

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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May 15 - June 25, 2024 FREE

The buzz about bumblebees

By JENNIFER DEVINE

IN MY BACKYARD

The slogan, "Save the Bees", according to Avleole.buzz, "first appeared in the early 2000s, amidst news of devastating honey bee colony losses in North America." This is why the honeybee often takes center stage as the symbol of environmental conservation, thanks to its iconic yellow and black stripes, honeycomb hive structure, diligent pollination work, sweet honey production and easy tattoo-ability. But the truth is, they are not threatened and not endangered. Becoming a backyard honeybee keeper isn't the answer. Brought to the Americas by early colonists for honey production, the important agricultural role honeybees played in crop pollination soon became clear. Hives were moved closer to gardens, orchards, and clover and wildflower fields. What wasn't thought of, however, was the competition with native bees for resources and the negative impact on local ecosystems.



Left: Bumblebee on squash blossom. Right: Bumblebee on lilac. Photos: J. Devine

Bee threats

Michigan has recorded over 450 colorful and essential bee species, each with unique adaptations and preferences. Like many other regions, our state has witnessed a decline in native bee populations. **Lack of available plants** contribute to colony collapse disorder, partly due to humans and partly due to "honey bees monopolizing sizable fractions of floral resources and disrupting the intricate interactions between native pollinators and plants," according to Nature.com. **Habitat fragmentation** caused by climate change, natural disasters, and development of an area can be detrimental to many different pollinator species, as their overwintering, foraging and nesting sites

disappear. **Pesticide use** "harms pollinators and other beneficial insects instantly with the removal of important floral resources, causing subtle yet concerning effects on reproduction, navigation and memory," notes the Xerces Society, a nonprofit that protects invertebrates. These are just three factors that can move a species into threatened, endangered and extinct categories.

Bumblebees in need

As Clay Bolt, a native-bee activist and acclaimed wildlife photographer, would say, "Worrying about their (honeybees) extinction is like worrying about the extinction of cattle." Focusing solely on

honeybees diverts our attention away from other important pollinator species needing our help, such as the endangered rusty-patched bumblebee, endangered American bumblebee and threatened yellow-banded bumblebee. In 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the rusty-patched species as federally endangered, the first bumblebee species and the first wild bee to be listed in the lower 48. The last confirmed sighting of this insect in Michigan was in 2000, and it is listed with the yellow-banded as a "species of greatest conservation need" in the Michigan Wildlife Action Plan. In 2023, Michigan added the American Bumblebee

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Honoring Sung and Unsung Americans

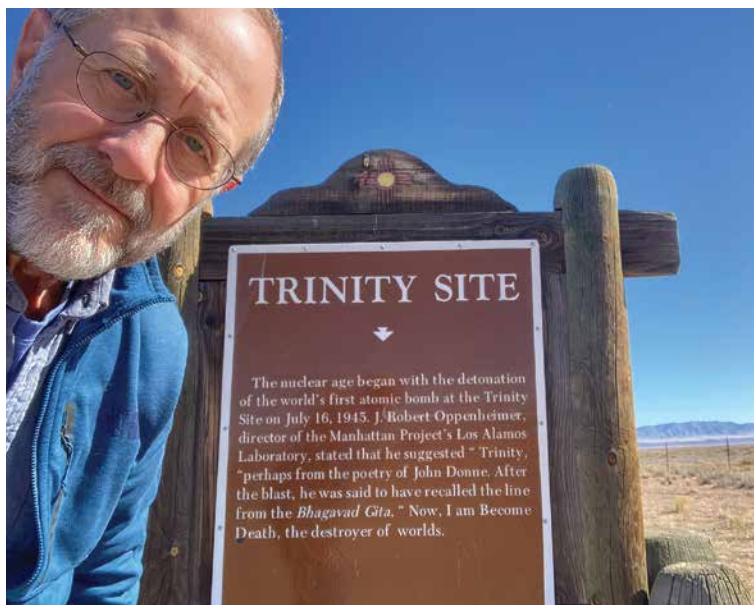
By GORDON BERG

Memorial Day. The official kick-off of summer. All over Michigan folks are planning to get away Up North to make new memories with family and friends.

It's fitting that the anticipation of new memories begins with a remembrance. Memorial Day. It is a time to remember all those in our military since the dawn of our nation. Parades. Honor Guards in local cemeteries. Flowers on a gravesite. These men and women gave their all. They define the cost of patriotism.

And, of course, we need to remember those currently in our military on July 4 and our vets on Veterans Day, November 11. While we're at it, let's not forget our heroes of public safety on National First Responders Day, October 28.

To them all, we offer a quiet moment of deep gratitude. We're all better for their service.



Writer Gordon Berg beside a sign in New Mexico commemorating the Trinity Site, miles from where the first atomic bomb was tested. Photo: Lauren Berg.

But who else should we pause to remember this year? Are there other groups of people within our country whose sacrifices paved the way for our nation to grow and prosper

through no choice of their own? And ... are there days this summer and throughout the year when we should pause to honor them?

The answer is yes.

Juneteenth

An official national holiday, Juneteenth celebrates the day, on June 19 in 1865, when Black people in Galveston first learned of the Emancipation Proclamation which had been signed more than two years earlier. The contributions of enslaved people to this nation cannot be overstated. Our nation's early prosperity when cotton was king was literally built on the

backs of the enslaved. They also did the backbreaking work of quarrying rocks, making bricks and constructing many of our

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Area Events

ONGOING EVENTS

Thursdays

Elberta Farmers Market

8am-12:00pm, May 23 - Oct 3. Dudley Penfold Memorial Marina Park, corner of M-22 & M-168.

Fridays

Ludington Artisan/Farmers Market

2-7pm, May 24 - Sept 21. Legacy Plaza Pavilion, 112 N. James St.

Onekama Farmers Market

12-4pm, May 24 - Aug 30. Parking lot 4850 Main St. Info: patinamichigan@gmail.com

Saturdays

Frankfort Farmers Market

9am-1pm, May 4 - Oct 19. Open Space Park, 832 Main St.

Manistee Farmers Market

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

Scottville Farmers Market

9am-12pm, June 1 - Oct 26. Miller's Marketplace, 202 N. Main St.

Thru May 25

Intuitions Art Exhibition, Manistee

Wed-Sun, 12-3pm. Free. Artworks by Sheryl Budnik, Anne Rivers, Debbie Sparks & Mary Sundstrom. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Thru May 31

Everything POPular Art Exhibition, Ludington

Free. Artworks dealing with popular media & consumer culture. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

Spring Migration Art Exhibition, Ludington

Free. Multimedia creations of birds by Darwin LaBelle. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

Thermochromatic Art Exhibition, Ludington

Free. Ceramics and photographs by West Shore Community College art students Abigail Pruyne and Keaton Smith. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S Harrison St.

Spring Art Show, Arcadia

Free. Works by local artists. Pleasant Valley Community Center, 3586 Glovers Lake Rd.

May 17-June 14

The Artists' Roundtable Art Exhibition, Frankfort

Free. Group show of works by northwest Michigan artists who have met weekly over breakfast for 30+ years. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Opening reception May 24, 5-7pm. An artist talk will be held June 14, 4-6pm.

May 24-June 26

OAC Presents: Laura Miller, Frankfort

Free. A solo exhibit of artworks in oil, acrylic and sculpture. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Opening reception May 24, 5-7pm. An Artist Talk will be held June 26, 4-6pm.

June 7-Sept 13

Summer Art Show, Arcadia

Free. Works by local artists. Pleasant Valley Community Center, 3586 Glovers Lake Rd.

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Gathering 'Garden Allies'

By **PAT STINSON**. Photos by **LYNN BROWN**.

Lynn Brown loves her nature. During the last two years, she turned portions of her Bear Lake area property into habitat corners for frogs, butterflies and birds. Through her



Facebook group, Neighbors for Nature, she and other group members share their joy and inspire each other with posts of their different experiences bringing pollinators such as insects and birds into their yards. Most importantly, they do this by planting native plant species that attract these vital creatures.

One day this winter while driving home from Meijer, Brown passed by the Community Art Wall in Onekama. A light bulb flashed on. Here was a space next to Yellow Dog Café that had not only a community garden but also a wall of community art that changed each year. Could that wall be used to inspire others in the community to bring nature into their yards?

Brown contacted Nikki Schneider, owner of Patina, who comes up with themes for the wall and gathers artwork from community

PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION



2024 Events

Hello Summer Cocktail Party: Friday, June 14

Sunday Music in the Park/Stage Celebration: Sunday, June 23

Concerts in the Park: Monday nights at 7pm
July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29; August 5 & 12

Onekama Block Party: Thursday, July 11

Onekama Days: August 2 - 5

Volunteer Appreciation: Friday, August 30

Fall Festival: Saturday, October 5

Christmas In Onekama: Saturday, November 23

Celebration Of Lights: Sunday, November 24

Fun all year round!

INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

For more information or to volunteer:
email: information@onekama.info; website onekama.info;
Facebook page PLAOnekama; Facebook group Onekama Community Connection

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

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Onekama plans busy summer

By **ROSALIND JAFFE** and **PAT STINSON**

ROSALIND: Whenever I'm out of Onekama, traveling elsewhere, my first question to my husband upon my return is reliably, "Any new buildings in town?" I ask with an ironic chuckle because we acknowledge Onekama changes at a relaxed pace, which is a part of its charm. Yet, how nice to be proven wrong.

"They're doing something in the park ...," he murmured.

"The new event stage!" I exclaimed. "It's really happening."

A grand opening celebration for the stage, with a ribbon cutting and free performances, will take place 2-9 p.m., Sunday, June 23, at the village park. Music will be provided by Doc & Donna Probes (beach music), Truck Driver Bingo (blues/jazz rock) and the Feral Cats Deluxe (folk/R&B).

PAT: Village events abound, including the Community Art Wall, farmers markets and activities hosted by the Portage Lake Association, Onekama Lions and Patina. See the PLA advertisement and our May 15-June 25 event calendar.

Freshwater Reporter sends enormous thanks to Bonnie of Yellow Dog Café and Nikki of Patina for hosting the fabulous Sunday Supper Fundraiser to help us keep the press rolling. Bonnie's menu was delicious, and her table service made us feel like royalty. Nikki arranged planning meetings, collected silent auction items, put the word out and other behind-the-scenes duties. Thanks also to Louisa Loveridge Gallas for making the origami-inspired paper lanterns and for approaching artists to donate their works. Special thanks to everyone who showed up and supported us – and to those individuals and businesses who donated to the cause but couldn't make it. We raised \$1,525 during the event. With others' donations and new advertisers, we raised enough to pull us out of the red for this year. Thank you, everyone! Stay tuned for an online silent auction of items not sold. Keep watching Facebook and Instagram for further announcements.



Community Art Wall ART DAYS!



The theme is Garden Allies!
Birds, Insects and Butterflies...OH MY!

We will provide the supplies, inspiration and refreshments!
Stay and create or take home.
June 7th & June 9th 12-2pm

4850 Main Street
in beautiful downtown Onekama



members to hang on it. Brown said she approached Schneider because "she's in the center (of town and things going on)" and "she's so visible in her plan for the garden wall."

"I reached out to her because I want this effort to be community based. I asked her, knowing that Connie Veverica (a local master gardener) comes to the store all the time (she tends the community garden) and works in the garden behind the library with Jean Capper. Connie's on the same page as me. Here we're all doing this separately, working in our own spaces. So many of us in Michigan are nature based; let's do this all together to improve the habitat of all pollinators."

Schneider came back with a plan to cover the wall with artwork by community members inspired by the theme "Garden

Allies" — the birds, bees and butterflies that pollinate our gardens.

On June 7 and 9, from 12 p.m to 2 p.m., community members are invited to create their artwork in a group setting. All supplies will be provided, and refreshments will be served in the community garden at 4850 Main Street. Those who prefer to work at home on their projects may take supplies with them.

"Nikki even has wings for butterfly selfies," Brown said in a tone of amazement.



During Onekama's Block Party in July, Brown plans to set up a table to share information about the benefits of introducing more native plants into home gardens without going "all wild."

"Even if plants aren't your thing, you could plant one tree, like an oak tree, or put in one water source, a bowl of water for the birds. That's huge. Birds and insects have lost their travel corridors. People can rethink how they can go back to nature ... They don't have to get rid of grass or stop raking," she said.

Read more about Lynn Brown's property, designed as a wildlife sanctuary and Monarch waystation, and the ideas behind her Neighbors for Nature Facebook page, in the full story online.

Pat Stinson is co-editor of the Freshwater Reporter.



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JUNE 1 10-3 Oliver Art Center, Frankfort

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JUNE 22 10-3 Art Prints, Oliver Art Center, Frankfort

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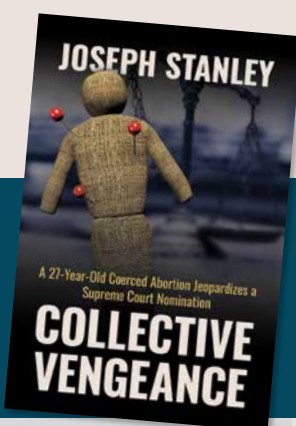
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 Patina Gallery
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COLLECTIVE VENGEANCE
 A 27-Year-Old Coerced Abortion Jeopardizes a Supreme Court Nomination

FROM THE MIND OF ONE MICHIGAN KAMA JOSEPH STANLEY



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JOSEPH STANLEY Available for purchase at Local Booksellers and online

Americans

continued from Page 1

treasured national monuments including the White House, the Capital Building, the Smithsonian Institution and at least three early presidents' homes. They literally built the artificial island upon which Fort Sumter was constructed. And, when the fort was damaged during the Civil War, it was the enslaved who were ordered to repair it while it was still under attack! Americans of African descent have and continue to make this country great. This June 19, we should pause, remember and offer up our gratitude.

Indigenous Peoples' Day

If I say, "In 1492, Columbus sailed ..." everyone reading it would finish the line with the words, "the ocean blue." So, while celebrating Columbus Day on the second Monday of October, it is fitting that we also honor the First Peoples of our nation on the same day. Indigenous people have sacrificed for our nation's growth in countless ways. Enslavement. Forced relocations from fertile ground to barren landscapes. Campaigns to eliminate their culture and their language. Illness. Torture. As the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Indians notes, "Native people continue to fight to maintain the integrity and viability of Indigenous societies. American Indian history is one of cultural persistence, creative adaptation, renewal, and resilience ... Indigenous Peoples' Day recognizes the resilience and diversity of Indigenous Peoples in the United States."

Trinity Downwinders

During our travels to New Mexico in January, my wife and I drove past a historical roadside marker commemorating the Trinity Test Site, miles away from the

actual blast site itself in the middle of the White Sands Missile Range. July 16, 1945, is a grim reminder of how World War II ended and when the Atomic Age began.

The blast was top secret. Until it lit up the sky. Even then, people were told a munitions supply accident caused the blast. Children played in the fallout. They thought it was snowing. Nearly a half-million people lived within a 150-mile radius of the blast. Ranches, cattle, chickens, orchards and water sources all became contaminated as the fallout fell for days. In the years that followed, hundreds of New Mexicans developed cancers or diseases attributed to the blast. They had no choice to opt in or out of their sacrifice to our nation. It just happened. Multiple generations since the blast continue to develop cancer from that moment.

Downwinders from subsequent Nevada testing have been offered some compensation for their debilitating conditions. For them, January 27 is designated as the National Day of Remembrance for Downwinders. Yet for the first people in the world to be exposed to radioactive fallout — our own citizens — there still is no recognition or compensation for their sacrifices to our nation. Today there is a bill working its way through Congress to offset medical costs for those individuals affected. But for now, please remember these folks on July 16.

Eminent Domainers

Another group that encompasses millions whose sacrifices are long forgotten are eminent domainers, those whose homes and communities were taken over by government agencies to create the infrastructure needs of our nation. Pipelines, railroads, airports, public buildings, defense readiness ... all required telling someone they had to move out of their home or business.

This sacrifice was driven home to me



A notebook in the Stennis Space Center and Museum contains the names of Mississippi families displaced by the building and grounds. Photo: Gordon Berg.

recently when we toured the Stennis Space Center and Museum in the "Piney Woods" of southwest Mississippi. The complex sits on 140,000-plus acres. Its construction in the early 1960s displaced thousands of families when the race to the Moon began. The only thing to speak to their loss is a three-ring binder against a remote wall of the museum. There you'll find the names of all those families who, through no choice of their own, became unsung heroes, so America could win the Space Race.

If you think our little neck of the Michigan woods is removed from eminent domain, just ask those who were displaced to create the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Tourists worldwide venture there each year to marvel at its beauty. But for that to happen, many gave up family cabins, mom-and-pop businesses and more. October 21, 1970, is when the park was created. I would encourage you visit the Lakeshore on this day. Atop a dune, pause to give these local unsung sacrificers — our neighbors — a prayer of gratitude.

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FREE ESTIMATES

Many others

The list of sung and unsung patriots is long. Too long. It takes all of us to grow our nation into the vision of its best self. Honoring all these patriots throughout the year is a good place to start.

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

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New thriller is first for Onekama author

By PAT STINSON

Fans of political thrillers will be able to meet Joseph “Joe” Suchocki, author of the new book “Collective Vengeance”, during a wine and cheese reception to be held 4-6 p.m., June 28, at Patina, an art gallery and resale shop located at 4850 Main St. in Onekama.

Suchocki writes under the pen name Joseph Stanley. Signed copies of his book will be available for sale at the event.

He and his wife Patty moved to Onekama in 2021 to be near their daughter and son-in-law. Suchocki said they love living in the village and both are “very involved” in the community. A Vietnam veteran, he built a consulting business into a national company serving 1,500 medical offices. So, his busy retirement schedule isn’t surprising. What is remarkable is the journey of self-discovery he took that eventually led him to write his first fiction novel. “Collective Vengeance” is billed as a gripping political thriller set in New York City that combines suspense, romance and revenge. The book addresses “individual rights, recent Supreme Court rulings, and political interference in the judiciary,” using a “fast-paced style and character-focused chapters” said to be “reminiscent of a James Patterson novel.” We asked Suchocki to give us some background about his first novel and to expand on his author’s biography.

FR: You wrote policy manuals and training materials involving some complicated healthcare legal issues. How did you come to write a work of fiction rather than a memoir or work of nonfiction?

Rather than a memoir, I transitioned into writing fiction as a result of counseling for depression.

FR: You’re upfront in your author’s biography about your struggle with depression. Was your depression situational, a result of your retirement?

My depression was a simultaneous cascade of facing retirement, selling our 25-year-old, 15-acre country home, downsizing to city condo living, and selling our 30-year-old business to our employees. My counselor started me on doing daily journaling to help me see and cope with my depression. The journaling evolved into writing free-verse poems. The very first poem I wrote (“Storms”) became the origin of my first novel, “Collective Vengeance”.

FR: How many years was the story in the making, and how did the idea for the plot arise? The characters?

The research for the novel started in 2017

with multiple trips to NYC (where the story takes place). I had an outline of the story and the main character’s problem with a Supreme Court nominee when the (Brett) Kavanaugh issue unfolded, which turned out to be a surprising coincidence. As I said earlier, the concept of facing turmoil and conflict originated in my poem, “Storms”. The characters were a result of Astrology, Briggs Myers Personality scoring, and research on women with strong personalities. I wrote extensive profiles/backgrounds for every character in the first book. (Most of them continue on to the next two books in the Vengeance Series). They have become some of my “best friends” over the past 7 years ...

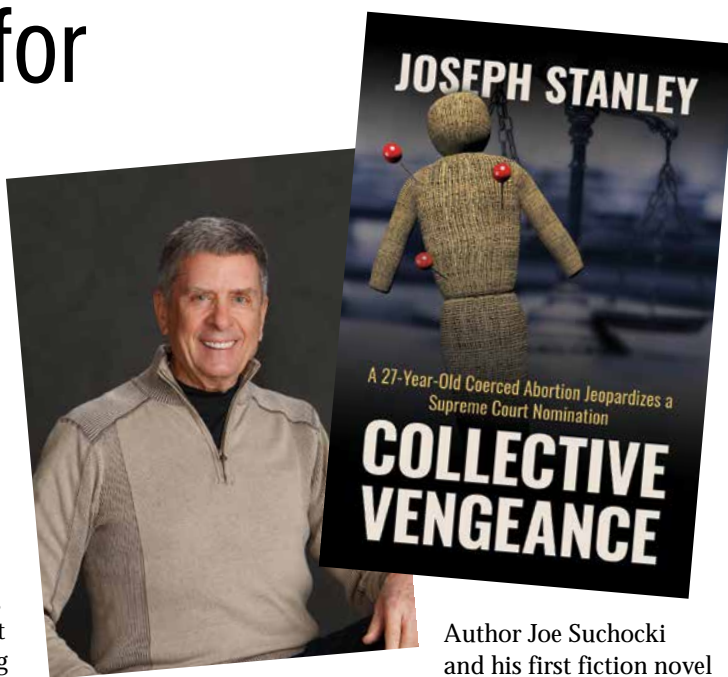
I am planning and working on creating live interviews of the characters using people I know who will be interviewed (by someone other than me) ... My publisher and I will release the interviews between the first and second book as a bridge for readers and to build continued interest. My publisher is unaware of anyone doing this before and is intrigued to see how it resonates.

FR: What in your background gave you the interest to write this story; do you consider yourself politically active or aware?

Good question. I feel that my ability to overcome depression (I learned to believe in myself) and my desire to defend personal rights, especially women’s rights, drive the plot. Most of my characters are women with strong personalities who fit my beliefs of getting things done in spite of opposition. Politically, I consider myself an independent centrist. So, while I have some strong political opinions, I keep them to myself and listen to what people have to say before saying too much.

FR: What other books do you plan to write?

There are two books to follow ... “Counter Vengeance” and “Serial Vengeance” ... I have another book project about a sailing vessel from New Zealand that raced around the world and eventually made it to races on the Great Lakes. It sank twice, was salvaged twice, and is now a beached wreck in Onekama. I am collaborating with a group of sailing people who crewed the vessel. My



Author Joe Suchocki and his first fiction novel “Collective Vengeance.”

concept is to tell the life of adventure from the sailboat’s perspective.

FR: Your biography mentions that you performed in a garage band. What instrument did you/do you play? Have your tastes changed or expanded to include other genres?

I played rhythm guitar in the Quests and now tinker with my guitars along with photography as diversions and to find inspiration in writing. My musical taste today is diverse, ranging from the energy of rock to the timeless soft notes of classical. However, my heart always returns to the ‘60s oldies (Beach Boys, Beatles, Hollies, Dave Clark Five, and the list goes on), because it was the music that shaped my youth and our band’s sound.

FR: Where do you do your writing?

My writing occurs in my home office. I develop many ideas while riding my Peloton bike (while listening to great music) and cruising on my outdoor bike to the beach and around the village. A lot of the characteristics of my characters are a result of talking with local people. I combine my visual and audible images with other research I’ve done to develop characters.

FR: Do you have any writing routines or rituals?

My writing ritual starts with a Peloton ride to get the endorphins going, then sorting emails, and then writing. My goal is to write two new chapters per day. I ascribe to James Patterson’s rule of writing: Keep chapters short and sweet, make the dialogue rich, (this is where I lean on how I hear people talk), and tell my story like I’m sitting across the table from someone, and I don’t want them to leave.

Pat Stinson is the co-editor of the Freshwater Reporter.



Bunker tulips. Photo: Mark Videan

Ode to Tulips

By Louisa Loveridge Gallas
Freshwater Reporter Poet in Residence

O, luscious Queens!
Full bodied
your lavish petals
stand tall, robust,
yet soon your heavy blooms
begin to bend!
We wonder
are you modest
trying to shield
your sensuality?
Or burdened with
the intense responsibility
of Spring’s earliest large
creation?
Except your jolly
bold primary colors
announce you as flamboyant
grand dames
whose largesse
must be revered.
Once in fields as wildflowers,
no wonder a Turkish Sultan
so adored your eminence
he domesticated you
for his pleasure.
O, tulip!
As you begin to droop
we bow
to your brief royalty
as you reveal to us
the highest art
of Floppiness!

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



Photo: C. Asiala

Spring looms in Kaleva

By CYNTHIA ASIALA

It seems that one staple in most early Finnish households was a loom. I assume it was because back then nothing usable was wasted. Any clothing, bedding or even feed sacks were recycled into rag rugs.

When I retired from teaching, I wanted to learn to weave rag rugs. Delores Tuisku kindly taught me how to weave on her loom. Her favorite material to use was chenille bedspreads. The reason was very practical; they can be torn around the edges, and the result is a long strip of fabric that does not need to be sewn together as shorter pieces do.

After making several rugs on her loom, I located a loom for sale at a barn auction. It arrived unassembled. Luckily, my husband could follow the marks in the wood surfaces and put the loom together. He consulted with other folks who had looms at the time, Virginia Beldo and Wilma Mackey. Delores and her husband Earl helped me "warp the loom," which means putting the string on the large back roller. Of course, I had to find where to order the string ("warp"), and putting it on the roller involved turning a crank 50 times for at least 16 rows. Each string had to go through an "eye," called the hedder, which is in the middle of a wire, and then through the reed, an 8-hour process.

But the good news is, I could weave about 50 rugs from that amount of warp.

I bought Delores' loom when she moved to Florida, so I had two looms in my pole building. Later, my cousin bought one of them, and eventually I donated the other one to the Kaleva Bottle House Museum. Another loom came to us from Mrs. Steve Klamik. Her son retired to Kaleva and became active in the newly acquired Maple Grove Township Community Center. Susan Vegter, an accomplished weaver and a member of the Kaleva Art Gallery, was able to "warp" this loom and get it operational. The loom at the museum is a two-harness loom, and the one at the community center is a four-harness loom.

On April 22 the gallery sponsored a weaving demonstration at both sites for interested community residents, and folks could sign up to make rugs. Other spring gallery events: a student art show from Kaleva Norman Dickson Schools, under the direction of teacher Amanda Mobley; glass classes; and quilting classes. Stop in the gallery to sign up. Many events are also happening at the community center. Check the Facebook page for details.

Mark your calendar for Kaleva Heritage Days, July 20-21. A craft show at the village park and many other activities are planned.

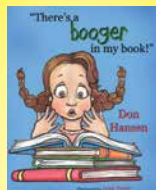
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Bumblebees

continued from Page 1

to the endangered list, but there has not yet been federal action. "While the feds aren't doing much to recover native bees," notes the Nature Conservancy, "there's a great deal the public can do. Native bees need only three things — flowers, nesting sites and a pesticide-free environment. Provide these, and they will come."

Pollinator powerhouses

These "buzz pollinators" and our other native bees contribute to food security and promote healthy functioning ecosystems. Being 50 times more effective as pollinators, bumblebees are a key species for creating seeds and fruits that also feed wildlife, from songbirds to deer. They lend a huge helping hand in growing foods such as tomatoes and blueberries. These types of plants need help to shake their pollen loose to yield delicious fruit. Since honeybees don't vibrate, they cannot help in this effort. However, we can rely on our native bees, alongside honeybees, to enhance pollination — especially during cooler, wet weather — helping to ensure an abundant harvest. "Successful pollinator habitat provides resources for the entire life-cycle" of different pollinator species ... While pollen and nectar sources support adult bees and butterflies, you need to also provide adequate nesting habitat if you want pollinators to live in your landscape rather than just pass through", explains the Xerces Society in its nesting resources article.

Queen bee

Bumblebees are active from late March to October. Like a bear, the queen emerges from hibernation in early spring and needs



Bumblebee takes a break. Photo: J. Devine

to find nectar and pollen to replenish her energy levels and fat reserves. She then spends the next several days searching for a nest location to construct her colony. Bumblebee colonies are annual, meaning the one you see this year is not the same one you saw last year. This year's queen produces next year's queen, who — after mating, filling her fat reserves and watching everyone die off around her — will leave the nest. Her mission: to find organic decaying matter (leaf piles) or empty rodent tunnels in which to overwinter.

Bee alert

I have heard individuals say they would love to plant flowers or gardens but are afraid of/allergic to bees. There is almost nothing to be afraid of as "(bumblebees) are so good-natured that getting a female to sting

you (males can't) is a major undertaking. Proceed carefully and you can even stroke her Teddy-bear-like fur," writes Ted Williams on the Nature Conservancy blog. That's not to say I've never been stung. Stepping on a bumblebee hurts, but if you pay attention (and keep your EpiPen on you, just in case) you can avoid some injuries while harmonizing with nature. As for the types of flowers and plants they prefer ... They are generalist-foraging pollinators of spring, summer and fall, so planting natives that bloom in different seasons will help attract them to the area. Bumblebees enjoy the riches of native plants like lupine, aster, bee balm, boneset, coneflower, goldenrod, St. John's wort and columbines, plus many berry crops, peppers, tomatoes and melons.

Bee knowledgeable

May is Endangered Species Month. I challenge you to take action, celebrate and learn every day. Visit websites like The Michigan Bumble Bees and The Michigan Bumble Bee Inventory Project. Read books such as "Our Native Bees", "The Humane Gardener" and "Bumble Bees of North America: An Identification Guide". Get involved in citizen-science projects such as Bumble Bee Watch and BeeSpotter. Become an MSU Pollinator Champion by taking online pollinator conservation courses, and take a Pollinator Pledge. Importantly, don't start cleaning up your garden until late April or even May, when temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Jennifer Devine has a passion for writing and nature. With a myriad of experiences, memories and adventures in city living to off-grid living, she and her family continue to utilize the bountiful resources Michigan has to offer.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Spring in Bear Lake

By **TERRY AND DIANA LONGTON**

Welcome to the first-ever Bear Lake column. This is a new venture for us, and we'll use this space to tell you about community happenings. Being Bear Lake newcomers (2020), we are excited for the opportunity to get to know our community better and possibly to offer a fresh look at the wonderful things going on here.

First, we want to introduce those unfamiliar with the village to some of our noteworthy attributes. It is interesting to observe the transition that manifests here from winter to spring. In winter, Bear Lake Village has a permanent population of 342 (2020) with several small, year-round businesses. These include a few restaurants, a couple of gas stations, a motel and a variety of service and retail establishments. It is also home to the headquarters of Blarney Castle, founded in 1933 in Bear Lake.

During winter there is also the energy and enthusiasm of the Bear Lake Lakers, our K-12 school. The school includes dedicated staff and a great number of outstanding students. In spring, high school seniors will earn many scholarships and a great deal of recognition for their hard work.

Our lake is large, spanning more than 1,700 acres. As spring approaches, the usual winter activities of snowmobiling and ice fishing give way to watching a multitude of waterfowl — geese, swans, loons and ducks — reappear. And surveilling an eagle's nest or two on the lake's north shore. As the number of docks and boats increase on the lake, seasonal businesses begin to reopen their doors, and area farmers begin to restock their stands. In our next column, we will go into greater detail about our many roadside markets.

Meanwhile, keep watch for notices of village happenings, including the schedule for the 2024 Bear Lake Days, July 12-14. There will be a crafts market, kids' activities, car show, parade, fireworks and many more activities. Fun for all ages!

Ready for summer?

By **JOSHUA ELIE**

It's springtime. Time to rake leaves, plant seeds and get the summer toys ready for the best summer ever. Why will this be the best? Because the next will always be better than the last. With the weather getting warmer, the sunny days getting longer, the lilacs in bloom and the fish biting, you can't help but be filled with the power of positivity. (Fishermen know what I am talking about. Read "A True Fishy Tale", Freshwater Reporter, May 2022, then for more upbeat vibes, read "Rack 'Em Up", Freshwater Reporter, November 2023.)

Back when gas was under a dollar and everybody had cold beer on their boat, there was another water sport that I loved. Water skiing. I learned how to water ski when I was 5, on the best lake for it I have ever seen: Bass Lake, in the Irons area. There are three bays with islands in the middle, all connected by a canal, so the water stays nice and calm. By age 12, even as light as I was, I could rooster up quite a wall of water with a slalom ski. I started to notice all the girls laying out, soaking up the sun on the floating docks. I certainly couldn't let them get too overheated, so I would give them a friendly splash once in a while. Later, I learned that they didn't enjoy it quite as much as I did; at least I think that is what the fist-pumping in the air meant.

I still did a bit of playful splashing, and the kids loved to try to jump through the wall of water. I guess one time I upset some grandparents. They came out in a paddle boat and just looked so overheated. I probably shouldn't have ... but I decided to let them in on the fun. Later, I was ticketed for reckless endangerment. Nothing further came of the incident, other than people

joking about my "felonious splashing" record.

"Nonwinter" is over. Whether you were concerned about COVID or not, your fears about catching it are probably over too. Bad things are still going to happen sometimes, and things are always going to be more expensive than they should be. Staying home is not going to help. Our newspaper's calendar of events is full of great things to do, and on top of that, we can throw our own parties.

When was the last time you did something completely childish and irresponsible? Vinnie's B'Day Bash comes to mind. I saw my old buddy "Cornbread" at Dublin General Store the other day. I met him years ago at one of Vinnie's parties. We were talking about how we are now perfectly content to just stay home. I thought about our conversation later, and how that attitude is just wrong.

Preparations for Vinnie's bash would begin by building this ridiculously enormous stage. The last time I was there, we rolled out paper, about 8 feet high and 100 feet long, along the trees. Everybody could sign their names and whatever else they wanted using spray paint. We had a pig on the grill, some snapping turtles, and all the fixins you could imagine. There were five bands that could be heard for I-don't-know-how-many miles. I was on stage, using a chainsaw as a musical instrument. Vinnie, in his 30s at the time, was hanging from a tree far above the stage in nothing but his Scooby-Doo underroos ...

Really, how long has it been? What happened to us?

NORTHWOODS SAUCE BOSS

Let's get back to going out, meeting up with friends we haven't seen in years, and making new ones. Handshakes and hugs should not be lost forever, nor should we be content to spend all our free time (and possibly work time) at home. To simply exist is not enough. The proof is in the proof.

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

Elie's "I'm Still Alive" Fruit Cocktail

Fill a clean container (from 1 to 50 gallons) with chunks of pineapple and apple, then fresh berries, about three-quarters from the top. Add Polish vodka and clear rum (must be clear) until the fruit begins to float. Let sit covered in a cool, dark place overnight, keeping the apple and pineapple at the bottom. Next day, stir and serve in clear plastic tumblers, adding ice to the batch as needed.

Kaizen Nguyen, Unsplash.

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Area Events Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS continued

June 8
Aaron Lewis: The American Patriot Tour, Manistee
 8-10:30pm. \$85-\$115. 18+ only. Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy. lrcr.com

Laser Light Show for 100th Anniversary of North Breakwater Light, Ludington
 10pm. Free. 20-min. laser show projected on the lighthouse. Best viewed from Stearns Park Beach or West End.

June 8-9
Michigan Free Fishing & ORV Weekend, Statewide
 Fishing license fees waived for weekend. All fishing rules & regs apply. ORV riders may use DNR-designated trails without ORV license/trail permit.

June 9
Beach Cleanup, Ludington
 9-10am. Sweep the beach after the weekend's festivities. Meet at the West End. Volunteers receive a free pass to tour the Breakwater Lighthouse during the 2024 season.

Gallery Events: Community Art Wall Project, Onekama
 11am-3pm. Bring your artworks with theme of garden allies (bugs, birds, butterflies, frogs, etc.) to Patina or Yellow Dog Café, 4850 Main St (M-22) to be hung on the outdoor Art Wall at Yellow Dog Café.

June 10
Michigan Works Hiring Event, Ludington
 11am-2pm. Free. Exhibitors will be companies in need of employees. Free light refreshments served. Rotary Park, 500 W. Ludington Ave.

Summer Wine Event, Cadillac
 6pm. \$35. 4 wine pours & 3 petite courses. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. Info/tickets: coyotecrossingresort.com

June 11
Michigan Legacy Art Park Golf Classic, Thompsonville
 8:30am registration opens, 10am shotgun start. \$125 for 18 holes. Prizes & snacks following golf. Cash bar. Proceeds help support the Art Park. Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.

Weed the Park, Ludington
 10am-12pm. Free. Volunteer to help AFFEW remove invasive plants. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Bring gardening gloves, trowel, water. Meet near the dog park at the end of Rath Ave. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr.

June 12
Japanese Barberry Trade-up Day, Manistee
 4-7pm. Trade invasive barberry bushes for \$5 coupons honored at local plant nurseries. \$50 max. per household. Manistee Conservation District, 8840 Chippewa Highway #1. Preregistration required: manisteecd2.org

June 13
Live in the Alley: Redux, Ludington
 6-8pm. Free. East end of alley behind Timbers/Mitten Bar-100 block S. James St. between Rath Ave. & James. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

June 14
Hello Summer Cocktail Party, Onekama
 5-8pm. \$35. Join Portage Lake Association for plentiful appetizers, cash bar, silent auction. Portage Point Resort, 8567 Portage Point Dr. Tickets: MacBeth, Patina Designs, or <https://tinyurl.com/y5xcfvef>

Live in the Plaza: Bill Casey & The Railbirds, Ludington
 6-8pm. Free. Legacy Plaza, 150 N. James St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Greggie & the Jets: Elton John Tribute, Manistee
 7:30. \$15-50. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: ramsdelltheatre.org

June 14,15
AAUW Used Book Sale, Ludington
 Fri, 9am-5pm. Sat, 9am-12pm. Benefit for AAUW scholarships for high school seniors. United Methodist Church, 5810 Bryant Rd.

June 15
Frankfort Craft Fair, Frankfort
 10am-4pm. Free. 400 S. Main St., Frankfort.

46th Annual Spirit of the Woods Folk Festival, Brethren
 12-8pm. Free. Dickson Township Park. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Music Sparks Meaning Summer Sunset Series: The Erly, Manistee
 6-9pm. Free. First Street Beach Gazebo. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Coyote Crossing Music Series: Ben Chapman, Cadillac
 Doors open 6pm. Concert 7-11pm. \$25 Adv, \$30 Door. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. Info/tickets: coyotecrossingresort.com

Barely Devils in concert, Manistee
 9pm-1am. Free. 18+ only. Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy. lrcr.com

June 15,16
Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, Ludington
 8am-6pm. Stearns Park Beach, 421 Lakeshore Dr.

June 16
Guided Hike at Ludington State Park, Ludington
 2pm. Meet at Warming Shelter. Hike led by 2 volunteers covers diff. areas of the park. Ludington State Park, 8800 M-116. Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

June 17
Jammin' Mondays on Betsie Bay: The Olivia Van Goor Show, Elberta
 7-9:15pm. Free. Waterfront Amphitheater, Elberta Waterfront Park, 1120 Furnace St. Rain site: Waterfront Park Picnic Pavilion. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

June 18
Manistee Shoreline Showcase: The Olivia Van Goor Show, Manistee
 7-9:15pm. Free. Rotary Gazebo, Douglas Park, First Street Beach. Bring lawn chair/blanket.



June 19
Beach Sweep & Green Drinks, Ludington
 7-8pm. Free. Help clean up the beach. Meet at south concession stand at Stearns Park, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr. Gloves/bags provided. Drinks/networking with members after. BYO-No Glass. Affew.org

LACA Concert Series: The Olivia Van Goor Show, Ludington
 7-9pm. Free. Waterfront Park, 300 S. William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

June 20
GTRLC Spring Wildflower Hike, Old Baldy Trailhead, Arcadia Dunes
 10am-12pm. Free. Join Paula Dreeszen. 2.5-mile hike. Wear hiking shoes, bring water & snack. Sunscreen, bug spray & camera/binocs suggested. Register: gtrlc.org

Live in the Alley: Tom Zatarga, Ludington
 6-8pm. Free. East end of alley behind Timbers/Mitten Bar, 100 block of S. James St. between Rath Ave. & James.

Upbeat Cadillac Music Series: The Olivia Van Goor Show, Cadillac
 7-9:15pm. Free/donations. Rotary Performing Arts Pavilion, 100 S. Lake St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

June 20-23
Electric Forest Festival, Rothbury
 Annual music festival with huge lineup of performers. Info/tickets: electricforest.com.

June 21
Gallery Events: Joy, Onekama
 11am-3pm. Artworks by Janine Frapolly. Patina Designs, 4850 Main St.

Rockhounding 101, Onekama
 1-3pm. Free. Learn about Michigan geology & have an expert identify your rocks. Pierport Beach, 2801 13 Mile Rd. Register: OnekamaTwp.org.

Live in the Plaza: Seth Brown Duo, Ludington
 6-8pm. Free. Legacy Plaza, 150 N. James St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Choirs in the Cathedral: Manistee Festival Chorus, Manistee
 7pm. \$10 adults, \$7 kids. First Congregational Church, 412 4th St.

Night Crawler Hunt, Frankfort
 9:30pm. Free. Bring kids, a bucket & a flashlight. Mineral Springs Park, 630 Main St. Info: 231.352.7251

June 22
Take a Kid Fishing, Frankfort
 8am. Free. Mineral Springs Park Pavilion, 630 Main St. Info: 231.352.7251

Coast to Coast Gravel Grinder Bike Race, Ludington
 Two races: Coast to Coast 204-mile race from Au Gres on Lake Huron to Ludington. 100-mile Ludington-Manistee National Forest loop back to Stearns Park Beach, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr. Register: micoasttocoast.com

#WillStrong Benefit Soccer Tournament, Ludington
 8:30am-5pm. \$250 per team. 100% of proceeds go to local Childhood Cancer Campaign. This 6v6 soccer tournament is family friendly. Bryant Soccer Fields, 1002 N. Lavinia St. Info/register: <https://tinyurl.com/mr36e684>

June 22
Cars & Crafts Show, Ludington
 Time TBD. Betten Baker Ford- 3045 US-10. Info: imalott@cbakerauto.com.

Parking Lot Craft & Vendor Sale, Ludington
 10am-4pm. The 10 Spot, 5750 US 10. Info: Kayleen at 231.683.8058.

Bus Day to Big Point Sable Lighthouse, Ludington
 1-3pm. Free concert. Bus transportation from 12pm-5pm. Big Sable Point Lighthouse, Ludington State Park, 8800 M-116. Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Onekama History Association Meeting, Onekama
 2-4pm. Free. Open to public. Drop in to share or learn about Onekama history & upcoming projects. Onekama Township Hall, 5435 Main St.

Let's Go Fly a Kite, Frankfort
 3pm. Free. Meet at the Frankfort Beach by the turnaround to fly a kite. Info: 231.352.7251

Coyote Crossing Music Series: Rachel Davis Band, Cadillac
 Doors open 6pm. Concert 7-11pm. \$25 Adv, \$30 Door. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. Info/tickets: coyotecrossingresort.com

Chopo's Concert Series: Working on Famous, Manistee
 8-11pm. In the parking lot at Chopo's Northside Bar, 132 Monroe St. Bring a lawn chair.

Jakyl in Concert, Manistee
 8-10:30pm. \$30-60. 18+ only. Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy. Tickets: lrcr.com

June 23
Concerts in the Park, Onekama
 2-9pm. Free. Grand opening of the new event stage. Ribbon cutting, food trucks & free performances: Doc & Donna Probes (beach music), Truck Driver Bingo (blues, jazz, rock) & Feral Cats Deluxe (folk, R&B). Onekama Village Park. Rain venue: Onekama Consolidated Schools, 5016 Main St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Fairies & Forts, Thompsonville
 2-4pm. Free. For kids up to age 12. Art projects at Discovery Grove, stories/songs at amphitheater, parade to the Stockade Labyrinth. Dress in Fairies & Forts attire. Michigan Legacy Art Park, Crystal Mountain Resort, 7300 Mountainside Dr.

June 24
Jammin' Mondays on Betsie Bay: Planet D Nonet, Elberta
 7-9:15pm. Free. Waterfront Amphitheater, Elberta Waterfront Park, 1120 Furnace St. Rainsite: Waterfront Park Picnic Pavilion. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

June 25
Scottville Clown Band Patriotic Concert, Ludington
 7-8:30pm. Free. Waterfront Park, 300 S. William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Manistee Shoreline Showcase: Planet D Nonet, Manistee
 7-9:15pm. Free. Rotary Gazebo, Douglas Park, First Street Beach. Bring lawn chair/blanket.



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

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