



Migrant farm work booms in Michigan despite feds pay cut

By Claire Keenan-Kurgan
Sun contributor

Every year for the past decade, Jose Abel has traveled more than 2,000 miles from the region of Durango in Mexico to tend to the grapes of Northern Michigan's famed vineyards.

The money the 30-year old earns during the nine months that he spends in Michigan allows him—and thousands of other Mexican workers in our state—to have dreams back home.

"Building a house in Mexico, buying something to live over there so you don't have to keep coming here... starting a business, or having a farm," he explains.

Now, however, the U.S. federal government has lowered the minimum wage—by as much as \$4.50 an hour, or 25 percent, in Michigan—for the exploding number of workers who are here on H-2A visas, like Abel.

The decision comes after a couple of years of outcry from some farmers that the cost of labor, transportation, and housing for H-2A workers had become untenable, and that, without locals willing to do the job, small farms would not be able to afford the cost of the harvest season.

"This move is a key step towards modernizing the H-2A program," Michigan Farm Bureau president Ben LaCross wrote in an online press release last October. "More work needs to be done, but this is a great start."

Others, however, wonder if the new wages will still be able to attract enough farmhands to do the work that locals do not seem to want.

"We get the same guys coming back every year, and it's a pretty severe decrease," says Brandon Evans, a farm manager at the Evans Brothers Fruit Co. in Benzie County. "They're used to

See **MIGRANT WORKERS** on page 10



Jose Abel plants at a vineyard near Maple City. Photo by Tomas Moreno.

"Disagreeing without being disagreeable."

Leelanau citizens find Common Ground across political divide

By Jacob Wheeler
Sun editor

The comedian and clown Patch Adams was onto something when he said, "Humor is an antidote to all ills."

Leelanau County residents Skip Pruss and Jim White may disagree on politics, but Pruss drew a chuckle from White when he joked, "I'm known as the shit man in Lansing," during their conversation about septic policy earlier this month.

Pruss, who has pushed unsuccessfully for 30 years for a statewide septic code, steered Michigan's clean energy initiatives for former Gov. Jennifer Granholm and co-founded 5 Lakes Energy. White, who is wary of government overreach, chairs the county's Republican Party, and ran unsuccessfully in 2024 for a seat on the County Commission.

They shared a table and bantered during a Common Ground meeting on May

13 at the Friendship Center in Suttons Bay. The monthly gatherings, which were held from January until May and will resume this fall—prior to November's national midterm elections—are an attempt to break through the caustic national political divide and give citizens of different backgrounds an opportunity to break bread together, discuss local political issues, and find common ground.

A couple of important ground rules include: avoid national (and international) politics, and listen but don't try to change someone's mind.

Sam Getsinger teamed up with Josh Bareman to launch Common Ground this past January following a Red/Blue workshop facilitated by the group "Braver Angels" in 2024. A dozen people attended that gathering, from both conservative and liberal "sides," remembered Getsinger.

See **COMMON GROUND** on page 11



Photo courtesy of Michael Burda

Carlson's Fisheries co-owners Nels Carlson and Michael Burda

Meet the Fishtown Family

By Abby Chatfield
Sun contributor

When most people think of Fishtown, they probably picture the busy thrill of excited summer crowds enjoying Cheese Shop sandwiches, submersed in the authentic atmosphere of a historic commercial fishing village. But I often think of a sweet moment there last December, with businesses closed for the season and only a handful of locals gathered around under the falling snow, watching my children and those of other Fishtown retailers circle around a giant red button as they anticipated the honor of pushing it to light up the shanty rooftops, together,

in a legendary holiday light display. Each child was honored with a key to Fishtown, inviting them to become the future caretakers of this place that many consider to be the heart of Leland.

Fishtown was the home of my first job at age 14, the only job I've ever been fired from, and my current role carrying on my family's 30-year-old business, selling the tug logo that many consider synonymous with Leland itself. It is a place where my great grandmother paddled a canoe, where my grandfather taught art lessons, and where my father found his inspiration as an artist.

While my family stories may be

See **FISHTOWN** on page 8



Rotary Charities' Sakura Takano (l) speaks at a Common Ground meeting in March.

Afternoon-long fundraiser concert returns to Lively Acres

By Ross Boissoneau
Sun contributor

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood. The Lively neighborhood, that is, as the compound on M-72 readies to host Lively NeighborFest 2026 on May 24.

Jim Lively says the event is an opportunity for neighbors to gather together around local food and music, while supporting two local non-profits, the Empire Area Community Center (EACC) and LIFT (Leelanau Investing For Teens). "The beautiful thing is it's the second

annual NeighborFest. It's just like last year, except better," he says with a laugh.

Part campground, part farm market and camp store, part restaurant and part concert venue, the site also is home to the Lively Farm. Add it all up, and you've got the perfect site for a day-long party.

So, who are the people in the neighborhood? The lineup includes a number of local musicians. "Local is first, always," says Lively. Host Bob DeKorne and The Burdickville Boys kick things off at 1 o'clock. "They're just from three or four miles away," he notes.

They're followed at 2:15 by Luke Woltanski. Lively is excited that he is bringing his band with him this year. At 3:30, the father-daughter duo Fern and Faj take the stage, followed by Clint Weaner at 4:45.

Local favorites The Fabulous Horn-Dogs close the show with a set from 6 to 7. In between the acts, Lively says other locals will recite poetry or other spoken word pieces, while DeKorne keeps things moving along.

While the press release defines its neighbors as those in the Glen Lake and Empire area, Lively makes clear that everyone is invited. He says the music is a way to bring everyone together to support two local causes. The Empire Area Community Center provides community events for the children and adults, such

as the holiday Artisan Marketplace, Labor Day Bridge Walk, Anchor Day Parade. It is the parent organization for the Empire Area Emergency Fund. Lively says NeighborFest funds are earmarked for its general fund.

LIFT is an afterschool program for Leelanau County student in grades 6 through 12. It began in 2017, and has grown to provide daily activities for students at Suttons Bay, Glen Lake, Leland, and Northport Schools. It includes mentoring, co-hosting school events such as homecoming and prom and activities such as rock climbing, attending concerts, going to the beach, even working at a farm.

The Lively NeighborFood Market and Cafe will provide prepared foods for purchase, all featuring products from local farms. All profits above food costs will be donated and split between LIFT and EACC. In addition, they will pass the hat for donations, with all funds again divided between the two organizations.

The menu will include hot dogs, beetroot hamburgers and cheeseburgers, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, cookies and baked goods from Mel & Fell. "It's picnic food," Lively says.

While it might seem logical that the concert is derived from Jim's daughter Emily's long-running LivelyLands Festival, a multi-day concert that took place on the same grounds, he says the real



inspiration came from local musician Pat Niemisto's annual Pickin' Party. "He did a pickin' party in his backyard. It was a community potluck, with (professional) performers and kids," Lively explains.

The event became so popular it eventually outgrew Niemisto's home. "It got bigger than he could do. My kids performed there and enjoyed it, and I thought I had a good space" to continue the tradition, Lively says. Unfortunately, Niemisto won't be able to attend, as he is performing the same

See Lively Acres on page 3



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Leelanau Upcoming Events Calendar

Friday, May 22: Leelanau Christian Neighbors holds open house for Empire Samaritans' Closet location, 2-5 pm

May 22-24 and 29-31: Glen Arbor Players perform *An Inspector Calls* at Leelanau School auditorium

May 22-25: Memorial Day weekend: traditional start of tourism season

Saturday, May 23: Suttons Bay Farmers Market opens, 9 am-1 pm

- Leland Air at Old Art Building

May 23-24: Burdickville Studio Tour, 10 am-4 pm

May 23-June 14: Northport Arts Association presents 2026 Northport Photo Exhibit. Free Opening Reception Saturday, May 23, 5-7 pm

Sunday, May 24: Lively Acres Neighbor Fest, 1-7 pm

Wednesday, May 27: Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians host Company K Memorial Highway Dedication at Leelanau Sands Showroom to honor Anishinaabe soldiers of Company K of 1st Michigan Sharp-

shooters for their service and sacrifice during the Civil War, 1 pm

Saturday, May 30: Oliver Art Center in Frankfort hosts 2026 Spring Fever Fashion Show and Tea

Saturday, June 6: Empire Asparagus Festival

Saturday, June 13: M-22 Challenge, departs from Sleeping Bear Dune Climb and circumnavigates Glen Lakes

- Leland Wine & Food Festival, noon-6 pm

Ongoing

- Live Music at Dune Bird Winery, **Sundays**, 3-6 pm

- Trivia Night at Cherry Public House, **Sundays**, 5-7 pm

- Bay Books in Suttons Bay hosts Books and Wine Book Club, **first Tuesday** of the month, 6 pm

- Euchre at Glen Arbor Wines **Wednesdays**, 6-8 pm, January through April

- Live Music at French Valley Vineyard, **Thursdays**, 3-6 pm

- Live Music at Dune Bird Winery, **Thursdays**, 3-6 pm

- Northern Latitude Distillery in Lake Leelanau hosts Books and Bourbon Book Club with Bay Books, **last Thursday** of the month at 5 pm

- Stories & More for Preschoolers, Glen Lake Library, **Fridays** at 11 am

- Glen Arbor Wines hosts live music, **Fridays**, 7:30-9:30 pm

- Live music at River Club Glen Arbor, **Saturdays**, 5-8 pm

- Live Music at Bel Lago, **Saturdays**, 5-7 pm

- Glen Arbor Wines hosts live music, **Saturdays**, 7:30-9:30 pm

- Glen Arbor Arts Center hosts Members Create exhibit, **March 20-May 28**

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Samaritans' Closet comes to Empire

By Ross Boissoneau
Sun contributor

Everything old is new again, as Samaritans' Closet proves at its store in Lake Leelanau. Which is why it is now opening one in Empire.

"It is a successful business model. Everyone loves it," says Mary Stanton, executive director of Leelanau Christian Neighbors. The faith-based non-profit owns and runs Samaritans' Closet, which stocks and sells items that are old, vintage, pre-loved, used – pick one.

Actually, pick two, or three, or as many as you care to. Whether clothing and housewares, furniture and furnishings, art – anything someone wants to part with and that someone else may want can be found at the store.

Now the longtime Lake Leelanau store is being joined by a second across the county. The new location is due to host its grand opening May 22 from 2 to 5 p.m. at 11840 S. Lacore Rd. It will then run on the same schedule as the Lake Leelanau store: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 10-3 p.m. on Saturdays.

Empire resident James Gerndt will be managing the store. He's been learning the operation at the Lake Leelanau store. Stanton says they may hire a part-time person and that staff from Lake Leelanau may also help out as needed.

While "new vintage" is a contradiction in terms, the trend toward vintage shopping shows no signs of abating. In his Substack column, Professor Gad Allon at the Wharton School says the market is big and growing, and pre-owned clothing has surged in popularity. The professor of operations, information, and decisions at the University of Pennsylvania also quotes the BBC, which notes celebrities getting in on the action through swaps and sales of their pre-owned designer clothing, and shoppers paying TikTok stylists for bundles of thrifted clothing.



So, clearly, it's a thing. Despite the numerous stores in the region selling gently used items, Stanton sees the Empire store as a viable option. It is a way to help the environment, provide income for the faith-based non-profit that owns and runs it, and enable people to move on from items they no longer are using. Stanton also sees the store as a tool to reduce the amount of trash going to landfills. "It's a great recycling tool for the county. People are cleaning out, wondering what to do with things (they) don't want. Here, they're either sold or we recycle them. It's a win-win-win."

Samaritans' Closet sells more than just clothing. Stanton says that is part of its appeal. Its inventory is constantly changing, and you never know what you'll find. "I took my grandson and got a \$4 bag of Hot Wheels. There are board games, puzzles, clothes, shoes. Someone just donated a Mahjong set – it's just gorgeous," she says, noting an internet search proposed a value of hundreds of dollars.

"Diamond rings, gold bracelets, a mink coat," Stanton continued, listing donated items the Lake Leelanau

location has sold. "We had a sailboat a couple years ago. Random fencing, tools, sporting equipment, lights, luggage, cupboards, a flute, a guitar." The list goes on and on.

Proceeds from the Empire store will stay within the county to fund LCN's programs. They include its food and baby pantries, providing financial assistance to those in need, and Blessings in a Backpack, which provides a backpack filled with nutritious food for students from schools across the county to eat over the weekend.

The organization has been a presence on the east side of Leelanau County for decades, and Stanton is excited to spread the word and the offerings across the county. "Leelanau Christian Neighbors has been around a number of years. Next year is our 40th anniversary," she says. "We started in Suttons Bay, and in 2017 moved to Lake Leelanau. We always wished we had a bigger presence on the west side."

Now they will. She believes not only will the new store draw from the immediate area, she sees it bringing in people from across Benzie, Grand Traverse and elsewhere. "People will drive from everywhere," Stanton says. The current location in Lake Leelanau already brings in shoppers from Traverse City, and with the burgeoning appeal of vintage and secondhand items, she doesn't think it's unreasonable that it will potentially bring in shoppers from as far away as Traverse City, Manistee and beyond.

LIVELY ACRES

continues from page 2

day at the Wheatland Music Festival's Traditional Arts Weekend.

In addition to music and food, Lively says NeighborFest will also feature an auction, with prizes including a sail on Grand Traverse Bay with Captain Ger, a.k.a. EACC president Gerry Shiffman, and a guitar crafted by Bob DeKorne of Pyramid Point Custom Guitars.

Lively says the event continues to grow, and he is pleased that it is raising awareness of the causes it supports as well as the musicians and the farmers who sell their wares at and through the market. He says a number of people are unaware of all that goes on locally, from the non-profits to the farms the NeighborFood Market supports. He was



recently approached in the market by a camper who remarked, "Wow, this is the nicest camp store I've ever been in."

"I told him this is a year-round market."

NeighborFest starts at 1 p.m., but people are welcome to come early, spread out their blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy the food, music and camaraderie. Lively even guarantees plenty of sunshine, same as at NeighborFest 2025.

"The weather will be great, just like last year," he says with a laugh.

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Youth for Christ appeals to zoning board, reopens ministry

Leland citizens call on officials to play long game

By Jacob Wheeler
Sun editor

As expected, Apollos Properties and “Bear Man” Jim Van Steenhouse last month appealed their special use permit application to Leland Township’s Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). This comes after the Planning Commission rejected Apollos’ application by a vote of 4-1 at their April 15 meeting, following months of deliberation, public comment, and outside legal opinions.

Apollos seeks to hold Youth for Christ’s controversial Lighthouse ministry in a building they own that overlooks Fishtown in the heart of Leland’s business district.

VanSteenhouse’s attorney Robert Parker informed lawyer Thomas Grier, with the Running Wise Law Firm, on April 28 that “while the matter is on appeal before the [ZBA], Youth for Christ intends to resume its activities at the property commencing Tuesday, May 5.” (View the letter at our website, GlenArbor.com)

Grier had advised the Planning Commission with “findings of fact” before it rejected Apollos’ application. The property in question is 110 North Lake Street, which sits in a zoned commercial district.

Leelanau Lighthouse is a chapter of the multinational Youth for Christ organization. Local missionaries Micah and Kya Cramer began using the space for a ministry in February 2025. They drew scrutiny for allegedly recruiting students at Leland public school to their ministry during the past two school years. Micah, who is VanSteenhouse’s nephew, was barred last fall from volunteering inside the school.

At the April 15 Planning Commission meeting, which was held in Northport’s school auditorium to accommodate a large crowd, Leland citizens called on township officials to overcome fears of future litigation from VanSteenhouse and Youth for Christ.

“If you feel you are currently considering approval to avoid a legal battle, then I urge you to move forward with another option: a legislative moratorium,” said Leland resident Lauren Connor.

Connor and other citizens who spoke during the public comment period referenced several recent examples of villages and townships elsewhere in Leelanau County enacting moratoriums to stop developments from outside players that locals opposed.

Facing interest from a “dollar store” development, in 2019 Empire Village enacted a moratorium to define specific standards for “small-box retail” before making a final decision, creating what moratorium advocates described as a neutral, defensible standard that protected the village’s character.

In 2021, Leelanau Township adopted a 180-day moratorium on new RV park applications to allow for a comprehensive review of their Commercial Resort District regulations.

And in 2025, faced with the prospect of a Dollar General development near Maple City, Cleveland Township passed a zoning and building moratorium to update their ordinance to reflect the community’s voice and the Master Plan’s intent.

Reporting in the *Glen Arbor Sun* and elsewhere has shown that when dollar stores enter a community, they squeeze locally-owned grocery stores and retail, sometimes putting them out of business. Leelanau County remains the only county in Michigan without a discount chain store.

Local townships have sometimes been forced to play the long and expensive game to resist outside developments.

Last month, a federal court sided with Centerville Township in its legal battle stemming from a Planning Commission denial of a special use permit for Northgate-Leelanau Pines, LLC. That campground sought in 2022 to double the number of campsites from 170 to 342, build a waterfront pavilion on Lake Leelanau, and add swimming pools, a splash pad and mini golf.

Township planners denied the permit, finding that expansion plans were inconsistent with Centerville’s Master Plan, and that it didn’t fit with the township’s “scenic aesthetic.” Centerville Township has spent more than \$100,000 in defending the case.

“Large corporations generally target these areas [like Leelanau County] that

have flown under the radar,” Lindy Kellogg, chairperson of the Centerville Township Planning Commission, told the *Sun*. “If you dig a little into Northgate, you’ll see they have a track record of targeting small places. They have a history of not following zoning because they have money. They can push litigation to get their way.

Kellogg emphasized the importance of robust zoning ordinances, even as updating them requires that townships and planning commissions allocate financial resources, time and energy. She referenced Leland, where community members, some of them lawyers, stepped forward to push the Planning Commission to apply zoning codes when considering Youth for Christ’s bid for a downtown ministry.

“Zoning isn’t arbitrary. It’s created by the community members,” said Kellogg.

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Dunes Café opens near Empire

By Cameryn Cass
Sun contributor

As of May 15, a new cafe is up and running in Empire.

The Dunes Café, located inside the clubhouse of the Dunes Golf Club off of M-72, offers coffee, tea, light food and smoothies.

“If it takes off, we’ll get an espresso machine,” said Clayton Morrow, an experienced barista who helped his sister Brittany Morrow open the cafe.

He said it’s been a lot of work the past few months, creating and refining the menu and getting things up and running in general.

“The biggest challenge has been trying to impress everyone,” he laughed. “Kidding. Really, it was deciding what’ll work, what won’t. That’s been the hardest—even just making the smoothie recipes.”

Clayton said the Cherry Bomb smoothie, a nod to the cherry country we’re in, is his favorite thing on the menu. It’s made up of tart cherries, bananas and homemade vanilla syrup. Frankly, “it rocks.”

And Brittany’s favorite?

“Probably our signature drink, the Dunes Brew,” she said.

It’s a butterscotch cream cold brew named after the golf course and greater Sleeping Bear Dunes area.

“It feels special to us,” she said.

Having worked at coffee shops for more than a decade, Brittany said she’s long dreamed of opening her own.

Plus, the golf course has had its food license for many years now. With more golfers coming in every season, the move to open a cafe kind of just made sense.

“People come in and we’ve got this big space we’re not doing anything with,” Clayton explained. “It’ll be another option for food and bev in Empire and it’ll bring in more golfers. It’s a win win.”

Though folks who purchase a round of golf will get 10% off at the cafe, Brittany underscored how it’s open to everyone— not just golfers.

“I want it to feel approachable, not like you have to be a golfer to stop in,” she said.

“We’re in such a beautiful area,” she went on. “I’d love for the cafe to be a place where locals, families and people passing through can come in for coffee, light food and a friendly atmosphere.”

Chris Wall, the owner of the Dunes Golf Club and Clayton and Brittany’s father, echoed that sentiment. He added that, “Hopefully we can help out the community over at the campground and fulfill their need for coffee and baked goods.”

Indigo Bluffs RV Park & Resort, the campground Wall referred to, is a stone’s throw away from the golf course.



“We love the idea,” said Gary Becker, the owner of the campground. “I think it’ll do really well.”

Every season, there’s roughly 6,000 camping reservations at Indigo Bluffs. It’s not unusual for 30,000 campers to stay during the month of July alone.

Put simply, “we have a lot of people coming through,” and “we always direct our guests to businesses in the area,” said Becker.


And so “the campground community, golfers and the greater community will – hopefully – come and enjoy it,” said Clayton with a smile.

Permanent operating hours are still uncertain. For now, the cafe will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday to Saturday, closed on Sundays.

Like the campground supporting its new local cafe, the Dunes Café is sourcing things locally.

It’ll get coffee from Mundos Roasting & Co., baked goods from Bay Bread Company and some other ingredients from Cherry Republic.

And, for those who’ve visited the golf course before and are wondering, “We’re still going to do the Dune dogs,” said Clayton.



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Burdickville Studio Tour returns Memorial Day weekend

From staff reports

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“Meeting Young Journalists Where They Are”

From staff reports

Editors of the *Glen Arbor Sun* and *The Betsie Current* announce a joint project to begin working with aspiring young journalists and influencers during the summer of 2026.

“Meeting Young Journalists Where They Are” is an innovative way to collaborate with high school- and college-aged Northern Michiganders, who will be paid to produce compelling and topical local news in their rural communities through online video platforms.

Currently, editors are looking for interested young people in Leelanau and Benzie counties to join this project, which is funded by Press Forward Northern Michigan, hosted by the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation.

“In journalism, we often talk about rural ‘news deserts’ and how people living in communities without adequate access to local reporting and storytelling become less engaged in civic life and less trusting of institutions—from government, to schools, to hospitals,” says Jacob Wheeler, *Sun* editor. “We worry that teenagers and young adults are

also turning away from news and civic engagement. That’s why we’re trying to ‘meet young journalists where they are’ and appeal to their sense of storytelling, through mediums that speak to their generation.”

About The Project

Teenagers and young adults in “Gen Z” (ages 14-29) are “underserved” by traditional media sources, such as newspapers, radio, and television. Many don’t trust “legacy” news, which adversely impacts their civic engagement and their investment in politics, education, and local institutions.

Instead, young adults get the bulk of their news, information, and entertainment from video-based social media platforms—primarily Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. Young users prioritize authenticity and relatability, preferring quick, visual, and short-form video content over the polish of conventional news outlets.

The project pairs two local editors/journalists—Jacob Wheeler of the *Glen Arbor Sun* in Leelanau County and Aubrey Ann Parker of *The Betsie Current*

in Benzie County—with young reporters who will develop short-form, video-based stories about topics relevant to Northern Michigan youth.

This could range from their favorite beach or business to their summer job, from a fun local event to critical issues that disproportionately affect young people, like affordable housing to the high cost of education. The video ideas will be led by these young reporters—what interests them and what will interest their peers, who will view these videos—with guidance from Wheeler and Parker on themes, tone, and content.

There will be monthly meetings with student groups—initially in person, later virtual—to discuss story ideas, web platforms, reporting process, and deadlines.

The young journalists’ video stories will ultimately be published on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube—*Sun*, *Current*, and individuals’ personal profiles—and could potentially air in local community theaters, such as The Garden in Frankfort. These video-based stories could also be adapted for print.

This project will expand local news content to our publications’ current audience—and it will also increase access by reaching a new, underserved audience of young people.

The *Sun* currently publishes 17 print editions each calendar year, and the *Current* does 16; websites for each reach tens of thousands every month, as do our Facebook and Instagram accounts. This project will increase our publications’ online/social media presence, and it will do so using a different demographic than our content typically targets.

For the sustainability of our industry, it is important that we meet these emerging journalists early in their career-exploration journey. Not only will this project benefit students’ resumes and college/scholarship applications, but paying them to produce these videos proves to these young people that they could potentially pursue careers such as journalism, content creation, documentary filmmaking, social media management, and other emerging fields.

Both Wheeler and Parker have extensive experience working with this age group. Wheeler has worked as the faculty advisor for the *White Pine Press*, Northwestern Michigan College’s student-run newspaper, since 2014. Parker has many years of experience in coaching local sports and mentoring youth.

“We’re both really looking forward to working with these young people on the issues that they find interesting,” Parker says. “I’m sure they will come up with

things that neither of us—solidly a Gen Xer and a Millennial—have thought of or trends that we haven’t seen going around on social media. I really like the idea of learning from these young people just as much as they’ll be learning from us; a true exchange of ideas, which is a foundational element of what democracy and the free press are all about.”

Press Forward Grant

Press Forward is a nationwide network to strengthen local news, so that communities can stay informed, connected, and engaged.

With backing from the MacArthur Foundation, Press Forward is a major philanthropic coalition investing more than \$500 million to revitalize local journalism in the United States. Launched in 2023 by a network of more than 130 donors, it aims to strengthen communities and democracy by supporting independent, community-focused newsrooms across the country.

Press Forward was created in response to the collapse of local news ecosystems and focuses on four main goals:

- **Bolstering Newsrooms:** Providing grants and financial support to sustain local media outlets, regardless of their format or profit status.

- **Building Sustainability:** Helping local journalism organizations to develop long-term, viable business models.

- **Increasing Diversity:** Addressing longstanding inequities by funding newsrooms that are led by and serve people of color.

- **Expanding Public Policy:** Elevating local news as a public good and advocating for policies that support community information needs.

Press Forward operates through three primary investment strategies:

- **Pooled Funds:** Financial contributions are combined and distributed as national grants through The Miami Foundation.

- **Aligned Grantmaking:** Participating donors make independent grants directly to news initiatives of their choice.

- **Local Chapters:** A network of dozens of place-based affiliates across the country that coordinate investments to meet the specific needs of their own region.

In that vein, Press Forward Northern Michigan (PFNM) is the local chapter, working collaboratively to support availability and access to local news information across the northern region of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

The work of PFNM builds upon a

See **YOUNG JOURNALISTS** on page 7

YOUNG JOURNALISTS
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Northern Michigan News Ecosystem survey, completed in 2023, that illuminated a loss in editorial and reporting positions across more than 20 Northern Michigan counties and the growth of news deserts across our largely rural region.

During the spring of 2024, PFMN hosted a committee of local leaders—including Wheeler and Parker—with a commitment to the advancement of local news in Northern Michigan’s rural communities.

Since that time, PFMN has been working to reinvigorate and reimagine local news by sparking innovation, strengthening news and information providers and operations, and rebuilding trust in local news by catalyzing new ideas, supporting local newsrooms, and listening deeply to the needs of both journalists and the communities they serve.

Additional research—with support from the University of Michigan’s Ginsberg Center—has deepened the understanding of community members’ access to local news.

PFNM works to advance four strategic pillars:

- **News Operations:** Support innovative ideas to expand local news content, especially in underserved, rural communities.

- **Research:** Understand regional news ecosystems and their consumers to provide information and insights that will inform future strategies.

- **Education:** Provide opportunities for education and connection in the field, including for emerging journalists.

- **Awareness Building:** Build awareness among various and diverse audiences—and support for—the value of robust local news and information as part of community vitality.

Additionally, the PFMN has created the Northern Michigan Journalism Project, a reporting project—led by *Bridge Michigan* and *Interlochen Public Radio* (IPR)—made up of news outlets across the region that are working to build local capacity for collaborative journalism.

Over the past year or so, both the *Sun* and *Current* have benefited from additional reporting that has been made available by the Northern Michigan Journalist Project.

In other words, an article could have been written by a journalist in another press room and published in a different publication, such as the *Traverse City Record-Eagle* or the *Cadillac Daily News*, but it may have information that is still relevant to our readers in Leelanau and/or Benzie counties, so

Glen Arbor Arts Center guest combines ceramics, textiles

From staff reports

Brooklyn, New York artist Angelique De Castro’s Glen Arbor Arts Center residency combines ceramics and textiles/needlework into one sculptural form that builds on the world of Philippine mythology. De Castro will show examples of her work and talk about her residency on Thursday, May 28, at 10 am at the GAAC. The presentation is open to the public.

“Combining ceramic and textiles in sculpture is a new practice I started this year, and I want to continue experimenting with embroidery, specifically, as an element of surface design during this residency,” De Castro said. “The embroideries



will adorn the surface of the large sculpture, either by being glued on or woven into holes in the finished pieces.”

The GAAC has been hosting visiting artmakers as part of its residency program since the 1990s. For more information about the GAAC’s AIR Program visit GlenArborArt.org/ARTISTS.

these articles are cross-published in our pages, at no additional cost to us—the writer is paid by the Northern Michigan Journalism Project, and potentially their home newsroom, as well. An added benefit is that these stories have already been edited, so they take minimal work to plug into our pages.

Now, both the *Sun* and *Current* are also benefiting from a grant for their upcoming project to work with community youth to create video content in 2026, part of a larger total of \$50,000 that was awarded to six local newsrooms, with more than one-quarter—\$14,300—being awarded to Leelanau and Benzie counties.

Do you know a young person between the ages of 15 and 23 in Leelanau or Benzie county who would be interested in participating in this innovative project? Would you like more information sent to you about this project? Fill out the form at <https://bit.ly/YouthJournalists>. A grant from Press Forward Northern Michigan will pay young journalists per video.

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FISHTOWN

continues from page 1

unique, Fishtown's place in them is not, as so many families maintain a multi-generational connection to the place.

Retailers, charter boat captains, fishermen, and ferry operators all make their living here. Skip a rock in Fishtown and you'll hit a multi-generational business with an intergenerational workforce. These families depend on the income their seasonal retail businesses provide, some for more than 100 years. Over half of the businesses that sit on this small slice of the Leland River carry legacies and an opportunity for these families to make a reliable income and live a modest life as part of a community they have invested in for generations.

One of the last working fishing districts on the Great Lakes, Fishtown has adapted for more than 150 years to remain a working waterfront.

Dedication is one quality that seems to mark the generations of Fishtown's working families. For five generations (since 1917), the Grosvenor family has worked together delivering mail, carrying freight and transporting passengers across the Manitou passage from mainland Leland to nearby islands, along with operating retail stores, shoreline cruises and tours.

Fishtown was once home to eight fisheries, but Carlson's Fishery is the last one standing. A fifth-generation family operation started inside a shanty in 1904, it survived in part due to the family's perseverance, work ethic, and commitment to the place. The Carlson family bought up a majority of Fishtown property over the years and spearheaded the 2007 purchase by Fishtown Preservation Society, a nonprofit formed by local community members to preserve commercial fishing and assure public access to the location. Nels Carlson is the fishery's current owner, along with his business partner, Michael Burda, whose wife and two teenage



Photo by Amanda Holmes

Captain Joel Petersen and his father, Alan Petersen, fished together for whitefish.

sons work alongside him.

Michael spent 14 years traveling for work before a summer job at the fishery turned into a partnership with Nels as co-owner of Carlson's Fishery. The lifestyle allows him to be present for his family. "I'm solving problems for my family and my friend," he said. "It's a healthier type of stress."

Michael and Cassie's sons began working for the fishery at a young age. They graduated through many levels in the business. Michael said, "They hold important positions on the assembly line," honing in on their skills during late night fish processing sessions. Besides working with his family, carrying on the legacy of a unique and historically important business appeals to him. "It's not a get rich spot, but I get to work with my whole family and my best friend."

By the 1970s, Fishtown had been a commercial fishing village for almost a century, but with the fishing industry in decline, the local economy turned toward tourism. The first charter fishing business began in 1972 and is still operated today by its founder. Unique shops and specialty food retailers trickled in, filling vacant shanties that previously housed a number of fisheries, increasing tourism alongside a fairly

new restaurant and hotel that hugged the dam above Fishtown.

Many businesses in Fishtown today have been there for decades or have already cycled through multiple generations of families.

Some of the multigenerational owned and operated family businesses in Fishtown include Dam Candy Store, Village Cheese Shanty, Diversions, Leelanau Artisan, Tug Stuff, Carlson's Fishery, Manitou Island Transit, Falling Waters Lodge, The Cove, and several charter fishing businesses. Others in the Fishtown workforce labor alongside their relatives, such as the Joy fishing tug captain Joel Petersen with his father, Alan.

Tatum Kareck began working for her family business, Village Cheese Shanty, in Fishtown when she was 12 years old. "I started as a prep kid, sitting on a pickle bucket preparing and slicing food for hours on end."

Both in their 20s with some world experience and an education, Tatum and her brother, Owen, are back in Leland working with their parents to manage a seasonal sandwich shop that is arguably the best lunch spot in Leelanau. "We work really well together," Tatum said. "We have different skills that make us a team. Eventually, the siblings hope to take over ownership of the business and continue the legacy."

"I've always wanted to do this," Tatum shared. "Everyone was so excited about the cheese shanty, so it made me too." She smiled, recalling a favorite work memory. "One Fourth of July when Dave (her dad) was working the line, the whole crew was here, singing our lungs out to 80's throwbacks. All the staff were singing and dancing."

Fishtown has always encouraged a strong familial network, not only for working families and visiting families, but for its general workforce. Those who work in Fishtown join an inclusive and supportive community that feels like family and supports the livelihoods of locals.

Snow-birding at the speed of 70

By Tim Mulherin
Sun contributor

I turned 70 in early March. Those of you who have already reached that lofty milestone know exactly what I mean when I say that it's a weird place to be. For me, the mind is still stuck in the seventies – meaning the decade – while the body is wholly in 2026. Of course, those of you who are much younger have no idea what that's like. But you will; just give it some time.

On that keep-it-to-myself occasion – no birthday party for me, thank you very much – I was snow-birding with my wife, Janet, in Redington Beach, in Southwest Florida. I'm okay with Florida – for a few weeks. As for Janet, the warm weather and sunshine are a tonic for her chronic fatigue syndrome and alleged seasonal affective disorder (she is nowhere near me as I write this). She prefers, insists, and gets her way to stay longer, a five- or six-week duration, which has become our snow-birding habit for the past five years. She's of Middle Eastern descent, so sand, sun, and heat are in her gene pool.

My people, however, hail from Ireland's County Mayo. Winter's gray skies can't dampen our mood, won't diminish our thirst for a pint or two of Guinness, and help to keep the skin cancer at bay. As well, my northeastern Pennsylvania upbringing gave me a love of snow (though at my age, I can do without four-foot-plus snowstorms). The very word sends a shudder through my Syrian princess, however.

In mid-March, northern Michigan was the recipient of a pre-Saint Patrick's Day snowstorm of blizzard proportions. Friends sent me unbelievable photos of snowdrifts, including one from a neighbor of his nearly buried pickup truck with its completely covered snowplow. Janet shuddered. I marveled. And no, I didn't snobbishly revel in our snow-birding because of the snowstorm. Up North we were missing and our friends were enduring, a cruel sucker punch at winter's end. Frankly, I regretted not being there to experience Mother Nature flexing as only she can. Awe is always in season. Janet says I need therapy.

Being marooned by choice for more than a month on the sugar sand beach in the Sunshine State was a spectacular people-watching opportunity. We older folks, intrepid beach walkers, are gener-

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SNOWBIRDING

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ally congenial and will readily strike up a conversation about, say, a baseball cap or T-shirt advertising a Michigan college or university. *Let's go Spartans! Maize and Blue forever!* So many venerable Michiganders flee to Florida for the winter; estimates suggest as many as 200,000 head south to avoid the snowy season.

When it comes to spring break, Redington Beach is no Fort Lauderdale. The one-square-mile town is located on a barrier island with no shortage of wealth. The bar scene is almost nonexistent. The few drinking establishments there distinctly don't cater to a daddy's money clientele. Yet some college kids still show up thanks to relatives with property along Florida's Sun Coast. A trickle arrived the first week in March, and they really stood out. Many fairly glowed a pasty white. We winced at the thought of the sunburns underway.

The collegiate vacationers tend to gather in large groups, perhaps a manifestation of a collective primordial survival instinct. Unlike their elders, sitting doesn't come easy. They are virtual perpetual motion machines, constantly throwing footballs, playing spikeball, or doing as their grandparents did, tossing Frisbees. Or, also doing as their grandparents did, standing in waist-high salt water and quaffing beer. Or now, drinking hard ciders and canned cocktails. They are exuberant, excited to be young. As they should be.

As a species, the spring breakers also like to keep to themselves, as if in a make-believe reality bubble. They ignore the presence of their elders. Not one acknowledged my existence when passing by me on the beach, even as I attempted to make eye contact and say hello. Perhaps they're frightened by the specters of their inevitable future, which I represent. I don't think we're all that scary looking. But I forget when I was their age. Which is probably best.

One chilly early March morning, with the temperature in the high forties, I watched a couple of retired locals attired in sweatpants, puffer coats with hoods drawn, stocking caps, and gloves (seriously) braving the elements

while walking the windswept beach. Bringing up the rear, about 20 yards behind them, were three college-aged young men. They were bare-chested, sporting thin excuses for moustaches and beards, clad in shorts, catching some rays. As courageous as they appeared, they didn't fool me. Their vanity couldn't mask that they were slowly turning into human popsicles.

As for the coeds, they generally seemed to be quite fond of thong string bikinis, some of the micro variety. Surprisingly, so were some older women. Much. Older. Women. Regardless of the age or physical fitness of the bold bikini wearers, they do deliver an eyeful. Their uncovered cheeks of various dimensions jiggled freely as they hip-swayed their way down the beach. (As an equal opportunity columnist, I must add that we were "treated" to a few AARP-qualified – and then some – males who were obviously Anheuser-Busch stockholders sporting Speedos. Apparently, indecency is entirely subjective.)

It seems that getting attention is the full intention of the super-skimpy swimsuit wearers. These days, as a grandfather, I try not to look. Now I'm embarrassed for them. (Admittedly, once upon a time I would have cheered my bikinied peers on.) Janet would sometimes shake her head, wondering what their mothers would say. As for the free-spirited retirees strutting their stuff, she would ask rhetorically, "What are they thinking?"

We laughed at our inside joke as we waited for our view of the Gulf of Whatever It's Called to clear, hoping for bottlenose dolphins or osprey to help us unsee the unavoidable, immodest showboating. Yet undeniably, the sightseeing from the comfortable vantage of our Tommy Bahama beach chairs certainly was entertaining.

Seventy now. My skin is stretched – no cosmetic resistance applied, preferring not to fight the inevitable – as is my gut, which still savors that occasional belly bloating beer or two, another physiological phenomenon of age. My face is slowly, inexorably wrinkling. My hip and knee joints audibly snap, crackle, and pop whenever I gruntingly arise from a sitting



Redington Beach sunset.

position. What's more, my mind isn't as sharp as it once was, although Janet half-jokingly says she hasn't noticed any difference whatsoever.

Although I do exercise daily – and hide it well – I'm not as flexible or energetic as I used to be. So far, in this dawning last chapter or two of my life's story, there are good days mostly, and I remain grateful for that. Most afternoons I find myself surrendering to the gravitational pull of a nap. It is a small pleasure I never would have imagined looking forward to not so many years ago. Even nodded out on the beach, mouth agape, drool on my chest. I suppose I'm as carefree as the thong-wearing women and Speedo-slinging men. Inhibitions be damned on a Southwest Florida beach. Critics, too.

Tim Mulherin is the author of This Magnetic North: Candid Conversations on a Changing Northern Michigan, a 2026 Michigan Notable Book. His upcoming book, to be published by Michigan State University Press, is about Midwestern wildlife, with a focus on fauna living in Michigan and Indiana.



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MIGRANT WORKERS

continues from page 1

the wages they've been getting paid."

And for the migrants, themselves, "it won't be the same as before, with the same visions for the future," Abel says.

Increasing workers, increasing costs

Evans—who grows apples, cherries, and blueberries with his family—says that he and most other apple growers he knows rely on a team of H-2A workers each year.

They post job opportunities locally as the harvest comes around, but "we just never hear anything," Evans says. "We post the job online for the same rate as the H-2A guys, and nobody shows up."

Of 415,000 total advertised U.S. farming positions during 2025, only 182 received a domestic applicant, according to *The New York Times*.

Without domestic help, "the H-2A program has pretty much taken over," says Tomas Moreno, the vineyard manager at Bel Lago Winery in Cedar, overlooking Lake Leelanau. He also manages a team of H-2A workers who rotate through various vineyards all across the county.

Moreno says he brought 24 workers to Michigan last year and 31 this year. He says that vineyard owners from all over Northern Michigan have been calling him, ready to pay premiums for him to set up contracts with migrant workers through the H-2A visa process.

Michigan is a "top 10" state for H-2A work. In 2022, 2023, and 2024, around 15,000 people on H-2A work visas tended Michigan farms, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigra-

tion Services data. That is up sharply from just over 2,000 people less than 10 years ago, in 2015.

Moreover, that number shot up to 15,984 in 2025—almost 1,000 extra workers in a single year.

As use of the program has grown, the minimum wage for H-2A workers rose, too—at least, until now.

In 2022, the federal government set minimum wages for H-2A workers in Michigan at \$15.37 per hour. In 2023, that went up to \$17.34, and it climbed to \$18.50 in 2024, before going back down to \$18.15 in 2025, and now lowering even further for 2026.

This wage rate applies to all workers—domestic and foreign—at any farms that use the H-2A program.

But for foreign workers, farmers wind up paying much more than the hourly wage per employee, as farmers are responsible for covering the cost of their housing and transportation, as well as the costs associated with getting a visa.

Those other costs are all climbing, too, Moreno says.

"It used to be that the chemicals that you spray on the trees was a farm's biggest expense, and now... the labor is, by far, the biggest expense," Evans says.

"People were starting to get worried... that the smaller farms weren't going to be able to continue to handle the cost of the labor, and they're going to get bought up by big farms, and the small family farms were going to just disappear."

Lowering wages

In May 2025, Michigan Representative John Moolenaar (R-2nd District) told the U.S. Secretary of Labor at a



Tomas Moreno tends a row of pino grigio grapes.

federal hearing that farmers were "under tremendous financial stress" and "just can't make it anymore."

So when the U.S. Department of Labor announced in October a new method for calculating the pay rate for H-2A farm work, many farmers breathed a sigh of relief.

For the first time, farmers will be held to two minimum wage rates—one for entry-level workers and another for workers with more experience. The rate will drop in Michigan from \$18.15 per hour down to \$17.47 for "skill level two" workers and down further to \$13.47 for "skill level one" workers.

Zachariah Rutledge—assistant professor of agricultural, food, and resource economics at Michigan State University (MSU)—says that the H-2A wage, officially referred to as the "adverse effect wage rate" or AEWR, was initially designed to protect domestic American

workers.

"What [the wage rate] is supposed to do is create a wage for H-2A workers that's high enough that it doesn't depress the wages of domestic workers" or incentivize farmers to bring in workers from abroad, he says.

But most farmers say that the cost of subsidizing housing and transportation for foreign workers accomplishes that already.

Scared, concerned

Many of the workers on Moreno's team would qualify for the higher wage rate, he says, because many of them have returned to Michigan for several years in a row.

He says that he told them: "I'll talk to farmers. And I'll keep the highest pay rate that I can for you guys as possible."

Abel, the Mexican worker from Durango, qualifies for the higher category of H-2A wages in Michigan, and he has returned to Leelanau County this season.

"Unfortunately, there's barely any work in Mexico," he says, at least in the smaller town where his family lives, and it is getting more and more common for people from his town to work in the United States on an H-2A visa.

When asked about workers who would make that lower entry-level wage, he says:

"I'd guess that coming here—however low the wages turn out to be—it would still help, compared to staying in Mexico, where it's hard to get a job."

Still, he says, he thinks that the wages should have stayed the same, instead of decreasing for 2026.

"Farm work is hard, and not everyone is willing to do it," he says. "Even if it's raining, or snowing, we get it done anyway, and I think the salary we get is fair for what we do."

Claire Keenan-Kurgan is a reporter for Interlochen Public Radio (IPR). This story originally ran in November 2025. The Sun has confirmed that the facts and details remain true. This reporting is made possible by the Northern Michigan Journalism Project—led by Bridge Michigan and IPR—and is funded by Press Forward Northern Michigan.

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COMMON GROUND

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“Toward the end there was a moment that seemed like we were beginning to see each other and find common ground,” she said. “I wanted to continue these conversations to see if we can have more of these moments and make progress toward better understanding each other.”

Getsinger, an 82-year-old retired kindergarten teacher, and Bareman, who serves on the Leelanau County Land Bank Authority, invited leaders who represented different political persuasions from a variety of sectors, including agriculture, legal, business, non-profit, government, and education.

The group’s goals were “to find common ground among important thinkers and leaders in Leelanau County and determine the groups priorities; and to break down barriers of thinking so we can listen to one another and work together.” The purpose was to “cultivate a respectful, inclusive, and meaningful environment where individuals from diverse backgrounds can gather, share, and connect.” The meetings established a cheerful, grateful and respectful tone.

Common Ground attendees have included: County Commissioners from both political parties, and notably Rick Robbins, who has served the commission both as a Republican and as a Democrat; nonprofit leaders including Taylor Moore of Food Rescue, Sakura Takano of Rotary Charities and Bekah Tenbrink of LIFT; farmers Jim Bardenhagen and Don Gallagher; county prosecutor Joe Hubble; judge Steve Paciorka; entrepreneur Larry Mawby, and educator and interpreter Beatriz Moreno. Each month the roster has included liberals and conservatives alike.

“We need to tone it down and have a rational conversation, rather than cutting at each other’s throats,” said Steve Yoder,

a Republican who represents Leelanau’s seventh district. “We’re neighbors. We can love our community at the same time as we disagree on certain issues.”

Ty Wessell, a Democrat who represents Leelanau’s fourth district on the Board of Commissioners, said that focusing on local issues in which neighbors share common interests helped keep the conversations civil.

“We had respectful dialogue, showed respect, and had fun,” said Wessell. “It was a good reminder that it is possible to disagree without being disagreeable, and that despite the disagreements, we do have shared interests and mutual concerns.”

5 Loaves 2 Fish provided nourishing and delicious dinners during each of the five gatherings. Following the meal, Bareman led breakout discussions where those seated at each table discussed the pros and cons of issues such as: nonpartisan local election ballots, taxpayer subsidized housing, property taxes, alternative energy, a living wage, Michigan single-payer healthcare, a statewide septic ordinance, driver’s licenses for migrant workers, and taxpayer subsidized childcare.

At the April meeting, Corey Fernandez, a local executive coach at the consultant firm Humanergy, shared the Native American “rule of six” practice, which encourages one to think of six reasons why someone with whom you disagree has reached a certain conclusion or taken a particular action.

“We were able to not agree on everything but at least we could communicate,” said Rick Robbins, who represents Leelanau’s first district and has occasionally served as the commission’s swing vote. Robbins currently identifies as a Democrat but was a Republican during his first term on the board.

“We need to think local. I joke that ‘I’m not out to fix Washington, I’m not

out to fix Lansing. I’m out to fix our own backyard’.”

Bareman said it’s unclear whether the Common Ground gatherings will impact political discourse outside of this intentionally safe space. At county board meetings, for example, conservatives and liberal attendees flock to their own camps on opposite sides and rarely interact across the aisle.

“The whole goal is that conversations won’t just stay in this room,” said Bareman.

By the May meeting, attendees told Bareman they were more willing to sit with someone with whom they disagreed or even felt uncomfortable. Armed with a roster of participants prior to the May 13 meeting, Bareman and Getsinger applied a seating chart for the first time.

“People came up to me in the end and said, ‘I wish I would have sat with so and so’,” said Bareman. “I didn’t expect that to happen.”

Bareman concluded that the differences in the room were sometimes less about ideology and more about personal familiarity with each other.

When it came to local issues that affected everyone, participants reached more common ground than they otherwise would have.

“No one could find a con for affordable housing,” Bareman offered as an example. “People now have more complexity with how they view issues.”



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Grand Traverse Band hosts Company K Memorial Highway dedication

From staff reports

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians will host a Company K Memorial Highway Dedication on Wednesday, May 27, at 1 pm at the Leelanau Sands Casino Showroom in Peshawbestown. The event will bring together community members, Tribal leaders, veterans, elected officials, and regional partners to honor the Anishinaabe soldiers of Company K of the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters for their service and sacrifice during the Civil War.

The dedication will recognize the historic contributions of Native American soldiers and commemorate what is believed to be the only memorial highway in the nation dedicated specifically to Native American Civil War veterans.

The tribe would be greatly honored

to have all veterans join. The event will include remarks from Tribal leadership and invited guests, and opportunities for community members to learn more about the history and significance of Company K and the lasting legacy of Anishinaabe service.


Chairwoman Sandra Witherspoon emphasized the importance of honoring those who came before us and ensuring their stories continue to be shared with future generations.

“Recognizing the legacy of Company K is not only about honoring the past — it is about ensuring that the sacrifices, resilience, and contributions of our Anishinaabe veterans are remembered and carried forward for future generations. This dedication reflects our responsibility to tell our own history and to honor those who served with courage and distinction.”



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NORTHPORT ARTS ASSOCIATION




FREE OPENING RECEPTION MAY 23, 5-7PM
GALLERY EXHIBIT 5/24-6/14 Gallery Open Tuesday - Sunday 12-4pm
NorthportArtsAssociation.org
301 N. Mill St. Northport, MI
The Northport Arts Association is a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization
Photography in Advertising by Ryan Blessing, Tracy Bos & Tim Wade







Protecting the Water, *Together*

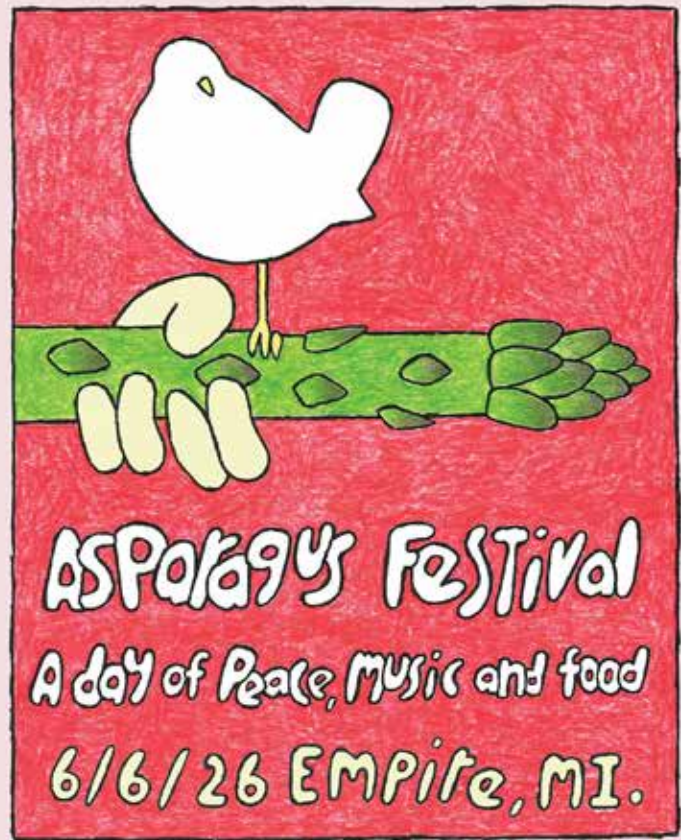
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Learn more or become a member at:
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The Glen Lake Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



Admission \$10, Children under 16 free

10:00am- Kick-ye- Assparagus 5km Fun Run Walk

11 AM - 3 PM Glen Lake Community Library Pop Up Book Sale

Noon- Recipe Contest in the Township Hall, Front St., Empire

Noon to 6pm- Asparagus Eats with Food vendors local Breweries & Music

Food Vendors: Arts Tavern, Plevas Meats, Shipwreck Cafe, Birria Taco Truck,

Red Top Gourmet Hot Dogs, Squeeze 'Em Lemonade Shack,

Norconk's Asparagus, Lively Neighborhood Market

Drink Vendors: Right Brain Brewery, Lake Ann Brewery, and St. Ambrose Cellars!

Live Music: Zinnia Dungjen, Andre Villoch, 5th Gear Band

1 to 4 PM: Empire Area Museum Open

2 to 4 PM: Asparagus Queen on Stilts

3 - 4pm The Magic Lady Family Magic Show

2pm- Ode to Asparagus Poetry Contest, Glen Lake Community Library Front St.



ShareCare Fundraising Event **Adult Spelling Bee**

June 6th | 1:30 pm

Guest Judges:

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