the flush. Water overflowed a bucket blocking a drain in the tub, causing the tub's water to overflow.

Water isn't the only thing that can hit the floor. Back in the 1980s, my parents had a motorhome. My dad was rolling down the highway when he hit a bump. The refrigerator door flew open, and mustard and ketchup containers hit the floor, spouting their contents everywhere. My mother staggered around the back of the moving RV, trying to clean up the mess, as my father continued driving to their destination.

Don't get stuck while camping. Sitting in our RV at the Thousand Trails Campground in St. Clair, Paul watched a pickup truck attempt to back a fifth wheel into a wet, mucky spot. The driver should've known better. The fifth wheel and pickup sank into the ground and wouldn't budge. Paul offered to pull them out with our Jeep. The guy was skeptical but agreed. He had him hook the winch to the front of the pickup. The Jeep easily pulled out the pickup and RV.

Kathy and her husband park their RV for the season at Pt. Au Gres Marina & Campground in Arenac County. One year, their three weekends of blunders read like an "I Love Lucy" rerun. Heading home the first weekend, they discovered two hours later that Kathy had left her purse in the camper. Luckily, she had a spare set of keys, so they didn't have to return to the

campground. On another trip, she put their dirty clothes into a trash bag to take home, but her husband thought it was trash and threw them away. Another time, Kathy placed her two favorite pairs of shoes into a tote bag. Her husband loaded the tote into the back of the pickup, along with the trash. Since he planned to stop at the dumpster on the way out, he left the tailgate down. An hour into their trip, they realized he forgot to stop at the dumpster, and the tailgate was still down. The trash was intact, but Kathy's bag of shoes was gone.

On our first camping adventure near Silver Lake Sand Dunes, my husband, Ron, lit the pilot light and turned on the oven to preheat before heading outside. I was doing paperwork at the dining table. When I first felt lightheaded, I ignored it. I got worse, so I opened the oven door. No heat. That meant gas was pumping into the RV. I cranked open the ceiling vent, then went to the door to call Ron and tell him about the oven. He asked, "Did you turn off the gas?" My brain was already so affected that it never occurred to me, despite being

continued on Page 6

Best Vacation Ever!

By GORDON BERG

"ABORT! ABORT!" Mackenzie's text message to me was alarming. My response was less so. "Aww, c'mon. How bad could it get?"

Mackenzie: "Seek shelter now! Plan B! Plan B!"

Me: "We just got your tent set up. If I didn't thank you for loaning it to us for this trip my wife and I wanted to do with our son...well...thank you!"

Mackenzie: "No! No! No! It's a simple backyard tent. It won't stand up to gale force winds coming off Lake Superior! You don't want Gordon Lightfoot to have to write a song about you! What's your son say?"

Me: "He's all cozy in his bivvy sack on the shoreline of Muskallonge Lake. No worries. He's old enough to take care of himself."

Mackenzie: "Good...but you and your wife are going to get soaked tonight! The tent will fly away with you both in it!"

Me: "No worries. We'll fall asleep listening to the waves crash on the beach a couple hundred yards away. G'nite. Sweet dreams."

Mackenzie: "ARRGGGHHHH! Text me in the morning. I wanna know you're okay."

As it turned out, Mackenzie and I were both right. My wife and I fell asleep listening to the waves

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MI Outdoor Essential

Story and photos by JENNIFER DEVINE

In 2018 I was given a lantern for my birthday. Not what I expected from my mother, however, the Enbrighten Rechargeable LED Dual Power Lantern (model 43934) has quickly become one of my all-time favorite gifts. I cannot tell you



MI favorite camping gear.

how many times this lantern came in handy when we began our homesteading journey, an off-grid experience. From investigating sasquatch noises and locking up chickens in the middle of the woods on dark winter nights, to tracking a deer after a hunt and charging a phone during my emergency car ride, this lantern has passed all my tests.

Mine has a black body with a bright white light, and if you hold the power button the light will either get brighter, illuminating a larger area, or dim down. The handle can clasp around (something) to make carrying easier, for better stability working in the dark, or some other need. It takes back-up D-cell batteries but is charged via USB and can last days to weeks, depending on use. Via the USB port you can also charge your phone, but that will drain power quickly.

Last, but not least, this lantern is the most indestructible piece of off-gridding outdoor equipment I've ever had. This poor lantern has hit gravel drives, dirt yards, wooden decks, parking lots and mucky chicken



Illuminating a winter night with my favorite lantern.

runs without compromising its integrity. It may be a little scuffed, but this tough piece of gear works like the day I opened it. You can buy these online for about \$40, and they now come in different color shells and even have color-changing LED lights!

Jennifer Devine has a passion for writing and plants. Living in cities and homesteading off grid has offered a myriad of family experiences, memories and adventures as they utilize Michigan's natural resources in their crafts, cooking and all-around lives.

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Sauce Boss

continued from Page 1

My first band, Yankee Blue, was a three piece featuring Jason Welch (a drummer at the time who later became known as the Kaleva Music Man), Casey Barber (a bass player who did a lot more as a lead vocalist and lead guitarist), and myself (lead vocals and guitars). Jason was hanging out in the Highway Bar in Maxwelltown (Manistee) one day, bragging up this "great band" that he had, and managed to get a booking for a cut of the till. The thing was, he didn't have a band! Afterward, he called me, I called Casey, and we all got together. We made a list of songs we all knew, and we called a few musician friends to help fill in the night's line-up. I had tried putting bands together previously, but none of them had ever gotten to the point where I would feel comfortable booking them. Jason had a different way of doing things. He would book gigs then call around to see who he could get to show up. Years later, when I had a very large network of great musicians, I found this really was the way to go. So many groups get together and spend months practicing just to bomb their first gig, if they book one at all before breaking up.

Unless you make it big, there really isn't any money to be made after you add up your time, travel expenses and investment in and upkeep of instruments, but what you do get are fantastic life stories. People go to the concert to see your show, but the best show is what you see from the stage and the people you work with and meet. Our first show as Excalibur was at the then Sibben Street Tavern in Manistee. Ken Dahl (vocals and drums) showed up



sober, but that didn't last long, and John Lawson (vocals and keyboard) invited a date. John's date canceled, so he invited another one. She canceled too, so he asked another ...

We were about to start our first set when I found John hiding under a table. I asked him what was going on. With giant eyes and as quietly as possible he replied, "They all came!" I said, "Oh, okay," and I walked on stage, grabbed my microphone and totally ratted him out in a teasing way. I pointed at the table shouting, "Come on, John, we got a show to play here!" and on and on. Just when I thought his head was going to burst, with his face so red, he stood and ran to the stage. We played for three hours with no breaks because he wasn't about to stop to face the confrontation waiting for him in the audience. The ladies somehow figured out what had happened, had a good laugh about it and buddied up. It wasn't until they left (together) that he stopped playing. We had a fantastic sound, and this marked the beginning of one of the greatest adventures of my life.

What can I say other than how hard can it be? There's nothing to it. Piece of cake!

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

Elie's Cheesecake

Graham Cracker Crust

- 1½ packs graham crackers (13-14 individual sheets), finely crushed
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ¾ cup (1½ sticks) melted, salted butter

In bowl, mix crackers, sugar, and cinnamon, then mix in butter with fork until evenly dispersed. Transfer to an 8" x 11" baking pan and flatten bottom and sides. I use two flat-bottomed plastic measuring cups.

Filling

- (2) 8-oz bricks cream cheese at room temperature
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 2 eggs
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix ingredients until smooth and creamy. Pour into crust and bake for 20 minutes. Refrigerate for at least an hour then top with your favorite pie filling. The "house favorite" is blueberry. Add a splash of lemon juice to enhance the blueberry flavor.

Misadventures

continued from Page 5

raised with a gas stove. I told Ron there were faster ways to kill me.

Newbies don't always realize their mistake until a neighbor comes knocking. Don and Sandy purchased their motorhome used, with no owner's manual. They were trying to watch a movie on their first trip but weren't getting any volume. Meanwhile, Paul and I, parked beside them with all our windows and doors closed, were getting blasted. When it got so loud that we couldn't hear our TV, Paul went to investigate. Rounding the front of our rig, he could hear the sound coming from Don and Sandy's external speakers. Paul pounded on their door to get their attention. Opening the door, Don immediately heard all the sound outside. Coming down the steps, he noticed a light switch by the steps and flipped it. The external speakers went off, and the internal ones turned on. Embarrassed, he put tape over the "light" switch so this would never happen again.

Resources:

"50 Camping Industry Statistics For North America (2022)", August 11, 2022, <https://amateuradventurejournal.com/camping-industry-statistics-2022/>
 "Camping Statistics 2020-2021", <https://www.condorferries.co.uk/camping-statistics>

Grace Grogan is a freelance writer and photographer who lives and travels full-time with her partner, Paul, in a 35-foot motorhome.

Community Calendar

TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN FRESHWATER REPORTER!

To be included in our August 9 edition, please submit your announcements by July 29. Be sure to include the address where the event takes place.

Email your events/press releases to: 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

FARMERS MARKETS

Thursdays

Elberta Farmers Market

8am-12:00pm. Dudley Penfold Memorial Marina Park, corner of M-22 & M-168

Fridays

Onkama Farmers Market

12-4pm. Parking lot 4850 Main St.

Ludington Artisan/Farmers Market

3-7pm. Legacy Plaza Pavilion, 112 N. James St.

Saturdays

Manistee Farmers Market

9am-12pm. Wagoner Community Center, 260 St. Mary S. Pkwy.

Scottville Farmers Market

9am-12pm. Miller's Marketplace, 202 N. Main St. Times may vary.

Frankfort Farmers Market

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

ONGOING EXHIBITS/EVENTS

Thru July 28

Annual Summer Member Art Show, Frankfort

Free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

The Colors of Summer Art Exhibition, Ludington

Free. Artwork by Epworth Artists Helen Heddens, Elizabeth Powers and Julie Strabel. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

Thru Aug 4

Etchings: Escaping the Frame Art Exhibition, Scottville

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

Thru Aug 12

Collected Impressions: West Michigan Printmakers Art Exhibition, Manistee

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

July 22-30

Lakeside Shakespeare Theater: The Tempest, Frankfort

7pm. Tank Hill, 188 Park Ave.

July 21-Aug 11

"Water, Water, Water" Art Exhibition, Frankfort

Free. Artworks relating to the fresh water of our environment. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

Mondays, July 24, 31, Aug 7

Clam Lake Band Concerts, Cadillac

7pm. Free. Rotary Performing Arts Pavilion, 100 S. Lake St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Fridays, July 21; August 4, 11

Come Walk With Me, Thompsonville

10am. Executive Director Angie Quinn walks you through the park, focusing on a different sculpture each week. Check Facebook 1 hour prior for severe weather cancellation. Michigan Legacy Art Park, Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.

Saturdays July 22, 29 & Aug. 5

Museum Tours, Irons

12-3pm, Free. Tour the 1901 Martin Johnson Home & the Eden Township Unit School. Skinner Park, 10 1/2 Mile Rd., east of Irons. Info: 231.233.0991

Saturdays & Sundays July 22, 23, 29, 30, August 5, 6

Drop-in Art Activities, Thompsonville

10am-1pm. Join us to create a "Michigan Blue" wood disk for our community art project, & other family-friendly activities at the Art Park entrance. Michigan Legacy Art Park, Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.

Aug 4-Sep 8

Antrim, DeGregorio, Galante Art Exhibition, Frankfort

Free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Opening reception August 4, 5-7pm.

DAILY EVENTS

July 19

Music in the Park: Beth J & B Beats, Luther

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

Benzie Community Band Concert & Museum Open House, Benzonia

6pm Open House, 7pm Concert (on lawn), Free. Benzie Area Historical Museum, 6941 Traverse Ave. Bring lawn chair/blanket. Register: benziemuseum.org

LACA Summer Concert Series: Paul Nelson, Ludington

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

Northern Natural Concert Series:

The Handstanders, Kaleva

7pm, \$20. Northern Natural Cider House & Winery, 7220 Chief Rd. Bring lawn chair/blanket. Tickets: mynorthtickets.com

Beach Sweep & Green Drinks, Ludington

7-8:30pm. Volunteer to help AFFEW clean up the beach. Meet at Stearns Park South concession stand, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr. Gloves/bags provided. BYO beverage (no glass)/networking with members after.

Echo through the Timber Concert Series: Mustang Band, Baldwin

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

Live at the Garden: The Heavy Hours, Frankfort

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

Manistee Community Choir Concert, Manistee

7:30pm. First Congregational Church, 412 4th St.

July 19-22

Troutarama, Baldwin

Food, fun, 5k walk/run, parade, amusement rides, beer tent & more. Schedule: <https://tinyurl.com/mut73unn>

July 20

Legacy Plaza Music Series: Third Coast Swing w/ Ella Jarvis, Ludington

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

Roots on the River Concert Series: Hearth & Hymn, Manistee

7pm, Free. Jaycees' Bandshell in Veterans Memorial Park, 117 Memorial Dr. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Music in the Street: The Accidentals, Beulah

7-8:45pm, Free. Downtown.

UpBeat Cadillac Music Series: Paul Nelson, Cadillac

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

July 20-22

Cadillac Festival of the Arts

Juried art show, vendors, food, beverages. Cadillac Commons, 117 W. Cass St.

July 21

History Club Tour of Portage Point Inn, Onkama

4-5:30pm, Free. Walking tour of Portage Point Inn. Learn the legends & truths! Portage Point Inn & Resort, 8567 Portage Point Dr. Register: OnkamaTwp.org

Legacy Plaza Music Series: American Ages, Ludington

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

Summer Sounds Music Series: Blake Elliott & The Current Love (The Stonefolk), Thompsonville

7-9pm, \$15 ADV, \$20 DOS, 15 & under Free. 1/4 mile hike to amphitheater. Bring a chair pad/blanket. Michigan Legacy Art Park, Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr. Rain venue: inside the resort. Tickets/info: michlegacyartpark.org

July 21,22

"A Day in the Garden" National Garden Club Standard Flower Show, Ludington

Fri 4-7pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Free. Hosted by the Mason County Garden Club. Ludington Senior Center- 308 S. Rowe St., Ludington.

July 21-23

Pop Up Artist: Ann Madsen Dyeing on the Inside Clothing, Onkama

Patina Designs, 4850 North Main St.

Arcadia Daze

Arts & Crafts fair, car show, 5k race, parade, music, fireworks, & more. Schedule: <https://tinyurl.com/tpph6c89>

July 22

The Hills Have Chains Disc Golf Tournament, Ludington

8am-5pm, \$30-60. Raffle, multiple CTP, State berth, ace pool. Beauty, Beast & Goliath Courses, Mason County Park. Info/registration: discgolfscore.com or instore at Grip N Rip Disc Golf, 5770 US-10, Ludington.

8th Annual Muddy Fox Trot, Scottville

Check-in 8:15am, Start times from 9am. \$20 adults, WSSC students/kids 16 & under: free. 5k mud run & obstacle course. Concessions avail. West Shore Community College, 3000 N. Stiles Rd. Register: westshore.asppconnected.com/#CourseID=80055

Coastal Caravan Art & Vendor Fair, Frankfort

8am-7pm. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

Ludington Coin Club Coin & Stamp Show, Ludington

9am, Free. Door and raffle prizes. Hamlin Town Hall- 3775 N. Jebavy Dr.

Summer Artist Market, Beulah

Five Shores Brewing, 163 S. Benzie Blvd.

Music in the State Park: Plain Jane Glory, Ludington

7pm, Free/donations. Park Amphitheater, 8800 West M-116. Bring lawn chair/blanket/bug spray. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Sounds from the Forest Concert Series: Paul Nelson, Baldwin

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

Coyote Crossing Music Series: Drew Hale with John Richard Paul, Cadillac

7:30-11:30pm, \$17.85 ADV, \$30 DOS. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. Info/tickets: coyotecrossingresort.com

July 23

Benzie Area Symphony Orchestra Chamber Concert, Frankfort

3pm. Garden Theater, 301 Main St.

July 24

Live Music: Whispers of the North, Onkama

7pm, Free/donations. Onkama Village Park. Rain venue: Onkama School, 5016 Main St. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, picnic baskets, kids, etc.

Jammin' Mondays Concert Series: Planet D Nonet, Elberta

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

July 25

Talks, Tunes & Tours, Manistee

10am, Free. "What's Up with the Arts & Culture Alliance of Manistee County" by Cynthia Asiala. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Weed the Park, Ludington

6-8pm. Volunteers needed to I.D./remove invasive plants. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants & long-sleeved shirts. Bring gardening gloves, trowel, water. Meet near dog park at end of Rath Ave. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr.

Music in the State Park: The Langford Lads, Ludington

7pm, Free/donations. Park Amphitheater, 8800 West M-116. Bring lawn chair/blanket/bug spray. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Shoreline Showcase: Planet D Nonet, 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.

July 26

Music in the Park: Gabriel James, Luther

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

July 26

LACA Summer Concert Series: Planet D Nonet, Ludington

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

Northern Natural Concert Series: May Erlewine, Kaleva

7pm, \$20. Northern Natural Cider House & Winery, 7220 Chief Rd. Bring lawn chair/blanket. Tickets: mynorthtickets.com

Concerts in the Park: Benzie Community Band, Frankfort

7-8pm, Free. Mineral Springs Park Pavilion, 630 Main St.

Historic Walking Tour, Thompsonville

7pm, Free. Reservations required: benziemuseum.org

Echo through the Timber Concert Series: Mary Rademacher, Baldwin

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

Traverse City Dance Project, Frankfort

7:30, Free. Live performance by Northern Michigan's only professional dance company. Garden Theater, 301 Main St.

July 27

First Person Stories & Songs, Manistee

10am, Free. "The Forgotten Iron King of the Great Lakes" by Mike Nagle about Eber Brock Ward, once the richest man in Michigan. Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St.

Legacy Plaza Music Series: Jimmy Dodson, Ludington

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

Roots on the River Concert Series: Charlie Millard Band, Manistee

7pm, Free. Jaycees' Bandshell in Veterans Memorial Park, 117 Memorial Dr. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

General Assembly Band Concert, Ludington

7-8:30pm, Free. Waterfront Park, 300 S. William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Music in the Street: The Wayouts, Beulah

7-8:45pm, Free. Downtown.

UpBeat Cadillac Music Series: Planet D Nonet, Cadillac

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

Sunset Beach Bonfire & Live Music: Steely, Ludington

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

July 28

Legacy Gala, Thompsonville

\$100. Dinner, silent auction. Artist Jason Quigno will receive 2023 Legacy Award for lifetime accomplishments. Fundraiser supports the Art Park. Crystal Mtn. Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr. Register: www.crystallmountain.com

9th Annual Grow Benzie Bayou: Blues & Zydeco Fundraiser, Frankfort

4-11pm rain or shine, \$10-25. Live music: Fabulous Horndogs, Joshua Davis & Friends, K Jones & the Benzie Playboys. Food-beer-wine-mead-soft drinks. Elberta Amphitheater @ Elberta Waterfront Park, 1120 Furnace St. Bring lawn chair/blanket. Tickets: mynorth.com

Legacy Plaza Music Series: Ravon, Ludington

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

Folk Fridays: Chris Vallillo, Baldwin

7pm, Free. Lake County Historical Museum Boat House Stage, 915 Michigan Ave. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

July 28,29

Live Music at the Casino: Risque, Manistee

9pm-1am, Free. Event Center at Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy.

Community Calendar

July 29

Scrap Tire Recycling Event, Kaleva
9am-12pm, \$2/tire, limit 10. Cash only. Manistee Co. residents only (ID required). Bay Area Recycling for Charities, 14407 Industrial Dr.

Street Sale, Frankfort

9am-4pm. Businesses along Main St.

Let's Go Fly a Kite, Frankfort

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

2nd Annual Smoke on the Water Music & Cannabis Festival, Manistee

Gates open 4pm, Music 5-11pm. \$25 ADV, \$35 DOS. Live music, Artist/Vendor section & Cannabis Vendor & consumption area. Lions Pavilion, First Street Beach. Info/tickets: saltcityrb.com

Rhythm & Dunes Concert Series: Rock the 90s USA – Official 90s Rock Tribute, Ludington

6pm, Free. Local school jazz bands open for the main event. Waterfront Park, 391 S. William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Michigan Reptiles & Amphibians, Ludington

1-5pm Display at Lk. Michigan beach house, 7pm program at the State Park Amphitheater. Free/donations. 8800 West M-116. Bring lawn chair/blanket/bug spray. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Sounds from the Forest Concert Series: Planet D Nonet, Baldwin

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

The Insiders: A Tribute to the Music of Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers, Manistee
7:30, \$20-50. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Coyote Crossing Music Series: Adam Joynt Band with Ryan Curtis Band, Cadillac

7:30-11:30pm, \$12.51 ADV, \$30 DOS. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. Info/tickets: coyotecrossingresort.com

S. S. Badger Shoreline Cruise, Ludington

8:30pm boarding, 9-11pm cruise. \$56, kids 4 and under free. Theme: Birthday Bash. Entertainment by Mike Lenich. Cruises sail rain or shine. For info/tickets: ssbadger.com

9th Annual After 26 Depot Music Festival, Cadillac

2-8pm, Free. Music, raffles, kid's games, food, beverages, arts & crafts. Rotary Performing Arts Pavilion, 100 S. Lake St.

July 30

Summer Sunset Music Series: Grace Thiesen, Manistee

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

July 31

Live Music: The Handstanders, Onekama

7pm, Free/donations. Onekama Village Park. Rain venue: Onekama School, 5016 Main St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

Jammin' Mondays Concert Series: Joseph & the Velozians, Elberta

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

August 1

Talks, Tunes & Tours, Manistee
10am, Free. "Vermicomposting: Healing the Soil with Help from Worms" by Elana Warsen. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Shoreline Showcase: Joseph and the Velozians, 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. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Music in the State Park: Steve Berkemeier, Ludington

7pm, Free/donations. Park Amphitheater, 8800 West M-116. Bring lawn chair/blanket/bug spray. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Live at the Garden: Richy Mitch & The Coal Miners, Frankfort

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

August 2

Back to Back School Backpack Bonanza, Ludington

3-6pm, Free. Back to school event. Kids get a free round of minigolf, a backpack & school supplies. Sponsored by Staircase Youth Services & Ludington Area Jaycees. Stearns Park Beach, 421 N. Lakeshore Dr.

Music in the Park: TBD, Luther

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

LACA Summer Concert Series: Joe Veloz & the Velozians, Ludington

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

Northern Natural Concert Series: Luke Winslow-King solo, Kaleva

7pm, \$20. Northern Natural Cider House & Winery, 7220 Chief Rd. Bring lawn chair/blanket. Tickets: mynorthtickets.com

Echo through the Timber Concert Series: Evidence, Baldwin

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

August 3

First Person Stories & Songs, Manistee

10am, Free. "A Thousand Ways to Kiss the Ground: Painting, Printing, Poetry, & Fly-Fishing" by Robert & Tina Vivian. Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St.

Guided Tour of the S. S. City of Milwaukee, Manistee

11am, \$30 includes lunch. 99 Arthur St. Reservations required: benziemuseum.org

Legacy Plaza Music Series: Mike Lenich, Ludington

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

Roots on the River Concert Series: Ben Traverse Band, Manistee

7pm, Free. Jaycees' Bandshell in Veterans Memorial Park, 117 Memorial Dr. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Music in the Street: Jazz North, Beulah

7-8:45pm, Free. Downtown.

UpBeat Cadillac Music Series: Joe Veloz & the Velozians, Cadillac

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

August 3

Classical Concerts at the Garden: Akropolis, Frankfort

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

Movie in the Park, Ludington

8:45pm, Free. "Minions: Rise of Gru" in Rotary Park, 500 W. Ludington Ave. Baby Badger rides at 7:30 until the movie starts. Popcorn avail. for purchase. Bring lawn chair/blanket/snacks.

August 3-5

49th Annual Old Engine & Tractor Show, Scottville

9am-7pm Thursday & Friday, 9am-6pm Saturday. Daily admission \$7 adults, Free for 12 and under, Senior Day Thursday – 65 and older \$5. Activities include swap meets, parades, blacksmithing, corn shelling & grinding, horse pulls, tractor pulls, and more. Food, refreshments & snacks avail. for purchase. Scottville Riverside Park, 700 S. Scottville Rd. Info: oldengineclub.org

August 4

Glen Park History & Adventure Walk (Onekama Days)

10am-1pm, Free. Learn the history of Glen Park & how to adventure using natural resources in local parks & beyond. Glen Park, Fourth Ave.

Legacy Plaza Music Series: Nick Veine, Ludington

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

Folk Fridays: Lee Murdock, Baldwin

7pm, Free. Lake County Historical Museum Boat House Stage, 915 Michigan Ave. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Log Cabin Concerts: Ruth & Max Bloomquist, Kaleva

7pm, Free/donations. Corner of Walta & Panu Streets. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Concerts in the Park: Cheryl Wolfram, Frankfort

7-8pm, Free. Mineral Springs Park Pavilion, 630 Main St.

Summer Sounds Music Series: Frank Youngman, Thompsonville

7-9pm, \$15 ADV, \$20 DOS, 15 & under Free. ¼ mile hike to amphitheater. Bring chair pad/blanket. Michigan Legacy Art Park, Crystal Mtn. Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr. Rain venue: inside the resort. Tickets/info: michlegacyartpark.org

August 4-6

Copemish Heritage Days

Food, fun, car show, music, juggling, & more. Schedule: <https://tinyurl.com/bddejvpm>

Sidewalk Sales, Ludington

10am-6pm Friday & Saturday, 10am-4pm Sunday. Downtown.

August 4-7

Onekama Days, Onekama

Food, parade, activities, demolition derby, car show, 5k & 1 mile fun run, music, craft beer & more. Info: www.onekama.info/onekama-days-schedule

August 5

Sidewalk Sales Day, Beulah & Benzonia

10am-4pm. Downtown.

Used Book Sale, Onekama

10am-4pm. Cash or check. Parking lot of the Onekama Library, 5283 Main St.

August 5

Tenth Meeks Homecoming Jazz & Blues Festival, Idlewild

12pm-Late. Free. Yates Township Hall, 6437 S. Nelson Rd. Bring lawn chair/blanket, cooler. Picnic tables & tent spaces can be reserved. Info: 678.492.6814

Rhythm & Dunes Concert Series: Boy Band Review, Ludington

6pm, Free. Local school jazz bands open for the main event. Waterfront Park, 391 S. William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Magic in the State Park: Skipski Magic, Ludington

7pm, Free/donations. Family Fun. Park Amphitheater, 8800 West M-116. Bring lawn chair/blanket/bug spray. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Sounds from the Forest Concert Series: Metro Soul Band, Baldwin

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

August 6

Butterfly Release (Onekama Days)

12-1pm, Free. Butterfly crafts and butterfly release at WAAG. North Point Park, 8999 Greenway St.

August 7

Michigan's Haunted Lighthouses, Manistee

6pm, Free. An evening with author Dianna Stampfer. Wagoner Community Center, 260 St. Mary S. Pkwy.

Live Music: Elvis Impersonator Jake Slater, Onekama

7pm, Free/donations. Onekama Village Park. Rain venue: Onekama School, 5016 Main St. Bring lawn chairs/blanket.

Jammin' Mondays Concert Series: Wendell Harrison, Elberta

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

August 7-12

Western Michigan Fair, Ludington

Fairgrounds, 5302 US-10. Schedule: <https://tinyurl.com/3k93rs49>

August 8

Talks, Tunes & Tours, Manistee

10am, Free. "Everyday Outdoor Recreation" by Dyllan Walker. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Weed the Park, Ludington

10am-12pm, Free. Volunteers are needed to identify/remove invasive plants. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Bring gardening gloves, garden trowel, water. Meet near the dog park at the end of Rath Ave. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr.

Music in the State Park: Mark Dvorak, Ludington

7pm, Free/donations. Park Amphitheater, 8800 West M-116. Bring lawn chair/blanket/bug spray. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Shoreline Showcase: Wendell Harrison Quartet, 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.

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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Vacation

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relentlessly beating up the Lake Superior shoreline. Ahhhh...

We woke up at 1 a.m., completely soaked. Even with a rain tarp, the water was coming in underneath and around the seams of the floor. We both stepped out of the tent and into the mud. Our shelter was listing to starboard. I fumbled for the car keys. We managed to get out of our sopping wet clothes and into some dry ones. We started the engine. The heat was reassuring. We reclined the front seats, slept intermittently, and waited for hints of dawn to arrive through our

windshield.

We were asleep when we heard a knock on the car window. It was our son. Big grin on his face. He was bone dry and holding up two mugs of fresh-brewed coffee for us. The sun was up. It held the promise of a better day.

Me to Mackenzie: "Thanks, Mackenzie! We all survived! Best vacation ever!"

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.