

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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FREE

IN THIS ISSUE: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE CRITTER KIND

Our Masked Intruder

Story and photos by VALERIE CHANDLER

Living in the quiet country woods I'm used to seeing wildlife in my yard, but last month my husband and I had an unexpected visitor of the cutest kind.

I had pulled my car into the garage as usual, but little did I know I wasn't alone that day. I gathered my items from the car, went into the house and closed the garage door. A while later, Matthew arrived home and pulled his truck into the other side of the garage. Our dog Penny was excited that both of her people were home, so I took her outside to play while he unloaded his truck.

Suddenly, Matthew called me to come into the garage and "look at this." He was pointing to something in the back of the garage near my car. My first thought was it had better not be a snake because I am terrified of them. I slowly walked to where he was standing and pointing ... and saw the cutest baby raccoon!

We keep a mouse trap in the garage in case of unwanted squatters. The trap is a roller device that sits on a 5-gallon bucket. We put peanut butter on the roller and when the mouse goes to eat, it falls off the roller into a water-filled bucket. Anyway, the raccoon managed to climb onto the bucket and was licking the peanut butter off the roller while hanging on awkwardly, trying not to fall.

Our first thought was to see if there were any other babies, or perhaps the mother, in the garage and then to figure out how it got in. Matthew took a flashlight and looked around, even climbing a ladder to check the rafters, but the baby was the only one. At this point, the raccoon started making chattering cries, likely calling out to its mom for help.



Top: Releasing "Rocket" — round one. Right: The surprise visitor we found in our garage.

Of course our dog, who is always very nosy, wanted to see what we were looking at, but we knew to keep them apart since raccoons can carry diseases, even if they are young. Matthew put Penny in the house and retrieved his heavy leather gloves. We could see that the raccoon was weak and could barely hang on to the bucket. I went into the house and got a bowl of water while Matthew brought out the jar of "mouse butter," a jar of peanut butter we use only as mouse bait. He gently yet firmly took hold of the raccoon and



offered it the jar of peanut butter to eat, so it could regain some strength. The masked bandit at first hissed but then realized he wasn't being hurt and decided to indulge in some nutty deliciousness. It wasn't too interested in water, but when Matthew sat the raccoon down to release it, the scared

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AREA EVENTS CALENDAR ON PAGES 7 & 8



Lowlife and Blood Relatives *an ode to slugs*

By Louisa Loveridge Gallas
Freshwater Reporter Poet In Residence

Unseemly wet knob of flesh!
what part of Earth,
what mother loves your facelessness?
Child's snot ball,
oozing where you sit or sleep
on seedlings, first buds,
a vengeance of protoplasm
in my garden.

Mud-whale
small as fingernails,
slick mystery of scum:
State your purpose.
We live together
but is respect due?
You sleazy
low-down acrobat
passionate to gum holes
in my delicate lettuce
crisp halves of leaf,
unbroken peripheries
of wet-webbed points.
Complete, perfect.
Except for you.

One squish,
one flick of my thumb,
you die.

Remind me
with your alien body
of startling goo:
Earth's balance,
wholeness, too,
is grounded
in our strange
difference.
My crude neighbor,
low-life third eye,
we are mud relatives.

We're family,
me and you.

Spirit of the Woods Chapter, North Country Trail Association

By RAMONA DEGEORGIO-VENEGAS

This is part three of our four-part series on area Spirits, organizations with "Spirit" in their names.

In 1998, Joan Young had a backyard picnic and Bob Papp, then executive director of the North Country National Scenic Trail, attended. Ten of us decided to form a local chapter. I represented the USDA Forest Service.

During our second meeting in Ludington that August, we named our group the "Spirit of the Woods Chapter."

In September we began plans to construct a 600-foot-long boardwalk through Dead Horse Marsh, where in some years hikers had to trod through 12-14 inches of water. We had a fantastic crew with Ed Chappel, Howard Hopkins and Ray Dereske in

charge of the construction. At that time, the Forest Service collaborated with residents from Camp Sauble, a minimum-security state prison. Their teams dug post holes and transported heavy wooden planks and posts. Joan and I also helped and offered suggestions such as creating a nice curve in the boardwalk, rather than keeping it straight. Several benches were added later as places for hikers to rest, enjoy nature or bird watch. The boardwalk itself is wide enough for wheelchairs, yet the road into the site is rough.

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Ramona DeGeorgio-Venegas walks along the Spirit of the Woods section of the North Country Scenic Trail. Courtesy photo.



The author enjoys paddling his Hornbeck canoe. Photo: M. Videan.

Homestead Heaven

By **RON SCHMIDT**

Part two of our homesteading series continues with this story of cabin life in the Upper Peninsula.

This is the time of year when countless folks head to their summer homes or cottages to spend memorable vacations with their families and friends. I have felt that longing to head north to my former special place in the woods on the shore of Weber Lake.

My six-month getaway was a primitive cabin three miles down logging roads near Grand Marais in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. I thought of it as a homestead, without the conveniences of a modern summer home. I have been my happiest there from early May to mid-November. Once I even spent a winter and did not get to town for five months due to several feet of snow between me and the highway. Each April I tracked the weather in Grand Marais from one of the homes I rented for the winter below the Mackinac Bridge. I kept in touch with friends living near my cabin who could tell me when the snow had melted enough to safely travel on my unimproved road. Only then could I load my guide dog Patti, and later Lila, and all my belongings into my brother's or friends' vehicle and head north.

It's hard to describe the joy of returning to my cabin each May and finding everything just as I had left it the previous November. Each home has its own fragrance if you pay attention to that kind of thing, as I do. My cabin smelled like home to me as I unloaded my gear and summer supplies. Sometimes I would be greeted by the sound of a pair of loons calling on the lake along with kingfishers, or I would hear the call of Sandhill cranes. My dogs enjoyed sniffing all the scents from animals that inhabited

our 20 acres when we were gone. I would breathe in as deeply as I could the fragrance of balsam fir growing just beyond my front deck. My place offered quiet serenity with no neighbors within two miles and no leaf blowers, lawnmowers, barking dogs or traffic noise. By mid-May, my favorite birds would return for the summer: hummingbirds, white-throated sparrows, robins, purple and gold finches, wood thrushes with their flute-like songs and ruffed grouse with their drumming. After dark I often heard the slap of a beaver's tail



Freshly picked wild raspberries and blueberries. Photo: P. Stinson.

against the lake's surface, a warning to stay away. Before dropping off to sleep each night I sang my favorite Harry Belafonte song, "Day-O, The Banana Boat Song" as loudly as I could, pausing between phrases to hear my voice echo back from west to

Ron Schmidt and his Leader Dog Lila at Weber Lake. Photo: Sarah Kuschell.



Counting green tomatoes growing in an Earthbox on the deck. Photo: P. Stinson

east on the lake, before fading out.

My cabin was 24 feet by 28 feet with a sleeping loft. It was uninsulated and without electricity until I bought a small generator. With it, I charged a couple of car batteries and used a converter to change direct current to alternating current. This is how I kept my audiobook player, stereo and radio powered. When I wanted lights,

carried in my backpack what would fit in the freezer compartment of my fridge.

It was always a treat when friends from below the bridge would visit me, bringing food and beer to share around the campfire as we told stories. We had great times taking canoe trips on Weber and other nearby lakes and rivers, and hiking on two-tracks and trails. Our visits to Lake Superior Brewing Company in Grand Marais for pizza and Sandstone Pale Ale were a special treat. Sometimes we would drive to Munising or Marquette for other unique U.P. experiences.



A favorite stop when friends visited. Photo: Sarah Kuschell.

I used an igniter to light my propane ceiling lanterns. Since I am blind, I only used them when I had company. The refrigerator and kitchen stove were propane operated also. I stayed warm burning firewood in a cast-iron woodstove. My bathroom was a nearby outhouse newly made and sitting atop a deep hole it took me two days to dig. My water came from a well with a hand pump 50 feet from my front door. It felt so good to be self-sufficient in such a peaceful surrounding.

During summers at the cabin, I wrote my three children's books and later took them into schools to encourage students to read more and pursue their dreams as I have done. My dog Lila and I looked forward to August, when we could pick our fill of red raspberries and blackberries that grew along the two-track we walked each day. Also in August, I would pick the sweet cherry tomatoes from plants I grew in my Earthbox on my deck. There was nothing like eating a fresh salad with your own homegrown tomatoes to enjoy at the end of summer. It was great to have fresh food to supplement the frozen foods that I ordered from Schwan every two weeks. I walked a half mile to meet the delivery truck and

It was not all fun and games, of course, as with any wilderness spot. Blackflies could be bad in May. Some years mosquitoes would nearly carry me away. Twice I had to sleep in my tent on the living room floor because so many sneaked into the cabin. One time a bear, and another time a pine marten, tried to break into my shed and help themselves to my garbage, but no harm was done, really.

Overall, it remains my favorite home and I feel fortunate to have lived there and shared so many memories with my family and friends. I hope you have a special place where you can do the same.

A children's author, Ron Schmidt lives in the north woods with his Leader Dog, Lila. He enjoys long walks, listening to birds and music, and devouring berries and homegrown cherry tomatoes.

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MI BACKYARD

Skunks Don't 'Stink'

Story and photo by **JENNIFER DEVINE**

Manistee and surrounding areas are teeming with wildlife, and the city's Riverwalk is no exception. In fact, five species of a particular black and white, cat-like creature are found across the U.S. in rural, urban and suburban areas. While we have a tough time co-existing with them, we simply cannot live without skunks.

In June, behind the Manistee Elks' building, there was a tiny striped skunk (Mephitidae from the family Mephitidae) digging in the mulched gardens. Not knowing its exact age, I guessed it was only a few months old and bravely got closer to take a photo. I didn't want to spook it in case mom was around or its glands, which form after three weeks of age, were full. Young can spray but don't have the capacity or force of an older, more mature skunk. They use this special ability to stun predators for a getaway since their top speed while running is about 10 mph. Due to their short legs and flat feet they waddle, can only hop about 3 feet and are poor climbers, struggling with a 2-foot fence.

We wandered farther, toward Lake Michigan. On our way back, we spotted a second kit just under the Fricano's deck. Mom was still not visible, but that doesn't mean she wasn't around. Skunks will dig with their strong front claws to make a den, steal "abandoned" dens built by other underground dwellers, such as foxes, or

take up residence in a hollow log or brush pile.

It's not unusual for skunks to be out in the daytime; however, they are most active at dusk or dawn. In fact, a few weeks later Mr. MI Backyard caught sight of a fluffball at about 4 a.m. having fun on the sidewalk by the marina. People walked to and fro, readying their boats for a big day on the water. As boats were starting to leave the docks, the little critter peered over the curb of the sidewalk under the white fence at all the goings on below before bouncing away toward the Elks'.

These little ones may have come from a litter of 2 to 10 and were born sometime in April or May. Kits don't leave their mother until they are 8 weeks old. They live on their own in the fall and begin mating in January. Gestation is about 63 days long and females, aka does, can delay pregnancy by storing a male's sperm separately from her eggs until her instincts tell her the time and weather are right.

Often overlooked, like the possum, they are beneficial and play an important ecological role as omnivorous scavengers. Not only do they eat fruits, cat food left outdoors, various small mammals, wasps and other pests, but they also help keep carrion and possibly carrion disease at bay by consuming the flesh of dead, decaying animals.



Young Striped Skunk forages for a meal.

Mr. MI Backyard joked that we should "snag" it and keep it as a pet. I think he was being serious. Though their perianal glands can be removed, they have a musty odor akin to a ferret. Skunks can be kept as pets in Michigan; rules and regulations apply, of course. Remember: They are wild animals, with habits and appetites to match. It's best to leave them where they thrive.

Keep your eyes peeled. You never know what you will see in the 'Stee.

Jennifer Devine has a passion for writing and plants. Homesteading off grid and currently living in the city, her family has had a myriad of experiences, memories and adventures in daily living while foraging, gardening, cooking and crafting.



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Kitchen Safety and Accidental Pizza

Story and photos by **JOSHUA ELIE**

It's been about a year since the debut of the Northwoods Sauce Boss in these pages. So, maybe it's time for some basic kitchen safety tips.

A sharp knife is a happy knife.

It happens every so often, when trying to cut something like a tomato or an orange. Instead of cutting, the knife's edge rolls to the side and instead of sharpening the knife, you push down harder on whatever it is you're trying to cut. Not good, and neither is spending a holiday evening in the hospital, getting a finger stitched. Even if the cut isn't that bad, the annoyances are. Bandages fall off when they get wet, and those little finger nicks keep popping open and sting like the dickens when working with anything salty or citrus.

The businesses that promise knives that never go dull don't seem to stay in business long, so who are we supposed to return these duds to? You can go on YouTube and find a million-and-one ways to sharpen a knife. I went to my butcher at M-55 Market instead. He suggested a Chef's Choice Diamond Home Sharpener 320. It was a couple hundred dollars, and well worth it for me, but I process a lot of food and my knives dull quickly. I run mine through a fine grit wheel every time I wash them. It really doesn't matter what you use if it works for you.

Another bit on finger safety that really should go without saying: If you are blending, grinding, or doing pretty much anything with a food processor, DON'T use your fingers to push stuff down while the machine is running. I was taught how

to make sauerkraut by a very dear friend of mine. This requires a lot of cabbage cutting and grinding, then a lot of salt for the fermentation process. To this day, in my kitchen, if somebody cuts themselves with a dull knife or from sticking their fingers in a food processor, we call it a "Toni." (Read "Chaffles", Freshwater Reporter, Oct. 15, 2022.) And this year's "Toni Award" goes to ... ?



For extra crispy crust, throw a little corn oil on a cast-iron grill.

Mind where your major appliances sit.

When I was living in the Detroit area in my early 20s, my Aunt Kathleen asked me to keep an eye on her son Rob while she was away for the weekend. Rob was in his early teens and mature enough to not

NORTHWOODS SAUCE BOSS



need a babysitter, but we got along great so I said, sure, I'll go hang out with him for a weekend.

I got there, she left, and the first thing Rob asked was if he could have some friends over. I was automatically thinking about what I would want to do at that age with my friends if my parents left. We went through a couple reasonable, yet relaxed rules and he said I wouldn't have to worry about anything; they would probably just hang out in his room and play video games. And they did, and that was all they did! There were, like, eight young men huddled in there having some kind of video game tournament. After a couple hours I got bored and made my way into the kitchen. Kathleen keeps a very nice home, though the kitchen is not a room she cares to use much. The weather stripping on her refrigerator was coming loose, so it leaked cold air. The stove was

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Elie's homemade pizza.

Elie's Quick-n-Easy Pizza Dough

Tools:

- Kitchen Aid (or your preferred mixer) with mix and knead attachments
- 16" pizza pan
- Rolling pin

Ingredients:

- 2 cups bread flour + additional
- 1 packet yeast
- 1½ teaspoons sugar
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 2 Tablespoons corn oil + additional
- ¾ cup warm water, 105-115 degrees

First, make your marinara sauce. Next, proof your yeast. (Place in hot water, stir well and let stand 15 minutes or longer.)

Mix 2 cups flour, sugar, and salt in Kitchen Aid. Add proofed yeast, water and corn oil.

Switch to knead attachment and knead into a ball. Add extra flour if needed, just enough to keep the dough from sticking to the bowl. While kneading, brush inside of separate bowl with corn oil generously. Coat hands with flour and transfer dough to oiled bowl.

Brush top of dough with corn oil generously and cover. Let dough rise for 30 minutes or until doubled in size while prepping your toppings. Transfer dough to lightly floured surface and gently deflate with hands. Roll dough (with pin) into 12" circle and transfer to parchment paper-lined pizza tin. Start preheating oven to 425 degrees. Roll outside of dough over with fingers and pinch dough, forming a rim. Brush dough generously with corn oil. Poke holes with fork everywhere inside the rim to prevent bubbles. Add sauce then toppings, cheese last. Bake for about 15 minutes. Mozzarella will barely begin to yellow when done.



Reimar from Adobe Stock.

Pausing for Paws

By **P.G. MISTY SHEEHAN**

Everyone has a favorite animal encounter story. Mine began after a shopping trip to Honor Family Market, located along U.S. Highway 31. From there, I turned north on Indian Hill Road to head for home.

It was a beautiful July day. The deciduous trees — oak, maple and birch — were at the height of their summer colors in a light, rich green. The sun shone on the back of the car, and I had the windows rolled down to catch the sweet smells of summer.

Suddenly, in the road ahead was an animal. An injured raccoon? A porcupine? As the car rolled to a stop, I saw them. Two bobcat kittens! They were about 8-10 inches tall with variegated fur. Their legs looked thicker than the average house cat, maybe more muscle to catch their prey or maybe with more fur to keep them warm in our cold winters.

To the north another car came to a halt, and we watched the bobcat kittens play for a good five minutes — just like house kittens — wrestling, jumping on top of each other and chasing one another down the road. Where was mom? Finally, they ran off the road and into the tall grass.

There is a big wetland full of cattails and mud to the northwest of the Platte River. The mother probably came from that wetland, where she and her kittens would be safe.

The driver of the other car and I started off again. We waved at each other. Tears were streaming down her cheeks. "Those were BOBCAT kittens!" Yes, they were, and I felt so blessed to see them at their morning activities.

P.G. Misty Sheehan is a retired professor of humanities and a former executive director of the Benzie Area Historical Museum.

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Harnessing wind in Mason County

By KEVIN HOWELL



I know I'm almost home from trips south when I see wind turbines poking above the last forested sand dune along U.S. Highway 31 North. They are a sign of the increasing use of green energy sources.

The wind turbines south of Ludington are part of the Lake Winds Energy Park, one of four Michigan wind farms developed by Consumers Energy. The others are Cross Winds in Tuscola County, Gratiot Farms in Gratiot County and Crescent Wind Farm in Hillsdale County.

Completed in 2012, Lake Winds consists of 56 turbines each standing 312 feet tall with 328-foot diameter blades and is located 80 percent in Riverton Township and 20 percent in Summit.

Josh Paciorek, media relations specialist for Consumers Energy, said this wind farm produces more than 100 megawatts of power.

"The 56-turbine Lake Winds Energy Park in Mason County has brought employment, economic and tax benefits to the area," he said. Bullet points found on the Lake Winds page of the Consumers Energy website list those benefits: clean, renewable energy; 300 construction-related jobs; seven permanent operating/maintenance jobs; \$33 million of economic impact (for construction material and related services) in Mason County; \$20 million in new tax revenue in the first 10 years; at least \$430,000 paid in total annually to landowners for easements; and an annual economic impact in Mason County of \$4 million.

Wind energy also fits with the state's climate goal, as stated in the 2021 MI Healthy Climate Plan, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Carbon neutrality is achieved when carbon emissions (such as from burning coal) and carbon capture

are in equilibrium. Paths to capturing and offsetting carbon (a greenhouse gas) include the use of wind power, solar power, electric vehicles, tree planting, farm management and/or the purchase of carbon credits from industries using one of the above. Michigan is on the path but has a way to go. The 2022 report of the plan states: "According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), 'Renewables provided about 11% of Michigan's electricity net generation in 2021, and wind energy accounted for three-fifths of that power.'"

Concerns

No energy source is perfect. Those living near wind turbines have reported being affected by the noise of rotating blades and by light flickers (shadows) at certain times of day. Other concerns include the turbines' effect on birds and bats as well as zoning issues.

Meetings were held during the planning of Lake Winds to address some of these. Julia Chambers, president of A Few Friends for the Environment of the World (AFFEW), was a member of the Mason County Planning Commission when Consumers Energy first proposed the farm.

"The year I got involved in that, there were some people that were upset with the current zoning for wind turbines," Chambers recalled, adding that the commission listened to all the people south of town, (the proposed site of the farm), who voiced concerns. Chambers said the zoning at that time, around 2010-11, called for a setback (from residences) to be twice the height of the turbines.

"I think to the tip of the blade was 450 feet, or something like that, and the people who were fighting it wanted it to be, I want

to say, a mile or a mile-and-a-half setback, which would have nixed it."

The setback remained at twice the height but was later changed, according to the Mason County Zoning Ordinance dated June 12, 2018, which states in section c: "... no wind turbine generator shall be located such that the distance between the center of the base of the tower and any property line is less than four times the height of the wind turbine generator..."

She added that some changes were made before the project was approved.

"I fought for stronger noise controls," Chambers said. "We had experts come and talk about the noise and certain decibels and stuff like that, so we did make it stronger than it was initially."

She said light flicker was addressed and turbines were to be shut off at certain times of the day.

The effect on birds and bats is a little harder to discern.

Josh Shields, Ph.D., is a certified forester, wildlife biologist and certified Michigan Natural Shoreline Professional with the Manistee Conservation District office and also works with the Mason-Lake Conservation District. He has monitored bird and bat mortality at other wind energy facilities near Sebawaing, Michigan and in Ontario, Canada. He offered some general information.

"What I can tell you is that the results at both energy facilities where I did this work, based on scientifically sound mortality estimation methods, were within the acceptable mortality rates for birds and bats," Shields explained. "In other words, the mortality rates at these particular wind energy facilities were not high enough to be deemed significantly harmful to the birds

This part of the Lake Winds wind farm is at the east end of the farm in Mason County. The towers stand about 312 feet from base to hub. Photo by Kevin Howell

and bats migrating through or utilizing the habitats nearby."

He noted that a lot depends on site-specific conditions and referred to a document titled "Wind Energy: Great Lakes Regional Guidelines".

"The document acknowledges that Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources considers higher than 10 bats per turbine per year as something to be addressed," he noted. It also states that "bird mortality is not likely to have significant effects on most bird populations," (National Wind Coordinating Collaborative 2010).

Addressing Concerns

Paciorek said studies were made to minimize the effect on birds and bats at Lake Winds' site.

"Before building our wind farm, we worked with Eastern Michigan University biology professor Allen Kurta to track the presence of bats as well as their flight, foraging and feeding habits," Paciorek said. "Those studies helped us design the wind farms to have minimal impact on bats and other wildlife. Turbines are placed, for example, so the tip of any blade is at least 150 feet away from a woodlot."

He also said "feathering" — slowing turbine blades when bats are out and about — helps protect them. (For details,



The blades on the wind turbines are over 300 feet from tip-of-blade to tip-of-blade. Photo by Kevin Howell

visit the "Fast Facts" section of the Lake Winds page at consumersenergy.com and the "Protecting Michigan's Bats" page at force4michigan.com.)

One neighbor across from the eastern edge of Lake Winds was asked recently if she had experienced any problems with the farm.

"Half the time they are working on them (turbines) but not much else, really," she said. "...they are far enough from the house, and it's nice to drive down the tower road to look at the fields."

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

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Spirit of the woods

continued from Page 1

Spirit of the Woods' volunteers work and play

The local chapter's volunteers, in partnership with the Huron-Manistee National Forest, are responsible for trail conditions along an 80-mile section of the 4,800-mile North Country National Scenic Trail. Chapter volunteers perform tasks such as creating a boardwalk, as we did, or marking and leveling the trail and cutting trees. The Spirit of the Woods trail section begins at the Wexford/Manistee county line at Hodenpyl Dam Pond and ends west of M-37 at the Lake/Newaygo county line.

Volunteers gather for trail work bees, hikes (held at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month), meetings, social time and special events. The February "Chili Feed" social outing in Manistee County combines skiing or snowshoeing on the Big M cross-country ski trails, off M-55 in Udell Hills, with a chili warm-up in

the heated shelter. National Trails Day is celebrated in June and the North Country National Scenic Trail Day is celebrated on the fourth Saturday in September. As the local chapter's website page states: "Participating is a fun and educational experience for people of all ages and outdoor skill levels."

The chapter's email address is spw@northcountrytrail.org. You can find announcements about meetings and events on the local chapter's Facebook page or visit the local page (SOW) of the national website, northcountrytrail.org, where you can also find maps and the Avenza app to download maps to your smartphone.

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.



An amazing river view near Blacksmith Bayou and Sawdust Hole. Photo: Elizabeth Jones.



The baby raccoon tries some water after eating peanut butter.

Masked intruder

continued from Page 1

little thing ended up running under our lawn mower to hide.

After managing to grab the raccoon that we affectionately named "Rocket" (we are Marvel fans), Matthew decided to take him away from the garage into the woods on our property. The sight of my husband holding the raccoon and talking to it, saying, "We're going to try this again ... I'm going to put you down and I need you to go find your mom, okay?" made me laugh, yet touched my heart.

We are hopeful that "Rocket" reunited with his family since we have not seen him again and we've heard a family chattering nearby in the trees. You may

be wondering how the raccoon made its way into the garage. We believe he entered when "somebody" (not me) left the garage door open. So, if you leave a door to the outdoors open, you might want to check for any wild critters before you close that door because they might not be so small or as cute as our visitor.

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.

Patina to host 'Women, Art and Poetry'

From staff reports

ONEKAMA — A two-hour "Women, Art and Poetry" event will be held 4-6 p.m., Friday, Aug. 25, at Patina, an inspirational studio gallery and boutique of reimagined resale items for the home. Patina is located at 4850 Main St., (M-22).

"Social media, Zoom and texting, etc., have taken away the spontaneous energy and creativity that naturally occurs when gathering in person," Patina owner Nikki Schneider said. "My mission is to connect people through the arts to facilitate this magic."

The event will begin at 4 p.m. with wine, cheese, snacks and vintage shopping. Poetry readings by Louisa Loveridge Gallas, of Arcadia and Milwaukee, and Morgan Leigh Kelsey, of Bear Lake, will follow at 5 p.m. Attendees may also meet photographer Deborah Besanson — who divides her time between Saginaw and Arcadia — and view her photographic images.

Louisa Loveridge Gallas is an award-winning poet whose poems have appeared in numerous journals and publications.

Her poem "Basic Hygiene" won first place in the adult category of the 2022 Manistee County Library Poetry Competition. Read more about her and follow her writing at louisalovegallas.com.

Morgan Leigh Kelsey published "The Wild Becoming", her first book of poetry, last year. The book is described on Blurb.com as "An honest and brave collection of poetry, touching on themes of love, longing, growth, transition, spirituality, and cycles." Follow her on Instagram @ [morganleighkelsey](https://www.instagram.com/morganleighkelsey).

Photographer Debbie Besanson has been capturing images for more than 20 years, eventually owning a studio in an artists' collective. She has photographed sports car races, members of the Red Hat Society and weddings. She has also taken women's glamour shots, high school seniors' portraits and commercial photos. Follow her on Facebook @ [DeborahBesanson](https://www.facebook.com/DeborahBesanson).

Follow Patina on Facebook @ [PatinaDesigns4850](https://www.facebook.com/PatinaDesigns4850) and on Instagram @ [patinadesignsmichigan](https://www.instagram.com/patinadesignsmichigan).

Area Events Calendar

TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN FRESHWATER REPORTER!

To be included in our August 30 edition, submit your announcements by August 19. 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. Info: patinamichigan@gmail.com

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. Check: <https://nfm.org/mi/scottville/1011280>

Frankfort Farmers Market

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

ONGOING EXHIBITS/EVENTS

Aug 11-13, 18-20

Manistee Civic Players Present "Leader of the Pack", Manistee

Fri/Sat 7:30pm, Sun 2pm, \$10-30. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Fridays, August 18, 25

Come Walk with Me, Thompsonville

10am. Join Executive Director Angie Quinn on a walk through the park, with special focus 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 Aug. 12, 19, 26

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, August 12, 13, 19, 26

Drop-in Art Activities, Thompsonville

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

Thru 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.

Thru Aug. 12

Collected Impressions: West Michigan Printmakers Art Exhibition, Manistee

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

Thru Aug 26

Nature, Beauty, and Whimsy Art Exhibition, Ludington

Free. Art by Rose Campbell & Ananda. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

Paintings & People - All are Welcome Art Exhibition, Ludington

Free. Paintings by Scott Frederickson. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

Thru Sep 8

Antrim, DeGreggario, Galante Art Exhibition, Frankfort

Free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

Thru Oct 31

"See What You Feel" Art Exhibition, Arcadia

Paintings/prints by Ammy Amorette, Marsha Hales, Jamie John, Maggie Michael, Mel Watkin and Andrea Way at Pines of Arcadia, 15027 Lake Bluff Rd. (Bischoff Rd.) Follow Pines of Arcadia on Facebook for info. Call for an appointment to see the exhibition: 202.427.3088

Aug 14-Sept 3

NW Michigan Woodturners Art Exhibition, Frankfort

Free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

Aug 23-Sept 30

On Nature Art Exhibition, Manistee

Free. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Artist reception August 25, 5-7pm

DAILY EVENTS

August 9

Music in the Park: Karaoke with Jen, Luther

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

LACA Summer Concert Series: Wendell Harrison, Ludington

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

Echo through the Timber Concert Series: Sung Lisa Quartet, Baldwin

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

August 10

First Person Stories & Songs, Manistee

10am, Free. "Baseball is a Journey Through Life" by Bill Anderson. Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St.

Legacy Plaza Music Series: Mallory Shinn, Ludington

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

Lake County Garden Club's Silent Auction Fund Raiser, Baldwin

6pm, Free admission. Refreshments served. All proceeds for community beautification. Info: 231.898.6500

History of Star Watch Case Company, Ludington

7pm, Free. James Jensen presents on the factory workers, innovative equip. & worldwide shipping - even to the Moon! Mason Co. Historical Society, 130 E. Ludington Ave.

Roots on the River Concert Series: Whorled, Manistee

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

Benzonia Academy Lecture Series, Benzonia

7pm, \$5 donation. "Women, Power & the American Food Revolution" with journalist/historian Laura Shapiro. Mills Community House, 891 Mich. Ave. Zoom link: benziemuseum.org or 231.882.5539

Music in the Street: Dig a Pony, Beulah

7-8:45pm, Free. Downtown.

UpBeat Cadillac Music Series: Wendell Harrison, Cadillac

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

Movie in the Park, Ludington

8:45pm, Free. "Paws of Fury" 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 11

Golf for Warmth & Imagination Library Fund Raiser, Manistee

8am registration, 9am shotgun start, \$85 per person (\$70 course members). 18 hole 4-person scramble, lunch, prizes, hole-in-one contest, live auction & raffle. Manistee National Golf & Resort, 4797 US-31. Info/register: 231.757.3785 or 231.398.0123

Natural Habitats Field Day: Guided Tour of North Point Park, Onkama

10am-12pm, Free. Experts in Conservation Planning and Invasive Species Management will take you on an educational adventure. Gain ideas for your own home habitat. 8999 Greenway St. Register: OnkamaTwp.org

Legacy Plaza Music Series: 80 Cows, Ludington

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

Folk Fridays: Small Potatoes, Baldwin

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

Log Cabin Concerts: Barefoot, Kaleva

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

August 11

Concerts in the Park: Salt City Jazz Band, Frankfort

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

Sounds from the Forest Concert Series: Wendall Harrison, Baldwin

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

August 12

Crystal Lake Solo & Team Marathon, Beulah

7am-1pm, \$30 solo, \$80-85 for a team. Race around Crystal Lake, begin at Beulah Park, 284 S. Benzie Blvd. Registration ends Aug. 11 at 12pm. Info/register: runsignup.com

Drew Kostic Memorial 5K Tough Run, Copemisc

10am, \$55 adult, \$25 kids 12 and under. 5k obstacle course for all ages: run, walk, or crawl. Raising funds for/awareness of veteran suicide. Twisted Trails Offroad Park, 19405 Read Rd. Info/register: runsignup.com

Birdwatching Tour, Thompsonville

10am. Mich. Legacy Art Park Trailhead, 1/4 mile from parking. Bring binocs if avail. Check Facebook 1 hr. prior for weather cancellation. Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.

Filer Township Food Truck Frenzy & Concert, Manistee

5-9 pm. Six food trucks in the parking lot in front of Dunham's & Gill-Roy's Hardware, 1361 US-31. Free live music by Auntie Kim & Uneek Soul starts at 5:30. Tables provided. Bring lawnchairs.

Music in the State Park: Uneven Ground, Ludington

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

Run The Pier 5k, Manistee

7:30-8:30pm, \$40. Start (and end) at Duffy Park, 250 Duffy Park Dr., run out the pier, around the lighthouse & back. Proceeds benefit local charities. Packet pick up/late registration is 6pm race day at North Channel Brewing, 86 Washington St. Info/register: runsignup.com

Coyote Crossing Music Series: Luke Winslow-King with Max Lockwood & Keenan Cooper, Cadillac

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

Happy Together Tour 2023, Manistee

8-10:30pm, \$50-65. Featuring The Turtles, Little Anthony, Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, The Vogues, The Cowsills, & The Classics IV. Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy.

August 12,13

Gold Coast Artisan Fair, Ludington

10am-5pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun. Over 170 artists & craftsmen. Rotary Park, 500 W. Ludington Ave.

Free School Clothes, Kaleva

See story, Page 8.

August 13

Ludington Lighthouse Triathlon, Ludington

7:30-11:30am. Stearns Park, 950 W. Ludington Ave. Info/Register: www.3disciplines.com/upcoming_event/ludington-lighthouse-triathlon/

Skateboard & Scooter Competition, Ludington

1-4pm, Free. Ages 18 & under. Must wear a helmet to compete. Stearns Park Beach, 421 N. Lakeshore Dr.

Historic Walking Tour, Frankfort

2pm, Free. Forest Ave. Reservations required: benziemuseum.org

August 14

Live Music: Barefoot, Onkama

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

Jammin' Mondays Concert Series: Auntie Kim & Uneek Soul, 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.

August 14-19

Northern District Fair, Cadillac

Carnival midway, rides, food, animals, live music, derbies, pie-baking contest & more. Wexford County Fairgrounds, 1320 N. Mitchell Rd.

August 15

Talks, Tunes & Tours, Manistee

10am, Free. "It's a Wonderful Life: How to Travel Smart" by Peg Connor. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Shoreline Showcase: Auntie Kim & Uneek Soul, 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.

Historic Walking Tour, Honor

7pm, Free. Reservations required: benziemuseum.org

Jazz Nights at the Garden: Sears & Sears, Frankfort

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

August 15-19

152nd Annual Manistee County Fair, Onkama

Demolition derbies, vendors, horse pulls, animals, rides & more. Fairgrounds, 7587 1st St.

August 16

Music in the Park: Suzi & Friends, Luther

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

LACA Summer Concert Series: Auntie Kim & Uneek Soul, Ludington

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

Beach Sweep, Ludington

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

Folk Fridays: Mustards Retreat, Baldwin

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

Echo through the Timber Concert Series: Big Band Nouveau, Baldwin

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

Manistee Community Band & Choir Concert, Manistee

7:30, \$10. "Rhapsody". Manistee High School auditorium, 525 12th St.

August 16-20

Midwest Jet Pilot's Boondoggle, Baldwin

10am-5pm, Free for spectators. Informal & laid-back. Over 70 RC (remote controlled) jets soar all weekend. Visit with pilots & stroll Pit Row. Music. Food & beverages avail. for purchase. Free parking. Baldwin Airport, 8140 M-37. Bring lawn chairs or sit on the bleachers.

August 17

Legacy Plaza Music Series: Cheryl Wolfram, Ludington

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

Watershed/Natural Rivers Educational Meeting, Luther

6pm, Free. Educational program for landowners conducted by MDNR & Little Manistee Watershed Council to raise awareness of the Michigan Natural Rivers Program. Lions Club, 1003 State St. Info: www.lmcc.org/what-is-the-natural-river-program/

UpBeat Cadillac Music Series: Auntie Kim & Uneek Soul, Cadillac

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

Movie in the Park, Ludington

8:45pm, Free. "Lightyear" 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 18

Legacy Plaza Music Series: John Merchant with Angela Corbin, Ludington

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

Log Cabin Concerts: Mary Sue Wilkinson & Mark, Kaleva

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

Area Events Calendar

August 18,19

47th Annual Frankfort Art Fair

1-7pm Friday, 10am-4pm Saturday. Juried fine art fair. Market Square Park, 420 Corning Ave.

August 18-20

Summer Oasis Music Festival, Idlewild

One day pass \$51.45, weekend pass \$154.50, more for weekend passes with tents. Glamping and Music weekend. "Yates Township Hall" property, 6437 S. Nelson Rd. Info/register: glampishlife.com

Hoxeyville Music Festival, Wellston

Adult weekend pass \$210, adult day pass \$85, + more options. 22 artists/performers. Food, crafts & camping available. 11130 W. 48 1/2 Rd. Info/tickets: hoxeyville.com

August 19

Collector Car Show, Frankfort

8am-3pm, Free. Over 80 antique vehicles on display. Mineral Springs Park, 630 Main St.

Thunder in the Creek, Branch

11am-11pm. Parade, ATV run, kids' games, pig roast, live music, silent auction, free rustic camping, fireworks. 17th annual benefit for disabled veterans. Ruby Creek Tavern, 7980 E Washington Rd. Info: 231.898.2377

Household Hazardous Waste & Pharmaceutical Collection Day, Manistee & Mason Counties

9am-1pm, \$15 suggested donation, Manistee Road Commission, 8946 Chippewa Hwy. (US-31), Bear Lake or Mason County Road Commission, 510 E. State St. (US-10), Scottville. Info: manisteedc.org or mason-lakeconservation.org

Suds on the Shore Craft Beer & Wine Festival, Ludington

12-5pm, \$50 for entry, 9 tokens, sample glass. No one under 21 admitted. Rotary Park, 500 W. Ludington Ave. Info/tickets: sudsontheshore.com

Music in the State Park: Mike Lenich, 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: Auntie Kim & Uneek Soul, Baldwin

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

August 19, 20

Free ORV Weekend, Statewide

Residents and out-of-state visitors can ride Michigan's 4,000 miles of off-road vehicle trails as well as the state's six scramble areas without an ORV license or trail permit. All other ORV rules and laws still apply.

August 21

Jammin' Mondays Concert Series: Men of Leisure, 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.

August 22

Talks, Tunes & Tours, Manistee

10am, Free. "Making a Difference for a Healthier Earth" by Julia Chambers. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Weed the Park, Ludington

6pm, Free. I.D. & remove invasive plants. 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.

Shoreline Showcase: Men of Leisure, 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.

August 23

Wildflower Hike, Arcadia

10am-12pm, Free. Walk the universally accessible boardwalk at the Arcadia Marsh Nature Preserve. Paula Dreeszen will highlight the many marsh wildflowers during peak blooming and butterfly viewing. Bring camera/binoculars. No dogs. Register: gtrlc.org

Music in the Park: Oak Grove, Luther

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

Historic Walking Tour, Elberta

7pm, Free. Reservations required: benziemuseum.org

LACA Summer Concert Series: Men of Leisure, Ludington

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

Northern Natural Concert Series: Full Cord & the Mark Lavengood Trio, Kaleva

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

Echo through the Timber Concert Series: Sturtz, Baldwin

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

August 24

First Person Stories & Songs, Manistee

10am, Free. "The Art of Looking" by Julie Pierce, Gallery & Program Director at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St.

August 24

Legacy Plaza Music Series: Meg Gunia, Ludington

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

Benefit Concert for Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital with Breathe Owl Breathe, Thompsonville

7-9pm, \$20 adults, \$10 ages 12 & under. The Barn at Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd.

UpBeat Cadillac Music Series: Men of Leisure, Cadillac

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

Movie in the Park, Ludington

8:45pm, Free. "DC League of Super Pets" 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 25

Women, Art & Poetry, Onekama

4-6pm. Photographer Debbie Besanson and poets Louisa Loveridge Gallas and Morgan Leigh Kesley at Patina's inspirational studio, 4850 Main St. 4pm Wine, juice, snacks & vintage shopping. 5pm Poetry reading.

Legacy Plaza Music Series: Benjamin Paetz, Ludington

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

Log Cabin Concerts: Truck Driver Bingo, Kaleva

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

Sounds from the Forest Concert Series: Men of Leisure, Baldwin

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

August 25,26

Live Music at the Casino: Working on Famous, Manistee

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

August 25-27

Forest Trail Music Festival, Free Soil

General admission \$75, RV/Camper pass (20+ft.) \$50, early admission on Aug. 24 \$25, one day pass \$40. 18+ artists/groups, community campfire jams, & more. 352 W. Forest Trail Rd. Info/tickets: foresttrailmusic.com

August 26

10th Annual Big Bear Butt Cruise, Kaleva

Big Bear Sportsman's Club's bike ride thru Benzie & Manistee Counties. \$70 thru Aug 25, \$75 race day includes breakfast, dinner on race day, T-shirt, campsite. 4 road rides avail: 60k, 130k, 170k, 210k. 4 gravel rides avail: 25k, 35k, 70k, 104k. All rides start & end at 8927 Puustinen Rd. Info/register: BigBearButtCruise.com

August 26

Cemetery Walk, Ludington

11am, Free. Walking tour of Lakeview (906 N. Lakeshore Dr.) and Pere Marquette Cemeteries (W. 6th St.) Participants will come face-to-face with many of Ludington and Mason County's Most Notable Personages—brought to life by first-person interpreters.

Let's Go Fly a Kite, Frankfort

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

Music in the State Park: Salt City Dixie Jazz Band, Ludington

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

LACA presents Skyview Quartet, Ludington

7pm, \$15 ADV, \$20 DOS. Performance Hall, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Tickets: www.ludingtonartscenter.org or at LACA.

August 26,27

North Country Trail Run, Manistee

50 Mile Ultra Marathon, 50k Ultra Marathon, 26.2 Mile Marathon, 13.1 Mile Half Marathon. 3500 Udell Hills Rd.

Live Music at the Casino: Onager, Manistee

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

August 28

Watershed/Natural Rivers Educational Meeting, Irons

6pm, Free. Educational program for landowners conducted by MDNR & Little Manistee Watershed Council to raise awareness of the Michigan Natural Rivers Program. Elk Township Hall, 8966 N Bass Lk Rd. Info: www.lmwcc.org/what-is-the-natural-river-program/

Jammin' Mondays Concert Series: Rusty Wright Blues Band, 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.

August 29

Talks, Tunes & Tours, Manistee

10am, Free. "The Looming Freshwater Crisis" by John Helge. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Shoreline Showcase: Rusty Wright Blues Band, 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.

Sauce Boss

continued from Page 4

right next to it, so the refrigerator paint had faded. Another little tip: Don't put your stove next to a wall or refrigerator.

Stovetop safety includes pan lids, flour.

Back at the video game "tournament," I decided to liven things up a bit, so I went grocery shopping. When it wasn't their

turn at the video game, the guys took turns helping me chop garlic, onions and potatoes. They took a break from gaming to see me light up some pork chops with Yukon Jack. Remember that part about the refrigerator next to the stove with the leaky weather stripping? Well, I lit up more than the chops! I quickly covered up the pans to put the fires out. Three of the guys ran away when they saw the flames, but the other five thought it was the coolest thing

ever. After a great and very large dinner, the guys spent the night and helped me fix the fridge the next day. A little paint and some new weather stripping, and a practically new fridge, full of leftovers, greeted Kathleen on her return.

Another tip: Always keep pan lids and a big bag of flour handy. Flour works great for dousing a burning grease spill.

Accidents do happen in the kitchen and when they do, most people just have pizza

delivered. Learning how to cook, I ordered a lot of pizzas ... until I learned how to make my own. All you really need for the perfect pizza is the perfect sauce, favorite toppings and a yeasty dough. (Read "Let's Talk Marinara", Freshwater Reporter, Aug. 2022).

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

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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'Free School Clothes!' event in Kaleva

From staff reports

Gently used clothing in preschool to adult sizes will be available for free for families and individuals to take home from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 12 and Sunday, Aug. 13. The "shopping" event will be held in the gymnasium of the Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St., at the site of the former Kaleva Elementary School.

Organizers said donations are appreciated but are not requested or expected.

Anyone wishing to donate clean, gently used clothing in the above sizes is asked to message the Facebook page of Maple Grove Township Community Center or message Kris Flaherty directly. Donations of clothing fitting the requested sizes and condition may be dropped off next to the garage door at 14315 Brooks St. in Kaleva.

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