

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS INSIDE

The Lost Bars of Manistee County

By ROSALIND JAFFE

When I came to Manistee County in the 1990s, I was introduced to its vibrant bar scene — a slew of remarkable neighborhood and village bars, pubs and taverns. I was able to sample some of Manistee City’s classic barrooms, including Harbor Bar, Old Fashioned, First Street Tavern, Northside Bar, Stu’s Pub, Painted Lady, Filer City Bar, Salt City Tavern, Salty Dog, Hi-Way Inn, Red’s Tavern, Bungalow and Gorley’s. Most had great bartenders, local ambiance and distinctive regulars. Residents boasted the city of Manistee once had the highest per capita rate of bars in the country and claimed Manistee had possessed a bar and a church at every intersection, but those tales seem to be apocryphal. Still, the quantity and quality of these bars was impressive.

As for the rest of Manistee County, Onekama’s home to Mr. C’s aka the bar at Portage Point Inn as well as the Blue Slipper Tavern. Its history includes a historic murder and wild days as the “Blue Shoe Zoo.” You could belly up to the bar at the Melody Inn, Bear Lake Bar, Kaleva Tavern, Dam Site Inn in Brethren or Arcadia’s Big Apple. These bar/restaurants played a key role in their communities, offering camaraderie, cheap drinks and an excuse to get out of the house.

Many in the area speak mournfully of the fine establishments lost over the years to fires and ownership changes. I wish I could have visited the Sleepy Owl in Parkdale, Smugglers Cove downtown, Star Corners on Skocelas Road, Onekama’s Harbor Bar or Tannerville Hall, a 1920s dance hall near Kaleva which charged couples 50 cents admission (though ladies entered for free). On the Vanished Manistee Facebook page, there is a list of 23 bars from the 1945 Manistee City Directory, including



Smugglers Cove, 1989. Courtesy of Manistee County Historical Museum.

intriguing names such as Do-Do’s Tavern, Joseph Jach’s, Midway Bar and Zaiger’s Tavern; and that list doesn’t include the bars outside city limits in Parkdale or Filer City. The drunken celebrations that year for D-Day must have been memorable.

Hats off to our area bars that have survived the decades having changed with the times or not. Barkeeping is not an easy business in the best of times and drinking culture has changed dramatically in the 21st century.

What makes a good bar and why are they memorable? In his classic bar guide, “The View from Nowhere,” Jim Atkinson describes the “bar bar” as a dark room focused on drinking and conversation with

minimal decor, food or music. He is an aficionado of the dive bar, one of the purest forms of watering holes.

Journalist and novelist Pete Hamill, in the introduction to his memoir, “A Drinking Life,” shares: “In the snug darkness of saloons, I learned much about being human and mastering a craft. I had, as they say, a million laughs. But those grand times also caused great moral, physical, or psychological damage to myself and others.”

I applaud Hamill’s balanced approach and relish his depiction of bar life’s effect on neighborhoods and residents, the highs and the lows.

Manistee County bars were, and remain, continued on Page 4



Wendell Berry stands before solar panels at his farm in Henry County, Ky. Photo: Guy Mendes, Dec. 14, 2011. Wikimedia Creative Commons, SSA 3.0.

Remembering Wendell Berry

By MARK BANASZAK

Wendell Berry, a farmer, poet, teacher and activist who died on Aug. 31, was the source of many ideas and quotable poetry verses. Berry farmed land in Henry County, Kentucky, that had been worked by at least five generations of his family before him. Though he majored in English at the University of Kentucky, he returned to farming, spending a lifetime defending the family farm.

In 1977, he famously debated the former Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, a champion of industrial agribusiness.

His written work is an endless source of words worth noting. In 1977, his book “The Unsettling of America” warned that “the crisis of community has its source in the corruption of character” — an observation that, regardless of your political orientation, hits home today.

Some of his more recent words are the most widely quoted. In 2021, Berry published “What I Stand For Is What I Stand On,” a collection of essays. The title makes clear his belief that humans cannot be separated from their physical environments. The natural world is fundamental to our existence and must be defended against our own worst tendencies. One of these was described as being so enamored of technological advances that we allow them to take precedence over the health of our planet. (Read Berry’s essay on this subject found on the Poet Outlaws’ Substack site at: <https://tinyurl.com/yxzd23up>.)

In 2017, filmmakers Laura Dunn and Jef Sewell created an award-winning Sundance documentary, “Look & See,” a portrait of Wendell Berry and farmers living in Henry County produced by Terence Malick and Robert Redford. (Watch the trailer and rent or buy the film by visiting: <https://tinyurl.com/3p5j2yaf>.)

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Hallowhat?

By VONNI SAGE

Goblins and monsters and ghosts...oh my! Halloween, Samhain and Día de los Muertos...oh yeah! We’re creeping toward one of the most treat-and-treasure-filled days of my favorite season.

Why our fascination with the eerie, the macabre, the gruesome, the weird? We’re spellbound about death and the beyond. Something about autumn brings out our desire to be scared witless as we brave the transition from summer to winter, light to dark.

Sure, let’s walk into an old house, a ship or a maze knowing that they’re full of creatures who will jump out at us, infest our brains with images of blood and gore, get our hearts pounding and make us want to run for our lives. Totally makes sense. If that’s not quite enough, let’s go to a theater or gather around the TV to watch someone’s conception of entertainment: a chilling horror movie. (Editor’s note: We recommend the comic fantasy horror film, “Dust Bunny” released last year.) The whites of our eyes grow while popcorn crackles like dry bones between our teeth. Or let’s stick our hands into bowls to decide if that mushy, wiggly or gooey feeling could be spaghetti, chunky gelatin or brain matter.

For thousands of years, cultures around the world have celebrated death, embracing it as integral to life, believing that during late October to early November the lines between our living world and the world of the dead blur, allowing spirits to roam the earth. This spiritual aspect is something **Mari Wright, owner of Divinely Mari Rose in**

continued on Page 8

(Top) Andrea Hindman, owner, Boutique 1692. Courtesy photo. (Middle) Pumpkins in all their fall glory. Photo: M. Videan. (Left) Co-editor Mark Videan waits for the Great Pumpkin. File photo: P. Stinson.



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Area Events Calendar

TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN THE FRESHWATER REPORTER!

To be included in our November print edition, submit your announcements by October 15. 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

- Thursdays**
Elberta Farmers Market
9am-12pm. Thru October 1. Penfold Park, 1098 Lakeside Blvd.
- Saturdays**
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.

ONGOING EVENTS

- Thru 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. Artists' talk Oct. 2, 2pm.
- Thru Oct 30**
A Thread Runs Through It Art Exhibition, Manistee
Free. Artworks featuring fibers & textiles. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.
- Steve Loveless: Atmospheres Art Exhibitions, Frankfort**
Free. Photographer of northern Michigan. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.
- Thru Jan 8**
Fall Art Show, Arcadia
Free. Arcadia Community Center, 3586 Glovers Lake Rd.

- Oct 1-16**
Exquisite Corpse Art Exhibition, Ludington
Free. Artists were given pieces of paper labelled Head, Body, Legs to create on. Their works were randomly assembled to create fantastical creatures. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S Harrison St.
- Oct 2-31**
Boo! Art Exhibition, Frankfort
Free. A celebration of spooky fun featuring artwork in all media in this open call exhibit. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.
- Chew on This Art Exhibition, Ludington**
Free. Celebrating food & creativity. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

- Oct 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31**
Ghost Ship, Manistee
7:30-10:30pm (10pm on Sunday). \$15-20 at the door. Also 3-6:15pm Oct 31, special lights on "Scaredy Pants" hours for small children \$5. The spooky ship event includes loud noises, bright lights, low visibility, steep stairs, inclines and declines, flashing lights, special effects & sudden movements by actors. People who suffer from heart conditions, seizures or other medical problems should not enter. People who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be refused admittance. Smoking, vaping, eating, drinking & running are prohibited. S.S. City of Milwaukee, 88 Arthur St. on US Hwy 31. More info & \$25/32 Fast Passes (skip the line) at: www.carferry.com/ghostship
- Oct 10-Nov 13**
All Media Juried Exhibition, Frankfort
Free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Opening reception Oct. 10, 5-7pm.

DAILY EVENTS

- October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Domestic Abuse Awareness Month. October 26 is the National Day of the Deployed, honoring service members away from home.
- October 1**
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
- Women's Empower Hour, Manistee**
5:30pm. Free. Door prizes. Part of the city's Paint the Town Pink event. Speakers: experts, caregivers & survivors. West Shore Community College, 400 River St. RSVP: munsonhealthcare.org/pttp
- Manhattan Short Film Festival, Ludington**
6pm. Filmgoers will vote for their favorite film & actor. Results from across the country will be sent to NYC festival headquarters to determine winners. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Tickets: www.ludingtonartscenter.org or at LACA.

- Bob Talk: About Kristin Hannah, Manistee**
6pm. Free. Robert Van Dellen, former college professor of literature and college president, will share his presentation on contemporary author Kristin Hannah. Intended for adults. Cash bar available. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.
- October 2**
Eagle Rider Bike Night, Ludington
5-10:30pm. Bike and Car Show in the Fraternal Order of Eagles' parking lot, 108 S. Harrison St.
- How Sweet It Is: A Tribute to James Taylor, Manistee**
7:30pm. \$25. Featuring local singer-songwriter Nick Veine. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: ramsdelltheatre.org

- October 2-4**
Ludington Lumber Days
2-6pm. A fall festival weekend filled with lumberjack-themed excitement, rich history, lively music, and adventures for all ages.
- October 3**
Run the Town Pink, Manistee
9am. 5k run. \$30/\$10 for ages 0-18. Part of the city's Paint the Town Pink event. Details/register by 9:15am. <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Manistee/RunTheTownPink>

- Walk to End Alzheimer's, Ludington**
9am-12pm. Raising awareness for Alzheimer's care, support, and research (fundraiser). Waterfront Park, 1122 S William St.
- Harvest the Bounty, Manistee**
9am-5pm. Free. Local food, art, live music, family activities, workshops & demos. Market & community garden fundraiser. Wagoner Community Center, 260 St. Mary S. Pkwy.

- Remembrance Walk, Manistee**
About 10am, after the 5K run. Part of the city's Paint the Town Pink event. Meet at the fountain at River & Pine for ceremony. Walk afterward.
- Benzie County Fall Festival, Beulah**
10am-2pm. Free. Baked goods sale, sidewalk art contest, decorate pumpkins & trick or treat bags, face painting, horse-drawn wagon rides, gourd & pumpkin carvings, haunted library, soup contest & car show. Beulah Village Park, 7122 Prospect Ave.

- Onekama Fall Festival**
10am-3pm. Family fun, food, games, hayrides & more. Onekama Village Park, Portage Lake Ave.
- Patina Goes Pink Party, Manistee**
1-4pm. Free. Refreshments, Silent Auction, Shop Pink Section. 321 River St.

- Lumberman Fall Festival, Ludington**
1-5pm. Free/donations. Wagon rides, live music from the group Selkie, apples, donuts & cider. Lake Michigan Beach House at Ludington State Park, 8800 M-116. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.
- Metropolitan Opera Live/Encore in HD presents Così Fan Tutte (Mozart), Manistee**
1pm, \$15-25. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: ramsdelltheatre.org
- History of Ludington State Park, Ludington**
2-3:30pm. Free. Approx. 1 mile hike on paved paths at Ludington State Park starts at Hamlin Dam. Learn the history of the park, once home to the old town of Hamlin, later improved by the CCC. Motor vehicle permit required for entry.

- Author Talk and Book Signing, Manistee**
4pm. Free. Michigan author Mike Martin will discuss his new narrative nonfiction book, The Honest Wilderness: Finding Daniel Boone and the Frontier Within. Old Kirke Museum, 304 Walnut St.
- Hardy Hall Series featuring Kevin & Darin, Manistee**
6-8pm. Free. Live music. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.
- Gopherwood Concerts present Ember & Ash, Cadillac**
7pm. \$20 ADV, \$25 Door. Home of Paul & Nancy Brown, 4320 E 46 Rd. Tickets: <https://gopherwoodconcerts.org>

- October 4**
First Annual Community Cup Kickball Championship, Elberta
1-4pm. Free/donations. Play, spectate, play lawn games, kids' activities & a potluck. Bring a dish to pass. Proceeds will help fund improvements at the Community Pallpark. Ballfield, 401 First St.



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- October 6**
Special Needs Halloween Hayride & Potluck, Free Soil
3:30pm. Free. Circle Rocking S Children's Farm, 5487 Tuttle Rd. **Must RSVP by October 2:** 231.462.3732 (no texts) or circlerockingsfarm@att.net

- October 8**
Benzoncia Academy Lecture Series, Benzoncia
4pm. Suggested donation \$5. "Oliver Art Center: 78 Years of Creativity in Benzie County" presented by Executive Director Tamara Hoffbauer. Mills Community House, 891 Michigan Ave.

- Great Michigan Gathering Watch Party, Elberta**
7-8:30pm. Free. Join the Elberta Heritage Center and Michigan Humanities as we kick off the Great Michigan Gathering with an event featuring Priya Parker, author of The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters. Through a conversation between Parker and Michigan Humanities' President and CEO, Jennifer Rupp, you'll be inspired to gather in community with your peers, learn why gathering is essential to the humanities, and be introduced to Michigan Humanities' new statewide initiative that helps bring intentional gatherings to communities near you. Elberta Labor Heritage Center, 704 Frankfort Ave./M-22. Registration required: <https://tinyurl.com/ye244e69>

- October 9**
Near & Farr Friends, Onekama
11am-1pm. Free. Update from Dan Meshar, superintendent of the Onekama Consolidated Schools on recent construction and other changes at the school. Onekama Township Hall, 5435 Main St.

- Movie Night, Idlewild**
6pm. Free. Popcorn is \$1. The TEEM Center, 1850 E US-10.

- October 9-11**
The Haunted House Disaster by Don Zolidis & Red Carpet Heist by Kathryn Funkhouser, Manistee
7pm Friday & Saturday, 1pm Sunday. \$5-10. Manistee Municipal High School, 525 12th St.

- October 10**
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.

- Fall Festival Craft Fair, Frankfort**
10am-4pm. Open Space Park, 800 Main St.

- Frankfort's Fall Festival Parade**
11am. Free. Main St.

- Chief Day, Kaleva**
12-10pm. Free. Parade, car show, live music, disc golf tournament, food trucks, fresh cider, donuts & more. Northern Natural Cider House & Winery, 7220 Chief Rd.

- Renaissance Faire of St. Ambrose, Beulah**
12-7pm. \$15 adults. \$5 kids 5-12, free 4 & under. Local artisans, live music, food & drink, sword fighting, birds of prey, face painting, crafts & surprises for all ages. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S Pioneer Rd.

- Medicare Info Session, Idlewild**
1-3pm. Free. Speaker Larry Reid from apex Insurance. The TEEM Center, 1850 E US-10.

- Pumpkins in the Park / West Shore Family Support, Ludington**
7-9pm. Pumpkins & luminaries lit along Cartier Park Walkway Loop (Fundraiser). Cartier Park, 1254 N Lakeshore Dr.

- October 11**
Mini Golf Trick or Treat, Ludington
1-3pm. Held at the Jaycees mini golf. Mini golf & treats at each hole. Book bus in parking lot by hole #1. Stearns Park, 421 Lakeshore Dr.

- October 15**
Food Pantry, Bear Lake
4-6pm. This evening session coincides with a 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

- October 15-19**
18th Annual Frankfort Film Festival, Frankfort
\$200/person, \$300/couple full access pass includes entry to all films. Individual ticket prices not available at press time. Info/tickets: gardentheater.org

- October 16**
Near & Farr Friends, Onekama
11am-1pm. Free. Fire Chiefs of Manistee and Onekama discuss the Regional Fire Initiative. Onekama Township Hall, 5435 Main St.

- Community Revival, Idlewild**
7pm. Free. All are welcome. The TEEM Center, 1850 E US-10.

- Music After Dark, Manistee**
7:30pm. \$15-35. Featuring the Kalkaska String Quartet. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: ramsdelltheatre.org

- October 17**
20th Annual Peak2Peak Mountain Bike Classic, Thompsonville
9:30am-4pm. \$65-90. Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr. Register: runsignup.com

- Metropolitan Opera Live/Encore in HD presents MacBeth (Verdi), Manistee**
1pm, \$15-25. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: ramsdelltheatre.org

- Intro to Civics: How Government Works & Voting Preparation, Idlewild**
2-3:30pm. Free. The TEEM Center, 1850 E US-10

- 5th Annual Fear the Bogeyman Haunted Halloween Doubles Disc Golf Tournament, Scottville**
3pm. \$40/player. Ages 16+ only. Doubles tournament. 2 rounds of play; 1 in daylight, 1 in the dark. Snacks, drinks, candy, fruit for all players at check in. Hungry Howie's pizza available to purchase between rounds. \$3/slice. The Edge at Riverside Park, 700 S Scottville Rd. Info/register: discgolfscore.com

- October 21**
Budding Naturalists Preschool Program, Ludington
2-3:30pm. Free. Book walk designed for ages 2-5 with their adult starts at Ludington State Park's Warming Shelter and ends at Hamlin Dam (1 mile). Strollers for youngest recommended. Motor vehicle permit required for entry.

- Ghost Towns & Graveyards, Baldwin**
6pm. Free. Presented by the Gravedigger, Bruce Micinski. Lake County Historical Museum, 915 N Michigan Ave.

- October 22**
AFFEW's Annual Meeting & Environmental Awards, Ludington
5:30pm-8pm. Free appetizers. Dinner & drinks for purchase. Jamesport Brewing Company, 410 S James St.



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The Old Wooden Table

By Shannon Courier

The Old Wooden Table, no makers mark found, Nestled in a corner, covered with dust in a second hand shop. For a mere fifteen dollars it became mine.

Its two folding leaves give plenty of options. Its wood smooth and worn, oh the tales it could tell.

Over the years it's served many uses in my small, tiny cabin.

From dinners of stew, thick and so hot, to pizza and salad fresh from the farm. Hot coffee, cocoa and homebaked goodies.

Home to puzzles painstakingly made during long, bleak winter days. To gathering this and gathering that which had no permanent place to stay.

My Bible finds refuge here for endless hours of deep study. While paints, pencils and canvas helped inspire art and dreams here as well.

Its latest venture is in front of me now. Paper, with pen in hand. Many heartfelt stories and poems have been crafted with care on this Old Wooden Table.

Evenings are my favorite to sit and to dream. The soft glow of the lamp casts shadows around me. Outside the leaves sway in the night and the crickets serenade me through the open window.

A cool breeze stirs the curtains and flirts with my skin. My toes sink deep into the thick sheepskin rug. My faithful companion places his head on my lap, his tail wagging to and fro.

The pen in my hand again starts to move, dancing across the paper in circular motions. The Old Wooden Table sturdy beneath, giving me comfort as I finish composing this piece.

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Onekama family to offer guided private-property hikes in October

Announcement written by **JOHN NALE**. Edited for length and clarity.

In celebration of World Habitat Awareness Month in October, the Nale family of Onekama is offering guided hikes, by reservation only, through their property at 8434 Third Street. Taking place from noon to 3 p.m. each Sunday in October, the fall color-tour hikes will follow trails through a pristine forest with a meandering creek, the latter tracing its origin to local artesian springs.

The family’s property mirrors nearby Glen Park, except their private forest was called “pristine” by a local conservation advisor for its giant oak trees missed by loggers. The park-like setting of the 10-acre private property includes groomed trails, with small waterfalls, bridges and swings plus high ridges with valley views. One visitor called it an “enchanted forest.”

Natural springs can be seen bubbling from the sand, adding water to the creek which flows into Portage Lake, three blocks away, whose waters continue through a channel to Lake Michigan. The property is in the lake’s watershed, which includes the lake, streams and aquifer. A community nonprofit called Portage Lake Watershed Forever was formed to protect the health of the watershed, educate the community about its importance and promote and advocate for the conservation of natural resources.

According to NaturalToday.com, the

month of October is set aside for World Habitat Awareness to bring attention to the importance of “creating sustainable, carbon-neutral and inclusive cities and towns...by learning about proper waste management, reducing emissions, and advocating for (community) green spaces...”



Approximately a dozen public green spaces in the area are stewarded by the Village of Onekama, Onekama Township, the Nature Conservancy and others.

Spots on the Sunday tours can be reserved by texting John Nale at (231) 510-7134. Visitors to the area may wish to incorporate the hike into their weekend fall color tour along M-22, a Pure Michigan-designated, 116-mile fall color route.

History, future plans of Oliver Art Center is series topic

BENZONIA, Mich. – Oliver Art Center’s Executive Director Tamara Hoffbauer will present “Oliver Art Center: 78 Years of Creativity in Benzie County,” at 4 p.m., Oct. 8, at Mills Community House, 891 Michigan Ave. The talk is part of the Benzonia Academy Lecture Series hosted by the Benzie Area Historical Museum.

The museum would like to announce that its lecture series programs will begin at 4 p.m., a new starting time, October through April.

Hoffbauer has served as OAC’s executive director since November 2022. Prior to moving from Indianapolis, Indiana, to Frankfort, she and her partner Jeff Dean ran a marketing company and served on nonprofit boards dedicated to conservation and community development. She holds a BFA in Design from DePaul University, Chicago.

Lectures are held on the second Thursday of the month and are free, with a \$5 suggested donation at the door. To learn more about the lectures or the museum, visit the Benzie Area Historical Society’s website, benziemuseum.org and follow them on Instagram or Facebook. To reach the museum, call (231) 882-5539 or send an email to: info@benziemuseum.org

Multi-sensory fiber arts show opens at the Ramsdell

From a press announcement

MANISTEE, Mich. – An invitation-only artists’ exhibition, “A Thread Runs Through It,” is currently showing in the Hardy Hall Gallery of the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts at 101 Maple St.

Described as a “vibrant multi-sensory display of artwork devoted to fiber and needle arts,” the exhibition runs through October 30 and features pieces by more than 20 Michigan textile artists. Items on loan from the Manistee County Historical Museum will also be displayed. They highlight Manistee’s prominent place in designer fashion.

“What makes this show unique is the incredible diversity of materials, techniques

and styles used by the artists,” said the show’s Co-curator Mark Videan. “All the participating artists were invited because members of our visual arts committee had seen their work before and knew how great it would be to exhibit them all together in one place. The inclusion of displays of Manistee’s past and current presence in the fashion industry adds a historic and local perspective to the show.”

Works include needlepoint, embroidery, knitting, basketry, weaving, sewing, collage and more.

The Hardy Hall Gallery is open seven days a week from noon to 3 p.m. Learn more about the show at ramsdelltheatre.org.



“Porch at the Grand Hotel” needlepoint by Mercedes Bowyer.



“Clove” basket by Karen Trembreull.



“My Wonky Circus” mixed media by Barbara Greenwood.

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Old Fashioned Bar 1990. Courtesy of Manistee County Historical Museum.

Lost Bars

continued from Page 1

integral to their neighborhoods. If you want to know an area, visiting taverns gives a glimpse into a segment of local life. I retain my admiration for drinking establishments, though I frequent them less often than in my youthful days. And I'll never forget the experience, the camaraderie, the stories and humor of those lost bar days.

Rosalind Jaffe is a retired banker and bookseller living in Onekama. She lived in Brooklyn, New York, and Dallas, Texas, and has admirable things to say about those bar scenes.

Overwhelming response to ‘Grand 250th’ quilt project

By JILL ENGELMAN, LCHS museum volunteer



LCHS Quilt. Stars and Stripes.

July Fourth may be over, but the Lake County Historical Museum is continuing to celebrate America's 250th anniversary with a display of our Grand 250th Community Quilt Project, inspired by Museum volunteer Chris Crosthwaite, and an upcoming lap quilt raffle to be held Nov. 11.

The Museum had widespread support from the community in response to a request made in November 2025 for quilt squares celebrating the 250th. Submissions were received through the project's May 15 deadline. More than 115 quilt squares were received from 44 women surrounding Lake County, Michigan. Women from Baldwin, Luther and Irons — as well as Ludington, Scottville, Hart and Big Rapids — took time out of their busy lives to create a quilt square for the museum's fundraising

project. The quilters made blocks of stars, stripes and flags; some are custom-designed quilt squares, and some utilize traditional patterns from centuries past. Quilters of all experience levels participated. Every single square represents the maker's heart and their love for our beautiful America.

We're celebrating all year long with the creation and raffle of seven beautiful red, white and blue lap quilts made by community members. Each quilt represents the maker's feeling about the celebration. The quilt squares that have been assembled into lap quilts create something that we can all celebrate: our pride in America. The squares were assembled by museum volunteers Jill Engelman and Helen Radtke into seven lap quilts. Each is being long arm quilted by Fabric Peddler Owner Jamie Russell, who is donating her services

and raised from raffle ticket sales will be used exclusively to support future Lake County Historical Museum programs and exhibits.

Raffle tickets for the seven lap quilts are on sale for \$5 each, or \$10 for three tickets, and are available at the Lake County Historical Museum, Pandora's Box, Fabric Peddler and the Pathfinder Library, all in downtown Baldwin. Raffle tickets will be available through Nov. 11, when the drawing for the lap quilts

will take place during a special 6-8 p.m. program at the Lake County Historical Museum, 915 N. Michigan Ave. For more information, contact the museum at (231) 898-6500. Regular museum hours are noon to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. Follow their Facebook page @ LakeCountyHistoricalSociety.



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Guess who's coming to sauna?

Story and photo by STEWART MCFERRAN

The Finnish reggae band Conga Se Menne sings, "Guess Who's Coming to Sauna?" Heikki Lunta is featured in the song. He is the god of snow in the Upper Peninsula created by radio host David Riutta in 1970. I had an unexpected guest "to sauna" of my own last month.

A torrential rain fell, testing the standing-seam metal roofing on my new house. All that rain collected between the seams and dropped with force on the sandy downslope. As those building on sandy hills know, erosion can be a big issue. I had just rolled out landscape fabric and 4-inch perforated drainage pipe when the sky turned dark. After hastily dumping some gravel to hold it all down, I hightailed it for shelter.

Meanwhile, nothing makes the frogs and toads happier than a rainstorm. I can tell by the smiles on their froggy faces. (Be prepared for rampant anthropomorphizing here.) But they seem to be hopping all about this time of year. I see them in the strangest places when I least expect an amphibian.

Tiny little toads on the ground had better

watch out for my big feet, and frogs that appear in the scrap woodpile might have to jump through a pile of sawdust. Frogs hop up on my deck to enjoy the view. I have not seen any posing for a photo under a toadstool, to my disappointment.

I recently left the door to the sauna open as I built a fire and placed water on the stove. Later, as the temperature inside the sauna climbed slowly, I popped back in to check and noticed a big toad sitting under the stove. He looked very smug to have found such a warm spot. But I knew something that toad did not know: the ability to withstand heat depends on body size. That's why adult humans can enjoy the sauna bath while those of a smaller size, such as children and toads, can overheat quickly.

I do not know if toads sweat, but even the biggest toad would be apt to perish in a sauna, so I shooed him out. That toad was reluctant to leave, which is totally understandable. I persisted for his well-being. I am sure that once again in the cool shade of the ferns, the toad felt that wonderful sense of well-being I



have often experienced after sauna.

Rain dropped from cedars and hemlocks standing near the river after the storm. The river itself had turned dark brown, as it does after a rainstorm. I went about my chores and considered the iconic story of the frog slowly boiling in a pot of water. This story has been imbued with all manner of meaning. The predilection of toads to slowly bake in the sauna is ripe with possible significance.

As I continue building a shelter on the sandy hill above the riverine zone with Heikki Lunta in mind, I navigate complex

building requirements. The human-built environment has all kinds of rules. I am a little jealous of my amphibian friends who only need to hop over to a mushroom to find shelter.

S.A.McFerran has a bandsaw mill. He has cut maple, oak, pine and cedar on his property with the intention of using the lumber for his "mansion on the hill" but had to agree to use "stamped lumber" for framing. Planks from the sawmill are being used for paneling, trim and siding.

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OCTOBER AWARENESS

Procrastination in pink

By PAT STINSON. Photo by Lightfield Studios, AdobeStock.

I don't recall exactly when the telephone calls started, sometime late last fall, but my insurance provider was dogged about reminding me to get my mammogram. Answering the third call, I finally replied, *okay, okay*, since I hadn't had the ta-tas squished in about two years. Or was it three? An appointment was made, and I was in and out of Munson Manistee Hospital for my 3D mammogram in less than 30 minutes. A day or two later I got a call. They wanted more views. I'd had them before, no big deal. Back I went. The films were read as I waited. The radiologist said, *yup*, there are calcifications in a group which pretty much indicate cancer, an early form called DCIS or ductal carcinoma in situ. With DCIS, the cancer is confined to a duct and presumed not to have spread elsewhere. He patted my shoulder and said something like, if you have to have breast

cancer, this is the best scenario. *Well, happy birthday to me*, I said to no one in particular. A gift of an early diagnosis, but not a gift I expected on my 67th. A biopsy was scheduled, and I met with a Nurse Navigator who gave me a list of surgeons and oncologists. I needed to choose one of each. I had to ask friends of friends for their recommendations as none of mine, to my knowledge, had been diagnosed. Before the biopsy was performed, I was shown a wall of heart-shaped pillows in

colorful fabrics sewn by the Zonta Club of Benzie County. I chose my favorite and that soft pillow became both my ice pack and my Teddy Bear. The biopsy confirmed the stage 0 cancer (non-invasive). About five weeks later surgery, called a "lumpectomy" (a misnomer in my case as there was no lump), was performed to remove tissue around the calcifications. This was followed six weeks later by five sessions of radiation. I was fortunate to qualify for fewer treatments of higher doses, and I opted for this regimen. A treatment session lasted only 15 minutes, much of it spent positioning my body and the machine to get the right angles for the beams. I appreciated the piped-in bluegrass music and the ceiling's colorful light show. I met other women from Manistee

undergoing radiation therapy. Manistee County Transportation offers free bus rides to those receiving cancer treatment in Traverse City. What friendly, upbeat gals they were. One reminded me to ring the bell after I completed my final radiation therapy. As I did, cheers erupted from unseen corners of the treatment area. Though I felt relieved to know I'd made it past this milestone, I also felt a little sheepish. My sisters-in-arms were looking at another 10-20 rounds before they would ring the coveted bell. I'm indebted to my insurance provider for repeatedly reminding me to make a mammogram appointment last fall. I'm paying it forward by reminding you. Make an appointment this month to get the "girls" squished, okay? October is Paint the Town Pink month in Manistee. Find those events shaded in pink in our calendar. Pat Stinson is a co-editor of the Freshwater Reporter.

Standing with those serving far from home

By GRACE GROGAN

Many people are unaware that **October 26 is the National Day of the Deployed**. The date honors all U.S. military personnel serving away from home and recognizes the sacrifices made by families of deployed soldiers. According to U.S. Sen. John Hoeven's (R-ND) website, the annual observance began in North Dakota in 2006, when then-Governor Hoeven signed the first proclamation to recognize October 26, 2006, as the "Day of the Deployed" in his state. His action resulted from Soldiers' Angels volunteer Shelle Michales Aberle's petition for a day honoring her cousin Lt. Col. David Hosna, who was serving in Iraq and whose birthday was October 26. By 2010, 40 states had joined in proclaiming a "Day of the Deployed." As reported in SoldiersAngels.org, in August 2011, Sen. John Hoeven introduced a resolution for a national "Day of the Deployed," and it passed unanimously. More than two million individuals serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, according to USAFacts.com. This includes 1.35 million active-duty troops, plus 771,200 reserve troops as of March 2026. Soldiers on active duty are engaged in full-time military service, which means they are primarily deployed for operations worldwide. Out of the 1.35 million active-duty troops, about

174,400 of those are stationed abroad as of March 2026. About 1.16 million active-duty personnel are stationed within the U.S. Not every soldier deployed is in a war zone. No matter where they are, they and their families miss holidays, birthdays, and other special moments together. According to TheGunZone.com, depending on a soldier's job, location, rank, current mission and operational tempo, the individual may work a minimum of 40-60 hours per week. During deployment, emergencies and exercises, a soldier often works 70-80 hours per week. To honor our troops stationed far from home, you can:

- **Send care packages and/or cards and letters of support.** SupportOurTroops.org/care-packages provides addresses and lists of items most requested by soldiers.
- **Check your local area for any ceremonies that honor the military.**
- **Ask military families** you know what support they might need. Some need nothing more than a listening ear.
- **Support military personnel who don't have family.** After they deploy, they have no one at home to send them letters, cards or care packages.
- **Sign up as a Soldiers' Angels volunteer** at: <https://soldiersangels.org/volunteer/>.

Once you register, you will have access to a variety of ways to support our service members, their families and veterans. This includes sending baked goods, cards, chaplain support, adopting a service member and letter writing.

- **Wear red on Fridays.** The R.E.D. Friday movement was created to honor and remember veterans and deployed troops. Wearing a red shirt on Friday began in the early 2000s and is based on the idea that red symbolizes the bravery, courage and sacrifice soldiers make. Michigan Day of the Deployed activities for October 26 had not been published at press time. As the holiday nears, you may wish to check with your local Michigan National Guard, Wounded Warrior Project, Operation Homefront, community centers, veterans' organizations, civic groups, USO chapters and military family support programs to learn if there are any events in your area.

In closing, to better understand the sacrifice, let's listen to the words of deployed military and their families (found on <https://snugfam.com>):

"The hardest part of deployment isn't the danger, it's missing the everyday moments that make life beautiful." — U.S. Army Soldier

"Every 'I love you' text from a deployed service member is worth a thousand hugs." — Unknown

"You haven't truly appreciated a shower until you've gone 30 days without one in deployment." — Marine

"Half of my heart is in [deployed location], the other half is holding our family together." — Military Spouse

"Letters from home are the real care packages during deployment." — Army Ranger

Grace Grogan is the board secretary of Detroit Working Writers and a member of the 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.





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Restoring fish habitat on the Little Manistee and other rivers

By **LARA TREEMORE-SPEARS**

In August 2026, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division (MDNR) granted over \$890,000 for fish habitat improvements statewide. As part of this funding, over \$54,000 will be invested in woody debris habitat on the Little Manistee River in Lake, Mason and Manistee counties. The work will be led by the Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council (lmwcc.org) in partnership with private property owners. Other woody debris projects funded by the MDNR for 2026-27 include \$123,600 on the Boardman River in Grand Traverse County and \$27,000 on the Au Sable River in Crawford County. All work includes advance planning and review by experienced fisheries’ professionals.

Tail-splashing, lurking in shallows

You may first notice a fish in the shallow part of the Little Manistee River because of a splash or a flash of light on silvery scales. The fish darts away but soon returns. The second splash seems more deliberate. Again, it darts away and returns. This happens over and over. What is it doing?

This steelhead trout has learned that edible aquatic critters (macroinvertebrates) cling to rocks. More importantly, it has learned through trial and error or by watching other fish during its 5- to 10-year lifespan that prey can be dislodged with the flick of its tail. Through timing, experience and perseverance, it knows exactly which runs and pools will bring a full meal to its open jaws...if it hurries downstream after the splash.

When the steelhead is not up to its antics, brown and brook trout, juvenile coho salmon and other fish species may use the same pool. Wary of exposure to predators from the sky, like osprey and eagle, most river fish seek cover by woody debris, stream banks and deeper water. There they wait to eat aquatic insects that naturally drift downstream.

Defining the challenges, offering solutions

As plentiful as these fish are in our northern Michigan rivers and streams, the conditions



Rainbow trout in the Manistee River, between Hodenpyle Dam and Red Bridge, 2015. Photo: Jon Ray, MangledFly.com.

may not be right for this drama to play out in all places. Habitat degradation from land clearing, logging and dam construction several hundred years ago has had long-term effects. The legacy of that disturbance is the wider and shallower rivers that we still see today. The resulting stream bed structure lacks the deep pools fish need for cover, cooling and foraging.

Fortunately, river restoration experts are re-creating the structure needed by fish and their complex aquatic food chain. Habitat improvement strategies are specific to local river conditions and regulations. Trees may be cut and secured so that their fine branch structure is placed below the water surface. This supports reproduction of aquatic life in the shelter of the woody debris. Woody debris may also concentrate flow to encourage the formation of deep pool ecosystems. These practices are installed in wide shallow areas. In contrast, at the toe of tall bluffs before sharp bends in the river, rock may be required to stabilize banks and mitigate erosion. Sediment transport in rivers is a natural phenomenon, but excessive erosion caused by human activity is a problem for both fish and the aquatic critters in their food chain. Sediment covers rock and gravel required for eggs to develop and clogs the

sensitive gills of fish and aquatic insects.

Potential negative consequences must be considered carefully for all restoration practices during the planning stage and before implementation. Many fish species require shade to keep the water cool. Dropping trees can do more harm than good, depending on how many trees will remain. Furthermore, armoring a streambank with rock or seawall can cause flow to “bounce” with greater force into nearby erodible areas. This can result in dislodging more sediment into the river (a counter-productive result).

Property owners on the Little Manistee River who want to see more fish, and their dramatic pursuit of prey on their section of the river, can contact LMWCC at P.O. Box 52, Irons, MI 49644.

Expect more tail-splashing coming soon to a river near you.

Lara Treemore-Spears holds a master's degree from the University of Michigan in Resource Ecology and Management and works as a research project manager in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Wayne State University and as a consultant for Great Lakes Conservation Advisors, an LLC she started with her husband Doug Barry.

Ludington, and greater Mason County, and from the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council, the region’s oldest environmental advocacy group, based in Traverse City.

Festival organizers are still gathering ideas. Those with suggestions for the upcoming conference are asked to contact Ziggy Kozicki through the organization’s website: <https://www.glef.us/>.

When Poems Feel Helpless And Pray For Magic

By Louisa Loveridge Gallas
Freshwater Reporter Poet in Residence

*I would walk on my knees
over pebbles to unbreak your heart.
-Alice Walker*

May it be possible that
sorrow and rage and betrayal,
the nightmares of abuse
have finally eased, released you
to feel rescue, to sleep.
May we pray healing waters bring
you to the shore with blessings.
May we imagine the waves
also are peaceful
yet in motion,
rocking you,
soothing you
to go deeper until you reach safety,
your freest salvaged self
no longer pursued mercilessly
by vigilance and brutal memory.
No longer looking back, back,
running from the sins and ravages
of priests, the Fathers.
Now in our dream a full moon
pulls until the waves begin to crest
white-tipped with innocence.
O, if only this were possible:
for the prayers of poems
that witness
to somehow stop Hell
from haunting
another life.
when together
you and that old relative
help each other
to reach the other side.

*In memory of my dear
friend, Dave, broken
as a child at church
camp, “compensated” by the
Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
He tried so hard, could not recover,
died young.*



Data centers, ticks, wildfires topics of environmental festival

From an announcement

MANISTEE, Mich. – Environmental threats from microplastics, contagious disease from ticks, data centers and wildfires, as well as research findings from public health agencies and others, will be discussed at the Great Lakes Environmental Festival taking place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oct. 23-24, on the Manistee campus of West Shore Community College, 400 River St.

This year’s theme is “One Health, One

Water” and admission is free.

Presentations about Little Manistee River conservation efforts and other topics from West Shore environmental groups will be given. Ongoing Manistee River access conflicts will also be discussed.

Representatives will be on hand from AFFEW, a volunteer based, non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization serving the City of Scottville,



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NORTH SHORE DISPATCH

How the removal of an aging dam in Traverse City became a cautionary tale

By **MARK BANASZAK** and **THEO BANASZAK**

At the Brown Bridge Quiet Area, southeast of downtown Traverse City, a footbridge crosses the Boardman-Ottaway River at the old Brown Bridge dam site. Halfway across the bridge, a sign with a bracket at chest height — built to hold a cell phone steady — points at a stretch of river and a stand of aspens on the bank below. The sign asks you to take a picture and upload it to a website: <https://www.chronolog.io/site/GTC101>. Do that, and your photo becomes one frame in a time-lapse that began in 2021, a slow-motion record of one of the best trout streams in the state, built on the photos of one visitor at a time.

As the time-lapse begins, the aspens are barely taller than a person, though by 2021 they'd already had years to grow. Watch it to the present and the same trees are two stories high, packed so close together you'd have to turn sideways to get through them. Four years, condensed to a few seconds of scroll.



Brown Bridge Bottomlands uploaded to [chronolog.io](https://www.chronolog.io) in August 2026. At time of publication, this chronolog combines 476 photos from 235 contributors.

To see what came before 2021, you would have to pull up old satellite imagery on Google Earth. Do that, and the aspens disappear entirely. As recently as 2010, the whole scene appeared as a lake — almost 200 acres of still water called Brown Bridge Pond. Move the slider to 2012, and the water level drops, leaving behind a lakebed strewn with the stumps and trunks of drowned trees. Move it forward again, and you watch a river appear — a channel finding its own bends; low, open banks filling in with wildflowers; the stumps disappearing under new growth until what's left looks like a river that was never anything else.

Standing at the sign, you can't hear that history. What you hear is the whistle and

whine of casting and retrieving or kayakers talking as they round the bend upstream. It's a quiet place built on the absence of motors, engines and turbines; there is no sound of industry. Before 2012, this spot held a hydroelectric dam that had operated continuously from 1921 to 2006, helping to power Traverse City. Where you might now hear a bird or the wind, you would have once heard the turbines and falling water of the dam.

The dam came down not for scenery but for economics and biology. According to Reb Ratliff, senior conservation steward of the Grand Traverse Conservation District, the dam was no longer worth operating, and the pond it created had been quietly warming the river. Impounded water absorbs summer heat that a moving stream does not; data from the site showed temperatures running 6 degrees Fahrenheit warmer immediately around the dam — enough to threaten brook trout. For a stretch of river carrying the state's Blue Ribbon trout designation, that temperature difference was a problem.

Removal began in 2012, and it did not go as planned. Engineers built a temporary structure to lower the pond gradually, over two weeks, to avoid exactly the kind of sudden release that damming a river is meant to prevent. On the morning of October 6, the ground beneath that structure gave way — erosion no one could see — and the pond that was supposed to take weeks to drain emptied in hours. Homes downstream flooded. Wells filled with river sediment and were declared unsafe without water treatment. It was, by every account from people who were there, a bad day, not a triumphant one.

That's the thing the time-lapse actually shows if you let it run long enough in both directions: not a river that was fixed and is now finished, but a landscape that is still in the middle of recovering from both the dam and the mistake made while taking the dam apart. The growing aspen are evidence of harm and of healing.

The situation at Brown Bridge Dam is not an isolated one. Northern Michigan has many aging dams, culverts, and levees, most built long ago for uses and conditions — power, road crossings, drainage — that may have changed. In May, heavy rainfall in our



Google Earth View of Brown Bridge Pond. Google Earth, ©2005, CNES/Airbus.



Google Earth View of Brown Bridge Quiet Area. Google Earth, ©2012, USDA/FDAC/ GEO

area caused the Cheboygan Dam to overtop, which washed out one of the only bridges with access to local communities, resources and people. The unprecedented rainfall level illustrates a growing trend of extreme and unpredictable weather patterns throughout the Upper Midwest.

As storms in our changing climate become heavier and more frequent, old infrastructure is increasingly the thing that fails: culverts overwhelmed, roads washed out at stream crossings, old dams put under loads they were never engineered for. The Brown Bridge failure was a preview of events that are becoming more common, not less. Work like this — letting the channel rebuild itself before a storm rebuilds it badly — is less a one-time restoration project than the beginning of an ongoing task, one that some other part of our watershed will likely need again, soon.

One Benzie County business owner is in favor of the more natural stream and river flows. While Chris Razer, an owner of the Betsie Riverside Resort in Benzonia, comes down clearly on the side of natural conditions, he acknowledges that maintaining the river is a delicate balancing

act. Conservation of natural conditions may mean restrictions for some fishermen, and removing all the physical barriers along the river could allow destructive non-native fish species, such as the sea lamprey, into the river. For this reason, he advocates for considering all perspectives.

At the phone bracket on the old dam, you're being asked to recognize that balance between what was and what is changing. So, step up and add one more frame to the time-lapse. Put your phone in the bracket, take the picture and send it in. It won't show you the old pond or the stumps or the flood. It will just be one more piece of evidence that the river is still changing, still becoming something different, one photograph at a time.

Mark Banaszak has spent more than 30 years as a public school educator, urban community gardener, and outdoor enthusiast. He transplanted his city life to rural Manistee County. Theo Banaszak's decades of summers in northern Michigan sparked his research into climate change, especially the effects of extreme weather on the built environment.

Hallowwhat?

continued from Page 1

Manistee, told me she appreciates. During Samhain (sah-win), people wore masks and costumes to avoid being recognized by wandering ghosts. The Celts enjoyed feasts and dancing around bonfires, something **Andrea Hindman, who owns Boutique 1692 in Manistee**, describes as “nature’s biggest candle.” Respecting the departed may involve leaving out favorite foods, water and beloved items or tools to aid their travels while also honoring their lives with photos and flowers (Día de los Muertos).

Food, parties and costumes are modern vestiges of age-old customs. Maple, sweet corn and apple pie tamales are foods that **Tarrah Hernandez, owner of Taco ’Bout It in Manistee**, enjoys. Andrea embraces the symbolism of baking apple pie, a sign of abundance. Getting together with friends and having potlucks is Mariah Dunagua’s favorite aspect of the season. **Mariah, owner of Deva by Cammy in Manistee**, appreciates the “hearth experience when it’s cold outside.”

Halloween allows people of all ages to dress up and become someone or something else. **Brian Winter, owner of Manistee Tree Nursery**, recalled how his older child dressed in a scarecrow costume to spook people, while his younger daughter dressed as a pensive honeybee. Tarrah shared that as a kid she celebrated Halloween by dressing as a raccoon. Three years ago, she dressed up in a sugar skulls costume. As a child, Andrea made her own costume: a tube of toothpaste.

Mariah remembers her mother making Halloween costumes for her, until Mariah wanted a complicated garment. Making her own costume played a huge part in getting her into sewing. **Dannee Hoffman, who works at Miller’s Modern Market in Manistee**, also remembers her mother sewing most of her school clothes and Halloween costumes. One of her favorite Mom-made costume sets was Raggedy

Ann and Andy, complete with red yarn wigs. Mari was quite proud of her purple rain costume last year, which she described as probably too conceptual; she spent a lot of time explaining the ruffled white shirt, purple corset and witch hat dripping purple raindrops.

The folks I interviewed had many suggestions for local events and activities. Brian enjoys drinking cider at **Lewis Farms** in Hart. **Haunted Acres**, in New Era, is a place Dannee recommended checking out. Mariah especially enjoys the corn pit and squash bowling at **Calvin Lutz Farms’ Whoville**. Tarrah relishes the **Manistee Elks’ Boos, Brews, and Brats**. Mari and Andrea enjoy driving around the area, appreciating the gorgeous views and stopping at farm stands for fresh produce.

I love soaking in the crisp fall air, getting lost in corn mazes and spending time with friends. If you tried to take me through a haunted house, though, I’d have to apologize in advance to the innocent costumed creepies I’d be flailing at with all my appendages, like the Looney Tunes’ Tasmanian Devil.

What are your favorite costumes and memories associated with Halloween, Samhain and/or Día de los Muertos? Is there a haunt you like to visit? How about exploring the many businesses and events in our area, celebrating our cool community vibes and the wonderful people who live here?

Learn more about these fall observances at: www.britannica.com/topic/halloween, www.history.com/articles/day-of-the-dead and <https://www.worldhistory.org/Samhain>.

Vonni Sage is a creative writer, avid reader, educator and nature lover. When she’s not playing in the mud, she might be found wandering the streets or beaches with a far-off gaze as she adventures in the new worlds she’s creating in her head.



(Above) Wendell Berry’s namesake, a lamb born in 2021 at Aral Peak Farms, Honor, Mich. He was named by F.R. Co-editor Pat Stinson. Photo: Christine Stapleton. (Right) “Wendell Berry” as an adult. Photo: Peg Anderson.

Berry

continued from Page 1

Berry was also deeply spiritual. A lifelong Baptist whose wife played piano at the local church, he chose to spend many Sundays walking in the woods. His essays and poems champion healthy rural communities, agrarian values (he had connections to the Amish), meaningful work and a consistent life ethic. From those Sunday walks, he eventually wrote and published volumes of what he called “Sabbath” poems. These are sparked by the occasion of walking, unencumbered by life’s everyday concerns, and open to the spiritual thoughts that reverence can bring.

It’s difficult to pick the best words Berry has left us, in his thinking and his poetry, but one of my favorites comes from a poem about



hope in “Leavings,” one of his collections of Sabbath poems. It’s a prayer for the leaders of our world — the politicians, scientists, and CEOs — that they... may know the greatness of Earth and Heaven by which they so far live, that they may see themselves in their enemies, and from their great wants fallen know the small immortal joys of beasts and birds.

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.

ONEKAMA NEWS

From Near and Farr Friends

Free programs are open to all each Friday in October, beginning at 11 a.m., and the following schedule has been announced through Nov. 13. The Onekama Township Hall is located at 5435 Main St. The First Congregational UCC of Onekama is found at 4920 Spring St.

- **Oct. 9**, Onekama Township Hall. We will hear an update from **Dan Meshar, superintendent of the Onekama Consolidated Schools** on recent construction and other changes at the school.
- **Oct. 16**, Onekama Township Hall. The **Fire Chiefs of Manistee and Onekama** will speak to us and answer questions about the Regional Fire Initiative. Read more at mrfi.info
- **Oct. 23**, First Congregational UCC-Onekama. This **Aging Well in Onekama Forum** includes lunch. Speaker Suzanne Long, an accountant, will inform us about managing finances as we age, including: insurance, investments, taxes, funeral planning, end of life wishes, and websites to know and use.
- **Oct. 30**, Onekama Township Hall. **Grace Patzer, a public health nurse**,

will provide **Narcan training**. This nasal spray can save a life from an opioid overdose. Learn more about the signs of overdose and how to administer Narcan. Everyone can learn to help save a life at this program.

- **Nov. 6**, Onekama Township Hall. Featuring **Larry Furlow**, who will share what is involved in **showing purebred dogs** at shows and competitions. He and his wife have dogs that have won multiple ribbons at shows.
- **Nov. 13**, Onekama Township Hall. **Deanna Marsh from Northern Spice Company** will return to discuss the best spices to have on hand for Thanksgiving as well as holiday cooking and baking in December.

Near & Farr Friends is a volunteer program of the Portage Lake Association. The volunteers work to make Onekama a great place to live, play and stay. Donations are welcome.

The Aging Well in Onekama Forums are funded by grants from Genesis Fund of the United Church of Christ, the Michigan Conference UCC and the United Northern Association of the Michigan Conference UCC.

Area Events Calendar

continued from Page 2

October 23
Outdoors Woman Fall Waterfowl Identification, Muskegon
10am-3pm. \$30. Must register in advance. Ludington State Park staff teach this 1-day course at the MDNR’s Muskegon Field Office. For info: <https://tinyurl.com/36823tyh>

Near & Farr Friends, Onekama
11am-1pm. Free. Includes lunch and speaker Suzanne Long, accountant, who will inform us on managing finances as we age including insurance, investments, taxes, funeral planning, end of life wishes, and websites to know and use. Bring your questions and concerns. First Congregational Church, 4920 Spring St.

The Woods, Meadows and Shores of West Michigan, Manistee
7:30pm. Free. As photographer Robert deJonge’s breathtaking images of West Michigan appear on the big screen, double bassist Paul Erhard will improvise, creating a spontaneous dialogue between image and sound. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

October 23, 24
Great Lakes Environmental Festival, Manistee
10am-4pm. Free. Presentations examining the environmental threats from microplastics, contagious diseases from ticks, impacts from data centers & wild fires. Results of research about One Health and One Water and Michigan public health agencies. Presentation about the Little Manistee River conservation efforts. West Shore Community College, 400 River St.

October 24
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.

Gopherwood Concerts present Frank Youngman & Friends Sing-a-Long, Cadillac
7pm. \$20 ADV, \$25 Door. Cadillac Elks Lodge, 122 S Mitchell St. Tickets: <https://gopherwoodconcerts.org>

October 25
Downtown Trick or Treating, Ludington
2-4pm. Street trunk or treating. Legacy Plaza, 150 N James St.

October 26
National Day of the Deployed. See story on page 5.

Oct. 30, 31
“Woman in Black” Manistee Civic Players, Manistee
7:30pm. Tickets TBD. A mystery, a spine-tingling ghost story, a test of your nerves. Rated PG-13. Ramsdell Theatre, 101 Maple St. Also a 2 pm performance on Nov. 1.

October 30
Near & Farr Friends, Onekama
11am-1pm. Free. Grace Patzer, Public Health nurse provides Narcan training. This nasal spray can save a life from an opioid overdose. Onekama Township Hall, 5435 Main St.

October 31
Run For Your Lives 5k/10k, Ludington
9am. \$20 students, \$30 adults. 100 Ludington Ave. Info/registration: <https://runludington.com>

Manistee Fall Festival, Manistee
12-2pm merchant trick or treating on River/ Division/Maple Streets. 12-3pm signature events at Manistee Inn & Marina parking lot, 378 River St. include photo station, live music, pie throwing station (hit local celebrities & win prizes), nonprofit trunk or treat, cornhole, games, crafting, first responders, costume contest. More activities around town. Info: www.visitmanisteecounty.com/event/manistee-fall-festival/

Boos, Brews & Brats, Manistee
12-11pm. Public welcome. Costumes encouraged. Kids’ costume contest 2pm. Food/drinks start at 6pm. Music featuring Sufferin Suckatash at 7pm. Adult costume contest (with prizes) at 10pm. Manistee Elks Club, 432 River St.

Trunk or Treat, Bear Lake
5-7:30pm. Local families & businesses hand out Halloween treats in the parking lot of Bear Lake Community Church, corner of Main & Smith Sts.

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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