

AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS INSIDE

MI BACKYARD

THE DOG DAYS

Appreciating the heart of summer
Story and photos by **EMILY COOK**

I woke up early again to the morning chorus of birdsong. The nesting grackles have vacated the dwarf spruce outside our bedroom window. Their harsh squawks have been replaced by the familiar calls of cardinals, robins, goldfinches and a very passionate house wren. An incoming heat wave is predicted, so soon the windows will close in favor of air conditioning (and an extra hour of sleep), but for now, I am grateful for nature’s music.

At the moment, there is almost nothing I value as much as a slow summer morning. Not long ago my early wakeups were always by alarm, and I would be on the road commuting north to Traverse City as the sun was rising. Changed circumstances have provided improved life balance. It is a great privilege to ease into life’s responsibilities, and many days I too must rush out the door. Often, however, I am able to explore my own little garden with a cup of tea and two dogs on my heels.

This wander has become an essential routine. Many neighbors appear to still slumber as I check to see what is blooming, if any monarch caterpillars have decided to munch on the milkweed plants, or if any other wildlife has traversed our yard in the night looking for a snack. There will be signs such as munched goldenrod stems or a tipped-over birdbath. I return things to their place as I conduct my mini exploration.

As we settle into August, the dog days of summer feel entirely present. There are fewer stark changes to the natural world.



August blooms provide garden interest.

The shoulder seasons provide much more obvious sights and sounds. In spring, changes appear almost daily. New plants sprout from the ground and migrating birds make themselves known after months away. Conversely in autumn, the bright colors and eventual leaf drop marks another transition.

Despite August being notoriously a “sleepier” month for the locals of northern Michigan (unless you work in the tourist industry, of course), some of my favorite glimmers* exist now. Many of them happen in the early morning moments, within the confines of my own yard.

Mid-to-late summer highlights a lot of my favorite native perennials. The orange

of butterfly weed, the yellow of black-eyed Susans and the purples of coneflowers and New England asters all combine to create a garden bouquet lasting well into September. I make sure to closely inspect the leaves of the butterfly weed and common milkweed for monarch caterpillars. I look for half-eaten leaves and am occasionally rewarded with the sight of these remarkable little creatures.

Other plants are also thriving, and because most are native to the region they require little water, unless there is an especially dry period. Taking away the stress of constant watering allows me to

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Bass Ackwards or How I Learned to Fish

Story by **ROSALIND JAFFE**.
Photos by **PAT BALMER**.

It was unlikely I’d become a fishing enthusiast. I grew up near big water — Sheepshead Bay in south Brooklyn, where charter fishing and party boats docked to head to the Atlantic Ocean — but I knew no one who fished. As a kid I fished two or three times, from docks baiting bread balls on tiny hooks, at sleep-away camp and at Uncle Frank’s pond ... but nary a nibble. My understanding of fishing was lower than minimal.

I moved to Onekama and occasionally boated/fished Portage Lake, but none of my companions knew what to do. Until I met Pat. Pat’s a lifelong fisherman, dedicated, curious, patient and capable. I was a bad fisherman, intimidated and clueless. With my policy of never touching a live wild animal, I refused to touch the fish or live bait, which made fishing with me akin to accompanying a six-year-old. (Apologies to six-year-olds more capable.) It made fishing less fun for Pat, but he didn’t give up on me. Perhaps he relished my snappy fishing conversation or appreciated the weight I brought to the front of the boat, but I was likely most useful when I brought snacks and beverages on our forays. I learned it was bad form to don plastic gloves prior to touching a fish and even worse to be oblivious to where I swung my hook.

With Pat’s help, I learned to use the net, unhook fish and change lures. I began to catch perch and bluegill, beautiful panfish that made a great meal. I discovered the

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Reach for a peach this August

By **GRACE GROGAN**

When August rolls around, thoughts turn to one of our state’s largest sweet fruits, ripe peaches. Fresh off the tree or plucked from a market basket, these fleshy orbs of sugary decadence can, with a single bite, send cascades of juice down unsuspecting chins. Find your own sweet treat during National Peach Month in August. At least three Michigan communities celebrate the peach harvest with festivals ranging from one to five days. Celebrate National Peach Pie Day on August 24 with a giant slice of peach pie topped with locally made vanilla ice cream. (You can find both at Brown’s Poplar Ridge Orchards Market in Bear Lake.)

Michigan ranks fourth in the nation for peach production, producing over 22 million pounds of peaches in 2023, according to Michigan State University’s stone fruit page. (A “stone fruit” is one with a pit.) Most of the state’s peaches are grown in parts of central Michigan and close to Lake Michigan in southwestern and western Michigan. So, naturally, Manistee and Oceana counties provide us with truckloads of fruit. Mason County’s peach-growing acreage, though much diminished today, once produced so many peaches that two innovations related to harvesting and canning the fruit originated there, according to the county’s historical society. Other peach growing areas are found along Lake St. Clair in the east and in the northwest region of Grand Rapids. Michigan produces enough peaches to eat by hand, can, bake

into pies and incorporate into other desserts and dishes, as many cooks do.

History of Michigan’s peaches

“Peaches in Michigan” — a blog post from July 23, 2012, on Michigan in Pictures — credits William Burnett with planting the first peach tree in western Michigan in the 1870s. He had apparently established a trading post on the St. Joseph River and planted an orchard near the post. When permanent settlers arrived in the 1820s, the orchard was reportedly bearing fruit. It was 1826 when Reverend Isaac McCoy planted 200-300 peach trees at Carey Mission in what is now Niles Township.

According to website statements of the nonprofit Michigan Peach Sponsors, after discovering that peach crops required simple cultivation for substantial returns, Berrien



Árpád Czapp, Unsplash.

County farmers concentrated on developing peach orchards. Benjamin Hoyt of St. Joseph began a nursery in 1842, and the first sizeable commercial peach orchard was planted in 1847 by George Parmelee of Bainbridge Township. Growers planted orchards in St. Joseph and Benton Township. By 1855, several thousand baskets of peaches were being shipped to Chicago each year. The Cincinnati Orchard in Benton Township

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Area Events Calendar

TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN THE FRESHWATER REPORTER!

To be included in our September print edition, submit your announcements by August 13. Be sure to include the address where the event takes place, for visiting readers. Email your events/press releases to: editor@freshwater-reporter.com. Email any time for our online calendar. Always check with the venue before attending as some event dates may change or be canceled. Despite our best efforts, errors may occur.

FARMERS MARKETS

Mondays
Scottville Farmers Market
10am-3pm, Thru mid-September. Every other Monday in West Shore Bank parking lot, 107 W State St. & along Main Street.

Honey Bee Market, Beulah
12-7pm. Thru September 7. A selection of arts, crafts, handmade goods, & homemade health & wellness products & more. On the lawn at St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S Pioneer Rd.

Tuesdays
Honor Farmers Market
9am-2pm. Thru August 25. Maley Park, 10579 Main St. (US-31)

Wednesdays
Baldwin's Pure Markette
3-6pm. Thru September 2. Parking lot behind Jones' Ice Cream, 858 Michigan Ave.

Thursdays
Elberta Farmers Market
8am-12pm. Thru October 1. Penfold Park, 1098 Lakeside Blvd.

Fridays
Ludington Artisan/Farmers Market
2-7pm. Thru September 18. Legacy Plaza Pavilion, 112 N James St.

Saturdays
Cadillac Farmers Market
9am-1pm. Thru September. 11978 W Watergate Rd.

Frankfort Farmers Market
9am-1pm. Thru October 31. Open Space Park, 800 Main St.

Manistee Farmers Market
9am-12pm. Thru October 4. Wagoner Community Center, 260 Saint Mary's Pkwy.

MUSIC SERIES

Mondays
Concerts in the Park, Onekama
7-9pm. Free/donations. Onekama Village Park, 4701 Main St. Rain site: Onekama Schools cafeteria 5016 Main St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.
Aug 3 Acoustic Madness
Aug 10 Jake Slater

Jammin' Mondays on Betsie Bay, Elberta
7-9:15pm. Free/donations. Waterfront Amphitheater, Elberta Waterfront Park, 1074 State Hwy. 168. Rain site: Waterfront Park Picnic Pavilion. Bring lawn chair/blanket.
Aug 3 Da' Veonce and Da Funk Gang
Aug 10 Planet D Nonet
Aug 17 The Charlie Millard Band
Aug 24 Metro Soul Band
Aug 31 Jeff Haas's Big Fun Electric Band

The...Clam Lake...Silver Cornet Band, Cadillac
7pm. Free/donations. Volunteer concert band. Rotary Pavilion, 100 S Lake St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.
August 3, 10, 17, 24

Tuesdays
Shoreline Showcase, Manistee
7-9:15pm, Free/donations. Rotary Gazebo, First St. Beach, Douglas Park, 100 S Lakeshore Dr. Rain Site: Orchard Beach State Park Shelter House, 2064 Lakeshore Rd. Bring lawn chair/blanket.
Aug 4 Da' Veonce and Da Funk Gang
Aug 11 Planet D Nonet
Aug 18 The Charlie Millard Band
Aug 25 Metro Soul Band

Friends of Ludington State Park Summer Series, Ludington
7pm, Free/donations. Amphitheater, Ludington State Park, 8800 West M-116. Bring lawn chair/blanket/bug spray. Rain Venue: Lake Michigan Beach House. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.
Aug 4 Birds of Prey at the Discovery Center
Aug 11 Third Coast Swing Band
Aug 18 Canopy Space

Wednesdays
Echo Through the Timber Concert Series, Baldwin
7-9:15pm. Free/donations. Wenger Pavilion, 876 Michigan Ave. (behind Jones' Ice Cream). Rain or shine. Bring lawn chair/blanket.
Aug 5 Nick Veine Band
Aug 12 The Schrock Brothers
Aug 19 General Assembly Big Band
Aug 26 ArtSauce Quintet

LACA Summer Concert Series, Ludington
7-9pm, Free/donations. Waterfront Park, 1122 S William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.
Aug 5 Da' Veonce and Da Funk Gang
Aug 12 Planet D Nonet
Aug 19 The Charlie Millard Band
Aug 26 Metro Soul Band

Thursdays
Live in the Plaza Music Series, Ludington
6-8pm, Free/donations. Legacy Plaza, 112 N James St. Bring lawn chair.
Aug 6 Groovix Cube
Aug 13 Cheryl Wolfram
Aug 20 Mike Lenich
Aug 27 Greg Secor

Music in the Streets, Beulah
7-8:30pm. Free/donations. Downtown, 273 S Benzie Blvd. Bring lawn chair.
Aug 6 Kyle Brown & The Human Condition
Aug 13 Sisters of Soul – Jenni Rae (Etta & Ella tribute)

Roots on the River music series, Manistee
7-9pm. Free/donations. Jaycees riverfront bandshell at Veterans Memorial Park, 117 Memorial Dr. Bring lawn chair/blanket.
Aug 6 Ben Traverse and Nick Veine

Summer Sounds Music Series, Thompsonville
7-9pm, \$15 ADV, \$20 DOS, 15 & under Free. ¼ mile hike to amphitheater. Bring a chair pad/lawn chair/blanket. Michigan Legacy Art Park, Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr. Rain site: inside the resort. Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/53sxyedy>
Aug 6 Jacob McLeod
Aug 13 Open Mic Event

Sunset Beach Bonfire Series, Ludington
8-10pm. Free/donations. Bonfire & music. Stearns Park Beach, 420 N Lakeshore Dr. Bring chair/blanket.
Aug 20 Tim Krause

Upbeat Cadillac Music Series, Cadillac
7-9:15pm. Free/donations. Rotary Performing Arts Pavilion, 100 S Lake St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.
Aug 6 Da' Veonce and Da Funk Gang
Aug 13 Planet D Nonet
Aug 20 The Charlie Millard Band
Aug 27 Metro Soul Band

Fridays
Live in the Plaza Music Series, Ludington
6-8pm, Free/donations. Legacy Plaza, 112 N James St. Bring lawn chair.
Aug 7 Blue Water Ramblers
Aug 14 80 Cows
Aug 21 Almost Famous
Aug 28 Joe Stickney

Folk Fridays Music Series, Baldwin
7pm. Free/donations. Lake County Historical Museum, 915 N Michigan Ave. Bring lawn chair.
Aug 7 Lee Murdock "Land of the Shining Waters", a Celebration in Song
Aug 14 Rev. Robert Jones "An Evening with Lead Belly"
Aug 21 B-Side Growlers "Toe-tappin American Music"

Log Cabin Concerts, Kaleva
7pm. Free/donations. Corner of Walta & Panu Streets. Bring lawn chair/blanket.
Aug 7 Mary Sue & Mark Schrock
Aug 14 Downtowners
Aug 21 Schrock Brothers
Aug 28 Pocket Change

Live at the Garden Summer Concert Series, Frankfort
7:30pm. \$25. The Garden Theater, 301 Main St. Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/3dn45jcz>
Aug 14 Cruz Contreras and the Black Lilies

Saturdays
Sounds from the Forest Music Series, Baldwin
7-9:15pm. Free/donations. Wenger Pavilion, 876 Michigan Ave. (behind Jones' Ice Cream). Rain or shine. Bring lawn chair/blanket.
Aug 1 The Fabulous Horn Dogs
Aug 8 Da'Veonce & Da Funk Gang
Aug 15 Planet D Nonet
Aug 22 The Charlie Millard Band
Aug 29 Metro Soul Band



GALLERY EXHIBITS & GIFTS

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

LIVE MUSIC & EVENTS

MUSIC, ART, AND FUN ON THE SHORES OF BETSIE BAY

132 COAST GUARD RD. FRANKFORT - OLIVERART.ORG

Friends of Ludington State Park Summer Series, Ludington
7pm, Free/donations. Amphitheater, Ludington State Park, 8800 West M-116. Bring lawn chair/blanket/bug spray. Rain Venue: Lake Michigan Beach House. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.
Aug 1 Uneven Ground
Aug 8 The Langford Lads
Aug 15 Christian Larumbe Trio
Aug 22 The Magic of Kevin (Magic Show)
Aug 29 Lee Murdock

ONGOING EVENTS

Thru Aug 1
Manistee County Fair, Onekama
Fun for the whole family at the Manistee County Fairgrounds, 7587 1st St. Schedule: manisteecountyfair.org

Thru Aug 7
Local Critters Art Exhibition, Frankfort
Free. Works by Patrick Clagett. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

Thru Aug 21
Nancy Foster Retrospective Art Exhibition, Frankfort
Free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

Thru Sep 11
Summer Art Show, Arcadia
Free. Arcadia Community Center, 3586 Glovers Lake Rd.

Thru Sep 18
Go, Color. Go! Art Exhibition, Scottville
Free. Paintings by Jamey Barnard. Manierre Dawson Gallery, West Shore Community College, 3000 N Stiles Rd.

Aug 7-29
A Roll of the Dice Art Exhibition, Ludington
Free. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S Harrison St. Opening reception August 7, 4-7pm.

Aug 7-Sep 11
"Out of Line" Art Exhibition, Manistee
Free. Artworks by James Stanton, Jim Scheussler & others. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Opening reception Aug. 7, 5-7pm.

My Michigan Art Exhibition, Frankfort
Free. Watercolor & oi paintings by Rick Koehler & Stan Myers. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Opening reception August 7, 5-7pm.

Aug 15-Sep 18
Jenni Bateman Art Exhibition, Frankfort
Free. Watercolors, acrylics, oils, textiles, collage & painting on silks. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

Aug 29-Oct 2
Field of Vision Art Exhibition, Frankfort
Free. Artworks by Sandra Ackerman, Logan Hudson, Mark Mehaffey & Les Scruggs. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Opening reception August 29, 5-7pm.

Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Idlewild Float the Lake Sundays, Idlewild
1pm. Free. Join the local community to float the lake in canoes, kayaks, row boats weather permitting. Idlewild Lake.

DAILY EVENTS

Aug 1
LMBV Midsummer Beach Volleyball Tournament, Ludington
8am-6pm. Stearns Park Beach, 421 N Lakeshore Dr.

Blueberry Dash 5K, Frankfort
8am-1pm. \$40. Bellows Park Pavilion, 1855 Bellows Ave. Info/register: <https://tinyurl.com/5dzepzck>

Frankfort Street Sale, Frankfort
9am-4pm. Main Street will be closed to car traffic. Explore deals & discounts from your favorite shops.

Aug 1
West Shore Bank's Rhythm & Dunes Concert, Ludington
6pm. Free outdoor concert featuring Jedi Mind Trip. Waterfront Park, 391 S William St. Bring lawn chair.

In concert: Viridian Strings, Frankfort
7pm. \$10. "Undercurrents" piano quartet music including works by Brahms & Schumann. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Tickets: oliverart.org

In concert: Dylan Doyle, Cadillac
8pm. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S 13 Rd. Info/tickets: coyotecrossingresort.com

Aug 1, 2
22nd Annual Copemish Heritage Days, Copemish
Family-friendly event with live music, food trucks, art & craft vendors, kids' activities, raffles, carriage rides, 5k run/walk, alpacas, parade, fireworks, pancake breakfast & more. Schedule: copemishheritagedays.com

Aug 2, 7-9
Manistee Civic Players present "Annie", Manistee
2pm Sundays, 7:30pm Fri & Sat. \$20-35. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: ramsdelltheatre.org

Aug 4
Talks, Tunes & Tours, Manistee
10am. Free. "Cancer Screening, Vaccines and Aspirin: What Should I Be Doing to Stay Healthy." – Dr. Mark Ebell MD, MS Professor of Family Medicine, MSU. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Aug 5
A Night at the Museum, Benzonía
7pm. \$25. Treats, beverages & a silent auction. Fundraiser for, and held at, the Benzie Area Historical Society & Museum, 6941 Traverse Ave. Info/register: www.benziemuseum.org

Aug 6
Food Pantry, Bear Lake
9-11am. Eligibility: Must need emergency food, participate in income-based programs (like SNAP, WIC, or CSFP), or fall below the federal poverty level. Bear Lake United Methodist Church, 7861 Main St. info: 231.864.3680

First Person Stories & Songs, Manistee
10am. Free. "Historic Homes of Manistee" – Angela M. Quinn, Architecture Historian & Lakeside Club Homes & Garden Tour Chair. Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St.

Waterside Learning Day, Onekama
1:30-3pm. Capt. John Langland Park. How pollution &invasive species can affect Lake Mich & what to do about it. Enjoy a nature art activity.

Movies in the Park, Ludington
Dusk. Free outdoor movie, "GOAT" Free Baby Badger rides for kids from 7:30-8:45pm before the movie begins. Concessions avail. Rotary Park, 500 W Ludington Ave.

Aug 6-8
52nd Annual Old Engine & Tractor Show, Scottville
9am-7pm Thur & Fri, 9am-6pm Sat. Daily admission \$7 adults, 12 and under, free. Thur: Senior Day 65 & older \$5. Sat: Kids' Day. Swap meets, flea markets, parades, blacksmithing, corn shelling & grinding, horse pulls, tractor pulls, and more. Food & drink avail. for purchase. Scottville Riverside Park, 700 S. Scottville Rd. Info: <https://tinyurl.com/3e4pu96b>

Aug 6-10
Onekama Days, Onekama
5k run/walk, 1-mile fun run, food, craft beer, art & craft fair, scavenger hunt, pig roast, parade, demolition derby, car show, fireworks & more. Event schedule: www.onekama.info/onekama-days-schedule

The powerful summer storm that left us powerless

Story and photos by **VALERIE CHANDLER**

Hot summer days are reminiscent of times at the beach, cooling drinks and grilling out, thunderstorms and the occasional power outage. Just days before America’s 250th celebration, overwhelming heat waves produced some strong thunderstorms.

On one of those hot evenings, the electricity flickered several times and went out, but our trusty house generator automatically kicked on right away and power was restored during the night. We didn’t think the storm cell had been that bad. I was at work the next day when more storms passed through Manistee and apparently continued to churn by the time they hit Wellston, where we live. It appeared that some areas had received straight winds, resulting in downed power lines, snapped tree branches, blocked roads from toppled trees and widespread power outages. My husband and I were thankful our generator switched on, especially since the heat had been unrelenting.

For many years, our power would go out every time it rained, or so it seemed. We decided to buy a generator large enough to

Penny trying her best to stay cool, but it appears she’s “melting.”



Penny is all smiles because she’s no longer “hangry.”

operate our entire house, and ironically, it was years before we needed to use it. We joked that our neighbors should be thankful we purchased the generator because it evidently kept the power from going out for everyone.

Until this storm. All was fine at first when the power went out; our generator was powering our central air, which kept us cool until we went to bed. I heard the generator turn off, suggesting the electricity was back on, only it wasn’t. I woke my husband and asked him to check the generator. He broke the news to me that the oil sensor had failed. The next morning, we found that part of a tree had come down

in front of our driveway, and trees had fallen all over. Thankfully, my vehicle had enough space to leave the driveway. I went to work knowing I’d be in air conditioning, and my husband would be calling the repairman. He also “went to work,” using his chainsaw to cut what lay in our driveway and road. At one point, some of the roads around us were blocked completely.

Before I left work that evening, my husband texted me to bring dinner home because the power was still out, the repairman was on vacation and others he called were backlogged with calls. I took the next day off work because my sweaty self needed a shower, and with no power for

our private well, running water wasn’t an option. Our dog was hangry ... not hungry, but hot and angry. To cool off and charge our cell phones, we put her in the truck and kept going for scenic drives. That evening I sat in silence, in the dark, thinking that I am neither made for the rustic lifestyle nor to live without central air; I know, such a first-world problem.

We kept checking the power outage map on our electric company’s website, which was updated twice with longer and longer restoration times. In total, we were without power for a little over 36 hours in the 90-plus-degree heat! We have a neighbor who lives elsewhere, but their family was up for the holiday weekend. Without power, they stayed outside most of the time, working and playing in their yard. We had our windows open to try to get a breeze, and we couldn’t help but laugh when the power finally came back on because we heard them cheering and whooping it up with excitement. My husband and I thought they must live in the city, where the power never or hardly ever goes out.

We ended up filing an insurance claim for spoiled food. I had been grocery shopping the day before the power went out, and we all know how expensive a trip to the grocery store is nowadays. My husband and I didn’t do anything for Independence Day but stay indoors to relax and enjoy our central air conditioning.

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, is a cancer survivor, loves to spend time with her family and has many interests and hobbies.

ONEKAMA NEWS



Camp Tosebo campers on Portage Lake. Date unknown. Photo courtesy of Tom Gerhardt.



July 2026: Kid staying at Camp Tosebo having fun on Portage Lake. Photo courtesy of Brianna Driscoll.



“On an Overnight Camping Trip, Tosebo Camp, Manistee Michigan.” Date unknown. Photo courtesy of Tom Gerhardt.



Guests in July 2026 enjoying food at Camp Tosebo. Photo courtesy of Brianna Driscoll.

Onekama summer camps: yesterday and today

By **ROSALIND JAFFE**

Thanks to Tom Gerhardt for his research and writings which were instrumental in assembling this information.

Onekama began as a logging and agricultural area, but early in the area’s history, visionaries saw potential for summer camps for youth and families.

Camp Tosebo

Mr. Noble Hill was headmaster of the Todd Seminary for Boys in Woodstock, Illinois, and owned a cottage in Red Park, a popular resort on Portage Lake south of Onekama. In 1912 he brought boys to Red Park for a summer continuation of his boarding school. In 1914, Hill purchased the Red Park dance pavilion and hired Swedish-born Charles A. Anderson of Manistee to adapt it as the clubhouse for what became Camp Tosebo in 1919. Tosebo was named in honor of the Todd Seminary for Boys using the first two letters of the school name and was one of the first summer camps in America.

From 1912 until 1977, boys ages six to fifteen traveled to Portage Lake to be campers. They participated in swimming, horseback riding, athletics, crafts, nature and dancing in either four- or eight-week

sessions. Actor and director Orson Welles stayed at the camp in 1932.

Camp Tosebo closed around 1978 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000. The current owners preserve the rich historical tradition of this camp by maintaining its original buildings and conserving its natural beauty. Camp Tosebo is currently available to rent for overnight stays and events.

Little Eden Camp

Little Eden Camp is one of two historic Bible camps flanking Portage Lake. (The other is Portage Lake Bible Camp.) Little Eden’s history begins in 1910, when a

large barn on the Farr farm was moved to the lakefront on Portage Point Drive to be transformed into a hotel. By 1913 Camp Onekama, a boys’ camp, was established there, and by 1924 the camp became St. Mary’s Summer School and Camp, later called Camp Carrington.

In 1937, the Church of the Brethren purchased the property as a family camp and changed the name to Little Eden. The tradition continued when the camp sold in 1944 to a Mennonite Church group, the Little Eden Camp Grounds Association of Archbold, Ohio, who still own the property.

The summer program has basically remained the same for the past 70 years with

kids’ camps, family camps, and golf and quilt weeks. Many summer families have been coming to Little Eden since the 1940s and have established lasting relationships during their particular summer week.

Portage Lake Bible Camp

In 1912 Camp Delight opened on the south side of Portage Lake on Eagle Point. A recreation hall was built at the camp which was touted in 1920 in the Manistee-Portage region as “a group of near-to-nature houses in sylvan surroundings on the shore of Portage Lake.” It was named Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp in 1946, was later placed under the operation of the Great Lakes Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, and is now known as Portage Lake Bible Camp.

The 60-acre wooded property features a private sandy beach, 40 acres of trails and adventure courses, and a full retreat and conference center.

These camps contributed to the unfolding history and atmosphere of Onekama. They are all active participants in the area’s culture and community and introduced many families to the beauty of northern Michigan.



Little Eden Camp. Date unknown. Photo courtesy of Tom Gerhardt.

ARCADIA NEWS

Growing up in Arcadia

Story and photos by
KRISTINA STIERHOLZ

Was it hard growing up in Arcadia 70 years ago? Modern children might think so. No TikTok, no video screens and no indoor plumbing, but many older neighbors here would beg to differ. I recently spoke to three of them.

Patricia Manke Mick lives in the house she was born in. The doctor came to the house and delivered her. Wes Hull was born at the house in Frankfort that served as the local hospital. They both lived in the countryside and went to the Arcadia School from kindergarten through high school. Jeanne Sitter wasn't born in Arcadia, but she spent summers with her parents and grandparents and extended family in Arcadia's village.

Patricia Mick's great grandfather moved in 1822 from Berlin, Germany, to Wisconsin and then soon after to the farm in Arcadia. That farm homestead is the same as where Mick lives now, on the corner of Chamberlain and St. Pierre roads. The homestead is about two miles from Finch Park in Arcadia, the location of the



Patricia Manke Mick



Wes Hull



Jeanne Sitter



Thunder Mug

Arcadia School, and Mick was picked up by a school bus every day. Wes Hull was also picked up by the bus, since he lived even farther outside of town at the end of Hull Road.

Life on a farm meant lots of homegrown foods. Fruits and vegetables were fresh and plentiful in the summer, and everyone in the family helped fill their basements with preserves to tide them over in winter. All remember using an outhouse in their early years. For most, indoor plumbing arrived in Arcadia in the early 1950s. In Patricia Mick's home, each bedroom had a "thunder mug," a chamber pot that served for nighttime bathroom needs. Weekly baths were an elaborate setup in the middle of the

kitchen, with quilts hung up for privacy at the bath near the stove.

During the summers, they still had chores in the day, but there were evening activities in town. Each week, the open space next to Finch Park would host a movie; it was called the "Free Shows." People (usually the young folks) would bring blankets to sit on. Before the show, local stores would offer nickel ice cream cones and similar treats to purchase.

In school, Patricia Mick was on a girls' team that played basketball on a half court. Mick also was a cheerleader. Extra activities, like a special trip to Washington, D.C, were paid through fundraisers over multiple years. Teenagers would go further afield to restaurants on US-31 to get

burgers and milkshakes and listen to the jukebox. Dances were popular, and Wes Hull remembers that when the high school had prom, everyone got dressed up and went. That includes the parents and other adult townspeople.

When quizzed on the difficulty of growing up without many of the modern conveniences, Mick, Hull and Sitter all agreed it was a wonderful way to spend a childhood. Each recalled helping with important family responsibilities and needing

to earn their own extras. But they all had the essentials. And, most importantly, all recalled their growing-up years filled with good times with their families and friends.

It turns out that helping your family, spending time with friends and living in a close-knit community more than make up for the lack of indoor plumbing.

Kristina Stierholz has been coming to Arcadia for vacations short and long since 1971 and officially moved to Michigan several years ago. She lives on 10 acres and is learning how to drive a small tractor and manage a much larger garden and yard space than she had in her city-living past.

A Love Poem to August Farewell

By Louisa Loveridge Gallas
Freshwater Reporter Poet in Residence

You are the full peak of summer's radiant drama,
a lingering departure.
Male crickets furiously rub their forewings to sing their mating song.
Earlier sunsets bring less light to weaken your perennials' harvest.
Earth's meadows shimmer into sienna and burnt gold.

Your loyal twilight pals in backyards who sip iced tea or cocktails adore you in your last flourish.

YOU MISS US.

You feel our tender regret.

You will have a final surge of your most vivid pulse.
Our souls reach out like a glove slips from a hand just before release.

Who's to say this isn't intimacy, our intermingling with August's body.
As we fold away from each other, our balance shifts.

Oh, how we have touched each other.

Now we put on a sweater.

The winds begin to rise, a requiem in their breezes carrying autumn's farewell.

The shadows waver over the land.

Au revoir, dear friends, until we meet again!

A cricket's chirp is called a song, a communication tool that begins with the male cricket's thick forewings. Teeny ridges called a "file" on one wing are touched by a "scraper" on the other, creating a vibration. These sound vibrations are used to attract the female and defend the male's territory. (Sciencelnsights.org)

Trillion Trees campaign takes root in Michigan

By PAT STINSON

Why plant trees when we have the Manistee National Forest as our neighbor?

"Planting a tree is the first step to setting the foundation for conservation of the forest and freshwater ecosystems we share with the generations of today and tomorrow," reads an introductory statement about the Trillion Trees campaign on Michigan.gov.

It's a global campaign to grow and restore one trillion trees by 2030, and Michigan's Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is a partner in achieving the campaign's goal.

MDNR has planted 29.4 million of the 50 million trees it pledged to plant by 2030. Since the campaign began, "the public" has planted 161,056 trees. The agency is asking for our help.

As described on MDNR's website, "... it's about more than just tree planting —

it's a spark to raise awareness about the importance of trees, reflect on Michigan's rich forest history and build capacity to grow forests and communities together."

Those interested in planting a tree may also add information about any trees they plant to a map found on the agency's website: <https://tinyurl.com/3dck7y6m>. Tree-planting resources, including a growing-zone map, a list of native trees and pollinator trees, trees best suited for wildlife and a planting guide, can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/mukpn6uh>. The same web page offers links to a directory of local seedling nurseries and conservation district offices, as well as the social media account of Plant Michigan Green. Find more about the national organization at: trilliontrees.org.



Peachy Keen CryptoQuotes

By MARK VIDEAN

A cryptoquote is a quotation by a well-known person that has been encrypted by substituting one letter for another. See if you can solve the puzzle to reveal the quote and its author.

PAJI AB DIEEIC ETQS GIQET, A DIPAI OI, AJ KSPZ
DIYQWBI AE AB PIBB DKCASL, QSG DIYQWBI AE TQB
JCIBT FIQYTIB AS AE. - QPAYI RQPHIC Hint: I=E
FU WZOOJRZZE, CWD RZH DU QLD QOO IDQNW DY. FC
H QKDY ZUD OZUA TZL QU QIIOD ZNNQYFZUQOOJ.
- R. YZHDLYDC H QGA WQH Hint: U=N
O QGIS RJQP CSE. BTMK RSXJTMS LGT'IS QGMK LGTW
YTDD PGE'K CSJE LGT JOE'K J NSJXH.
- PGQQL NJWKGE Hint: S=E

CRYPTOQUOTE SOLUTION

Life is better than death, I believe, if only because it is less boring, and because it has fresh peaches in it. - Alice Walker
In Hollywood, the women are all peaches. It makes one long for an apple occasionally. - W. Somerset Maugham
I love bald men. Just because you've lost your fuzz doesn't mean you ain't a peach. - Dolly Parton

Farmers feel the 'heat'

By PAT STINSON

When the state was telling everyone to "stay indoors" last month during day after day of choking smoke and high particulate counts, Bear Lake farmer Nicole Mezeske, of Z&N Farm, pointed out what should have been obvious to all.

In a social media post, she shared that farmers need to continue working in their fields to provide fresh local produce to their customers, even more crucial during the recent bout of food insecurity (tainted produce) and widespread sickness. She explained that harvesting produce at peak times also keeps the food from rotting in the field.

Not only was the air quality in Manistee County the worst in the U.S. at one point, the heat and high humidity made being outside downright torturous. Imagine pulling weeds, watering and harvesting crops during all three.

Mezeske also apologized for making some people "uncomfortable" by working outside in hazardous conditions but reminded her social media followers that growing and harvesting food are mainstays of the farmer's livelihood. The crops "...still need water, they still need eyes on them, weeds don't stop growing just because the sky turned orange, so we're out here anyway," she wrote.

A community member read Mezeske's posts and acted. Marta Turnbull, the owner of Motel Bear Lake in northern Manistee County, provided the farm with a box of protective N-95 masks "and no lecture attached," Mezeske wrote, adding, "that kind of looking out means something real special."

A huge "thank you" to all our farmers who do the hard, important work of feeding us every day. We need you. We appreciate you. We have your backs.

(Editor's note: Z&N Farm is a Freshwater Reporter advertiser.)

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

Photo: Irvan Maulana, Unsplash.

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Cigar box guitar performers kick out the jams during second fest

Story and photos by SUE OSELAND

Hey, music lovers! So, where were you on Saturday, July 11? If you were in Custer at the Gold Bar Post VFW during the second annual U.S. 10 Cigar Box Guitar Festival ... well ... YOU know. And if you weren't ...WOW, did you miss an incredible all-day music feast.

Dean Dostal, main organizer of the festival, told me the event pulled in more than 400 people. About 60% were local folks and around 40% were from out of town. Some devotees travel to multiple cigar box guitar (CBG) festivals in various states and are familiar with the musicians, or follow a certain musician.

It was the perfect summer day: sun, warmth, a nice breeze. A day of JOY. Music from 8 different performers/bands, 12 vendors, 2 food trucks and VFW beverages.

What else does a music festival need?

Respite from the hot sun? We had it! The outdoor covered pavilion behind the VFW hall was hopping. Picnic tables made for great seating, and no seat was further than 20 feet or so from the performing musicians.

The sound system was perfect, and sitting so close to the musicians made for a music-lover's dream concert. The music began around noon, and the final act ended a little after 9 p.m., giving the audience 9 plus hours of rocking blues, rhythm and blues, and some good ol' rock 'n' roll music.

To top it all off, admission was free. No



Steve Arvey performs in Custer during the second annual U.S. 10 Cigar Box Guitar Festival.

way, you say? ALL TRUE!

Performers came from across the country, even Europe. The list of musicians is a who's who of veteran guitarists and cigar box guitarists.

One of the musicians, John Mary Go Round, is from Belgium. He said he had come to the U.S. earlier in the month and had already played venues in quite a few other states. The U.S. 10 festival was his final show before heading home. He will be back in the U.S. this October; check his schedule on his Facebook page.

Steve Arvey, another veteran guitarist and CBG performer, commented that he felt it

was a great fest, especially knowing it is just in its second year.

"It was very lively," he said, "and it was so good to see many cigar box guitar builders at the festival."

He explained that homemade builders create a different sound in their instruments, much different from mass-produced ones. He said he wants to make people more aware of these great instruments and other handmade, homemade items, and the CBG festivals create an incredible opportunity to find them in one venue.

I asked Dostal what made him want to put on this festival, and he replied that the germinating thought for him was, "How can I help this community; what can we do to benefit this small community (Custer) and the surrounding area."

During our conversation, Dostal also reflected on the influence the music and musicians might have on younger folks attending the festival.

"It's a family-friendly event, and it is the hope that some kid that attends, maybe as he/she gets older, remembers listening to, meeting a musician or two, and decides they want to play an instrument also."

A dedicated group of volunteers has this super-cool event finely tuned, though only in its second year, welcoming folks from all walks of life. Volunteers provided easy parking directions, answered questions,

maintained a very clean environment and provided a golf cart ride for those who needed it. They also assisted vendors with tent set up and take down, and all were extremely friendly.

The Gold Bar Post VFW benefits by renting out the venue and selling beverages to festivalgoers.



Festival Musicians Coordinator Dean Dostal (at right) and the musician known as "In the Key of Kiersi."

A portion of the proceeds from the many donated raffle items goes to support the local Lakeshore Animal Friends, a 501(c)3 charitable entity. Most of the nonprofit's monies go to support the dogs and cats they

continued on Page 12



Storm sculpture

Pines of Arcadia, a nonprofit art studio and gallery located near Lake Michigan, was battered by winds from the big storm that came through Manistee County (and others) at the end of winter. The top of a large tree fell on the studio's upstairs porch, and another fell on the roof of (but didn't damage) a guest cabin used for artists in residency.

After an unsuccessful search for someone to cut the downed trees, a friend of owner Judy Jashinsky finally found someone willing to clear them. "Dave" arrived and was asked to use sections of the trees he cut to create a barrier around the studio and a fence along the driveway. A powerline runs through the studio gallery's wooded property, and Jashinsky asked Dave to use the cut logs from dead and downed trees near the line to create a zig-zag pattern in the clearing beneath it. Dave said he thought he could do something more, and he arrived the next day with an image of a fish skeleton. Jashinsky gave the go-ahead, and Dave and his daughter worked hard to create the 20-foot-long (or more!) wooden sculpture she can see today from her upstairs porch. Photos courtesy of Judy Jashinsky.



Peach festivals, U-pick orchards and markets

Festivals
compiled by GRACE GROGAN

Romeo Peach Festival
Romeo Lions Fieldhouse and Grounds, 269 E. Washington St., Romeo, Sept. 3-7, 2026. The festival's 95th celebration, held annually on Labor Day weekend, includes peach products, an artists' exhibition, carnival rides, a car show and more. romeopeachfestival.com

Robinette's Peach Festival
Robinette's Apple Haus & Winery, 3142 4 Mile Rd NE, Grand Rapids. Friday, Aug. 16, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The free event includes fresh-baked peach pies, turnovers, peach donuts, peach ice cream and 20% off peach wine. Enjoy live music, Lord of the Gourd watermelon carving, classic car show and photos with Mac the Mascot. Find more information on the WMTA.org website.

Coloma Glad-Peach Festival
119 N. PawPaw St., Coloma, is the first weekend in August. A combined celebration of gladiolas and peaches, the family-friendly event includes a 5k/10k race, grand parade, kiddies' parade, flyover, food vendors, arts and crafts, bake fest, ax-throwing, petting zoo, bounce houses, fireworks and more. Information is available at: gladpeachfest.com

Area Peach Farms & Farm Markets
Compiled by PAT STINSON

This is a sampling of farms and markets and is not meant to be a complete list.

- Benzie County**
- Elberta Farmers Market, 8-Noon, Thursdays, Penfold Park, 1098 Lakeside Blvd.
 - Frankfort Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m, Saturdays, Open Space Park, 800 Main St.
 - Honor Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesdays, Maley Park, 10579 Main St.
 - Maple Ridge Orchards (self-serve stand), 9837 Manning Rd., Honor

- Manistee County**
- Apple Valley Orchards, 9159 Northwood Hwy. (M22), Onekama
 - AVO Farm Market, 12181 Northwood Hwy. (M22), Bear Lake
 - Brixstone Farms (self-serve stand), 11240 Milarch Rd., Bear Lake
 - Brown's Poplar Ridge Orchards Market, 12482 Milarch Rd., Bear Lake
 - Lutz Farms (self-serve stand), 8576 Chief Rd., Kaleva
 - Manistee Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-noon, Wagoner Community Center, 260 St. Mary's Parkway.
 - Miller's Northwood Market, 12467 Northwood Hwy. (M22), Bear Lake

- Mason County**
- Kistlercrest Farms-The Roadside, 4105 S. Pere Marquette Hwy., Ludington
 - Ludington Artisan/Farmers Market, 2-7 p.m., Fridays, Legacy Plaza Pavilion, 112 N. James St.
 - Orchard Market, US-31 at Free Soil Rd., Free Soil
 - PM Family Farms, U-pick, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wed.-Sat., 3441 S. Morton Rd., Ludington
 - Scottville Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-3p.m., every other Monday. West Shore Bank parking lot, 107 W. State St. and along Main Street.
 - The Market, 2442 US-10, Ludington

- Oceana County**
- Daly Orchard Co., 3585 W. Jackson Rd., Hart
 - Pentwater Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, Village Green, 327 S. Hancock St.
 - New Era Farmers Market, 4-7 p.m., every other Tuesday, 1820 Ray Ave.
 - Rennack Orchards Market, 3731 W. Polk Rd.

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THURSDAY
AUGUST 6

1:30 – 3 PM
Waterside Learning
@ Langland Park

FRIDAY
AUGUST 7

10 AM – 1 PM
Adventure in Glen Park

3 PM – 5 PM
Butterfly Palooza
@ North Point Park

4 PM – 7 PM
Onekama Lions
Steak Dinner &
Raffle Drawing
@ Lions Den

7 PM – 8 PM
Candy Bar Bingo
@ Village Park

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

8 AM – 12 PM
Onekama Lions Breakfast
@ Lions Den

8 AM
1 Mile Fun Run
@ Village Park

9 AM
5K Run/Walk
@ Village Park

9 AM – 2:30 PM
Car Show
@ Village Park

9 AM – 3 PM
Church of the Brethren Yard Sale &
Onekama Dye & Design

9:30AM – 4:30 PM
Onekama Parks Scavenger Hunt
@ Village Park

10 AM – 12 PM
Pies, Plants & More Sale
@ Main & 5th

10 AM – 2 PM
Trinkets & Treasures plus
This N'That Sale
@ Farr Center

10 AM – 2 PM
Manistee County Library
@ Village Park

10 AM – 3 PM
Arts & Crafts Fair
@ Main & Baker

10 AM – 5 PM
Onekama History Info
@ Village Park

11 AM – 2 PM
1,Rocks Rock Painting
@ Village Park

11 AM
Blessing of the Pets
@ St John by the Lake

2 PM
Free Throw Contest
@ Zosel St & School

2 PM
Cornhole Tournament
@ Lions Den

4 PM
Author Talk: John Wenninger
@ Congregational Church

5 PM – 8 PM
BBQ Dinner
@ Village Park

5 PM – 11 PM
Beer Tent
@ Village Park

6 PM
Bump N' Run & Demolition Derby
@ Fairgrounds

7 PM – 10:00 PM
Live DJ & Dancing
@ Village Park

8 PM
Announce Princess & Prince of Onekama

8:05 PM
Announce Eldest & Youngest Citizens

Dusk
Fireworks over Portage Lake

SUNDAY
AUGUST 9

8 AM – 11 AM
Onekama Lions
Breakfast
@ Lions Den

1 PM
PARADE

2 PM
Author Talk:
Sylvia Duncan
@ Congregational Church

MONDAY
AUGUST 10

4 PM
Author Talk: Joe Suchocki
@ Congregational Church

7 PM
Monday Concert in the Park:
Jake Slater – Award Winning
Elvis Tribute
@ Village Park

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Peaches

continued from Page 1

was so profitable in 1865 that it became known among agriculturists throughout the U.S. Berrien County's orchards were known as the best in America. By 1870, the county had 6,000 acres of peaches.

Fruit was the second major industry in South Haven in the early 1800s, preceded by lumber. A blog post ("South Haven and the Fruit Industry: A Success Story") on the Visit South Haven website states that in 1853, Stephen B. Morehouse began a peach orchard. The first commercial orchard was four acres of peaches planted by Aaron S. Dyckman in 1857. Dyckman and Liberty Hyde Bailey Sr. established the South Haven-Casco Pomological Society in 1871 to develop and improve growing fruit.

The area built itself around the preservation, canning and shipping of fruit in the 1890s. The Dunkley Canning Factory processed without added preservatives and was the largest canning factory in the world. The Visit South Haven website reports that in the 1920s, Stanley Johnston helped develop eight varieties of Haven peaches: Cresthaven, Fairhaven, Glohaven, Halehaven, Kalhaven, Redhaven, Richhaven, and Sunhaven.

A disease began spreading among orchards in 1862, perhaps from trees imported from New Jersey. At least, that was the theory. To stop the spread, infected trees had to be cut down and burned. By 1874, only 503

acres of peaches remained in St. Joseph. In 1875, the Michigan State Legislature enacted a law requiring the destruction of all diseased trees in Allegan, Van Buren, and Ottawa counties. The Cincinnati Orchard, famed for its profitability, succumbed to the disease in 1877.

Growers replanted their orchards, and Michigan peach trees numbered about 12.5 million in 1898. Then, an October 1906 snowstorm with freezing temperatures killed 1,109,934 trees, as reported by Michigan Peach Sponsors. Growers once again made a comeback. Today, Berrien, Oceana and Van Buren counties are Michigan's largest peach producers.



Photo: Joe Dumas, Unsplash.

Peaches, not an American fruit

What many don't realize is that peaches are not native to Michigan, nor to North America. The National Today website shares an origin story about peaches. It maintains the wild peach was discovered around 6,000 BC in a province of China. The domesticated fruit became an indulgence, a food served to royalty and those within their immediate circles. Persians got their hands on them, and the fruit's popularity spread across their empire. The Romans called the peach the Persian Apple. Alexander the Great introduced peaches into Europe, and by the 1500s, Spanish explorers introduced them to America

Now that you know how this delicious, nutritious fruit became a mainstay in Michigan, make sure you celebrate National Peach Month, established in 1982 by President Ronald Reagan. According to National Today, the purpose of the annual recognition in August is to celebrate the fruit's nutritional benefits. The Michigan

Grown website indicates that peaches are rich in potassium and Vitamins A and C, are low in sodium and contain no saturated fat. A medium raw peach is about 88% water and has only 46 calories, making it a healthy dessert choice.

There are two types of peaches — freestone and clingstone. The difference is in how the flesh separates from the pit. If the meat comes off freely, it is a freestone peach. If the flesh clings to the pit, it is a clingstone.

Just peachy

Purchase ripe, in-season peaches for munching, canning and making a pie in honor of National Peach Pie Day on Monday, Aug. 24, 2026. The day was first observed in the mid-1990s, but the person or entity that first celebrated it is unknown. The day pays tribute to what was once more than a dessert; peach pie was served for breakfast with cold milk or coffee. (<https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/peach-pie-day/>)

Peach cobbler is a pie alternative created when settlers moving west lacked the tools to make pie. A statement on AwarenessDays.com suggests the settlers improvised by dropping stewed peaches onto the biscuit dough. From those humble beginnings to a global contest ... National Today reports that the world's largest peach cobbler, measuring 11 feet by 5 feet, is made every year in the state of Georgia.

Celebrate National Peach Month by attending a few festivals, shopping at your local farmers market or visiting a U-pick orchard. A peach still on the tree is ripe if the part facing the sun has a reddish blush and the part toward the ground is yellow. Squeeze the fruit near the stem. If it gives slightly, it's ready to be picked. Grip the peach firmly with the sides of your fingers, not your fingertips, then pull it off the twig gently, without twisting.

Grace Grogan is the board secretary of Detroit Working Writers and a member of Henderson Writing Group in Las Vegas, Nev. Born and bred in Michigan, Grace spent six years living and traveling full time in a motor home before settling in Arizona. She returns to the beautiful Great Lakes State every summer.



Photo: Emma Shappley, Unsplash.



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Ode to Peaches

By Louisa Loveridge Gallas
Freshwater Reporter Poet in Residence

Peaches do not need
a self-help manual
to become themselves!
Simply hold one in your palm.
Do you sense confusion, distress?
Or simply pure delight
in its own skin.
The peach,
so proud of “Rosaceae,”
the family name,
germinates with ease
to bloom
even from its tough center.
Your mouth aroused
by a peach’s self-esteem,
that first dreamy bite
culminates the ancestral
destiny of its fragile
blossoms to be adored,
once worshipped
to ward off evil spirits.*
With further bites
glorious juice
fascinates
your fingers,
rolls down your chin
onto your new white shirt
which humbly feels joy
to receive
such sweetness.

You are so enchanted!
All sadnesses,
sorrows, shadows
disappear
right down to your baptism
in a full moist finale
and, at last,
the sturdy confident pit
brings you home.



*In ancient China, peach blossoms decorated doorways at the new year, symbols of longevity; warriors carried them to protect the emperor in public from evil spirits. In Korea, the peach tree is considered to be immortal. From Nick Musica’s “The Weird and Wild History of of Peaches”, FruitStand.com, Nov., 2020.

Our future depends on farmland

By **MARK BANASZAK**

Owning an old house can be a responsibility. If you have ever taken care of one, you know that just pulling on a loose edge of old wallpaper can mean replacing a whole lot of plaster. Owning land carries that same need for caretaking, but on a larger scale. A house’s condition affects the people who live in it and their neighbors. Land is similar. If problems are not cared for, they spread outward, like a leaky pipe, shaping the food supply, the local economy and the character of a community for generations of owners to come.

Farmer and author James Rebanks (“The Shepherd’s Life,” “English Pastoral” and others) argued that farmland functions as the literal foundation civilization is built on. Civilization depends on farms productive enough to feed people who then have the freedom to specialize in mining, math or musicals, rather than growing their own food. A healthy civilization depends on a healthy food system, and that depends on healthy agricultural land — land that’s been looked after, not used up.

That’s exactly what’s at stake here in Michigan. Farmers here have long taken care of their land, in part because our state’s soil supports such a wide range of possible crops. According to the Grand Traverse Conservation District, Michigan is the second most agriculturally diverse state in the country, leading the nation in tart cherries, pickling cucumbers, asparagus and squash, and ranking in the top 10 for apples, blueberries, and pumpkins — alongside plenty of farmers raising soybeans, corn or hay. That kind of diversity only survives if farmers treat each field on its own terms. The cherry ground isn’t the corn ground, which takes the attentive, generation-spanning kind of care Rebanks describes.

However, we face the same challenges here as much of the U.S. Many farmers are older. According to the 2022 Census of Agriculture, the average age of Michigan farmers is 56, and just over half work primarily off the farm. Meanwhile, the natural beauty of the area attracts tourism,

which drives up real estate prices — pricing many would-be farmers out of the market. According to a 2022 survey, the cost of land is the single biggest barrier facing new farmers. And once farmland is converted to other uses, it’s rarely returned to agriculture. The American Farmland Trust has documented a common progression: Land first shifts from agricultural use to low-density single-family homes, then, as the local population grows, it gets repurposed again for higher-density urban development. Once land has been developed this way, it’s extremely difficult — often practically impossible — to convert it back to farmland.

the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts and other partners. The concept is straightforward: Farmers and landowners can list land for partnerships, leases or sale, while farmers seeking land can outline what they need and hope to find. The program also connects both sides with expert guidance throughout the process — a practical, matchmaking approach to keeping land in productive, well-tended hands for the next generation.

Like an old house, land does not take care of itself. And the price of neglect increases the longer that care is put off. Just like an old house, once farmland has been neglected or converted to other uses, there is no quick rehab that can bring it back. Programs like MiFarmLink are a chance to get ahead of our disappearing farmland, to connect farmers looking to retire with the next generation interested in taking up that work — before our area becomes a subdivision, instead of forests and fields. If it’s true that fields are the foundation that civilization stands on, then keeping Michigan’s land in productive hands is not just an agricultural issue; it’s an investment in an essential part of our communities. And that is a responsibility we all share, whether or not we ever till a field.



Hayfield at dusk. Photo: Mark Banaszak.



Field of young cucumbers. Photo: Dusan Kostic, AdobeStock.

Michigan is addressing the issues, though. The state is actively working to preserve farmland and bring in new farmers. One example is MiFarmLink, a statewide program administered locally by the Grand Traverse Conservation District,

Mark Banaszak has spent more than 30 years as a public-school educator, urban community gardener and outdoor enthusiast. He has transplanted his city life to rural Manistee County.



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to live loudly, and to write what comes
from my heart...

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Carp in Michigan: the origin of an invasive species

By **STEWART A. MCFERRAN**

The invasive common carp was first introduced into North American waters in 1831. There was no rigorous attempt to understand what effect *Cyprinus carpio* (C. carpio) from Germany would have on pristine American lakes and streams. There was no understanding of how the introduced fish would interact with native fish species.

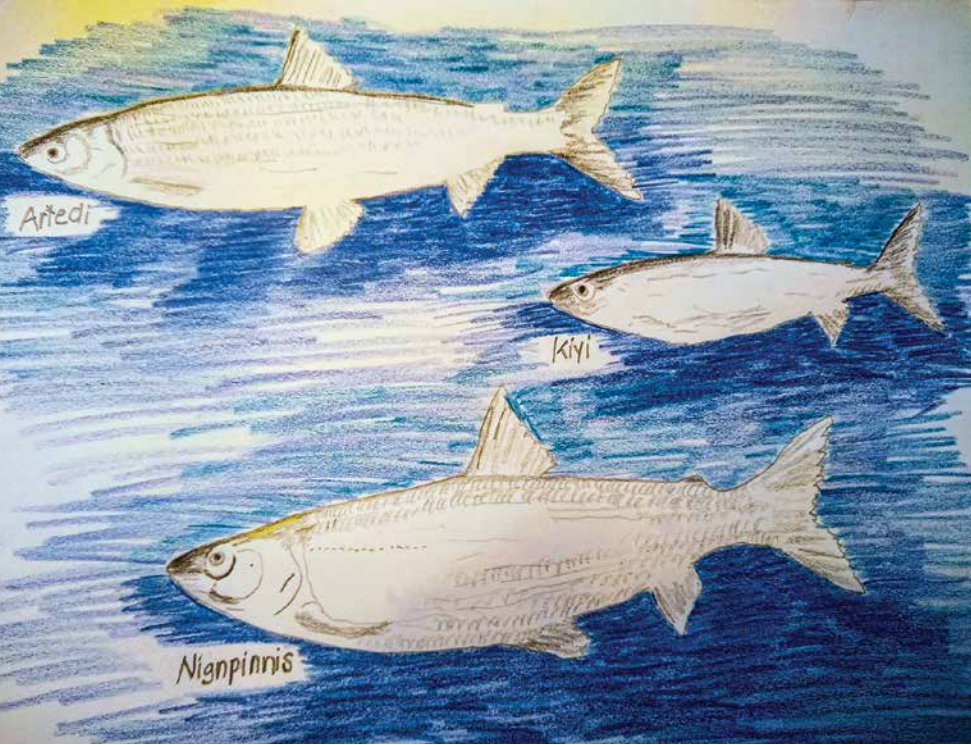
Spencer F. Baird, the U.S. commissioner of fish and fisheries, raised German carp in ponds at the Washington Monument near his office in the Smithsonian Institute. Those European carp from the ponds were distributed into waters up and down the East Coast and beyond.

At that time, Lake Erie was known as Whitefish Lake. In 1879 the catch of whitefish, native species of the salmon family, was 3,537,000 pounds. Lake herring was also present in great numbers in Lake Erie. Both whitefish and lake herring are members of the coregonus group (genus) of fish. The group also includes, cisco, chubs, kiwi and blackfin.

C. carpio was introduced into Lake Huron's Sandusky Bay in 1888. The German carp soiled wetlands by uprooting vegetation. Those big, coarse fish were known to love wild rice and gobbled up that native food carefully tended by Native Americans in shallow waters. The carp drives native black bass from its spawning grounds and is known to have disrupted the breeding grounds of native coregonus fish.

Seth Green (b. 1817), a fish dealer and self-trained fish culturist, wrote a small book urging farmers to raise carp. The book provided instructions on building carp ponds. There was no mention of possible downsides of the German carp.

In 1899 the deputy commissioner of fisheries in Ontario realized it had been a mistake to introduce carp and stated:



Original colored pencil drawing of whitefish, by S.A. McFerran.

“(T)hey multiply like vermin and produce nothing but evil results.” The carp was considered poor table fare as compared to whitefish.

As the German carp population increased its activities in the shallows, its big appetite began to reduce the ability of the coregonus group of fishes to successfully reproduce. The eight coregonids had thrived in all corners of the five Great Lakes since the glaciers had receded. They were much sought after, and fishers from both Canada and the United States hauled them in by the netload.

Actions taken to distribute foreign fish into American waters were not science-informed, and the whitefish population of Lake Erie has declined. Invasive fish species such as C. carpio played a role in the decline, as did invasive quagga mussels, overfishing and the pollution of key breeding grounds. Species of coregonus are now disappearing from Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, according to a June 23, 2025, Bridge Michigan report, “Iconic whitefish on edge of collapse as Great Lakes biodiversity crisis deepens.”

The story of fish culturists with big ideas has been repeated over the years and in different parts of the Great Lakes. While many introductions of invasive fish have been accidental, some have been deliberate.

Today, raising salmon in fish hatcheries to release into Michigan waters is not undertaken for any scientific reason. The reasons for these actions have more to do with the economics of sport fishing and social engineering. This accounts for the origin of several invasive species introduced into Michigan waters, which has certainly led to the decline of native species. Carp is a poor trade for whitefish.

Stewart A. McFerran illuminates current environmental issues in a historic context. He discusses our stories each month with WNMC 90.7 FM (Traverse City) Station Manager Eric Hines and occasionally pops in at the WUWU 100.1 FM radio station in Elberta.



Bass

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peacefulness of Portage Lake as we gently rocked with the boat's movement, observing birds, trees, houses and the hills of Onekama. I relished the insulation from the rest of reality, the zen of fishing and living in the moment on a world comprised of a 16-foot fishing boat. There was the May when yellow perch and bluegill were biting like mad in the shallows, and I hauled them in as fast as I cast. Another year when I consistently caught northern pike — long, mean and slimy but delicious when Pat filleted them, successfully removing pesky Y-bones. There were walleye days (lucky!), as we mostly fished in the middle of the afternoon, and you rarely catch walleye until nightfall. Bass, largemouth and smallmouth, leaping from the surface. I caught sheepshead, crappies, steelhead and many, many, many rock bass.

This is a pinnacle year of fishing success for me. First, I entered a bass fishing contest. Maybe being married to the contest president had something to do with the invite, but my hours of fishing experience meant I might not be an embarrassment. Pat's “Bass Fishing Contest of America” has run on Portage Lake for almost 50 years and is rife with tradition and rules and a big deal to receive an invite. My personal goal on the big day was to not hook anyone. I caught a non-winning smallmouth and achieved my personal goal. Then in June, Pat took me to Ontario, near Thessalon, for six days of fishing on Tunnel Lake. We fished seven hours a day, and I couldn't have been happier. Does that mean I'm really an angler? Does that mean I'll be invited again?

“Pat, can we go fishing today?”

Rosalind Jaffe is a retired bookseller and banker. She writes from northern Michigan, where she tends her gardens.

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& Stewart McFerran,
F.R. contributing writer.



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**NOT SO
TRIVIAL?**

- The **space between your eyebrows** is called ophryon. 
- \$1 million in hundreds weighs 23 lbs. and fits in a **small suitcase**. The bank heist movies got it right. 
- \$2.4 billion in dollar bills occupies the same amount of space as **74 washing machines** but weighs a lot more.
- **Helium** is mined. The gas is used to prevent the bends in diving, cool MRI machines, help in adjunctive medical respiratory care, lift balloons, dispense whipped cream and more. Like all mined materials, its supply is finite.
- It's better to keep **plastic caps on the containers** when recycling. Not all caps are recyclable, but it saves labor.
- A test exists to **predict if earliest stage breast cancer**, known as DCIS, will become invasive, but a company has successfully lobbied Medicare to not reimburse patients for the cost, so the test is less available. Also, ask about radiation seeds placed during surgery, which can replace weeks of radiation therapy.
- The FCC has approved **“space mirrors,”** which can project light onto Earth's surface at night, eliminating an area's dark sky, with implications for the health of all Earth's creatures.
- **“Adversarial clothing”** is designed to thwart cameras and AI offering facial recognition services.
- DarkSky International is offering a Star Trek photo contest. Take a selfie or photo of others doing the **Vulcan salute under the stars** to enter the contest. 
- The coldest possible temperature in the Universe is 0 degrees Kelvin, which equals -459.67 degrees F.
- The **Perseid Meteor Shower** (peaking Aug. 11-13) is the second most prolific, after December's Geminids. 

Area Events Calendar

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Aug 7
Adventure in Glen Park, Onekama
10am–1pm, Glen Park. Take a guided walk along historic Glen Creek and hear about the mineral springs.

Mardi Gras Party, Idlewild
8pm-1am. \$15. BYOB. Dress to impress. Music by DJ's T-N-T Entertainment. Mid-Michigan Idlewilders Event Center, 19 Joy Ave. (corner of Forman Rd.)

Aug 7,8
Hoxeyville Skies Music Festival, Wellston
12-10pm Friday, 11am-9pm Saturday. \$126.80/ adults/weekend. Free for kids 15 & under. Includes rustic camping. RV pass \$50. Lineup of 18 performers. 11314 W 48 1/2 Rd, Wellston. Info/ tickets: www.hoxeyvilleskies.com

Aug 7-9
Ludington and Manistee Street Sales
10am-6pm Friday & Saturday, 10am-4pm Sunday. Downtown stores offer big savings throughout the weekend.

Aug 8
Crystal Lake Team Marathon & Solo 26.2M, Thompsonville
7am. \$20-35 depending on race run. 284 S. Benzie Blvd. Info/register: <https://tinyurl.com/3m2hd6av>

Onekama Days Fun Run & 5k, Onekama
Fun Run - 8am, \$27.50. 5k - 9am, \$38.10. Onekama Village Park, Portage Lake Ave. Info/register: <https://tinyurl.com/5x7t64sv>

22 2 None Fighting the Fight Within 5K & Tribute Walk, Cadillac
9am. 1 mile tribute walk - \$22. 5k run - \$35. 3740 S. 41 Rd. Info/register: runsignup.com/Race/MI/Cadillac/FFW5K

Scavenger Hunt/Children's Scavenger Hunt, Onekama
9:30am–4:30pm, Onekama Village Park. Bring a team or the family. Hunt for clues at parks. Earn tickets for a prize drawing. Littles search for painted rocks at the park.

Boston Tea Party Re-Creation, Ludington
10am-12pm. Free. In celebration of 250 years of our nation. Stearns Park, 950 W Ludington Ave.

Antique Tractor Pulling, Scottville
10am-2pm. Free for spectators. The Western Michigan Old Engine Club sanctions dead weight tractor pulling for antique farm stock tractors. All tractors must have been built prior to 1956. Riverside Park, 700 S Scottville Rd.

Rubber Ducky Race, Scottville
10am-4pm. \$5/ticket. 1000 numbered rubber ducks will be released into the river. 1st across the finish line wins \$500. 10 more prizes will be awarded. Benefit for Mason County Central Cross Country Team. Scottville Riverside Park, 700 S Scottville Rd. Info & ticket sellers: facebook.com

Evening with the Collectors Fundraiser, Baldwin
5-8pm. \$10. View private collections & get 2 verbal antique appraisals. Lake County Historical Museum, 915 N Michigan Ave.

Winners of the Eldest and Youngest Onekama Citizen, Onekama
8:35pm, Winners announced at Onekama Village Park.

Aug 8,9
Gold Coast Artisan Fair, Ludington
10am-5pm Saturday, 10am-4pm Sunday. Rotary Park (City Park), 500 W Ludington Ave.

Aug 9
Ludington Auto Club Cars & Coffee Car Meet
10am-1pm. Free and open to the public. Furrin Group Autocross @ West Shore Community College, 3000 N Stiles Rd. Coffee for purchase at the Meraki Coffee Truck.

In concert: Barefoot, Benzonია
4pm. Donations. Concert benefits the Empire Area Community Emergency Fund. The Mills Community House, 891 Michigan Ave.

Aug 10
Howard Hornung/Tom Thomas Memorial Band Concert, Ludington
7-8:30pm. Free. West Shore Civic Band presents an annual memorial band concert for former local band directors. Waterfront Park, 300 S William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Aug 11
Talks, Tunes & Tours, Manistee
10am. Free. "A New Era of Energy for Your Future" – Allan O'Shea, Innovator and Manistee County Motivator. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

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 garden gloves, water. Meet at the gazebo at the end of Rath Ave. by Lincoln Lake. Cartier Park, 1254 N Lakeshore Dr.

Aug 11
Plant Diagnostic Clinic, Benzonია
11am-2pm. Free. Bring your insects, weeds & plant diseases for identification & recommendations. Benzonია Public Library, 891 Michigan Ave. (US-31).

Aug 11-15
Western Michigan Fair, Ludington
Multi-day event with fun for the whole family. Mason County Fairgrounds, 5302 W US-10. Info/schedule: <https://tinyurl.com/yc23hr29>

Aug 13
First Person Stories & Songs, Manistee
10am. Free. "The Birds and the Bees and the Plants They Love" – Josh Shields, Manistee count Conservation District. Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St.

Bus Day to Big Point Sable Lighthouse, Ludington
Free concert from 1-3pm. Bus transportation from 12pm-5pm. Big Sable Point Lighthouse in Ludington State Park, 8800 M-11. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Commercial Fishing in Benzie County presentation, Benzonია
7pm. Donation appreciated. With Andy Bolander at the Mills Community House, 891 Michigan Ave., or Zoom. Benzie Historical Society Academy Lecture Series. benziemuseum.org

Movies in the Park, Ludington
Dusk. Free outdoor movie, "Hoppers". Free Baby Badger rides for kids from 7:30-8:45pm before the movie begins. Concessions avail. Rotary Park, 500 W Ludington Ave.

Aug 13-15
Midwest Jet Pilot's Boondoggle, Baldwin
10am-5pm. Free for spectators. Informal & laid-back. Over 100 RC (remote controlled) jets soar all weekend. Visit with pilots & stroll Pit Row. Music. Food & beverages avail. for purchase. Free parking. Baldwin Airport, 7668 M-37. Bring lawn chairs, sunglasses, cooler.

Aug 14
Ship Watch – American Cruise Lines Visit, Ludington
9:30am-6:30pm. Docking on outer West Wall of Waterfront Park, 300 S William St.

Technology in the Woods, Idlewild
2-6pm. \$15. An easy-to-understand cyber security summit designed to help you protect yourself, your family, and your finances. Yates Township Hall, 6437 S. Nelson Rd. Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/y7tk49ya>

In concert: Greggie and the Jets (Elton John tribute), Manistee
7:30-9:30pm. \$20-50. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: ramsdelltheatre.org

Aug 14, 15
Frankfort Art Fair
1-7pm Friday, 10am-4pm Saturday. Market Square Park, 420 Corning Ave.

Aug 15
Household Hazardous Waste & Pharmaceutical Collection Day, Manistee, Mason & Oceana 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 or Hart Department of Public Works, 1010 State St, Hart. Info: manisteedc.org, mason-lakeconservation.org, oceanaconservation.org

Collector Car Show, Frankfort
9am-2:30pm. Free. Mineral Springs Park, 630 Main St.

Logan's 5K Color Run, Cadillac
9am. \$32. Run, walk, prance, strut, roll or stroll! FUNdraiser to benefit Logan Wangler (diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma, a rare and aggressive cancer) and her family. Cadillac City Park, 190 W Cass St. Register: runsignup.com

20th Annual Thunder in the Creek, Branch
11am-midnight. Parade, ATV run, kids' games, pig roast, chicken drop & duck race, live music, silent auction, free rustic camping, fireworks. Benefit for disabled veterans. Ruby Creek Tavern, 7980 E Washington Rd. Info: 231.898.2377

16th Annual Suds on the Shore Craft Beer, Wine & Cocktail Festival, Ludington
12-5pm. \$50 ADV, \$60 DOOR. 10 tokens & sample glass. 21 & over only. Local craft beers, wines, ciders, meads, cocktails, food trucks, and live music. Rotary Park (City Park) 500 W Ludington Ave. Tickets: sudsontheshore.com

Scottville Pioneers Cemetery Tour
6-8pm. \$36.75. Tour Scottville's Brookside Cemetery, 950 W State St. while local historians and descendants share stories of Scottville's founding families, prominent women, & early settlers. Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/ybu22n4m>

In concert: Flo Rida wsg Cooper Alan, Manistee
7-10:30pm. \$75. The outdoor venue at Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy.

Aug 15
In concert: Brother Maven, Cadillac
8pm. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S 13 Rd. Info/tickets: coyotecrossingresort.com

Aug 15-16
Michigan's Free ORV Weekend, Statewide
Michigan residents & out-of-state visitors can ride DNR-designated routes & trails without an ORV license or trail permit. ORV rules & laws still apply.

Aug 16-22
Northern District Fair, Cadillac
Carnival midway, rides, food, animals, live music, derbies, pie-baking contest & more. Wexford County Fairgrounds, 1320 N. Mitchell Rd. info/ tickets: northerndistrictfair.org

Aug 18
Talks, Tunes & Tours, Manistee
10am. Free. "Women Composers You May Never Have Heard Of" – Sarah Helge, Retired Educator. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Freestyling with your Dog, Onekama
10am, North Point Park. No experience. Bring your dog on a leash for a walk in the park. Learn how to have fun.

In concert: The Scottville Clown Band, Scottville
7pm. Fundraising event to support the MCC music program. Featured auction items will be collectibles from the recently demolished historic Scottville School. Campus of Mason County Central Schools, 300 W Broadway St. Bring lawn chair.

Aug 19
GTRLC Wildflowers at Arcadia Marsh, Arcadia
10am-12pm. Free. Join Paula Dreeszen on the universally accessible marsh walk. Bring water & snack. Sunscreen, bug spray & camera/binocs suggested. Arcadia Marsh Walkway on M-22. Registration required: gtrlc.org

Back to School Backpack Bonanza, Ludington
3-6pm. Free round of mini-golf, backpacks & school supplies to any Mason County students pre-K thru 12th grade, accompanied by parent or guardian. The event is limited to 400 students. Ludington Area Jaycees Mini Golf, 900 W Ludington Ave.

Pollinators of Northern Michigan, Benzonია
7pm. Free. Emily Umbarger, Sustainability Director and Instructor of Agricultural Sciences at Interlochen Center for the Arts, will discuss native plants and the essential role of native pollinators. The Mills Community House, 891 Michigan Ave.

Beach Sweep & Green Drinks, Ludington
7-8pm. Free. Volunteer to help clean the beach. Meet at south concession stand at Stearns Park, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr. Gloves/bags provided. Drinks/networking after. BYO. No Glass.

Aug 20
Join the Botany team of the US Forest Service to help remove invasive plants, Free Soil
9am. Free. Meet at the Nurnberg Trailhead parking lot (west end of Nurnberg Rd.) for a tailgate safety session. Bring lunch, gloves, & plenty of water (at least 2 bottles). Hike for approximately 1 mile to the project area. Wear comfortable closed-toe shoes & clothes that can get dirty. Botany program will supply digger tools, trash bags, great views of Lake Michigan & brownies.

First Person Stories & Songs, Manistee
10am. Free. "Local Book Discussion" – Ed Grafton, Historical Fiction Writer. Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St.

Tai Chi in Glen Park, Onekama
10am, Glen Park. Hosted by Richard Gallas. Enjoy the beauty of the park & gentle sound of the creek

Food Pantry, Bear Lake
4-6pm. Free Community Table meal. Eligibility: Must need emergency food, participate in income-based programs (like SNAP, WIC, or CSFP), or fall below the federal poverty level. Bear Lake United Methodist Church, 7861 Main St. info: 231.864.3680

Art of Giving Fundraiser & Gala, Frankfort
5-8pm. Donation of \$500 - 2 tickets. Donation of \$1000 - 4 tickets. Catered dinner, live music, mingling with OAC staff, board members, artists, sponsors. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Tickets: oliverart.org

Movies in the Park, Ludington
Dusk. Free outdoor movie, "Lilo and Stitch". Free Baby Badger rides for kids from 7:30-8:45pm before the movie begins. Concessions avail. Rotary Park, 500 W Ludington Ave.

Aug 22
13th Annual Big Bear Butt Cruise, Kaleva
6am-9:30pm. Registration starts at \$70 & 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/registration: BigBearButtCruise.com

4 Person Scramble Disc Golf Tournament, Scottville
8am. \$25/player. Teams of 4 play 2 rounds. Labyrinth Course at West Shore Community College, 3000 N Stiles Rd. Info/register: discgolfscene.com

Benzie Area Symphony Orchestra, Benzonია
4pm. Suggested donation \$15 adults, \$10 seniors, free for kids under 18. Soprano Emily Douglass performs works by Dvorak and Coonradt. Benzie Central High School auditorium, 9222 Homestead Rd.

Firemen's Ball, Idlewild
5:30-11pm. \$25. Dinner, music & raffles. Yates Township Hall, 6437 S Nelson Rd.

S. S. Badger Shoreline Cruise, Ludington
8:30pm boarding, 9-11pm cruise. Tickets include food & live entertainment. Cruises sail rain or shine. Info/tickets: www.ssbadger.com

Garden Tractor Pulling, Scottville
11am-3pm. Free for spectators. The Western Michigan Old Engine Club sanctions garden tractor pulling for both dead weight sled and transfer sled. Riverside Park, 700 S Scottville Rd.

Aug 23
Beach Volleyball Tournament, Ludington
8am-8pm. Stearns Park Beach, 421 N Lakeshore Dr.

Ludington Auto Club Cars & Coffee Car Meet
10am-1pm. Free and open to the public. NAPA Auto Parts, 3351 US-10. Coffee for purchase at the Meraki Coffee Truck.

Aug 25
Talks, Tunes & Tours, Manistee
10am. Free. "The History of the US Forest Service" – Barb Heidel, Retired US Forest Service. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Weed the Park, Ludington
6-8pm. Free. Volunteer to help AFFEW remove invasive plants. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Bring garden gloves, water. Meet at the gazebo at the end of Rath Ave. by Lincoln Lake. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr.

Aug 27
First Person Stories & Songs, Manistee
10am. Free. "The History of Cars" – Fred Colgren, Educational Director of the Gilmore Car Museum. Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St.

MARJDI Annual Picnic, Manistee
5pm. Food, music & community. Lions Pavilion, First St. Beach, 249 Lakeshore Rd.

Aug 28
In concert: Karen Curlee, Manistee
7:30-9:30pm. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: ramsdelltheatre.org

Summer Get Down at the Garden, Frankfort
7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm. \$25. Featuring Jenni Rae, Andrew Dost, Vivian Barrett & many more. The Garden Theater, 301 Main St. Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/y9cy9rmd>

Aug 27-30
7th Annual Forest Trail Music Festival, Free Soil
Admission: \$70/weekend general, \$40 single day, \$30 early entry. Weekend of camping, live music with 24 performers, tie-dye, yoga, campfire jams, craft vendors, and more. 352 W Forest Trail Rd. Info/tickets: www.foresttrailmusic.com

Aug 28-Sep 1
Manistee County Fair, Onekama
Fun for the whole family at the Manistee County Fairgrounds, 7587 1st St. Schedule: westmichiganguides.com/Manistee-county-fair-onekama

Aug 29
Bus Day to Big Point Sable Lighthouse, Ludington
Free concert from 1-3pm. Bus transportation from 12pm-5pm. Big Sable Point Lighthouse in Ludington State Park. 8800 M-116. Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Let's Go Fly a Kite, Frankfort
3-5pm. Free. Registration at Frankfort Beach at the turnaround. Free kite to first 100 participants. Rain date August 30. Info: 231.352.7251

In concert: The Insiders (Tom Petty tribute), Cadillac
8pm. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S 13 Rd. Info/tickets: coyotecrossingresort.com

Aug 30
Grant Township Fire Department Chicken Dinner, Manistee
11am-3pm. Car show, raffles, T-shirts. Grant Township Hall, 835 W. Hoague Road.

Aug 31
Paw Patrol Lights and Sirens Party, Ludington
1-2:30pm. Free. Mason County District Library, 217 E Ludington Ave. in the library parking lot & north of the alley on Rowe St.

International Overdose Awareness Day, Ludington
4-6pm. A community centered event in recognition of International Overdose Awareness. Waterfront Park, 300 S William St.

An August Midnight

By Thomas Hardy, 1840-1928

I
A shaded lamp and a waving blind,
And the beat of a clock from a distant floor:
On this scene enter—winged, horned, and spined—
A longlegs, a moth, and a dumbledore;
While 'mid my page there idly stands
A sleepy fly, that rubs its hands ...

II
Thus meet we five, in this still place,
At this point of time, at this point in space.
—My guests besmear my new-penned line,
Or bang at the lamp and fall supine.
“God’s humblest, they!” I muse. Yet why?
They know Earth-secrets that know not I.

*From the Academy of American Poets (poets.org).
This poem is in the public domain.*

Clean air.

Safe food.

Fresh water.

The basic necessities of life. If you’re looking for a sign to step up for the planet, this is it. If you are thinking ‘someone should do something about this,’ that someone is ALL of us.

~ Jonathan Overpeck, climate scientist and Dean, UM’s School for Environment and Sustainability

Repatriation: seeking justice for lost loved ones

By VALERIE CHANDLER

Most people are completely unaware that Michigan was home to at least 10 Native American residential boarding schools, institutions and Indian school missions over a span of 160 years. The first one opened in 1823 on Mackinac Island, before Michigan’s statehood in 1837, and Holy Childhood School of Jesus in Harbor Springs was the last to close in 1983. So many children were taken, it’s possible you may know an adult who attended one of the schools and survived what could only be described as one of childhood’s most physically violent and emotionally punishing experiences.

Michigan’s delayed, dismissive boarding school report

Probably every Native family has at least one relative that attended one of these boarding schools. To investigate countless allegations of abuse and deaths at the schools, the state of Michigan spent more than \$1 million over three years to conduct a study using community outreach, personal interviews and data research. The report, at first, was withheld because Michigan officials thought it to be lackluster. Native Americans, in general, agreed it was discounted due to scathing details of crimes, embarrassment and horror. The report was completed in November 2025 but wasn’t released to the public until March of this year. It instantly cast doubt on the validity of accounts of Native Americans and tribal communities throughout the state; it was obvious that information was intentionally disregarded.

Tribal communities had hoped to learn the extent to which the state and local municipalities were involved with the tragedies. Tribal families wanted answers to questions that they had been seeking for generations and to receive some type of closure on a dark and unmentionable past. Though the study is complete, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has

opened a criminal investigation to provide accountability for the abuses at the schools.

Forcible relocation by federal, non-federal entities

According to the 2024 Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report, there were just over 400 federally operated Indian boarding schools in 37 states in the 19th and 20th centuries, with five located in Michigan. The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition lists three additional schools. There were another documented 1,025 non-federal institutions that didn’t meet federal criteria because they were mostly operated by churches. These non-federal institutions participated in the forcible relocation of Native American children. According to a federal report, there were 30 of those non-federal institutions in Michigan. A great number of Native American children from Michigan were sent to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania as well as the United States Indian Industrial Training School (later named Haskell Institute) in Lawrence, Kansas.

Imagine a small community where the neighbors all know each other and the children play outside. An unknown black car drives up, and the children scatter to hide because this is what they have been taught. Men in suits talk with the adults and try to convince them to send their children to the boarding schools for an education and a “better” life. Sadly, some parents agree because they believe what they are told and have little to no money for their family. To these parents, boarding school means their children would be fed, clothed, receive medical attention and an education. Primarily met with opposition, the men in suits often found at least one child, willing or not, to take to the school. After all, the schools received federal funding for each pupil registered.

Assimilation methods used by boarding schools

Once at school, the children received forced haircuts, had to pick or be assigned an anglicized name, could no longer wear their Native clothing and practice traditional ceremonies, and could no longer speak their Native language. Children were often used for labor: cleaning, doing laundry, gardening, farming, lumbering, sewing and cooking. Once the work was done for the day, then they were schooled. If they were caught speaking anything but English or disobeying rules in some way, they received punishments, including corporal punishment: beatings, whippings, solitary confinement, flogging, cuffing and withholding food. I have been told a personal story of a little girl who, when she spoke her Native language, was forced to kneel on a broomstick handle for hours. Documents show that the Haskell Institute intentionally mixed children from 31 different Indian tribes in an attempt to force them to learn English.

In my personal research, I’ve reviewed news articles that uncovered multiple accounts of students who attempted to run away from the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School, only to be captured and returned. Some students were found as far away as the Upper Peninsula before being sent back to the school. Another student tried to burn the school down by setting a fire, and a student by the name of Moses Moses ran away at least five different times; the school finally gave up their search to find and return him. I admire Moses’ hard-core determination.

My family is aware that my great-grandparents attended a smaller Indian boarding school in Mount Pleasant; it is there that they first met. My grandmother told us a kind matron at the school taught her mother how to sew. However, because

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Lakeshore Coins and Jewelry: expanding and educating

By SUE OSELAND

Ryker Johnson, owner of Lakeshore Coins and Jewelry, of Ludington, recently moved his business to a new storefront/showroom at 206 E. Ludington Ave., just 40 feet west of his original shop. The move affords him the extra floor space he was seeking to be able to expand his business beyond coins to include precious metals, fine jewelry, watches and more.

A grand opening celebration is being planned and will be posted on the business’ Facebook page @Lakeshore Coin & Jewelry of Ludington.

Early interest in coins

How many adults can say that how they make their living, their profession, began before age 10? That, according to Johnson, an Onekama Township resident, is exactly what happened to him. When he was around age 8, his grandfather pulled out a jar and began showing Ryker coins that were no longer in use (not in circulation). One left a lasting impression on the 8-year-old: a small \$5 gold coin from the 1890s. His grandfather explained that while the face value of the coin was \$5, it was worth about \$100 because of its gold content. Johnson remembers being fascinated by this concept and the fact that the coin was made (minted) around 1890, and the realization that history and coins were intertwined and extremely important.

During his early years and into his teens, Johnson’s parents or a friend’s parent would drive to Ludington from Onekama so he could attend the Ludington Coin Club monthly meetings. He began volunteering



Ryker Johnson, owner of Lakeshore Coins & Jewelry, looks through an eyepiece at one of his coins. Photo: Patti Otto.

at local coin shows, where he met collectors who shared their knowledge with him. He remembers asking countless questions and discovered that each collector had their own collecting passion, their own stories and reasons for collecting what they did — whether it was silver dollars, pennies, paper money, etc.

The conversations with these collectors stayed with him and taught him that coins are more than pieces of metal; they are reminders of history, of family, and of the lives of the people who once owned the coins.

Coin education comes first

It is this excitement about the nature of coins, their history, that Johnson likes to share with others when they visit his downtown Ludington showroom. He believes education (about an object) comes first ... before any buying or selling. Someone may walk in his showroom with a box of coins and not have much information or idea of what they have. He said he is always happy to go through a collection and explain what each object is and its worth. Not everyone bringing in a collection is looking to sell ... many times they want to learn more about the items they have. This is why Johnson believes education about the objects is so important. He said this is especially true when people inherit a collection from a family member. Helping families understand what they have inherited is one of the most rewarding parts of his work.

In addition to assessing a collection, Johnson places a high importance and priority on discussing proper storage and the procedure to best preserve the family’s heirlooms.

A clear business vision

Johnson hopes his business becomes known throughout the lakeshore as a place where knowledge and customer service matter just as much as what items are in his display cases.

When asked what he thought his grandfather would think if he could walk into the new Ludington storefront, Johnson paused then replied, “I think he would be extremely proud to see what I have built.”

And what about that 1890s gold coin



The coin shop recently relocated and expanded to include fine jewelry, precious metals and watches. Photo: John Walters.

valued at about \$1,000 today? Where is it? For that answer, you will need to stop in, say hi, check out the shop’s merchandise and have a chat with Johnson.

Showroom hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (231) 655-2451 for more information or visit the website at <https://lakeshorecoinsandjewelry.com>.

The Ludington Coin Club meets at 7:30 p.m., the second Wednesday of the month at Ludington Area Senior Center, 308 S. Rowe St. To reach a club member, call 231-233-2676.

Sue Oseland has spent much of her years teaching adult ed and also teaching beadwork while owning Osiris Bead Shop in Traverse City. Sue lives on 7 acres, not far from daily walks and swims in Lake Michigan after working in her gardens. She loves music, the outdoors, books and farmers markets.

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Trolls on the move

ByRON SCHMIDT

When I was a boy, my first favorite book to read was the “The Three Billy Goats Gruff,” especially because of the troll that lived under the bridge. Today you can read all kinds of stories featuring trolls, even news stories. If you travel, you can meet them in person.

Danish artist Thomas Dambo has created more than 175 giant-sized trolls 20 or more feet tall. Since Dambo believes in “reduce, reuse and recycle,” his trolls are made of recycled wood and wood products.

Editor Pat’s Danish friend Merethe, who lives outside Copenhagen in Denmark, recently shared some fun facts with her. Interestingly, Dambo was born in Odense, Denmark, the same place as fairytale author Hans Christian Andersen. Trolls are a beloved part of Danish folklore and culture, and they’re closely woven into the folklore of Norwegian and Finnish cultures as well. According to legend, trolls cannot withstand sunlight and live underground. They can be both helpful and dangerous. Trolls in the old stories were said to have inhabited the forests, cliffs and caves of islands, including the Danish island of Bornholm in the Baltic Sea, where a troll ice cream is made. So, Danes have an innate fascination with trolls.

Back to Dambo, who installed his first troll, Hector the Protector, in Puerto Rico in 2014. Since then, Dambo has traveled the world creating trolls and installing

trolls, with the help of enthusiastic local volunteers, and telling stories of his trolls. He is said to “meditate” on possible places to build his trolls, and people and communities commission him to create trolls too. An estimated 12 million or more people, including tourists and locals, have visited them.

My daughter Robyn has traveled to

Ron Schmidt’s daughter Robyn and her bicycle “Green Goat” under a bridge near Portland, Ore., with hundreds of troll dolls. Photo courtesy of Robyn Schmidt.

see several trolls and taken selfies with them during her bicycle trips in the Pacific Northwest. Visitors are welcome to take pictures with the trolls for personal use, but Dambo’s website indicates his artwork is protected. Images of the trolls may not be reproduced for commercial purposes, and photographs of the trolls cannot be published without Dambo’s consent.

Reportedly, Dambo wants to see a troll built in every U.S. state. A map of existing trolls can be found online at www.thomasdambo.com/trollmap. One of my first troll visits will be to Germfask in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Benny the Beard Fisher can be found there next to the Manistique River, where I’ve paddled a canoe. The closest other trolls in the Midwest are in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. “Mama Rosa,” is the name of a troll holding a bouquet of flowers in Wauwatosa, Wisc. “Warren,” a reclining troll found in an old train depot, “Helmut,” a troll holding a live potted tree, and “Marvin,” a troll asleep under a tree, are named for real-life brothers of Danish descent who were farmers in the area of Clinton, Iowa, a former lumber town. Other Midwest trolls include Fjord Faergemond, a ferryman troll in Elkhorn, Iowa, plus five trolls and a giant rabbit in the Detroit Lakes region of northern Minnesota.

Perhaps you can experience the excitement of visiting the trolls yourself, now that you have the link to the troll map and a list of the

Robyn Schmidt met Oscar the Bird King, one of artist Thomas Dambo’s trolls found on Vashon Island in Seattle, Wash. He wears a crown of birdhouses, and visitors have left scraps of bark and other forest offerings for him. Dambo’s trolls encourage playfulness and the exploration of nature, as they are not easily found and/or require the visitor to reach them by hiking or bicycling pathways. Photo on left courtesy of Robyn Schmidt. Troll photo by Ian Dewar Photography, AdobeStock.

closest giants. Hurry, though. The trolls are made of wood and will not last forever.

Ron Schmidt lives in northern Michigan and walks miles each day as he listens for bird songs, sniffs new plants in bloom and waits for trolls to stomp out of the woods.

Dog Days

continued from Page 1

enjoy the space even more. The bluestem grass is pushing six feet tall, and I check on my prickly pear cacti to see if today is the day for a bloom. Blooming for only a day or two each year, the flowers can be easily overlooked. I was grateful to see the flower last year — my first in five years. Today I am not so lucky, but perhaps tomorrow...

Nearby, tucked underneath the cedar trees bordering our yard, is a healthy sampling of self-introduced blackberry bushes. While they can be unruly, their offerings of the sweetest berries make me overlook any unsightliness. Michigan’s fresh fruit definitely competes with these slow-paced morning for first place among my summer favorites. I swap my now-empty teacup for a container to collect anything ripe, with half the berries ending up in the fridge, the other half going immediately to my stomach.

The quick buzz of a ruby-throated hummingbird past my ear reminds me to check the feeder, and I make a mental note to prepare more nectar later in the day. A family of young squirrels chase one another up and down the white pine behind me. I am grateful these animals have grown

A monarch butterfly caterpillar on common milkweed.

comfortable enough with me, and this space, to coexist in close proximity on these quiet mornings.

These backyard walks do not last long, but they set up the perfect foundation for the rest of the day. Witnessing nature operating as it should, without outside influence, serves as an excellent reminder of how I want to tackle my own day. Soon I’ll be lured to my office and computer, household chores and other obligations. It’s important to recognize humanity’s frantic pace, and our push for productivity, is not always the healthiest. I hope to never tire of watching a caterpillar slowly consume a

This prickly pear bloom was caught for the first time in five years in August 2025.

milkweed leaf or catching a plant’s singular bloom, both reality checks for me. I don’t want to miss the best moments of summer by trying to rush through the season as it unfolds.

*Glimmers: micro-moments of joy and/or peace.

Emily Cook is a resident of Arcadia where she lives with her husband and two collies. She is a conservationist, writer, artist, and avid gardener. She can nearly always be found exploring the nearby nature trails and beaches of Manistee and Benzie counties.

The purple of New England aster is a favorite.

The backyard blackberry haul.

Cigar box

continued from Page 5

help. (They can be reached at 231-794-7328)

Dostal said the festival was a free event because of the many community members who stepped up to lend (financial and other) support, the receptiveness of the overall community and the 18 sponsors. He said he hopes this will continue in the coming years.

So, if you weren't at the festival, what did you miss?

"You missed the HEART of these performers, who traveled good distances to share their art form by playing authentic music and sharing it with a community of friends," Dostal replied. "It's such a great way to meet people, make new friends. We

can't afford to lose this sense of community."

And, yes, the date has already been set for next year's festival: Saturday, July 10, 2027. Same place, same time. If you didn't make it to this year's festival, we sure hope you will join us to find out what it's all about next year ... and help support creative endeavors in the area.

Follow the U.S. 10 Cigar Box Guitar Festival on Facebook.

Sue Oseland has spent much of her years teaching Adult Ed and also teaching beadwork while owning Osiris Bead Shop in Traverse City. She lives on 7 acres, not far from daily walks and swims in Lake Michigan after working in her gardens. She loves music, the outdoors, books and farmers markets.

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Repatriation

continued from Page 10

of the unspoken punishments she endured, my great-grandmother vowed never to teach her Native language to her children or grandchildren. She was also determined to never allow her children to attend any of the boarding schools, missions or institutions, and she succeeded in those goals.

Very seldom could Native parents or family have any contact with their children. They received no news of them, unless a school official reached out to inform parents of their child's passing. Often, the bodies of the deceased were buried on school property or, as records have shown, donated to teaching institutions, possibly without the parents' consent.

Scattered records hinder documentation of deaths

The federal investigative report wasn't just to collect information on the allegations of abuse; it was also intended to document the records and maps of all the deaths. The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe controls and maintains the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School buildings that remain standing. The tribe has documented 229 students who died between 1893 and 1934, but only five of the deaths were officially documented by the school. More disturbing is the fact that there are no official documented deaths at any of the other boarding schools in Michigan. This process has been difficult to piece together as most school records have since been distributed to various archival locations. The research and review of records have become increasingly more difficult and dire, due to the impending closure of the National Archives at Chicago, which was announced on June 26. This location houses a vast amount of Native American records, including those from the boarding schools, and where they will be transferred is currently unknown.

Programs to return Native American remains

In 1990, federal law established NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act). The act requires all federally funded museums, agencies and institutions to return Native American human remains, funerary objects and culturally related items to lineal descendants or culturally affiliated tribes. The National NAGPRA program oversees the process and is administered by the National Park Service. Since NAGPRA applies only to federally funded institutions, many states have passed legislation which requires state-

funded museums and agencies to abide by the same repatriation process.

Established in 2000, Michigan has what is called MACPRA (Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance). Last year I was appointed to be one of MACPRA's representatives from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI). I am honored to help bring justice and peace to my ancestors. In November 2025, while at the University of Michigan to repatriate some Native remains, LRBOI's other representative and I were presented with information of a possible tribal ancestor whom the university had in their possession and who remained unclaimed. When NAGPRA was established, the Native remains were relinquished to UM, which became the repository (and continues to be) until final dispositions are identified.

After researching, I discovered the remains were not only of a Little River ancestor, but his next of kin were still alive. I contacted his family and learned his two sisters had tried to find his grave for decades and wondered why they could never locate it. His name was Eugene, and he passed away at 9 years old at the Mount Pleasant State Home and Training School. Though his death certificate listed mental deficiency as the cause of death, his family told me he suffered from polio. Following an anthropologic assessment by UM, it was determined that Eugene was more than likely partially paralyzed from the polio,



Cemetery where Eugene was laid to rest. Photo: Linda Andre.

and he had an abscessed tooth from a poor diet, likely high in starch and sugar, that caused an infection which led to his death.

We began the process to repatriate and



Lid of the custom-made cedar box for Eugene's journey home. Photo: Valerie Chandler.

bring Eugene home. With the assistance of the university's NAGPRA staff, we learned that the LRBOI is the first tribe in Michigan, possibly in the nation, to identify living next of kin during the repatriation process. This was a first for the university as well and required consultation at the federal level. After official notice was published in the Federal Register, a date was set and Eugene's journey home was put into motion.

The university commissioned a beautiful cedar box in which we bundled Eugene's remains. MACPRA held a meeting the day prior, and tribal representatives stayed to honor the momentous occasion. A feast was held with university representatives, gifts were offered, songs were sung and Eugene's youngest sister Linda and her husband were in attendance to help bring him home.

On May 23 a traditional ceremony was held, and after seven decades, Eugene was finally laid to rest in a proper grave for his family to visit. Though the family now knows where his grave is located, they still do not have answers to their questions about why his remains were donated. Documentation shows that his doctor signed the release for the transfer permit, but that is all that is known.

Since closing the chapter on this journey, our other tribal representative and I have

learned of three other unclaimed remains at the university, and my research has confirmed that two of three are LRBOI ancestors. Before we begin the repatriation process, research continues in an effort to find any living next of kin.

Besides repatriating remains and objects already in custodial care, we representatives are essentially on call 24/7 in the event of an inadvertent discovery. In May, there was an ancient discovery in Lake County on private property. After authorities were called, as well as the Mid-Michigan Anthropological Medical Examiner, it was determined that the remains were Native American. LRBOI was contacted, and with the permission of the landowner, we conducted a site excavation with the assistance of MDOT and MDNR archaeologists. We were fortunate to be able to find the majority of skeletal remains, given that they were estimated to be over 1,000 years old. After careful examination and cataloging, we customarily bundled the remains and placed them in a cedar box for a traditional burial the next day in the tribe's cemetery.

The things that personal research has uncovered and the weight we (NAGPRA/MACPRA representatives) bear mentally, emotionally and spiritually in every case is real. We take special precautions, but sometimes it's just not enough. Thankfully, NAGPRA does offer online talking circles (counseling, more or less) to help everyone cope with any difficulties they may be experiencing.



Headstone of Eugene Battice, finally laid to rest after 70 years. Photo: Linda Andre.

As long as I am able, I will continue my calling to help my people, all Anishinaabek; I feel the passion in my heart and soul, and I know my ancestors will continue to help guide me.

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, is a cancer survivor, loves to spend time with her family and has many interests and hobbies.