Glen Arbor Sun

Here to Enlighten You

JUNE 18, 2026 FREE!

Volume XXXI, Issue VIII Covering Events, Characters, Businesses and the Arts in Leelanau County and Sleeping Bear Dunes www.GlenArbor.com

Recent Leelanau School graduate Chloe Sunderman will assist with constellation tours at the Observatory during Wednesday and Thursday nights this summer.

Lanphier Observatory turns 50

Leelanau School landmark ignites wonder, inspires students

By Norm Wheeler
Sun editor

This summer marks the 50th summer of stargazing at The Leelanau School's Lanphier Observatory. Open to the public on Wednesday and Thursday nights from June 24 to Aug. 20, from dusk to midnight (clear skies permitting, $5 for adults and $4 for students), this gift from Charles "Chick" Lanphier five decades ago has inspired and astonished thousands of summer guests and generations of high school students as they viewed the heavens through the powerful 14-inch Celestron reflecting telescope and learned the constellations twinkling over Sleeping Bear Bay.

Since the Lanphier Observatory was built during the bicentennial year of 1976, visitors to the Glen Lake area and the Leelanau School have oohed and aahed at the wonders of the universe they can see through the Celestron Schmidt-Cassegranian telescope.

The observatory was a gift from Lanphier, an electrical engineer from Springfield, Ill., who summered on Glen Lake for most of his life. An avid astronomer as well as an inventor (he helped develop the electrical meter that's now on everybody's house), "Chick" Lanphier's dream was to have a state-of-the-art observatory on Prospect Hill overlooking the Glen Lakes so that he could share his stargazing passion with everyone. With meticulous care Lanphier designed the facility, machined many of the parts himself, and even helped the Ash Dome Company develop the special "Lanphier shutter" that allows winter viewing through a special window so that stargazers in the dome don't freeze.

In 1976, the observatory opened when director Dave Waltrip showed students from Glen Lake and Suttons Bay high schools the "first light" through the big 14-inch Celestron reflecting telescope. The following summer of 1977, up to 90 people per clear night lined the lane from the Homestead Reception Center up to the Observatory, which offered stunning views over Big Glen Lake and Sleeping Bear Bay to guests on the

See **OBSERVATORY** *on page 14*

"Angel bike" helps athlete finish M22 Challenge

DeCook wins popular Leelanau triathlon for sixth time

From staff reports

Ryan DeCook *owns* the M22 Challenge. The 45-year-old resident of Washington, Mich., won the popular Leelanau County running, biking and paddling triathlon in the heart of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore for the second consecutive year and the sixth time overall. This year it took him one hour, 16 minutes and six seconds.

But that wasn't the headline of Saturday, June 13, the date of the 18th annual M22 Challenge. Races like this one are competitive, but they also inspire acts of kindness and attract good Samaritans.

Brook Tyrrell, a 26-year-old Traverse City resident, discovered her bike had a flat tire within the first mile. She pulled off M-109 and looked for help. "Hi, I have a flat. Do you have a pump?" she asked spectator, Katie Butera, who was standing next to her own bike.

"No, but you can use my bike," Butera offered. They exchanged greetings and phone numbers, and Tyrrell was on her way. She had 16 more miles ahead of her through Glen Arbor, around both Glen Lakes and a grueling climb up Inspiration Point. Thanks to the "angel bike," Tyrrell placed third in her age group, with a time of 1:49:06.

Butera, also of Traverse City, was volunteering as a bike course marshal with Team Hagerty. The bike she leant Tyrrell was a Bianci purchased in 2018 from Suttons Bay Bikes.

"I road off without thinking of seat height or bike fit at all," said Tyrrell. "Luckily, the seat was only slightly too tall, but the pedals were incompatible with my bike shoes and the big ring wouldn't shift.

"I was just so happy being out on the course. You couldn't wipe the smile off my face, and I kept saying 'thank you, Katie' to myself."

Meanwhile, race winner DeCook shaved six minutes off his victorious time from 2025. He also won the race in 2023, 2022, 2019 and 2018. DeCook set the course record in 2019 with a time of one hour, 9 minutes and 24 seconds.

Previous winner Denny Paull, 62, of Cheboygan finished second, 3.5

See **M22 CHALLENGE** *on page 7*

An "angel bike" gifted by a stranger allowed Brook Tyrrell to finish the race.

Emmie Koonmen and Kara Schaub bathe in white flower petals falling from bushes near the ferry dock on North Manitou Island. Photo by Abby Chatfield.

A North Manitou Memoir: Women, Magic, and Place

By Abby Chatfield
Sun contributor

With the Manitou Islands all but closed to visitors this year (unless you have a private boat)—as the National Lakeshore rebuilds the docks, we at the Glen Arbor Sun are reflecting on the Manitous with an ongoing series about experiences we've had on the islands.

When an opportunity arose to create my ideal North Manitou Island backpacking excursion seven years ago, I reached out to some female friends and acquaintances. Outdoor adventures with fellow women are some of the most rewarding experiences for me. There is no hierarchy or alpha in the group, but instead genuine camaraderie and a supportive dynamic that allows everyone to connect with and learn from their surroundings. Women work together, teach each other, and address challenges as a team in the outdoors.

I was working as a backpacking guide for an outdoor retailer and needed to scout the island for the outfitter's official trip. It was late June, and we were to follow an itinerary I'd put together to determine if it was interesting, realistic, and doable. We planned to spend two nights backpacking around North Manitou Island, exploring various spur trails off the perimeter loop.

The Manitou Islands were inhabited

See **NORTH MANITOU** *on page 15*

BAY WEAR
Family owned since 1991
224 St. Joseph Ave
Suttons Bay
231/271-4930
332 Main Street
Frankfort
231/352-4489
5919 S. Ray St,
Glen Arbor
231/334-3411

THE PAINTED BIRD

Located at 216 N St Joseph St in Suttons Bay
Open 10 am-5:30 pm, Mon-Sat, 11-4 on Sunday
Call (231) 271-3050 or visit Painted-Bird.com

SLEEPING BEAR INN
Glen Haven
Michigan
Visit Sleeping Bear Inn, a charming historic bed & breakfast nestled on the crystal shores of Lake Michigan. The Inn is an iconic landmark in Glen Haven Village within the stunning Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.
For reservations visit:
SleepingBearInn.org or call
833.BEARBNB

GOOD HARBOR GRILL
Fresh•Local•Delicious
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
M-109 • Glen Arbor
334-3555
www.GoodHarborGrill.com

Beth Bricker is "still standing" and cancer free

From staff reports

Two years ago Glen Arbor artist and co-owner of Forest Gallery Beth Bricker was diagnosed with stage-4 cancer and given a prognosis of months to live. She underwent chemotherapy, radiation and surgery, but also pursued alternative treatment methods including reiki.

The Glen Arbor artist community held a reception for Beth on June 1, 2024, and a month-long exhibit featuring works donated by nearly 50 artists and community members, with proceeds benefiting her family. Beth's parents, the late Ananda and Ben Bricker, were founding members of the Glen Arbor Art Association more than 40 years ago.

Today Beth is cancer free and still standing. "Still standing" is the title of the exhibit currently on display at Lake Street Studios Center Gallery until June 26. The exhibit, which opened on May 29, celebrates the art and wild creativity of Beth—"our iconic townie gallerina extraordinaire"—with the gorgeous collaboration of driftwood sculpture by Naomi Call.

"I am on the other side of being sick. I'm back on my feet and making art," said Beth Bricker. "I'm pretty excited about the next iteration of my floral sculptures because there is so much of my past, from my mom's family, from the collaboration, from the family with the driftwood. Having it all within my creative control is really satisfying to me.

"One of the things that really helped me was the well wishes from my community, which were enormous and life affirming. People offered their prayers and good thoughts."

Glen Arbor Arts Center gallery manager Sarah Bearup-Neal interviewed Bricker this spring about her art and inspiration. Read it here: GlenArborart.org/creativity-qa-with-beth-bricker.

Upcoming June Events

Wednesday, June 24: TART Trails hosts ice cream social, 2-4 pm at West Skyline Drive. RSVP at emily@traversetrails.org

June 24-August 20: Lanphier Observatory Public Stargazing, 10-midnight, clear skies permitting, at the Leelanau School beach. Adults $5, students $4.

Live Music and Performance

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

• Live Music at Bel Lago, **Sundays**, 3:30-5:30 pm

• Live Music at French Valley Vineyard, **Mondays**, 4-7 pm

• Cherry Public House beer garden hosts live music, **Tuesdays**, 5-8 pm

• Live Music at Bel Lago, **Tuesdays**, 5:30-7:30 pm

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

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

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

• Cherry Public House beer garden hosts live music, **Thursdays**, 5-8 pm

• Glen Arbor Wines hosts live music, **Thursdays**, 7:30-9:30 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

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

• Live Music at Bel Lago, **Fridays**, 5:30-7:30 pm

• Lake Street Studios Center Gallery art openings, **Fridays** 6-8 pm, beginning June 26

• 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**, 3:30-5:30 pm

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

• Beach Bards Bonfire, **Fridays**, July 10, July 17, August 21, at Leelanau School Beach, 8 pm. $1 per being.

Summer Farmers Markets

Visit GlenArborSun.com/calendar for a list of vendors at each market.

Glen Arbor's market, located behind the Township Hall, runs Tuesdays from June 9 until September 15.

Leland's market, located in the Blue Bird parking lot, runs Thursdays from June 4 until September 3. Click here for a list of vendors.

Northport's market, located across from the marina, runs Fridays from June 5 until September 18. Click here for a list of vendors.

Suttons Bay's market, located on St. Joseph St., at the north end of the village, runs Saturdays from May 23 until October 17. Click here for a list of vendors.

Empire's market, located next to the post office, runs Saturdays from June 6 until August 29. Click here for a list of vendors.

Recycling located at 9 locations throughout Leelanau County, including at the ball fields in Empire, at the Leelanau School and at Glen Lake School.

Glen Lake Woman's Club
ART FAIR
Glen Arbor Town Hall
Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 10-4
Sponsored by Anderson's Market

CHARCUT-ER-WHAT?
(PROUDLY SERVING FOOD YOU CAN PRONOUNCE.)
Legendary Burgers.
Soups & Salads.
Sandwiches.
Local Brews.
BIG PORTIONS.
BIGGER PERSONALITY.
ART'S TAVERN GLEN ARBOR
artsglenarbor.com 231.334.3754

Glen Arbor Sun
Here to enlighten you
P.O. Box 615 • Glen Arbor, MI 49636
www.GlenArborSun.com
editorial@GlenArborSun.com
ads@GlenArborSun.com
Subscriptions: Get all 17 issues of the 2026 season mailed directly to you for $35.
Editors: Jacob Wheeler & Norm Wheeler
Webmaster: Leelanau.com
The *Glen Arbor Sun* is a free magazine published 17 times each year, and distributed throughout Leelanau County and the Sleeping Bear Dunes region. Advertising inquiries, donations, comments, articles, photos, poems, and letters are welcome.
©2026, Glen Arbor Sun, all rights reserved.

Empire Asparagus crowns poetry, recipe winners

Poem: High on Asparagus

By Joseph Povolo
Winner of 2026 Empire Asparagus Festival poetry contest

Asparagus. Do I need to say more? Yes, you have to say more, one word is not a poem.

Unless of course you are a tree, and then a poem is as lovely as a tree. According to Joyce Kilmer, that is. But is a poem as lovely as asparagus? Tree is sure easier to rhyme than asparagus.

I haven't rhymed anything yet. What are you, high? Are you high?

High on asparagus? High on asparagrass? Devil's lettuce, devil's aspargrass?

How high are you? Hi, how are you? Can you get high from asparagus?

Does asparagus have THC in it? Can you dry it, roll and smoke an asparagus joint?

Can you boil it and mix it with corn syrup and gelatin to make gummies?

Asparagus butter? Asparagus edibles? Asparagus brownies? Oh dear NO! Just NO!

This surely is a trip. A psychedelic asparagus trip. Whoa, that would be a great band name!

Am I tripping out on asparagus? I still haven't rhymed anything. How can I call this an ode to asparagus.

It's more like I OD'ed on asparagus. That's it….I'll call this poem "OD'ed on asparagus." At least I have the title. Now just to rhyme something.

Whoa, what are all you people doing here? Have I been thinking these thoughts or have I been saying these things? I'm feeling a little paranoid. Why are you looking at me like that?

I sure do have the munchies. Why is pizza round, but put in a square box and cut into triangles…? Asparagus on pizza, ohhhh dude, I bet that's rad.

Wow, this fried asparagus is sooooo good. I could eat like 420 pieces of this stuff. What time is it? 4:20, time to eat some asparagus?

I bet asparagus is one of those gateway vegetables your parents warn you about.

Kids might have questions about asparagus. Parents, it may feel awkward at first but talk to your kids about asparagus. They might say things like all the other kids are eating asparagus, why can't we try it? Don't be one of those parents that say "just say no," say yes to asparagus.

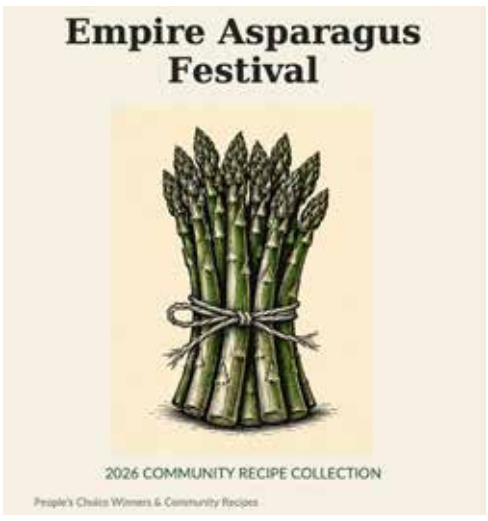
I think I need to sit down. I think I could sit on a couch all day. My mouth is dry. Anyone got any Visine? Dang, I still don't think I rhymed anything. Oh well, green out man!

Empire Asparagus 2026 Community Recipe Collection

From staff reports

Every spring, asparagus announces the arrival of a new season in Northern Michigan. For generations, families, farmers, and cooks have celebrated the harvest through gatherings, meals, and shared traditions.

The Empire Asparagus Festival 2026 recipe contest staff published a booklet (available on our website, GlenArbor.com) which contains recipes submitted by participants in this year's contest. Together they reflect the creativity of our community—from classic appetizers and salads to unexpected uses for one of Michigan's favorite spring vegetables.



PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNERS
Asparagus Feta Salad with Pistachios
Asparagus Roll Ups
Asparagus Crostini with Lemon Hummus

FESTIVAL FAVORITES
Asparagus Veggie Pizza
Asparagus Dip with Rustic Sourdough Crackers

CREATIVE ASPARAGUS USES
Asparagus Banana Bread
Asparagus Fruit Snacks
Asparagus Crackers

FIRST PLACE - PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Asparagus Feta Salad with Pistachios

Submitted by Mary Phillips

INGREDIENTS

- 1 bunch asparagus (about 1 lb)
- 2 Tbsp white wine vinegar
- 2 tsp Dijon mustard
- 3 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 handfuls arugula
- 2 oz feta cheese, cut into chunks
- 2 Tbsp dill, roughly chopped
- 1/4 cup pistachios, roughly chopped
- Salt and black pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. Bring a pot of well-salted water to a boil. Snap off and discard the tough ends of the asparagus, then cut the spears into 2-inch lengths.
2. Cook the asparagus until tender but still firm, about 2 minutes. Drain and spread on a kitchen towel to cool.
3. Whisk together the vinegar and Dijon mustard. Stir in the olive oil, then season with salt and pepper.
4. Place the asparagus in a serving bowl and toss with the vinaigrette. Add the arugula, feta, dill, and pistachios. Toss gently and serve.

HONOR & ONEKAMA BUILDING SUPPLY, INC.
FAMILY OWNED 60 Years
www.honorbldgsupply.com
Knowledge, Service, Integrity.

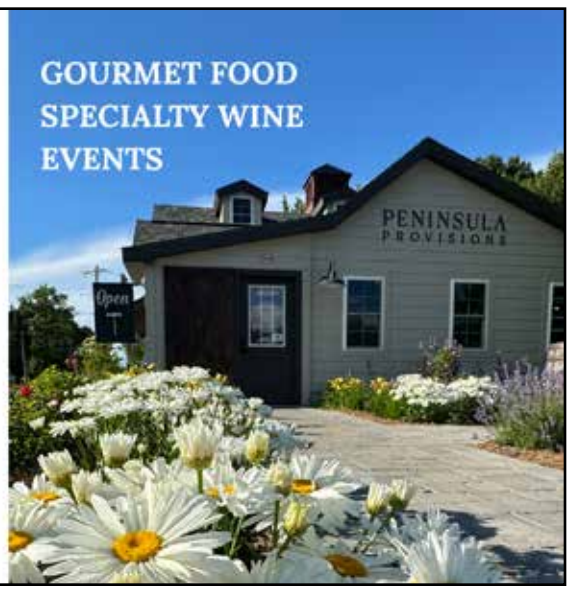
Greg Sobran
Cottage Book Shop
5989 Lake Street, Glen Arbor • (231) 334-4223
info@cottagebooks.com • www.cottagebooks.com

Inn and Trail
Gourmet
6453 Western Ave, Glen Arbor
www.InnandTrailGourmet.com
Espresso creations, daily quiche, breakfast pastries, ready made sandwiches, soups and so much more. Come explore!
Tues 8-1, Weds-Sat 8-3, Sun 8-1

Glen Lake Woman's Club
ART FAIR
Glen Arbor Town Hall
Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 10-4
Sponsored by River Club

LA BÉCASSE
Make dinner a special occasion.
Open Tuesday-Saturday
Dinner service, 3-8:30 pm
(231) 334-3944
restaurantlabecasse.com

Peninsula Provisions
Specialty Wine & Food Shop
We prepare, you enjoy.
231.994.2223
peninsulaprovisionsmi.com
25 S Lake Leelanau Dr.
Lake Leelanau, MI 49653



The Martin Company
Of Glen Arbor, Inc.
Real Estate
(231) 334-7000
6400 Western Ave.
Glen Arbor, MI 49636
Whether you're buying, selling, or dreaming— We will partner with you on your journey.
You'll feel right at home.
www.martinrealestate.com

Stick it to Leland

By Jess Piskor
Sun contributor

Viva the Stick!

The Leland Stick hung on through blizzards and windstorms. For more than two years, a humble stick came to symbolize the spirit of Leland.

Once hanging from a powerline crossing M-22 just south of Leland, the Leland Stick is no more. Around 3 p.m. on May 12, a tree crew clearing limbs removed the branch and almost certainly reduced it to undifferentiated chips. For many, it was the unofficial Welcome to Leland sign.

Dan Lisuk, who lives in Leland, described it as, "A wishbone stick, probably six feet long with the fork two feet from the top." Never properly measured, it appeared to one observer as just under an inch in diameter at its widest.

"It would move across the road from shoulder to shoulder, with the wind," Lisuk recollects, "like it was having a good time up there." It provided a sense of calm each time he passed underneath it. "When you looked at the Stick it was all you were thinking of. For 100 yards, that was it."

"I always wondered how it stayed up there. But it was an upside down 'Y,' so I always thought to myself, 'Why? Why not?' Perfectly balanced things happen in nature. And it was on the 45th parallel…" said Lisuk.

Like many local legends, the origin story is disputed. The precise arrival of the Stick and even the species of tree are hard to trace. Everyone interviewed agreed it was there by fall of 2024. "I recall the trees were bare and wondering how long it had already been there," Elizabeth Sweeney said. Others online speculated it first became hung up as early as 2021.

Certainly a hardwood branch, the stick was most likely from the American Beech trees that line M-22. Beech trees have been in rapid decline over the past few years as the once majestic trees succumb to Beech Bark Disease. Road and trail crews have been kept busy clearing away dying trees.

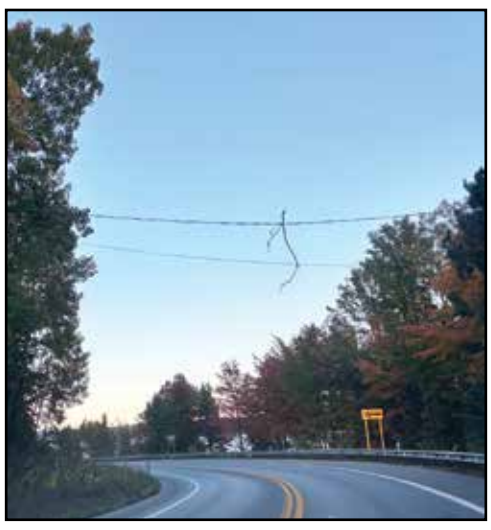
Sweeney, who starred in Northport's musical *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* last summer, was concerned for the Stick earlier this spring. "I had noticed the tree work and wondered if they were going to take it down or if they knew to leave it up for us," she said.

"It's one of those things that I expect everybody quietly noticed. It's almost like you wanted it to fall, but at the same time would cheer it on every time it survived a storm." said Rachel Tompkins, who regularly drove under the Stick while transporting her kids to school.

On May 12, things changed. "I remember driving to pick up kids from school and it was still there." Tompkins said.

Her daughter Clementine, a fifth-grade student at Leland Public School, remembers what happened next. "After school, my mom and I and one of my friends got stuck in a traffic jam because of a construction crew on the way home. We started to talk about the Stick and apparently my friend had never heard about it. We explained how long it's been there, how it has held up through harsh weather, and just about it in general. The Stick was an anomaly! Nothing could make it fall."

"My mom had made a joke about



it saying 'I hope they didn't take the Stick down' and as we were going down the road, we didn't see it."

Tompkins laughed at the memory. "We were all sorta pissed and we rolled down the window and jokingly shouted to the tree-workers, 'You put that back!'" She then immediately texted her husband Dan to tell him the news.

Word of the Stick's removal traveled quickly. Julie Stevens was working in Leland when she heard and reached for her phone to share the news with a friend. Her phone was already blowing up with messages about the Stick. "I just got off work and drove over there. And like a crazy person I got out of my car and started looking for it on the side of the road. The workers were out in hard hats and probably were wondering what I was doing," she said.

Lisuk was at the Bluebird with friends Jim Redmand and Jeane Creighton when he heard, "I remember saying. 'No, it can't be!'

Online, the response was swift. A dashcam picture showed an empty wire with the wistful headline, "If you knew, you knew." One cheeky individual posted a stick for sale on Facebook Marketplace, but astute observers quickly identified it as an imposter. Others have taken to recreating the iconic drive by scrolling Google Street View where the stick is still depicted.

Sweeney wishes she had gotten more pictures of the stick to submit to Stick Nation, an online presence that National Public Radio has described as a collection of "irreverent, fantastical and downright wholesome descriptions of sticks and the people who rank them."

While fondness for Leland Stick is shared a little tongue-in-cheek, sometimes the unlikeliest inside jokes become lasting testaments to friendship and belonging. Stevens has history with the Stick. She and her friend Ana Spencer have made it their unofficial symbol.

Spencer remembers Stevens asking, "'Have you noticed that stick,'" and I immediately knew what she was talking about. 'Oh my god, you mean the one on the power line?'" Stevens created a Leland Stick sticker with an image of the iconic branch with the words "Stick it to'em."

Spencer, who spends her winters in Chicago where she is an art teacher, would often receive updates on the stick. "If I was having a bad day or needed some connection, (Stevens) would send me pictures of the stick, to reassure me it was still hanging in there. Now, all my students in Chicago know about the Stick."

The Stick also served as an ephemeral landmark that defined a time and place. Like the Suttons Bay Turkeys or perhaps the Grawn Tire Fire, it became another way of marking the passage of time and defining what it means to be part of a local culture.

"It takes a certain community and place to want to connect. Something about Northern Michigan makes things like this happen. Julie and I have been best friends for 20 years and when she called me saying, 'It's gone,' I kinda wanted to cry a little—a part of me wants to believe it's still there," said Spencer.

Spencer and Stevens both independently brought up a moment they treasure, when they passed each other on the road, just under the stick after not seeing each other for a long time.

"I'm gonna miss the Stick, but I'm thinking of getting a friendship tattoo with Stevens. It could look like the Stick. It's us, it's who we are. Hang in there, like the Leland Stick," said Spencer.

"I miss it. The wires look empty," Lisuk reflects. "It's a good private memory, and it made me feel like I was part of a club. Still, it will be remembered every time someone cooks a hotdog on a forked stick."

Clementine Tompkins has this to say: "I still can't believe it's gone. Now what are we supposed to look for on the way to school? RIP, Stick!"

LEARN TO SAIL!

FREE Public Sailing Lessons at the Glen Lake Yacht Club,
in cooperation with the GLYC Foundation

Fridays 10-11:30 am June 19 - August 7
Ages 12 and up

Reservation Required / Space is Limited
Call the Club at 231-334-4013

Your Energy - Think About It
A monthly series of educational essays from Leelanau Energy

EV Charging
In Northern Michigan

What you will learn:
- How do you charge an electric vehicle?
- Will public charging infrastructure continue to improve?
- How long does it take to charge?
- How much does it cost?

Scan this QR code to view or download the essay
(best viewed with iPad or larger screen)

Leelanau Energy - Community Action for Clean Energy
web: www.LeelanauEnergy.org email: info@LeelanauEnergy.org

Celebrate Kickin' Up Kindness!

June 24, 2026 at 5:30PM
Northern Latitudes Distillery
7150 E Duck Lake Rd (M-204), Lake Leelanau

Western Wear Attire Encouraged!

Cheer on your favorite LCN program in a friendly competition,
and see which program wins!

Tickets: $100.00 Per Person
Purchase tickets at leelanauchristianneighbors.org/celebrate-fundraiser

Can't make the event?
Place your bid for your favorite program at the ticket link above.

All monies raised support the Food Pantry, Financial Assistance, Blessings in a Backpack, Baby Pantry, and Samaritans' Closets.

Thank you to our sponsors!

K-Line
Elemint Wealth Management
Independent Bank
Mercantile Bank
Bayshore Oil & Propane
Insight Optometry
KAL Excavating
Tri-Gas
Peninsula Provisions
Refuge Salon

Duo's show mixes classic jazz and classy pop

By Ross Boissoneau
Sun contributor

What do you get when you mix classic pop, Broadway, the Great American Songbook, originals, jazz royalty and two voices raised in harmony? Well, one thing is the July 1 appearance by Kevin DiSimone and Hilary James at The Homestead.

The next entry in Music on the Mountain series features the husband-and-wife couple who separately and/or together have worked with – deep breath – Barry Manilow, Carly Simon, Elton John, Stevie Wonder, Luther Vandross, Bette Midler, Willie Nelson and Billy Preston.

You want more? Throw in Sam and Dave, Peter Nero, Quincy Jones, Eddie Arnold, Cybill Shepherd, Mickey Rooney, and Dudley Moore. And don't forget Bob James. They won't, as he's Hilary's father and Kevin's father-in-law.

Together. or separately, they have performed at The Blue Note jazz club, Birdland, The Bottom Line, CBGB's, Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, Royal Albert Hall, Wembley Stadium and The Hollywood Bowl. Television appearances include *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, The Rosie O'Donnell Show, The View* and *The Today Show*.

Bring it all together and you get a night of music that crosses musical boundaries as effortlessly as DiSimone's finger fly across the ivories and James's lithe voice brings her lyrics to life. The show atop Bay Mountain begins at 7 p.m.

For the two it's a chance to continue a partnership that began in the studios of New York before their professional relationship blossomed into love. "I'd come off the road with Barry," says DiSimone, referring to Barry Manilow, for whom he had played keyboards, sung backgrounds and acted as musical director. "I was doing jingles and reestablishing myself in the studios.

"I got a call that Bob James's daughter was looking for a piano player." They met in a studio and he learned her songs, but a proposed tour never eventuated. However, things didn't end there. "She said, 'I have some lyrics.' I was used to singer/songwriters writing prose, no meter. These were great.

"One thing led to another. Six months later we were kind of an item." Within two years they were married. Tiring of small apartments in the Big Apple, they moved to his hometown of Canton, Ohio. Following the death of Hilary's mother Judy, her father invited them to live on his compound on Long Lake, and they relocated to Traverse City.

Since then, they have played together as a duo, with bass and drums, with Bob and their daughter Ava, a singer songwriter herself. Now living in Austin, she may be in town to join them at the show, though it's unlikely Bob will be available as the 86-year-old musician keeps a busy performing schedule of his own.

Drummer Randy Marsh and bassist Jack Dryden, now regular bandmates of DiSimone's, will join them at the show. They will perform a diverse set of vocals and instrumentals, with likely candidates including originals, jazz standards, maybe a pop tune or two by DiSimone's former employer and a few surprises.

While James, a successful Broadway and recording artist herself, handles the bulk of the lead vocals, DiSimone will likely sing as well, both a couple leads and harmonies. Their original material will come from their own records as well as those Hilary has made with her father.

This is the second show of the season at the Glen Arbor resort. They take place at the top of Bay Mountain, with the sparkling waters of Lake Michigan in the background. Upcoming concerts include the rootsy sound of Blue Water Ramblers July 8, Marsh's organ trio

Cat Daddy July 22, and four more.

Tickets are $22 and include a ride to the venue on the ski lift. Go to tinyurl.com/Tickets-MOTM.

Old Art Building hosts *Unfixed*

From staff reports

The Leland Township Public Library, the Old Art Building, The Suttons Bay-Bingham District Library and Bay Books, invite the community to a literary evening featuring author Kimberly Warner in conversation with her uncle, acclaimed Michigan filmmaker Rich Brauer. The event will be held on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at the Old Art Building in Leland.

The evening will begin with a wine reception at 5:30 pm, followed by a conversation at 6. Copies of Warner's book *Unfixed* will be available for purchase at the event, courtesy of Bay Books. Admission is free; registration is requested.

Unfixed is a memoir of family secrets, chronic illness, and the search

for truth and forgiveness. When Kimberly Warner discovered the identity of her biological father after years of unanswered questions, it set her on a journey to understand her own identity and history. In the process, she uncovered unexpected family connections and a deeper story rooted in Northern Michigan. The book explores what happens when the foundations of family and self begin to shift, and what comes next.

Leelanau County boasts fine, fun golf

By Ross Boissoneau
Sun contributor

Avid golfers are in luck when it comes to Leelanau County. With five courses to choose from, offering a variety of scenery and different degrees of difficulty, there is no lack of doglegs, water hazards and treacherous greens to deal with.

If that makes it sound challenging, well, welcome to golf. It is at once the most exasperating and the most addictive sport. Any round will typically include a shot that makes you cringe. Maybe it's that putt that fell off at the last minute, or that drive that somehow hooked to the left even though you thought you hit it perfectly.

On the other hand, there was that chip shot that backed up perfectly, leaving a gimme for a birdie. Or that long putt that snaked around the cup before dropping in. And you find yourself hooked once again.

So read on for brief descriptions of Leelanau's links. Then get out there and have some fun.

Bahle Farms Golf Course

It's tucked away in the rolling hills and cherry orchards of Leelanau Peninsula. No wonder Lorraine Ball from the pro shop calls the course a hidden gem. "It's not on your route. It's off the beaten path," she says.

But while being hidden is one thing, it's the course's layout and condition that leads her to call it a gem. "It's not typical. There's a lot of elevations. The course is so well maintained," Ball says.

The elevations offer views of Suttons Bay and Lake Michigan, while the entry way and holes 13 and 16 are in the midst of working cherry orchards – the quintessential Leelanau experience. Time your round right and you can pick a couple, while deciding just what club is right to hit the green.

The 18-hole course is located at 9505 E. Otto Road, Suttons Bay. Call (231) 271-2020.

Dunes Golf Club

No, there aren't any dunes, but there are sand traps – not quite the same, but still. The family-friendly 18-hole course is located just east of Empire on M-72. It opened in 1983 as a nine-hole course, with the second nine opening eight years later.

It boasts rolling fairways, picturesque natural surroundings, and smooth, true greens. The front nine plays to 3,152 yards, while the back nine is shorter (2,578 yards), but its narrow, tree-lined fairways means players have to adopt a more precise strategy. All told, the course provides a blend of relaxation and challenge. Isn't that what golf is all about?

The Dunes Golf Club is located at 6489 W. Empire Highway, Empire. Call (231) 326-5390

Manitou Passage Golf Club

Manitou Passage is one of only two golf courses in northern Michigan designed by golf legend Arnold Palmer. A decade after opening, the Arnold Palmer Design Company, internationally acclaimed landscape design firm Peridian International and Wadsworth Golf Construction Company, which worked on golf courses around the world, collaborated on a renovation to bring the course in line with Palmer's original vision.

The result earned the course Golfweek's "Best New Courses" award. It also boasts a 97.4% favorability rating from Golfpass. The course's varied topography includes meadows, hardwood and pine forests, expansive ridges, and views of Lake Michigan and the course's namesake Manitou Passage. Palmer himself said the course "offers a fantastic golf experience in a beautiful setting." General Manager Joshua Schlump echoes that, and says the course is in excellent condition.

The course is located at 4600 Club Drive, Cedar. Call (231) 228-6000.

Northport Creek

It may not be on an island, but like its namesake village, you won't find Northport Creek on your way to anywhere else. The nine-hole course is actually within the village limits, just a few blocks from Northport Marina. It was designed by famed golf course architect Jerry Matthews.

Diminutive in size, the course makes up for it with its beauty and its setting within the similarly cozy village, as well as its one-of-a-kind status as the first solar powered golf course in the country. Both its carts and its irrigation system are powered by the sun.

The course itself offers a variety of challenges, including the narrow opening – just 40 to 50 yards wide – on #7, requiring golfers to thread the needle on their tee shots. It is located at 355 W 8th St, Northport. Call (231) 386-1088

The Dunes golf course

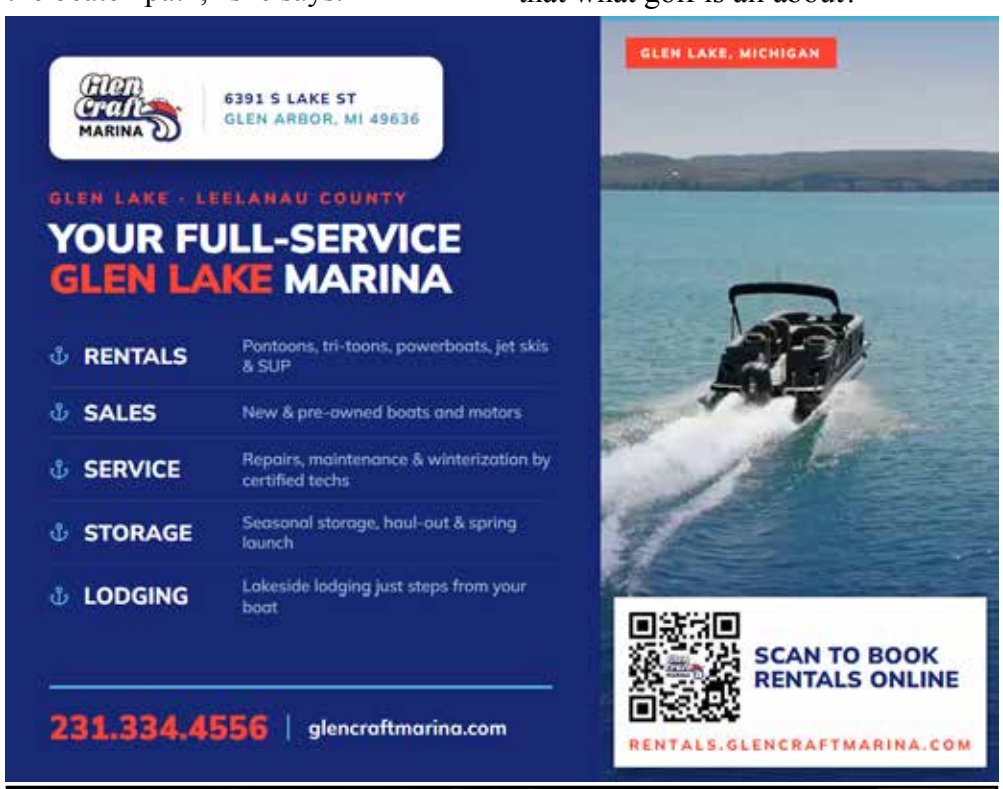
Sugarloaf – The Old Course

The Old Course takes its heritage seriously, with several windmills and silos on the property, recalling the region's agricultural roots. Its cozy target greens make it a challenge, and one unique feature is the double green on #2 and #5, connected by a narrow neck, with a bunker between the two.

Number 17 is the infamous Rock Pile Hole, one of the longest par 5s in the state, listed at 618 yards from the back tee. "Your second shot has to navigate over or around the rock pile that sits in the middle of the fairway," says General Manager Kris Wakeman.

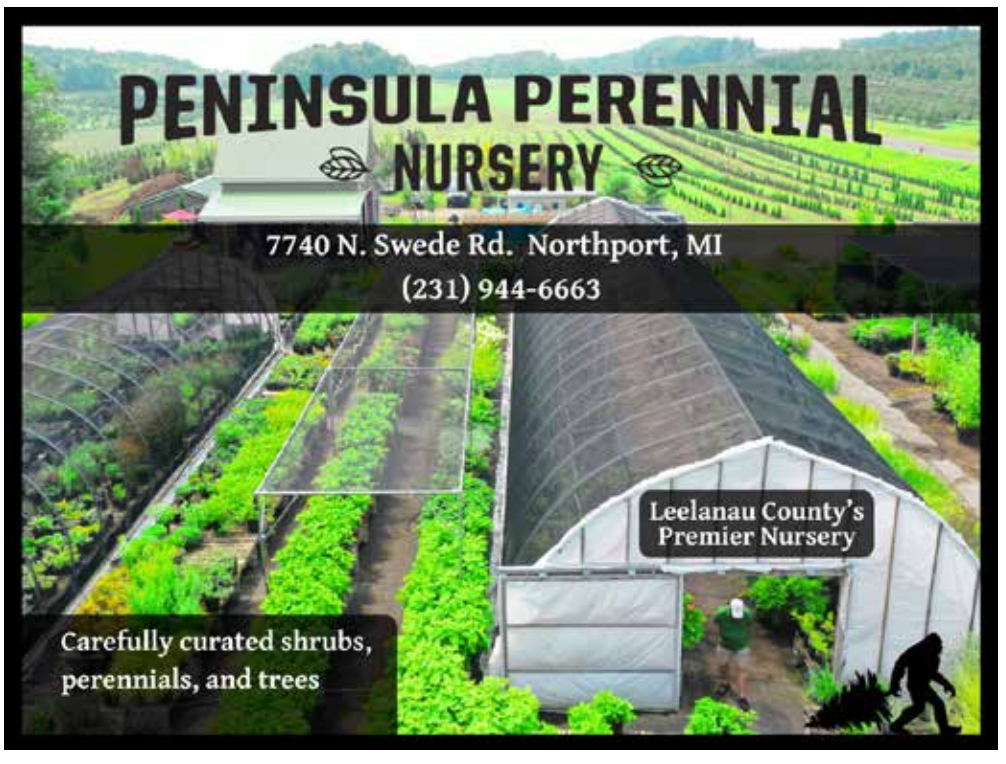
Golfers will want to try to keep the ball on the tight fairways, as beyond the maintained rough is the even less-forgiving native rough. Of course, the native hardwoods, spruce, trilliums, daffodils and award-winning day lilies and irises make the scenery beautiful should you find yourself venturing far afield.

Sugarloaf The Old Course is located at 4512 South Townline Road, Cedar. Call (231) 228-2040.



Glen Lake Woman's Club
ART FAIR
Glen Arbor Town Hall
Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 10-4
Sponsored by Cottage Book Shop

Manitou Passage golf course



Indigo Bluffs app connects travelers to Leelanau's best

App is free to download for everyone, not just campers

By Cameryn Cass
Sun contributor

For a few seasons now, campers at Indigo Bluffs RV Park and Resort on M-72 east of Empire have enjoyed a free-to-download app that details things to do in the area.

It highlights everything from hiking trails to wineries, restaurants to farmstands, and sorts the attractions not alphabetically, but instead by distance (in miles) from the campground.

A "favorites" button was added most recently for users to easily save the things they're interested in, "which is way easier to work with instead of a billion screenshots from Google," said Gary Becker, the owner of Indigo Bluffs.

By giving people "local knowledge," Becker said the app is "a tool that can maximize people's time in the area" since there are so many points of interest to choose from.

Plus, it makes things easier on the staff at Indigo Bluffs. "People come in and want to know the best places to go," said Krystal Temple, the campground's office manager.

Becker explained how, on the spot, "we'd read a group."

"Are they kids? Old folks? A young family? From there, we try to recommend them something to do, but it's hard to do on the fly," he said. "So, I thought, let's do it a different way."

What's more, during his 18 years at Indigo Bluffs, Becker said he's paid attention to how people camp, what they bring and how they spend their time.

"I've got a Ph.D.—a doctorate—in guest habits," he said with a laugh.

And then, at an industry event a few years back, Becker crossed paths with App My Community, a company that works with campgrounds to create informational apps like this one. Ever since, he's been working with them and employees at the campground to make his vision a reality.

Becker had some reservations at first in regards to creating an app since there are so many out there.

"In my mind, the app has to have value, otherwise people won't use it," he said.

That is why there's a focus on giving good information, and not just in regards to local attractions.

"We can reach out if there's inclement weather coming in and alert campers to put down their awnings," said Becker.

They can also alert guests of things like maintenance and campground events.

When it's nearby, the app even includes things like aurora borealis or an eclipse, said Rose Duemig, who co-founded App My Community with her husband Joe.

"Really, it keeps relevant things in front of people that they may or may not have thought of," she said. "We make it as easy as possible for people to find what they're looking for with this easy, self-explanatory grid."

For the Indigo Bluffs RV Park App, Tina Nickle, a guest services worker at the campground, uploaded all the icons and "comprehensive" information behind them.

One question they're grappling with now is which businesses and attractions to include since there are so many in the area. At some point, including everything becomes overwhelming and unhelpful.

Nickle said that right now, they keep points of interest within a 30-mile radius.

Becker is also reaching out to local businesses to see whether they'd like to have some sort of involvement in the app and offer deals and discounts to users. Those conversations are ongoing and positive.

Additionally, "in the off-season, Indigo Bluffs can look at what people are clicking on in analytics and remove things that guests aren't using," Duemig offered.

"It's a work in progress, and we're constantly updating it," said Nickle.

Becker agreed that "we are at only the very beginning."

"Adding the favorites button is a step in the right direction, but it's still a step away from trip planning," Nickle added.

Duemig said they're adding a chatroom function soon for workers at Indigo Bluffs and long-term campers to utilize.

"We're always talking about the future of this app," said Duemig. "We want to keep things efficient; we already have AI at work to stay up to date."

The Indigo Bluffs RV Park App is free to download on Apple and Android. There is also a web app people can use on their phone or desktop computers.

"And it's open to more than just guests," said Becker.

M22 CHALLENGE

continues from page 1

minutes behind DeCook. In third was Owen Johnson, 22, of Ann Arbor with a time of one hour, 22 minutes and 21 seconds. The top finisher from Leelanau County was Leland resident Nicholas Murray, 51, with a time of one hour, 28 minutes, and 22 seconds.

The top women's finisher was Amanda Rutkowski, 28, of Cheboygan with a time of one hour, 30 minutes, and 10 seconds. In second was Allie Lucas, 38, of Royal Oak, who finished five minutes behind Rutkowski. Amy Coneset, 50, of Traverse City finished third with a time of one hour, 38 minutes and 56 seconds. The top woman from Leelanau County was Jessica Alpers, 40, of Lake Leelanau with a time of one hour, 46 minutes and 27 seconds.

The M22 Challenge attracts competitive athletes from all over the country. For some, it's just about having fun and enjoying the event in such a beautiful location. Athletes take off from the start line on M-109 near Glen Haven in the heart of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park, with the grueling "Dune Climb" run, kicking off the start to the 22-mile race. From there, athletes jump on their bikes for a 17-mile race around Little and Big Glen Lakes and up Inspiration Point, and finish with a 2.5-mile paddle on kayaks or on stand-up paddle boards in Little Glen before crossing the finish line.

HARRIGER Construction INC
CUSTOM HOMES • REMODELING • LANDSCAPING • SNOW REMOVAL
LICENSED 231-326-5572 INSURED
harrigerconstruction@gmail.com

Independent Insurance Agent
6669 W. Western Avenue
Glen Arbor • 334-3022
Devette & Ford
Insurance Agency, Inc.
Auto
Seasonal Homes & Businesses
Life Insurance
Blue Cross/Blue Shield

COTTONSEED APPAREL
6501 WESTERN AVE
GLEN ARBOR, MI 49636
231-334-7377
cs@cottonseedapparel.com
@cottonseedapparel

Betsy Webb - Rob Serbin - Anne Rollo - Ron Raymond - Charlie Carpenter - Gaia Nesvacil
SERBIN REAL ESTATE
6675 W. Western Ave
Glen Arbor, MI 49636
231.334.2758
www.serbinrealestate.com

Views of Glen Lake
This is one of the last homes along a ridge line that runs south to north on the eastern hills flanking Big Glen Lake, 940' feet in elevation, towering above the north east corner of the lake with some of the best views in the area; Big Glen and Fisher Lake, Alligator Hill, Sleeping Bear Point, South Manitou and Sleeping Bear Bay & the Manitou Passage. Doesn't get much better than this! This circa 1970's well built chalet/cottage hybrid, has been thoughtfully updated & maintained by the second owners, here since 1993, who are ready to pass the keys to their successors.
$1,100,000 MLS# 1946352

OLIVER ART CENTER FRANKFORT
Summer Chamber Series
Experience world-class chamber music in our beautiful, lakeside gallery featuring:
VIRIDIAN STRINGS • SOLSTICE ENSEMBLE
MANITOU WINDS • KATARINA QUARTET
and SIX MILE STRINGS
TICKETS ON SALE NOW FROM $0 - $10!
OLIVERART.ORG
132 COAST GUARD RD. IN FRANKFORT

BelLago
LIVE MUSIC
—& LAKE VIEWS—
Tuesday & Friday 5:30-7:30pm + 25% off pizzas
Saturday & Sunday 3:30-5:30pm
bellago.com | @bellagowinery
6530 S. Lake Shore Drive, Cedar, MI 49621

Honoring our nation's Black founding fathers and mothers

From staff reports

Our history books tell us about Patrick Henry, the founding father who in 1775 famously proclaimed, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

But who were the slaves who worked his fields or cooked his meals the morning he uttered those words at the Second Virginia Convention at St. John's Church in Richmond?

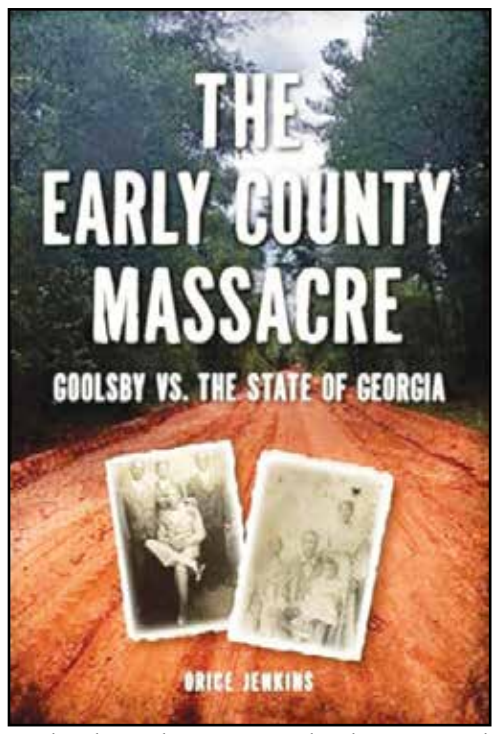
Six years later, in the final days of the Revolutionary War for independence from Great Britain, who were the free Black men who fought with General George Washington? They, too, are our founding fathers. They, too, birthed the nation that celebrates its 250th birthday this summer.

Genealogist Orice Jenkins and writer Isiah Smith explored the nation's fraught and complex history surrounding race, slavery, family history, and calls for reparations during a live podcast conversation on May 8 at the Alluvion in Traverse City. The event was moderated by *Sun* editor Jacob Wheeler.

Smith, a septuagenarian who lives in Traverse City, and Jenkins, a millennial who resides in Massachusetts, connected through a shared past, including a powerful artifact—Smith's great-grandfather's Bill of Sale, and the story of an ancestor freed from slavery in Georgia. Jenkins documented that in his book *The Early County Massacre: Goolsby vs. the State of Georgia*, which led to the two connecting and realizing their shared lineage.

Their unscripted, open-ended conversation last month explored the themes of ancestry, the legacies we inherit, and the necessity of understanding our past to heal and grow. Smith and Jenkins shared personal reflections, the challenges they faced while uncovering their history, and how this journey has shaped their identities today. During a deeply emotional exploration of what it means to come to terms with one's heritage, they also took a crack at how we view the nation's semiquincentennial.

Below is an excerpted transcript from May 8 at the Alluvion:



Jacob Wheeler (host): How are you thinking about the 250th anniversary of the country in the context of this conversation about race?

Isiah Smith: I haven't thought about it a lot, because I think that history has been co-opted as we speak. It's been bastardized and distorted, and it takes away what should be a great celebration, because this country is not even an adolescent yet. When we go to Europe, we go to houses that are hundreds and hundreds of years old, you know, and a house that's 100 years old, is an old house.

But this country is undergoing some permutations that indicates how much growing up it needs to do, and hopefully that would happen. I'm fairly certain I won't see it happen, because we're taking several steps back since 2016 and it's going to take a long time to repair some of the damage that's been done.

As we speak, part of The White House is being torn down, the reflecting pool is being painted, John F. Kennedy's memory is being almost destroyed.

The founders knew that we had a weak system. The reason they thought it would work were because of checks and balances, so one person couldn't cause a lot of damage, because you had the three branches, and they would check each other. There are no checks now, and no balances. Even the Supreme Court is complicit. Even the one Black man who's on the court is part of the destruction of America, and the right to vote.

So, I find it very hard to get worked up about celebrating 250 years, because if you look back, a lot of those years were really awful years for Black people, for Japanese, Native Americans. That's a lot of blood on this country's hands, and we can't pretend that we ever got a more perfect union, and we can't stop fighting.

Do what little part we can do, you know. Each of us can do something, just find out what it is you can do. I try to do it through community involvement and writing. Maybe no one's reading it, but I know I'm writing it. We all can do something, and then the next 250 years will be worth celebrating.

Orice Jenkins: I choose to honor those stories that we don't talk about very often. … I found out through my research that Albert Terrell—five times my great grandfather, and Isiah's ancestor as well—was a Revolutionary War soldier. He was a free person of color in Goochland County, Virginia, and he was drafted. He was a part of the militia. This was in May of 1781.

So, these are the final major moments of the war, and he was at Yorktown with George Washington, and that's our ancestor. So, when I think about, you know, 250 years, I think about him. I think about how he was a part of the founding of this country.

I even think about our other ancestor, who he later had children with. Her name was Grace Shelton. She was en-

See **BLACK FOUNDERS** *on page 9*

SAXON + DEANS
ART STUDIO
MAKE ART TOGETHER.
Gather a small group and create one-of-a-kind prints together in our studio. Flexible scheduling, two- or three-hour sessions, no experience needed—just a sense of curiosity and fun.
MORE INFO: angelamsaxon@gmail.com
2312 E KASSON ROAD, CEDAR
studio visits welcomed by appt
ANGELASAXON.COM | ROYCEDEANS.COM

8137 S GLEN LAKE RD
GLEN LAKE, MICHIGAN
Boat Rentals
- Full Day · Half Day · Weekly
- Tri-Toon & Pontoon
- Hourly Jet Ski
- Watersports Lessons

231-334-4891
narrows-marina.com
ON THE NARROWS MARINA
GLEN LAKE MICHIGAN
SCAN TO RENT TODAY

Glen Lake Woman's Club
ART FAIR
Glen Arbor Town Hall
Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 10-4
SERBIN
Sponsored by **Serbin Real Estate**

LVR
LEELANAU VACATION REALTY
Your #1 Leader in Glen Arbor and Leelanau Real Estate
www.lvrrealty.com
(231) 218-2714
6546 S. State St.
Glen Arbor, MI 49636

Contact Ranae Ihme at **ranae@lvrrealty.com**

8561 S Olivia Drive Maple City, 3BR/2.5BA - **$599,000** —New Listing

Le Bear 6A ~ Fractional Glen Arbor ~ Lake Michigan - **$390,000** —New Listing

4515 W Glen Eden Dr - Big Fisher Lake ~ 125 ft frontage - 2BR/2BA/Pole Barn - **$1,750,000** —Sale Pending

Ship Watch 35 Homestead Lake View, 1BR/1BA **$499,900** —New Listing

Le Bear 12 F, G, H ~ Fractional Glen Arbor ~ Lake Michigan - **$1,200,000** —New Listing

5227 W Northwood Drive, Big Glen Lake ~ 130ft of frontage, 5BR/7BA, over 9,000 sf **$5,500,000**— Under Contract

3 Brook Hill Cottages Vacant Lot in The Homestead Near Lake Michigan **$139,900** — Price Improvement

7566 W Harbor Hwy Lake Michigan ~ Glen Arbor 4BR/2.5BA – two cottages - **$3,595,000** —Sale Pending

Chimney Ridge 4 Homestead Lake/Ski View 4BR/5.5BA **$1,200,000** —New Listing

New proprietors enliven historic Omena store

By Shelley Smith
Sun contributor

Sitting on a curve of M22 looking onto an idyllic bay, the Omena Bay Country Store has been a landmark in the village of Omena since 1889. This April it reopened under new ownership by Regina and Joe Phillips, a Louisville, Kentucky couple whose family now calls the store home.

The Phillips first visited Michigan 8 years ago, when encouraged to take a vacation and explore the beauty of the Great Lakes State by a friend and coworker originally from Saginaw. "We just fell in love," Regina says, "and anytime we'd get a chance we would come up. We felt immediately at home here and each time we visited it became harder and harder to leave."

When they stayed in the apartment above Northport's New Bohemian Cafe on one of their visits, the Phillips knew they had found someplace special. "I loved Northport and Omena," Regina shares, "and from that point on, I felt like this is where we would stay whenever we came, with a longterm goal to move and retire here."

Eventually the couple began to explore how they might be able to move to Michigan sooner. Their connection with Kevin and Amy Murphy, the owners of New Bohemian Cafe, would eventually lead to their answer. When the Murphys decided to step away from the Omena store, they reached out to the Phillips to discuss possibilities. "It was a perfect fit, Regina explains, "with the business and the house all in one. Kevin and Amy knew we were seeking opportunities here and it all flowed into place."

Their life in Louisville quickly flowed into place as well, to support their transition. Regina shares the fortuitous story: "A couple weeks before we heard from Kevin and Amy, a woman reached out to me saying, 'I love your house and I'm friends with your neighbor. If you ever think about selling your home please reach out to me.' So as we left our meeting in Michigan with the Murphys, I did reach out and let her know we might be moving. She replied, 'Ok, how soon?' She bought the house and we closed within 30 days." The couple's business, a Louisville pub, moved immediately too. Joe reached out to a friend in the industry to put out feelers for a potential buyer. The friend was interested himself. Their restaurant also sold within about a month, making the move seem meant-to-be.

While the comfortable climate and natural beauty of this area was a draw, Regina and Joe also had their children, Charlie, 11, and Sebastian, 15, in mind. "We want them to grow up in a smaller community, around people who share our values, and where we could kind of go back to a simpler time. Here they can be outside, they have access to the water, they have so much more than they did in Louisville. We wanted a different life for them, and it worked out."

The family's vision for the store includes both honoring the past and moving into the future. They'll keep the name "Omena Bay Country Store," while renovating the interior space and expanding offerings. They intend to place more focus on groceries and fresh foods to make the store a useful market for the community year-round, and are working with MI Farm Co-op to showcase a variety of local farmers and their produce. They aim to add more variety and more staples to their shelves over time.

A deli is also in the works. While currently continuing to sell prepared sandwiches from New Bohemian, the Phillips will soon begin making their own prepared foods and open a made-to-order deli later this summer. The deli will offer classic sandwiches with grassfed meats, local produce, and fresh baked breads. Sandwiches including a Chopped Italian, a Cuban, and a nostalgic childhood favorite Joe calls "a Kmart Sub" are creative contenders for the menu, along with a variety of seasonal prepared sides. Picnic baskets and charcuterie boxes will be available soon, along with an online ordering system. Soups and meals-to-go are planned for the colder months, and eventually Regina would like to bake the breads and cookies for the store as well.

When asked what the ideal future looks like, Regina replies, "This is my ideal. We get to live where we work, its family-run, my kids get to grow up in this environment, and ideally Joe and I will grow old in this setting." And Joe says, "This is a family business, and we aim to build something generational."

Stop in to welcome the Phillips family and see what's new at Omena Bay County Store Monday-Saturday 11am-9pm, and Sunday 12-8. They can be reached at (231) 866-4376.

BLACK FOUNDERS

continues from page 8

slaved, but as an enslaved person who was born in 1756, she is also a founder of this nation … as every enslaved person from that time period was.

They're the ones that are cultivating all the food, all the resources, all the things that those soldiers were eating, that those founders were eating. This also, again, is very close to Monticello, where Thomas Jefferson lived, and so they're a part of his community, as well.

I'll give a better example, Patrick Henry. Patrick Henry was married to a Shelton, so we are really closely connected to his family. When he rode to St. John's Church in Richmond in 1775 to proclaim that you should "give me liberty or give me death," you know, at the same time that he enslaved people who were likely our relatives, I think about that.

Orice Jenkins (l), Isiah Smith (r)

I think about who might have made his breakfast that morning. Who works the fields and who helped him in his legal practice, and who was there with Thomas Jefferson. We don't have to wonder about these things, because that's documented very, very well.

BECKY THATCHER DESIGNS
Glen Arbor Leland Traverse City

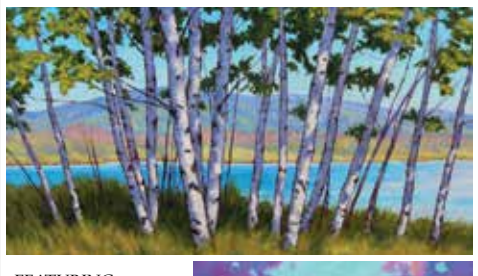
Dave's GARAGE EMPIRE
12777 S Benzonia Trail
231-326-5138
We Service Domestic AND Import Vehicles

Synchronicity GALLERY
For the Casual Art Lover to the Serious Collector

Award-Winning Michigan Artists

PAINTINGS
CERAMICS
SCULPTURE
PHOTOGRAPHY
JEWELRY
GLASS
FIBER
WOODWORK
FURNITURE
SynchronicityGalleryMI.com
231-334-4732
6671 Western Ave, Glen Arbor
OPEN 7 Days a Week, May–Oct 31

FARM CLUB
RESTAURANT | MARKET | FARM | BREWERY | BAKERY
A gathering place to celebrate land, honest food and community.
Open year round in Leelanau County, MI | farmclubtc.com

ARBOR GALLERY
FINE ART and FURNITURE

FEATURING:
David Westerfield
Stephanie Schlatter
Paul Czamanske
and more

6656 Western Ave
Glen Arbor
Michigan
231.883.4979

THE LIVELY NEIGHBORFOOD MARKET
SEASONAL PRODUCE • DAIRY • MEAT • BREAD AND BAKED GOODS
PANTRY STAPLES • LOCALLY MADE ARTISAN PRODUCTS
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!
(231) 994-9339
www.livelyneighborfood.com
MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 AM - 7 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM - 7 PM
SUNDAY 9 AM - 3 PM
VISIT US FOR SUNDAY BRUNCH!
Lively NeighborFood Market
@livelyneighborfoodmarket
3805 W Empire Highway, Empire Michigan, 49630
A BURST OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT WRAPPED IN THE AROMA OF FRESH, LOCAL FARE

American Tree and the Nation's Semiquincentennial

By Katie Dunn
Sun contributor

The story of America is most often told through its defining figures—the echo of Paul Revere's ride; George Washington at the nation's founding; Abraham Lincoln, who preserved the Union; Susan B. Anthony and the suffrage movement that broadened the meaning of citizenship; Martin Luther King Jr., whose vision of nonviolent resistance reshaped the American conscience; Ruth Bader Ginsburg, whose jurisprudence recast the boundaries of equality; and Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon which expanded not only American possibility, but human possibility itself.

It is a narrative built through individuals—through action, ideology, and achievement—each marking a different chapter in the nation's unfolding identity.

But America is also defined by place: the rocky edge of Boston Harbor, the vast pull of the Great Plains, the carved immensity of the Grand Canyon, the red-brick solidity of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the Gateway Arch rising over St. Louis, the sweep of the Golden Gate Bridge, the volcanic peaks of Hawaii. Together, these sites form a parallel geography of meaning, where history is anchored in landscape and monument.

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, that layered story of people and place comes into sharper focus. Across the country, this milestone is being marked through ceremony, exhibitions, and public celebration, as communities revisit the question of what it means to inhabit—and be formed by — this history.

Some of the nation's most prominent art institutions are, in varied and distinct ways, returning to a central inquiry: how to understand and reexamine the 250 years since the founding of the United States and the interwoven history that has accumulated across that time.

At the Philadelphia Museum of Art, *A Nation of Artists* traces more than three centuries of creative expression, emphasizing the depth and diversity that have informed American art. The Metropolitan Museum of Art's *Revolution!* examines the nation's origins, treating the Revolutionary era not as a singular narrative but as a complex and contested period seen through a wide range of perspectives and voices. The Minneapolis Institute of Art's *Containing Multitudes* borrows from Walt Whitman to explore the contradictions embedded in American life, using photography to interpret a country inflected by plurality. And at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., *Dear America: Artists Explore the American Experience* gathers more than a hundred works on paper spanning roughly 250 years, considering how artists have engaged with the nation's landscapes, its people, and its evolving ideas of freedom.

Set against this backdrop, the Glen Arbor Arts Center (GAAC) is responding with *American Tree*. The exhibition contemplates the role trees played in the formation of the United States 250 years ago—and the role they will continue to play as the nation moves into its next 250 years.

Under the curatorial direction of Sarah Bearup-Neal, GAAC gallery manager, the exhibition reframes the Semiquincentennial through living systems of time and growth. In contrast to the scale and institutional sweep of national exhibitions, GAAC's approach sharpens the lens, asking what it means to understand America not as an archive of individuals, events, and places, but as a living ecology—rooted and continually growing.

For Bearup-Neal, American Tree originated with considerations of stories and elements typically omitted from the Semiquincentennial narrative.

"When I started thinking about how to wrangle the upcoming anniversary into an exhibition idea, I began to wonder about the stories that aren't usually told," she says, pointing to the way "trees and forests… were intrinsic to the nation's formation," and how they were often understood as "a consumable 'resource,' best viewed as a commercial product there for the benefit of the people trying to create the United States." That perspective, she suggests, has not disappeared, but continues to reverberate "in so many ways."

That curatorial framework carried into the selection process itself. Paula Jo Kemler, Glen Arborite and member of the GAAC Exhibition Committee, served as juror for *American Tree*. She describes being impressed by the range of materials and approaches, as well as the ways artists returned to the subject from unexpected directions. As juror, Kemler understood her role not as narrowing the field, but as shaping a body of work capable of holding variation and shifting perspectives.

Denis and Martha Pierce bought Ralph Nunez's "Tree of Life" sculpture.

"This show celebrates trees. Many pieces showcase the deep connections people have to trees, some featuring trees that the artist has a personal connection to, as if the tree is more than a part of a landscape and is perhaps beloved. Other works highlight industry and trees, either as producing a commodity, like fruit trees, or as the commodity itself. All works provide viewers with opportunities to wonder," she shares.

American Tree features work by 28 artists drawn primarily from the local and regional community. Collectively, they represent a wide spectrum of artistic media, including sculpture, collage, mixed media, photography, tapestry weaving, drawing, printmaking, and painting.

Among the participating artists are several deeply respected and longstanding members of the Glen Arbor arts community—figures whose creative practice has helped articulate its cultural fabric. Their presence is both grounding and affirming: Claudia Buchmann, Margo Burian, Nik Burkhart, Royce Deans, Cynthia Greig, Bonnie Gonzales, David Marks, Joan Richmond, Angela Saxon, and David Westerfield.

Opening Night

June 5 marked the opening night of *American Tree*, which drew a steady, engaged crowd throughout the evening. The exhibition felt expansive in scope, defined less by a single stylistic throughline than by the individuality of the artists involved. Across the gallery, a range of interpretations, materials, and approaches spoke to the theme in distinct ways, with each piece standing on its own while contributing to a broader shared inquiry.

Among those in attendance were Martha and Denis Pierce, Glen Arborites and avowed supporters of the arts, who marveled at the abundance of the creativity on view. Denis described the exhibition as filled with "many friends of the art center and a few of

See* AMERICAN TREE *on page 11

Glen Lake Woman's Club
ART FAIR
Glen Arbor Town Hall
Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 10-4
Sponsored by LVR Realty

Arts
NORTHPORT ARTS ASSOCIATION
2026
Members Art Exhibit
A Remarkable Display of Talent
FREE OPENING RECEPTION
JUNE 20, 5-7pm
GALLERY EXHIBIT
JUNE 21-JULY 11, 12-4pm
Village Arts Building, 301 N. Mill St. Northport
The Northport Arts Association is a Non-Profit 501(c)3 Organization
NorthportArtsAssociation.org
Free licensed images from vecteezy.com

NEW LEAF INTERIORS
Interior Design | Kitchen & Bath
Traverse City | Glen Arbor | Scottsdale
newleafid.com 231.421.5999

SHIPWRECK CAFE
EMPIRE, MI
Open 9-4, Sun-Thu; Fri & Sat 9-7
www.ShipwreckCafe.com (231) 835-2580

AMERICAN TREE

continues from page 10

the artists," noting the energy of the room and the openness of the artists themselves in discussing their work. He pointed to the way the theme of *American Tree* extended beyond what is immediately visible above ground, with works also considering "the significant features of trees below ground."

Moved by what they encountered, the Pierces acquired *Tree of Life*, a wooden sculpture crafted of walnut by Michigan artist Ralph Nunez. The piece, Nunez says, draws on ancient iconography that "represents interconnectedness, family, ancestry, fertility, and vitality."

Awards

As with any juried exhibition, a number of works were recognized with awards. Carolyn Swift's *Flux (Windy)* received Best of Show. The large mixed-media relief and collage work incorporates woodcut and relief printing, collagraph, acrylic ink, paint, and colored pencil. The piece addresses the ecological and philosophical relationship between humans and forests, challenging utilitarian views of nature as resource. Instead, Swift points to a deeper, long-standing human connection to forests as sources of beauty, knowledge, well-being, and humility.

Tina Vivian's *Way Leads on to Way*, which received the Marjorie Sonner Hughes Award for Creative Excellence, is a mixed-media work incorporating watercolor, ink, etching, relief prints, acrylic, and various papers. The piece draws its title from Robert Frost's *The Road Not Taken* and imagines the American tree as a walk through the woods—fragmented, resilient, and ultimately beautiful, "much like America herself," she states.

Merit awards were also presented to Cathryn Amidei for *Spire*; Royce Deans for *Over, Under, Through*; Lynne Rae Perkins for *Memory of Treetops*; and Lisa Marie Yontz for *A Growing Family*.

Notable Submissions

Inevitably, given the breadth of work on view, it is not possible to give each artist and piece the attention it deserves. That limitation is not a reflection of the work itself, but rather a testament to the strength and depth of the exhibition. In many ways, it reinforces the point: *American Tree* is a show that resists summary. It insists instead on direct experience—on the act of moving through the space, pausing, looking closely, and forming connections of one's own.

Within this context, these works emerged as entry points into *American Tree's* broader themes and core concerns.

Cindi Ford's *Holding On* arises from a deeply personal rupture: the removal of a cherished tree from her yard in Rapid City. The work, composed of mokuhanga, engraving, stencils, stamping, and monotype printmaking, turns that loss into a larger meditation on endurance. Ford describes trees as lasting metaphors for human experience: they "grow, flourish under good conditions, some survive under tough conditions,"

mirroring human resilience. While working on the piece, she recalls encountering a recent photograph of her young granddaughter wearing an American flag sweater, an image she describes as entering the print during its development. That unexpected visual presence reframed the work, intertwining personal memory with broader national symbolism—what she calls "holding on the hope, our country, the American tree." Ford ultimately describes the piece as "a visual poem set in the sky."

In *Pier Pressure*, David Marks reflects on the long environmental and industrial history embedded in landscape. Taken last fall in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the photographic image centers on a series of weathered wooden pilings extending into water, which he interprets as carrying deeper historical weight. "The piers symbolize the thousands of trees burned for the iron ore industry at the turn of the century. They stand as sentinels defining our history," he shares. Drawn to the American Tree theme through what he calls a "lifelong love of nature and the outdoors," he explains that, as a landscape photographer, he already had "an archive of images that would fit this concept perfectly." Within the broader exhibition exploring 250 years of trees in America, *Pier Pressure* frames them as record and residue. He hopes viewers "can appreciate my images and relate to the beauty of nature," especially the idea that many of these trees "will be around for generations to enjoy long after I am gone."

Angela Saxon's monotype prints *Habitat* and *Forest Light* approach the forest from two vantage points—one intimate, the other immersive. In *Habitat*, a white-breasted nuthatch perches among branches and leaves—a quiet, contained scene that conveys Saxon's awareness that "the forest isn't my home… it belongs to others." In contrast, *Forest Light* dissolves into layered color and shifting marks, evoking light filtering through trees rather than depicting them directly. Saxon describes her artistic approach as rooted in close engagement with the landscape, noting: "My practice has always included a focus on our compelling forests. I spend a lot of time hiking and working from nature… I'm a painter of the natural world specifically because I live here. It's my muse."

The Tree as Recurring Form

Throughout the centuries, artists have returned to the tree as a source of visual and symbolic significance. In Gian Lorenzo Bernini's (1598-1680) *Apollo and Daphne*, Daphne transforms into a laurel tree as she escapes Apollo's pursuit, her figure shifting into bark and branching limbs at the edge of metamorphosis. Gustav Klimt's (1862-1918) *The Tree of Life, Stoclet Frieze* renders nature as ornament and cosmology, its spiraling branches cast in gold as a diagram of continuity and mortality. Christo (1935-2020) and Jeanne-Claude's (1935-2009) *Wrapped Trees* temporarily obscure and alter living forms through fabric, reframing trees as sculptural presence.

With David Hockney's (1937-2026) *The Arrival of Spring in Woldgate, East Yorkshire*—a series of iconic iPad drawings made *en plein air*—the tree becomes an ongoing act of observation, recorded as light and weather shift through time. Andy Goldsworthy's (b. 1956) *Wood Line* engages fallen branches of eucalyptus trees as part of an ephemeral landscape sculpture, assembling them into forms designed to return to the earth. Wolf Kahn's (1927-2020) *Glen* extends the tree as both subject and structure into saturated color and luminous abstraction, where landscape dissolves into atmosphere and glow.

As Hockney has observed, "Trees are the largest manifestation of the life-force we see." Across these works, that idea is underscored.

Alignment: American Tree and Glen Arbor as Tree City USA

GAAC's *American Tree* exhibition coincides with Glen Arbor's designation as a Tree City USA community, a fitting local parallel to the show's focus. The Arbor Day Foundation award acknowledges communities that meet national standards for tree care and stewardship, including formal tree programs, protective ordinances, and ongoing investment in maintaining and preserving the urban forest.

Resident horticulturalist Chris Skellenger situates the role of trees in shaping northern Michigan's landscape not only as symbolism, but as a record of human settlement and environmental endurance. "Trees in a place like Glen Arbor represent the interface between human impact and environmental preservation… I think for the most part the settlers realized that the presence of trees meant that they stood a chance of carving a life out for themselves in that area," he explains.

Community Programming

American Tree runs through August 13 and is accompanied by four public programs: *Leelanau's Old Growth Forests: Living History* on June 13, where Becky Hill of the Leelanau Conservancy led a discussion about protecting forest ecosystems; *Exhibition Walk + Talk* with Bearup-Neal on June 21 and July 25; and *Woodland Home: A History of a Place* on August 1, where two forest stewards will discuss the ecology and character of Northern Michigan's woodlands.

Profiting from pain: report from inside Baldwin's ICE detention center

By Scott Perry
Sun op-ed contributor

I traveled to Baldwin last month to see for myself what was really happening at the North Lake Processing Center operated by the for-profit corporation, Geo Group. There was an organized protest at the gate and I wanted to see who would be there. I went to hear what the messages would be, who would be working, and set eyes on the largest immigrant detention center in the Midwest.

When I arrived after my 90-minute drive, I was asked by a woman, Bonnie, if I spoke any Spanish. I took six years of Spanish in school, but it has been 20 years since I have spoken the language with any regularity. I sheepishly raised my hand; the only person at the protest with the confidence to use my knowledge. I sincerely thought I was going to go to the front desk and help a family translate so they could visit a loved one.

When I got in Bonnie's car, she handed me a pink slip of paper with a name and an identification number. Bonnie informed me this particular detainee had been held since September 2025 and hadn't had any visitors.

A wave of nerves washed over my body, I felt entirely unprepared to meet this moment; yet I was the only person who was able. This was my chance to get an inside glimpse into the workings behind the prison walls. When I went inside, the guards informed me I needed to leave all my belongings in a locker. I could retrieve my things when I returned my visitor badge. While I waited for an escort into the belly of the prison, my eyes were attracted to a display on the wall advertising employment opportunities and substantial salaries. The starting pay rate for new guards was $74,000 per year. A stark reminder that the Geo Group is profiting off human suffering. After 10 minutes, I was escorted, along with two other families including young children, through two towering barbed wire gates, into a drab visitation room with 16 tables.

Moments later a 31-year-old Venezuelan man was instructed to sit across the table from me. He had so much to say and I had a lot to learn; but my broken Spanish stunted the efficient transfer of information. Every time I would conjugate a verb correctly, he'd say "good, good." Before long, I stopped correcting my grammatical errors. He didn't care about perfect speech; he cared for a bit of compassion and humanity extended to someone who has had all liberty stripped from his life.

There were moments where we were each lost for words, just gazing through glassy eyes at each other, while he quietly repeated the word "fuerte" (Spanish for "strength"). I told him he doesn't have to be strong for me. He told me he knows, he has to be strong for himself. He has to be strong in front of the guards, he has to be strong in front of the other inmates. Deep down, he's an ordinary young man locked up in the land of the free; no charges, no bond. Nearly 90 percent of the detainees at the North Lake facility in Baldwin have no criminal record, according to ICE's own data. The few inmates with a criminal record wear red; my friend wears blue.

I learned he had been captured while working a construction job in Detroit. He had traveled solo to the United States to escape the spiraling situation in his homeland. Now, he is held for 23 hours a day in a cell with 60 inmates and five toilets. Every communication to the outside world is charged a fee, as the Geo Group takes 25 percent of all commissary credit card deposits. I asked what he would buy with the money I intended to share with him. The top things on his list were toothpaste, deodorant and phone minutes to call his family a world away. More than anything, he needs a lawyer.

After an hour, I told the guard my friend needed to use the bathroom and the guard informed us we would have to end the visit then. My friend decided he would endure discomfort in order to spend every moment he could outside his cell. Towards the end of our 90-minute allotted visitation time, I had exhausted most of my Spanish. We talked about our similar taste in music and about the World Cup. We shared stories about our brothers. He is just like me, except his immigration status has resulted in him being locked up for eight months.

A view through barbed wire fence of the North Lake detention center in Baldwin.

When you follow the money, it starts to make sense. The Geo Group receives $150 per day per inmate, from our tax dollars. At the time of this publication, that totals more than $40,000, just from my new friend. North Lake holds approximately 1,500 detainees, with a capacity of 1,800 beds. That amounts to $240,000 per day for Geo Group.

On my way out, as I walked by the prison control room, I couldn't help but notice the sinister tattoos on the man operating the gate. A devil's skull with smoke wisping through eye sockets would qualify an immigrant as a gangster—according to the Trump administration's perverse logic—but somehow this man had all the keys to the prison.

Even though the 6th Circuit Court ruled it was unconstitutional to hold law abiding immigrants without bond, my friend is still locked up. I went to visit him again last week, but couldn't because they switched his cell block and I planned to arrive at a suddenly incorrect visiting time. Cruelty is the point and the dysfunction is daunting. But, after visiting with one prisoner, my resolve to extend grace to those in need is fortified.

Scott Perry is a previous candidate for Leelanau County Commission. He lives in Elmwood Township. Learn more about assisting immigrants in need by joining the Immigrant Action Coalition on Facebook or contact organizer Bonnie Demos at 231-233-7923. A major need is monetary contributions, no Spanish language skills necessary.

Our previous coverage in the *Sun* of Baldwin's immigrant detention center has featured the Ramirez family (right) and innovative mutual aid efforts to support detainees inside.

National Lakeshore announces final Port Oneida Fair in August

From staff reports

For more than two decades, the Port Oneida Fair has been celebrating the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the late 1800s and early 1900s of the area. This summer, as the nation commemorates its 250th anniversary, the fair will be "Celebrating the Threads of a Nation" in a theme that will give visitors the opportunity to reflect on the places and people of our shared history.

The annual Port Oneida Fair will be held August 7-8 in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore's Port Oneida Rural Historic District, four miles northeast of Glen Arbor, and will include four farms and a one-room schoolhouse.

Lakeshore staff announced in early June that this will be the final Port Oneida Fair. Sleeping Bear Dunes superintendent Scott Tucker told the *Sun* that his staff is reexamining the impact of the event and whether they have the resources to continue holding the fair. Dozens of National Lakeshore staff work during each Port Oneida Fair.

Tucker said that visitor numbers have dwindled for the past five years, and actors and demonstrators are aging out. Finding interpretive funding to stage the event has also proven difficult, he said.

According to a media release by the nonprofit Sleeping Bear Forever—previously called "Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear"—the fair brings the landscape alive with activities true to the by-gone period when it was a community of robust settlers. Visitors experience a variety of artists, music, crafts, food, games and programs.

This August each site will highlight a thread from the past that ultimately created the fabric of rural American life for generations. The Olsen Farm will highlight "Feeding the Nation" with historic food preparation, gardening, and family life. The Dechow Farm will be "Harvesting Heritage" with a focus on farm animals and agricultural equipment. Thoreson Farm will be "Crafting Freedom" through blacksmithing, basketry, and textiles. And Kelderhouse Farm showcases the "Voices of Many" through storytelling and maritime activities.

The Port Oneida Fair this coming Aug. 7-8 will be the final one.

Returning visitors might note that Thoreson Farm is again included in the fair after a one-year hiatus in 2025 and is being hosted by members of the Thoreson family.

Looking ahead, Sleeping Bear Forever, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Fair committee members, and the surrounding community will collaboratively begin shaping a new vision for events that honor the area's history. Together, these partners remain committed to preserving the cultural legacy of Port Oneida and exploring fresh ways to celebrate the stories, landscapes, and spirit that make this place so meaningful.

Parenting Communities hosts Street Fair for Leelanau families

From staff reports

Parenting Communities is excited to welcome families to their fifth annual Family Street Fair on Saturday, June 20 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Leelanau Montessori Public School Academy campus in Lake Leelanau. This free community event is open to all Leelanau County families and is designed to celebrate early childhood, family connection, and community fun.

Families can enjoy a wide variety of activities throughout the day including music and dancing, games and bubbles, art exploration activities, face painting, free family caricatures, and take-home books and activities for children. Community partners from across Leelanau County will also be on site sharing information and resources for families with young children.

Food and treats will be available for purchase from Las Lagunas Food Truck and The Leelanau Lemonade Stand.

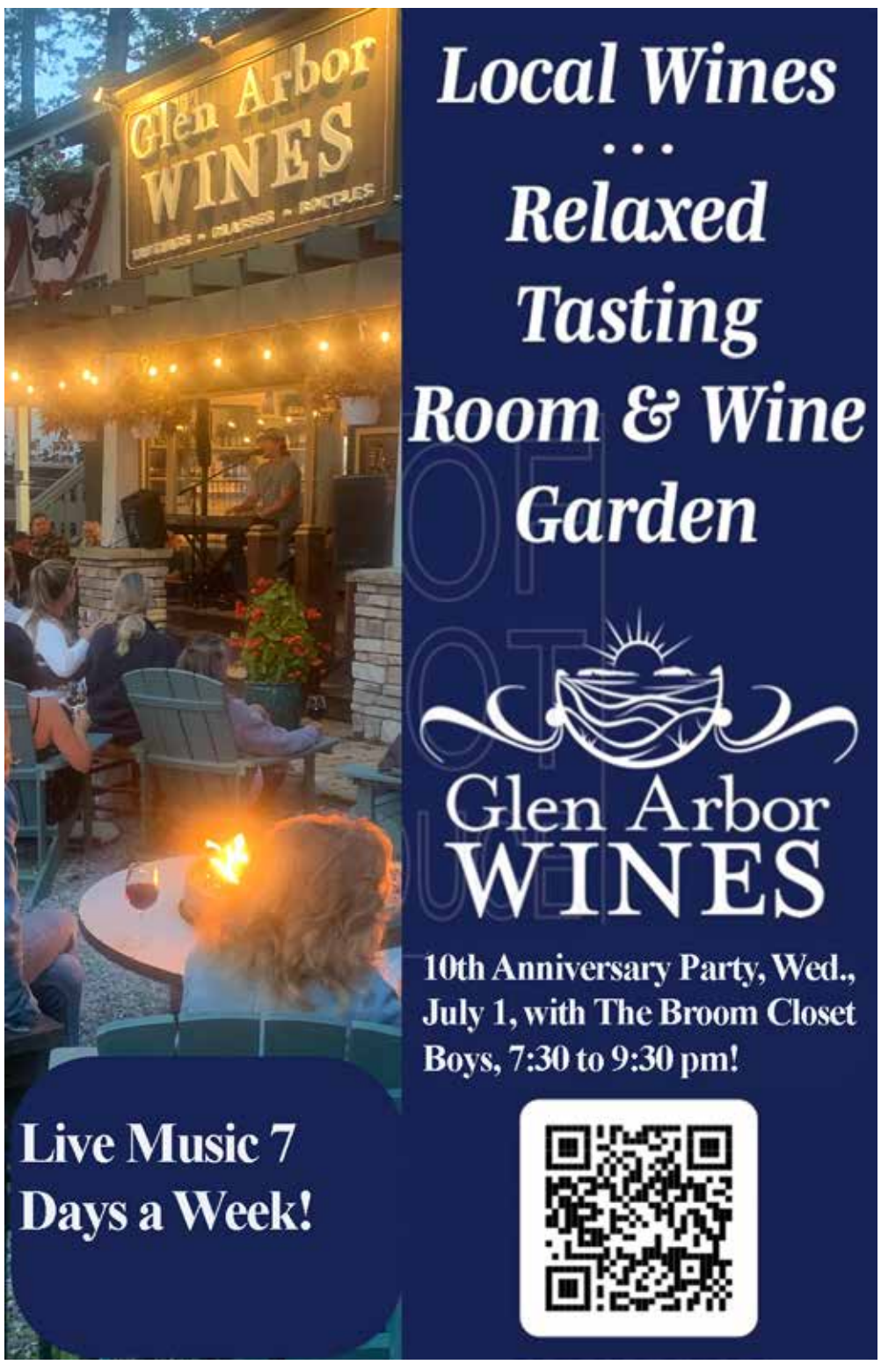
"We are so excited to celebrate our fifth year hosting the Family Street Fair," said Hannah Grinage, Supervisor of the Parenting Communities program. "This event is such a fun way to bring families together, connect parents with local resources, and celebrate the amazing support our community provides for young children and families. We look forward to welcoming families from across the county for a day of fun and connection."

The event will take place at: 7401 E. Duck Lake Rd. / Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

The Family Street Fair is funded by the Leelanau Early Childhood Millage, which supports early childhood development and family well-being throughout the county.

To learn more about Parenting Communities, visit www.parentingcommunities.org and follow the program on Facebook and Instagram.

Kids Fishing Day returns on Sunday, June 28 from 11 am-3 pm at Veronica Valley County Park east of Lake Leelanau. Some 4,000 bluegill await the young anglers. Read more on our website, GlenArbor.com.



OBSERVATORY

continues from page 1

deck waiting their turn to climb the ladder to the big scope. A Leelanau Amateur Astronomy Study Group soon formed under the leadership of Bob Moler—the Grand Traverse Astronomical Society's astronomy guru, whose daily Ephemeris program can be heard on Interlochen Public Radio, 91.5 FM. The Astronomical Society hosts "Star Parties" at the Dune Climb in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Check the Park website for dates and times.

Mr. Lanphier continued to pay frequent visits to Bill Maclachlan down at Old School Hardware (the old school house in the middle of Glen Arbor has since become two short-term rental apartments) as he tinkered with the darkroom, the shutter, or the dome, perfecting every detail of what his family down on the lake simply called "The O." Lanphier passed away in 1978, just two years after the Observatory opened, but his legacy includes this amazing gift to the community that has made it possible for thousands of people to see astonishing views of planets, comets, nebulae, star clusters, and galaxies.

At the age of 15 years, the Observatory had to move. The Leelanau School swapped the wooded hill where the Observatory stood with the Homestead Resort for the Cora Beals house down on the beach. The hill is now the site of the Homestead's Stonybrook Lodge, and the Cora Beals house has moved onto the Leelanau School campus to become the Cora Beals Arts Center. (Cora and "Skipper" Beals founded the Leelanau School for Boys and the Pinebrook School for Girls with Helen and Arthur Huey in 1929.)

The demolition of the original observatory was pictured on the front page of the *Traverse City Record-Eagle* on Feb. 15, 1990. The telescopes, the doors, windows, and lights, the darkroom equipment, even the blackboard and chalk were stored, and the dome squatted on the ground next to the Crystal River on the path to the Leelanau School waterfront for one summer while a new, smaller observatory was built down on the beach.

We ran an electrical cord down to the beach and set up a platform for portable telescopes so that our twice-a-week public viewing nights could continue uninterrupted, and in 1991 the telescope was mounted on the new pier in the center of the building and the dome was dropped onto the new Lanphier Observatory on the shore of Sleeping Bear Bay.

Gone was the view of Big Glen and the perfect southern horizon for seeing summer splendors in the constellations of Scorpius and Sagittarius. But the new location, with its perfect horizon from the Sleeping Bear Dunes to the southwest all the way round to Pyramid Point to the north, allows for daily use as a classroom for all Leelanau School science students, and it has become a place to watch seasonal bird migrations, bald eagles hunting ducks along the edge of the ice all winter, the ships and fishing boats that ply the waters of the Manitou Passage, and of course the moon, planets, comets, stars, auroras, and deep sky objects of the night sky.

When he presented the Observatory to the Leelanau School, Mr.

Lanphier only required that the school continue to provide public viewing nights and instruction in astronomy for all. Thanks to Lanphier, hundreds of visitors continue to shuffle down to the "dome on the beach" between dusk and midnight on Wednesday and Thursday nights from the summer solstice through late August, provided the clouds stay away (admission is $5 for adults and $4 for students).

Along with the changing phases of the moon, numerous man-made satellites, ISS (the International Space Station), frequent meteors, and rare northern lights, visitors on summer nights can expect to see the binary star Albireo, the Ring nebula, the great globular star cluster in Hercules, on perfect nights the Whirlpool Galaxy, and later in the summer the great Andromeda Galaxy. This summer bright Venus and Jupiter sparkle in the western sky as they drop toward the horizon out over Lake Michigan. These planets, along with the changing phases of the moon, are ripe for viewing through the big telescope.

A series of signs replicating the sun and planets leads visitors through the campus to the Observatory on the beach. Look for the circular planets marked with arrows to show you the meandering way through the campus, across the Crystal River, and past the Beach Bards Bonfire.

This summer a recent Leelanau School grad, Chloe Sunderman, will share with visitors the constellations and their stories on the deck while Dr. Elizabeth Wolterink aims the big telescope at the moon, the planets (including Jupiter and its four big moons), and the wonders of deep space.

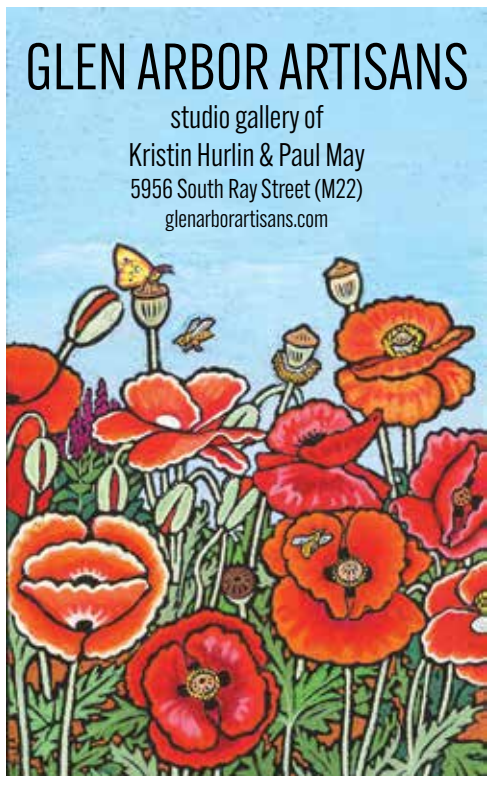
Sunderman, who plans to study astrophysics at Mount Holyoke this fall, is among many students for whom the Observatory has ignited wonder and inspiration. Sunderman came to Leelanau already curious about astronomy, but credits the Observatory with fueling that interest into a passion.

"I think that was really a pivotal moment for me," she said, describing the first time she looked through the dome's telescope.

Sunderman came from Saginaw, where she took an early high school astronomy class, but describes the light pollution there as pretty bad. Here at the Lanphier Observatory, she said, "Learning about these things, and then actually being able to see them was super cool […] Seeing something from your actual perspective is a lot more emotional. The fact that you're seeing stars in real time […] is really important to me, and being able to recognize that this is our place in the universe, instead of viewing it secondhand."

Her favorite sight through the telescope is Jupiter and its moons. Part of Sunderman's interest in Astronomy is also passing that emotion onto others. "[I] want to be able to help out here over the summer and be able to take on this career, so being able to meet all these different people and being able to teach them a couple things about the sky is really cool to me."

Sunderman will assist with constellation tours at the Observatory this summer before heading off to college. You can come and experience her passion for the stars first hand on Wednesday and Thursday nights, June 24 through Aug. 20, starting at dusk.



NORTH MANITOU

continues from page 1

by European immigrants from the mid 1800s into the mid 1900s. The settlers farmed and logged the islands, feeding the steamships that brought Chicagoans to summer on the islands as they escaped the heat of the city. Seasonal cottages built from Sears & Roebuck kits make up Cottage Row at the north island's ghost village.

The National Park Service took over the islands during the second half of the 20th century. Eventually the old farmsteads were swallowed back into the earth. Here and there a foundation still exists along with a handful of weathered buildings, and rusty farm and logging equipment. Other than these disappearing historical remnants, only nature exists on this island.

Although I could technically do this alone, I was six months pregnant for my first time and didn't know what to expect. I'd need help carrying the weight of a tent and other necessary supplies, but the value of these women's opinions about the adventure was the real clincher. Plus, it is just way more fun to share outdoor experiences with others.

The group got acquainted with each other during the wet and foggy ferry ride from mainland Leland to the island. There were six of us, some with no backpacking experience at all. Two of us were six months pregnant, and not one of us knew everyone else.

It stopped raining the moment we disembarked onto the island's waterlogged dock. The water level was so high that summer that the dock was almost level with the lake, water lapping over its sides. We hiked clockwise around the island, camping next to water both nights.

The first day we walked over eight miles, mostly following the Perimeter Loop, taking spur trails to a cemetery near an old cabin named Bournique's Place and in search of other landmarks we never located. We camped on the west side of the island, just north of Johnson's Place, so we could watch the sunset over Lake Michigan's unbroken horizon of endless water. South Manitou Island loomed in view across the Manitou Passage, the ghosts of shipwrecks hidden beneath the channel's churning currents.

We cooked our dinner over two camp stoves on the beach while we shared backcountry cooking hacks and taught the beginners how to filter water. Just before sunset, a doe emerged from the forest, her fur glowing the color of burning coals in the fading light. Throughout the night, she stayed with us, the sound of her tromping and rustling weaving into my dreams. The next morning, not only was mama deer still there, but two fawns had joined her. I couldn't help but think of it as a good omen for myself and my pregnant backpacking partner.

Day two was going to be another 8-mile hike. A restless night's sleep confirmed for me that this would be the last time I'd camp during this pregnancy. The other women offered to help carry more gear to ease the strain of their two pregnant companions. When pregnant, a backpack hip belt isn't a comfortable option, so their help was essential in making it a safe and more enjoyable journey.

It was a sunny day, heavy with humidity, mosquitos and laughter. The Perimeter Loop led us to Swensons Barn, a historical horse barn in good condition. Not far from the barn was the former site of Crescent City, one of two villages on the island that were once inhabited by settlers but are now left to the imagination. The fog veiled the lake, but it was hot and sunny on shore. We ate lunch, soaked our feet, skipped stones, and relaxed.

We followed the trail along an old railroad bed where tracks once led past Davenport Camp, a deserted logging camp marked only by rusted chains and broken equipment. Further down the trail at Stormer's Camp, an automobile junkyard with the most colorful, interesting pile of rusted artifacts left on the island, one of us freed a Monarch butterfly from a spider web, carefully sweeping away the fine, sticky strands from its wings until it flew away.

We cut inland at the Pole Bridge to camp at Lake Manitou. The calm inland lake provided an easy source for filtering water. We swam and relaxed in hammocks under the cedar trees by the water's edge. After crawling into our sleeping bags for the night, we shared bedtime stories with each other, bodiless laughs floating between tents.

Our final day was a short 2 ½-mile walk back to the ferry, past Frank Farm, home to the island's largest apple orchard remnants. At Cottage Row, near the dock, we waited under the abundant flowering bushes, laughing at ourselves as white petals fell like snow all over us. I believe that none of us were really ready to be done with the trip, terrible sleep aside. We had forged new friendships and were leaving the island full of inspiration and new aspirations.

The power of North Manitou Island inspired a new hobby for one woman and was a factor in another woman's decision to move her family to Leelanau County. The power of a group of women inspiring each other, teaching each other, and carrying each other's weight was an unforgettable experience for me.

Although I've backpacked many times with female companions since then, sharing this time on a remote island, untethered from the responsibilities of daily life, is hard to match.

Look for more Manitou Island stories in the Glen Arbor Sun this summer.

Glen Lake Woman's Club
ART FAIR
Glen Arbor Town Hall
Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 10-4
Sponsored by Northwoods Hardware

Dune Climb Inn
Elberta, Lake Mich
- Motel rooms and suites with kitchens
- In the heart of the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes National Lakeshore
- Steps from the famous Dune Climb
- Open year round
DuneClimbInn.com 231.631.7875

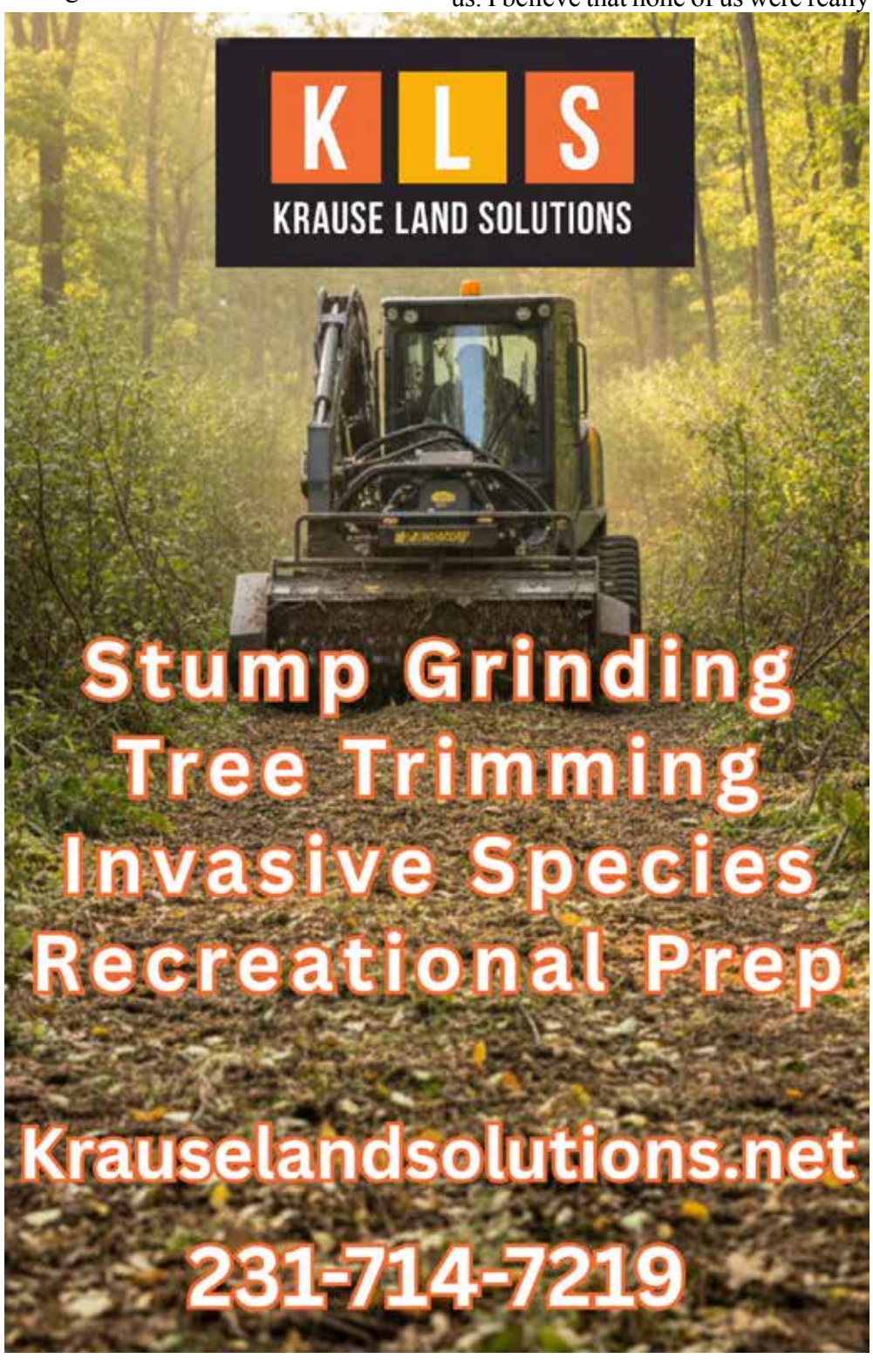
WATCHING THE SAME TV SHOW AGAIN ISN'T RELAXING...

...it's numbing.

And going numb won't restore you.

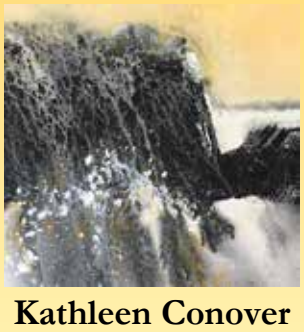
Get Reiki.
Get relaxed.

The Healing Hut
Reiki & Restorative Arts
Caitlin Watkins, RMT
Leland, MI | gtreiki.com

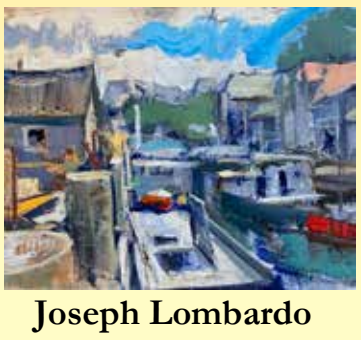


CENTER GALLERY

Charles Murphy
June 26 – July 2



Kathleen Conover
July 3 - 9



Joseph Lombardo
July 10 – 16

Openings Fridays · 6-8 pm
On Lake Street in Glen Arbor
231-334-3179
lakestreetstudiosglenarbor.com

Michael J. Howe, MD
Interventional Cardiologist
Traverse Heart and Vascular

COMMITTED TO NORTHERN MICHIGAN

PEACE OF MIND. CLOSE BY.

Summer has a way of finding us here. In warm days, starry nights, and the magic our region brings for all who call Northern Michigan their home or hideaway.

Here's to moments that linger, new adventures, and everything in between. With the reassurance that exceptional care is always close by.

Learn more at:
munsonhealthcare.org/commitment

MUNSON
COMMITTED TO YOU

PARK THE BOAT. STASH THE TOYS.

Clean, secure, drive-up storage
Best prices in Leelanau County.
We'll match any advertised rate.

SLEEPING BEAR
BOAT & RV STORAGE
3722 W Empire Hwy
Empire, MI 49630

Best Rates in Leelanau County

Unit Size	Price	
5 x 10	~~$70~~	$50
10 x 10	~~$95~~	$80
10 x 15	~~$115~~	$95
10 x 20	~~$125~~	$100
10 x 25	~~$160~~	$135
10 x 30	~~$200~~	$170
12 x 10	~~$110~~	$95
12 x 20	~~$150~~	$140
12 x 30	~~$215~~	$200
12 x 40	$290	
14 x 40	$320	

NEED ROOM FOR THE BIG STUFF?
12×40 & 14×40 drive-up units fit boats, RVs, campers, trailers & the whole garage.
Renting 12 months or longer? Call for special long-term pricing.

CALL TODAY (231) 944-0312

WWW.SLEEPINGBEARSTORAGELLC.COM