



Sauna Fest returns to heat cool Northern Michigan

From staff reports

Long relegated to back yards and backwoods cabins, saunas are enjoying a heyday in northern Michigan. Pop-up saunas appear at community events, portable saunas are available to rent, and private sauna gatherings transition effortlessly into pot-luck dinners with friends.

Vlad Borza of Sleeping Bear Saunas and Nick Olson of Hearth Sauna—proselytizers of the local sauna movement—co-organized the second annual Michigan Sauna Fest, which takes place in Traverse City’s Clinch Park from Friday, April 10, until Sunday April 12. Sauna Fest will offer participants the chance to enjoy and explore different styles of saunas from around the state and supplement the experience with a cool dip in West Grand Traverse Bay. A social area will include food trucks, vendor tables, fire pits and games, music, lectures, breathwork, and other activities.

Single-session passes are available for purchase and offer 90 minutes of access to all saunas on site. For more information and tickets, visit MichiganSaunaFest.com.

The Sun caught up with Borza to get his read on sauna popularity, what’s new

at Sauna Fest this year, spring saunas vs winter saunas, what he does when he’s not sweating in a tiny house, and his vision for a floating sauna on a barge.

Glen Arbor Sun: What got you into saunas? And how do you explain the scorching hot interest in sauna culture in Northern Michigan these days?

Vlad Borza: As many will recognize, Michigan is an unapologetic grandparent to the sauna culture of North America. I would imagine many of us gravitated to sauna for the same reasons that early inhabitants did: to quell winter’s grip on our realities. Perhaps it’s a primal instinct for comfort, but I have always sought to create small, heated spaces. I guess I just never grew out of my fort-building phase. After years of this relationship intensifying through sauna experiences in the UP and anywhere I could get the kick, it turned into an all-encompassing obsession. I began building what would now be called a “mobile sauna” in 2015 to take this experience with me to rivers, beaches, etc. and through that, I met others in the Leelanau with backyard units and a similar nascent passion.

This led me to create the West
See SAUNA on page 10



For their 2026 spring break, the DeKorne kids polar plunged in the Crystal River during the last weekend in March. As locals walked by, they said, “You’re definitely first in the river this year! Send to the Sun!” Pictured in the photo are: Kate (10), Klaire (7), Dan, Drew (10) and Jack (7) DeKorne.



Michigan Sauna Fest co-organizer Vlad Borza.

Fresh Coast Film Festival TC features Leelanau faces

From staff reports

The inaugural Fresh Coast Film Festival: Traverse City, which runs April 30–May 3 at seven venues throughout Traverse City, prominently features Leelanau faces and places. Opening night festivities will play for free at the Bay Theatre in Suttons Bay, as well as other regional venues, at 7 pm on Thursday night.

Grant Piering, creative media specialist at the Leelanau Conservancy, and Conservancy board member Nick Loud both have shorts in the festival. Mike King’s film *Lake Michigan Gets Swell* and *Restoring Northern Michigan’s Rivers* both feature the County. The

Conservancy is a partner on opening night and will also offer a walk and talk experience at DeYoung Natural Area on Sunday. In addition, a Conservancy short featuring tribal member Eva Petoskey is part of the special Water / Ways program on Saturday morning.

Presented by the nonprofit Old Mission Culture Company, the festival features more than 50 documentary films celebrating the outdoor lifestyle and spirit of the Great Lakes and Upper Midwest, with nearly two dozen filmmakers attending from 11 states.

Highlights include artist panels at Traverse City Whiskey Company, pass-

See FILMS on page 11

Bear Man’s lawyer questions Fishtown’s tax-exempt status, escalating Youth for Christ battle in Leland

By Jacob Wheeler
Sun editor

Business owners, a large group of local parents, and the Fishtown Preservation Society oppose Apollos Properties’ and Youth for Christ’s contentious bid for a special land use permit to create a youth ministry in a building they own in the heart of Leland’s business district.

Now Youth for Christ (YFC) is striking back and elevating the legal stakes of this battle playing out in a small Leelanau County town but with potential implications far beyond Northern Michigan. YFC missionaries Micah and Kya Cramer drew scrutiny for allegedly recruiting students at Leland public

school to their ministry during the past two school years. They were barred last fall from volunteering inside the school.

On March 10, Timothy White, an attorney with the Parker Harvey law firm, sent a letter on behalf of their client, Jim VanSteenhouse—Micah’s wealthy uncle who owns several properties in Leland—to the Leland Township assessor and board of review. That letter questioned the charitable tax-exempt status of the Fishtown Preservation Society in the town’s historic district of fish shanties. The district includes VanSteenhouse’s property at 110 North Lake St. where Youth for Christ wants a ministry.

See YOUTH FOR CHRIST on page 11



Left photos: screenshots from Leelanau Lighthouse Instagram; top right: YFC missionaries Micah and Kya Cramer; bottom right: Leland Fishtown

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Glen Lake Chamber hosts Restaurant Week, April 24-May 2

From staff reports

Get ready to indulge during the 12th annual Glen Lake Restaurant Week. From casual bites to gourmet dining, participating locations will feature specials or a prix-fixe menu that highlight the best of the local culinary scene.

Whether you're craving comfort

food, fresh ingredients, exquisite drinks, or an elevated dining experience, there's something for every palate. Some may also offer breakfast, lunch and dinner specials in accordance with their own hours and offerings. For special menus and the full lineup of participating businesses, check out VisitGlenArbor.com



Enjoy La Becasse's legendary pate.

Leelanau Reads *Wreck* at County libraries

From staff reports

The four public libraries of Leelanau County invite you to participate in Leelanau Reads, a community reading program. During the annual Leelanau Reads program, county residents are encouraged to come together in a shared reading experience. This year's book pick is *Wreck* by Catherine Newman, a short, contemporary novel full of laughter and heart, about marriage, family, and what happens when life doesn't go as planned.

As part of Leelanau Reads, the four libraries are pleased to host Newman on Saturday, May 2, at 7 pm at French Valley Vineyard, in conversation with Brooke Hazael-Massieux. Copies of *Wreck* will be available for purchase at the event thanks to our friends at Bay Books. Registration is required for this

free author event. Please contact your local Leelanau County library to learn more and register.

Copies of the book are available to borrow from your local library and to purchase at your local bookseller. Each library will host a discussion of the book, open to all readers.

Book discussions of *Wreck* take place at the following libraries and dates: April 16, 10 am & 2 pm at Leland Township Library; April 30, 11

am at Glen Lake Community Library; May 6, 1:30 pm at Leelanau Township Library; May 14, 2 and 7 pm at Suttons Bay Bingham District Library

This event is sponsored by Glen Lake Community Library, Leland Township Library, Leelanau Township Library, and Suttons Bay Bingham District Library with generous support from each library's Friends of the Library group, the Northland Library Cooperative and the Mid-Michigan Library League.

GL Library honors *The Librarians*

From staff reports

In celebration of National Library Week, Glen Lake Community Library in Empire is showing the acclaimed documentary film, *The Librarians* on Wednesday, April 22, at 6:30 pm. This

film traverses small-town USA with interviews and archival material to reveal the story of everyday Americans who have become unlikely defenders of democracy. This special screening is sponsored by the Friends of Glen Lake Community Library.

Leelanau Calendar: Upcoming April, May events

April 10-12: Michigan Sauna Fest at Clinch Park in Traverse City

Wednesday, April 15: Leelanau Conservancy holds volunteer meeting for Wildflower Rescue kickoff, 10:30 am at Old Art Building in Leland

Sunday, April 19: Glen Arbor Arts Center's "Coffee with the Authors" features Karen Mulvahill, (*The Lost Woman*), 1 pm

Wednesday, April 22: Leelanau Conservancy hosts Earth Day sunrise hike at Ingraham Preserve, 6:45 am

• Leelanau Conservancy hosts Earth Day Family Friendly Happy Hour at Tandem Ciders, 3:30-6 pm

• Glen Lake Community Library hosts documentary film, *The Librarians*, 6:30 pm

Thursday, April 23: Leelanau Conservancy hosts Creekside Chat with Benzie Conservation District, Elmwood Hall & DeYoung

April 24-May 2: Glen Lake Restaurant Week

Saturday, April 25: Leelanau Conservancy hosts Docent Guided Bird

Migration Hike at Lighthouse West Natural Area, 9 am

• Glen Arbor Arts Center hosts Grand Rapids photographer Rodney Martin, 1 pm

• Bay Books in Suttons Bay hosts "A Day of Wine and Poets" at 5 pm with featured poets, Jeanne Sirotkin, TC Botanical Gardens Poet Laureate, Gordon Henry

Thursday, April 30: Fresh Coast Film Festival opening night gala, Bay Community Theatre in Suttons Bay

Saturday, May 2: French Valley Vineyard hosts "Leelanau Reads" book discussion with Catherine Newman (*Wreck*), 7 pm

Sunday, May 3: Leelanau Wellness Summit at The Homestead resort

• Old Art Building in Leland holds benefit concert for Sebastian Smith, 2-7 pm

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

Ongoing

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

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

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

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

• 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 Bel Lago, **Saturdays**, 5-7 pm

• Glen Arbor Arts Center hosts Lobby Gallery: Small Accomplishments by Harvey Gordon, **Jan. 5-April 23**; Inside The Outside, **Feb. 6-April 23**; Members Create exhibit, **March 20-May 28**

Recycling is located at nine locations throughout Leelanau County, including at the ball fields in Empire, at the Leelanau School north of Glen Arbor and a Glen Lake School.

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Renovated Leelanau School auditorium hosts GA Players

From staff reports

Goodbye analog; hello digital! Exciting changes have happened in The Leelanau School's auditorium, and no one is more enthusiastic about them than the Glen Arbor Players. The theater group's 2026 season starts this spring as Phase 1 of auditorium renovations, funded by grant money and generous community donations, has just been completed.

"Theater Guy" Russ Blain of R. Blain Consulting is the theater integrator overseeing the installation. In his words, "... 21st century lighting, sound, projection, rigging, and broadcast systems" will transform the somewhat outdated auditorium into "...a performance venue, a classroom, a place to see movies, a social hall, a concert hall, and a multifaceted learning environment."

For years, the auditorium's old camera, lights, and sound systems were hidden in a tiny room up a steep flight of stairs behind the back wall. Now, a state-of-the-art workstation will control all of that digitally from the back of the house. A wall-mounted camera can pan, tilt, and zoom and will make teleconferencing, webcasting, and streaming shows, like GAP plays on Facebook and YouTube, possible. With a new projector and screen, the auditorium becomes a community theater showing popular movies and local organizations' films. There is even a popcorn machine.

The audience will feel as well as hear the dynamic new multi-track Dolby 5.1 sound system which uses eight speakers, ranging in size from a toaster oven to



a sofa cushion. Blain compliments the acoustics of the auditorium and describes it as "dead." He means that in the nicest way. The seats and carpet-covered walls convey sound but keep it from bouncing around and becoming distorted. It's why the Glen Arbor Players don't have to use microphones in their plays.

The impressive new lighting system can light the full stage or parts of it from different directions, and it can create any color light digitally, not with old-time colored gels. The house lights, integrated into the new system, will all match now. The curtains that open when GAP takes the stage this spring are new too, and they are classy. The main curtains are a rich, velvety plum. Behind them are borders, valances, and what are called "back legs."

Head of School Rob Hansen welcomes the long-awaited improvements. "For nearly 100 years, Leelanau students have thrived by living, exploring, and engaging with the Glen Arbor community. This renovation expands that partnership, creating new ways for students and neighbors alike to learn, connect, and celebrate together." He looks forward to Phase 2 of the auditorium renovations, which, when fully funded, will improve seating inside

and access outside. Hansen hopes "... our community will join us in bringing this vision to life, creating a space where students and neighbors can gather, learn, and perform together."

Last year was GAP's first in The Leelanau School auditorium. Even with the decades old curtains and systems, they had an outstanding season. Now, as GAP board chairman Jean Jenkins says, "We are looking forward to a wonderful season offering mystery and comedy. Upgrades to The Leelanau School's auditorium will greatly enhance the quality of our productions and the audience experience."

GAP plans the following plays this year:

An Inspector Calls - May 22-24, 29-31 J.B. Priestly's thriller about a mysterious inspector, a selfish wealthy family, and a girl's death

Steel Magnolias - August 7-9, 14-16 Robert Harling's touching 1987 play about the strong bond between six women in a small-town Louisiana beauty shop

Blythe Spirit - October 2-4, 9-11 Noël Coward's classic 1941 comedy about a novelist haunted by his first wife's ghost.

In 2025, their first year at The Leelanau School, GAP troupe members were so pleased by audience attendance and enthusiasm that they decided to perform this season's plays over two weekends, not just one as they've done previously. An expanded schedule and a newly modernized multi-use arts and cultural hub give everyone plenty of reasons to attend and enjoy.

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Leelanau Conservancy completes Palmer Woods trail system

From staff reports

After eight years of development and more than 42 miles of pathways constructed, the Leelanau Conservancy has completed the multiuse trail network at Palmer Woods Forest Reserve.

The finished system includes more than 27 miles of purpose-built mountain bike trails and 15 miles of hiking trails. These pathways are open year-round, guiding hikers, bikers and skiers through the peaks and valleys of this glacially formed landscape.

Palmer Woods, a 1,115-acre Old-Growth Forest, is the Conservancy's largest property and was acquired in 2016. Trail development began in 2018.

Infrastructure manager Chad Jordan said the team's planning and design process included GPS mapping, con-



Photo by Drew Palmer

sultation with biologists, and identifying key "anchors"—specific viewpoints they wanted to lead visitors to.

Jordan said Palmer's trails were designed to have sustainable grades of 5-7 percent, with wide openings for easier navigation. These design elements create gentle, consistent slopes that reduce erosion, improve water drainage, and minimize long-term maintenance needs.

Becky Hill, director of natural areas

and preserves, said the Palmer Woods trail system has something for everyone.

"You have wide paths for group hikes, narrow meanders to secluded valleys and ridgelines, flowy bike trails that feel like flying, and beautifully groomed ski trails for winter adventure," Hill said.

Trails range from beginner-friendly options, like the Price Valley Trail, to more remote backcountry paths for experienced hikers. A popular stop along the Price Valley Trail is the Helen and Dan Palmer Fern Garden, where a boardwalk winds through a diverse collection of fern species.

Mountain bikers will find beginner, intermediate, and advanced trail options within Palmer's hub-and-loop system. This network features primarily flow trails, with some technical rock sections and dirt jump features

on more advanced routes."

Trail design is an art, and I'm proud to work with talented staff and contractors to create experiences that honor the natural landscape—minimizing soil and water impacts, avoiding sensitive habitat, and requiring little long-term maintenance—while opening access to the forests' most scenic places," Hill said. "It's been wonderful watching our vision come to life and seeing visitors find joy here."

For more information on the Palmer Woods trail system, visit leelanauconservancy.org/explore. New trail signage will debut at the property this spring.

For information on joining the Palmer Trail Crew—a group of trail stewards that meets weekly between Memorial Day and Halloween—visit LeelanauConservancy.org/trail-stewards.

Glen Arbor Arts Center hosts author Mulvahill, photographer Martin

From staff reports

The Glen Arbor Arts Center's (GAAC) next Coffee With The Authors conversation is April 19 at 1 pm with Karen Mulvahill, author of *The Lost Woman*. Mulvahill, a Leelanau County resident, sets her novel in 1940s Paris, just as the Nazis storm the City of Lights. What follows is a tale of one young woman's resistance, art theft, and a long-delayed effort to restore stolen paintings to their rightful owners.

The Lost Woman is Mulvahill's debut novel. Published in 2025, Mulvahill's tale is fueled by history: the Nazi's well-organized efforts to appropri-

ate—through theft, murder and terror tactics—a vast array of cultural artifacts for installation in Hitler's planned arts complex, the Fuhrermuseum, in Linz, Austria. Mulvahill will talk about how she crafted a story peopled by many characters over decades, and the role the arts played in the Nazi's violent scheme to reorder the world to its specifications.

Coffee With The Authors is a series of conversational interviews with local, regional, and state authors about the art, craft, and process of writing, facilitated by GAAC Gallery Manager Sarah Bearup-Neal. There is no charge. Coffee With The Authors enjoys the support of the Cottage Book Shop and

the Glen Lake Community Library.

Is Photography Dead?

At a time when the world is drowning in photographic images, Grand Rapids photographer Rodney Martin asks: Is photography dead? On April 25, Martin will present a slide lecture that digs into that question. The program takes place in the GAAC's Main Gallery from 1-2:30 pm. Reservations are required. Seating is limited. Admission is \$10 GAAC members, \$15 nonmembers. The deadline for reservations is April 23, 2 pm. To reserve a seat visit GlenArborArt.org/events.

As photography moved out of the darkroom and into the computer,

the ability to "doctor" an image or to create one using artificial intelligence has caused some to conclude that photography is dead. Martin will explore the impact of digital photography and the implications of generative artificial intelligence on our understanding of photographs. This conversational discussion will enable participants to be savvier consumers of photography in the digital age.

Martin is a retired attorney and an amateur photographer based in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He principally concentrates on landscape and nature photography, with a special interest in the Leelanau Peninsula.

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Leelanau Wellness Collective hosts well-being summit

By Ross Boissoneau
Sun contributor

What does a summit look like? Well, two things: One, a gathering of like-minded individuals to learn about and discuss a topic. The other is the top of a mountain.

The two come together May 3 in Glen Arbor. The Leelanau Well-Being Summit will take place at and around The Homestead. Organizer Kat Palms says the event will include a vendor marketplace featuring local wellness brands, creatives, and makers, optional ticketed wellness classes led by regional practitioners, and a guided Bayview Trail Ruck with the Leelanau Ruck Club.

Oh, and that second definition of summit? That works too, as the event will include a champagne toast at the top of Bay Mountain, the resort's ski hill, followed by an optional dinner at Nonna's.

"It's our sixth annual event for the collective," Palms says. That's the Leelanau Wellness Collective, a group of health and wellness practitioners engaged in yoga, qigong, art therapy, Reiki, meditation, physical therapy, exercise, Pilates and more.

"We're bringing multiple dimensions together. It's a full day."

Palms says while previous have concentrated almost exclusively on meetings and presentations, this year includes more activities and engagement. "There's less programming, people talking at you, and more one-on-one, classes ... more intimate and purposeful," she says.

Among the activities will be one of the currently hottest fitness workouts. Martin and Stacy Kimpston co-founded the Leelanau Ruck Club. Rucking is simply hiking with a weighted backpack or vest. It is one of the oldest, simplest and yet best exercises, good for cardiac health and building muscle.

"It's new and yet old," says Martin Kimpston, saying it has basically been around since humans first walked upright. The Kimpstons said they created the local ruck club in the wake of the pandemic, when outdoors activities became ever-more important, but their previous travels to large group-rucking events had become untenable.

The best thing about rucking is the fact anyone who can walk can do it. Kimpston says starting out with light weights or no weights at all makes it approachable for beginners, who can gradually begin adding weights.

He says that's a key to success. "I'll give one not-to: do not progress too fast. Take time adding weights," he says. Another is to use the right equipment. While you can use any backpack and put any kind of weights in it, he says those backpacks made for the activity are more comfortable. The same is true of weighted vests.



Kimpston, a personal trainer by trade, will be leading the hike – ruck – along the trails at The Homestead, the Bay View Trail and the Heritage Trail. The 75-minute ruck will cover between two and a half and three miles.

Other activities and classes at the event include on-site sauna sessions and cold dips, guided Vinyasa yoga and Ayurveda in practice, which emphasizes good health and prevention of illness through lifestyle practices such as massage, meditation, yoga, diet and nutrition and the use of herbal remedies.

Among the sponsors of the event is Table Health. Dr. Jill Butryn, owner of the health practice, says her practice embraces the concepts espoused by the collective. "We support the Leelanau Wellness Collective and other wellness groups" that emphasize preventative and holistic health practices, she says.

Butryn believes that being pro-active when it comes to health is better than reacting when feeling ill. That can and does include the likes of nutrition, yoga, and other practices and remedies beyond those used in Western medicine. "Traditionally, physicians have not embraced the wellness community. We do. There are a lot of paths to health."

"When I was in med school, if it was not conventional, it was woo woo. As I got older, that did not make sense. The healthiest (people) are those getting the right sleep, movement, getting outside, (with) relationships and social interaction," she says.

Rather than a traditional medical office that takes insurance and charges co-pays, Table Health relies on a membership model. Its medical providers, which include several doctors as well as a therapist, massage therapist and dietician, who all work with the pa-

tients – the members – to optimize their health as well as treating them when they are unwell.

Which again plays into the options offered by the Leelanau Wellness Collective, and those available at the summit. Palms says the day is designed to be spacious and flexible, allowing attendees to move at their own pace, with open hours in the morning and afternoon and a midday break for lunch and rest.

The summit is a ticketed event, and many of the classes and activities can be booked in advance. For more information, go to the-lwc.com and scroll down from Classes/Events to Well-Being Summit.



Summit organizer Kat Palms

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Bearberry General store opens in Lake Leelanau

By Ross Boissoneau
Sun contributor

Part gently used, part brand new. Part camping necessities, part office supplies. Part collectibles, part home goods, and all of it at Bearberry General Store.

It's all part of the scene at the store in Lake Leelanau. A store owner Sarah Schultz says she had no interest in starting until opportunity came knocking. "It was Bearberry Vintage," Schultz explains. She was taking items there for resale from her parents' home

after they had passed away when one day the owner told Schultz she was moving to Florida. "Do you want to buy the store?" she asked Schultz.

With a background in retail sales courtesy of her experience at her parents' store downstate, Schultz saw an opportunity to offer items she believed the area could use and without having to drive all the way to Traverse City or wait for an online supplier to deliver. "Everybody misses the Business Helper," she says of the departed arts and crafts and office supply store in Suttons Bay. It offered paints and yarns, pens, pencils, scrapbooking supplies and more, and typically in smaller quantities than a Staples or Meijer.

"I could do envelopes, Sharpies, pens," she thought. She agreed to purchase the store's contents and the landlord agreed to transfer the monthly lease shortly before Thanksgiving, and Schultz opened Bearberry General Store Dec. 1. Following the holiday season, Schultz closed the doors for a month to refurbish and refresh the space.

While Bearberry Vintage focused on used clothing, home goods and other items, Schultz opted to change direction. With Evergreen Consignment across the street and Samaritans Closet nearby, she thought it better to complement those businesses than compete with them. "I changed the emphasis. I thought I'd rather have something else," Schultz says.

She calls the new Bearberry a modern version of an old-fashioned general store, with pet supplies, Darn Tough socks, rugs, coasters, mugs, towels, and other new products, along with a few items recalling its past as a secondhand store. "I still have one room for vintage," she says.

She came to the new Bearberry with

experience gleaned from working for and with her parents, who operated a store much in the same vein. Their Clarkston Country Store Main Street Antiques sold a mix of vintage items, antiques and the typical things you would find in a general store – penny candy, pens and pencils, etc.

She worked at the store, including as a buyer for the store – as a youngster. "They started me helping," she says. The young Schultz began keeping track of the items she was placed in charge of, seeing what sold, where it was from, and began accompanying her parents to gift market shows in Chicago. "It was fun. I was a kid in junior high walking into a booth," she recalls. When the proprietors would ask if they could help her, thinking she had simply wandered off from her parents, she'd ask what the prices were, how many they sold, and other questions that demonstrated she was a serious customer. "I'd rattle off the tax ID number," she says with a laugh.

Fast forward, and as an adult Schultz worked in a variety of settings. She taught at the Leelanau School and was a park ranger on South Manitou Island. She taught downstate before returning to the area and subsequently cleaning out her parents' home before the unexpected return to retail sales.

"The timing was perfect," she says.



Bearberry owner Sarah Schultz

She anticipates a continued shift in stock as summer approaches. "I'll clear out the room with dishes and get in supplies for camping and gifts," says Schultz.

She is clearly enjoying her new/old role, evident in the way she rattles off the products she is stocking. "Dog collars and leashes, they're guaranteed. They're super popular. I've already placed a new order.

"Braided rugs – I've got coasters, trivets and placemats. I got a few braided rugs but I should have ordered double (the number). I got them in on Wednesday, by Friday I only had a couple left."

Throw in the stick candy, stickers, postcards, greeting cards, pillows, tablecloths and remaining vintage items, and it's clear Schultz is working hard to have a bit of most everything on hand to fulfill her customers' needs. After all, what else would one expect in a general store?

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Leelanau Conservancy holds Native Plant Rescue

By Sandra Serra Bradshaw
Sun contributor

In a field filled with roses and lilies, I am a wildflower swaying with the wind. I look at the butterflies befriending the pretty flowers with a tinge of blush on my cheeks. I wonder about the secrets exchanged between them. -Vinitha Dileep

Leelanau County is well-known for its population of earth-caring individuals among its members, and those that care for wildflowers and native growing plants are no exception. The Leelanau Conservancy, the county's land preservation group, started its wildflower/native plant rescue program in the fall of 1999. Its singular purpose is to save native plants, keeping them from bulldozers and from other sources of destruction.

The Conservancy summons volunteers for its annual kick-off at the Old Art Building in Leland on Wednesday, April 15 starting at 10:30 a.m. "The Wildflower Rescue Committee is calling your name," the Conservancy writes on Facebook. "From digging and potting, to helping at the sale, there's a place for you. We're also looking for new rescue sites this season. Come learn, connect, and get involved—then meet us in the woods this spring!"

The annual plant sale on Leland Village Green in Leland is Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23. The sale begins at 9 am each day. Expect to find lots of beautiful Leelanau wildflowers for your own garden and do go early as many plants sell out quickly.

Each spring, as delicate wildflowers begin to blanket the forest floor, dedicated volunteers head into the Northwoods on a mission: to rescue native plants before they're lost to development. They visit forested sites before roads are constructed along with future driveways before they're paved and build sites before they're dug. And all along, they search for plants at risk of destruction. These delicate ephemerals are dug up at just the right time, as they emerge so quickly and so quickly fade off. The plants removed from harm's way, carefully re-potted, and given new homes at the annual plant sale.

Then, in May, gardening volunteers will delight in finding lots of beautiful Leelanau wildflowers, like trillium and jack-in-the-pulpit and other native plants. On the day of a dig, they meet at 9:15 am at Leland Village Green for location assignments from the committee members. Digs are tentatively scheduled for Monday, Wednesday & Fridays between April 25-May 20, and of course, weather dependent.



"Our Wildflower Rescue program is one of those efforts that really connects people to conservation in a hands-on way," said Brigid Driscoll, communications director at the Conservancy. "When a development site is cleared, native plants that took decades to establish can disappear in an afternoon, and that's a loss that's hard to recover from," she said.

"We're always on the lookout for dig sites where wildflowers and other native species are at risk of being bulldozed. If someone knows of a site, a new construction project, or a land clearing, please, we want to hear about it. Every rescue is a chance to preserve a piece of Leelanau's natural world and give those plants a future."

The wildflower rescue focuses primarily on the woodland or shade plants that are found in our hardwood forests.

"Any plants protected by Michigan Law are legally dug with permission of the property owner," said Driscoll. "We do not dig rare or endangered plants, and all plants are inspected by the State Ag Dept. for disease. We go into a site before the roads are constructed, the driveway is built, or building site dug, and we take the plants."

It's important to note that the property owner's wishes are respected and plants that will not be destroyed are left on site intact. The wildflower volunteers dig in the spring and fall, which are the best times for the survival of these mostly delicate plants. The group usually digs on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in the morning, for about an hour each session. If need be, they can work around equipment and work demands as deemed necessary. The conservancy always goes as a group and only after receiving a signed permission agreement with the property owner. This releases the owner from any liability.

Many of these lovingly rescued plants have been donated to public gardens such as the Old Settlers Park in Glen Arbor, the Leland Children's Center, the Old Art Building in Leland, Munson Hospice House in Traverse City, and the Leland Village Green. The rest of the plants are potted and sold to

raise money for the on-going maintenance of the Leland Village Green.

The Leland Village Green, located in the village of Leland on Main Street, is across from the Leland Post Office. Originally this now restored piece of property was once the parking for the Manitou Island Ferries that departs from nearby Fishtown to the Manitou Islands. When the land was offered for sale, there was a proposal to erect a hotel. Next, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Smith, who eventually purchased the parcel, had considered developing the property into a shopping complex of perhaps 20-30 shops. Concern was expressed by the community that the peaceful atmosphere of Leland was being eroded by "injudicious development."

The New York Times in August 1988 reflected on the rapid commercial changes taking place in this quiet Great Lakes village. *The Times* wrote: "Most days, by late in the morning Leland, a 100-year-old eyeblink of a place nestled between 'the little lake' (18-mile-long Lake Leelanau) and the big one (Lake Michigan), is usually awash in visitors, many arriving in cars, others pouring off tour buses, a sea of pastels and baggy shorts, autofocus cameras in hand."

At this time, the Leelanau Conservancy, which had been recently founded by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Collins of Leland in 1988, approached Mr. Smith. He was sympathetic to the idea of preserving the land as green space and offered to sell the land along with two adjacent parcels totaling one acre to the Leelanau Conservancy. This at the cost of only his investment and Mr. Smith kindly allowing time for the conservancy to raise the necessary funds. An intensive fundraising campaign was immediately initiated and donations received enabled the purchase of the property for \$460,000.

The Leelanau Conservancy finalized the purchase and preserved this, its first green sanctuary, in 1990. Many supporters and community members far and wide contributed toward the purchase of the property and then through the years further enhancement and maintenance of this special sense of community place.

If you would like to get involved with Wildflower Rescue, please contact the Leelanau Conservancy office: 231-256-9665 or email Lindy Kellogg, Events and Volunteer Manager at lkellogg@leelanauconservancy.org.



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Devouring Time: a consuming biography of a northern Michigan legend

By Tim Mulherin
Sun contributor

“Devouring Time, blunt thou the lion’s paws” – William Shakespeare, Sonnet 19

It takes nerve to write a biography about such a revered, almost mythological northern Michigan writer as Jim Harrison. Kudos to Todd Goddard for taking on such an important project for posterity with sensitivity, level appreciation, and a North Star dedication to accurately portraying this gigantic personality and prolific writer of master works of poetry and fiction.

As well, it takes some daring to share one’s impression of the Harrison biography, if I do say so myself. I’ve long been a fan of Harrison’s work. I’m in awe of his vast intellect and artistic range, his turn-of-phrase genius and ability to connect so deeply with his ardent readership.

In *Devouring Time: Jim Harrison, a Writer’s Life*, Harrison’s personal story parallels the chronological progression of his canon. Yet even a book as heavily researched as *Devouring Time*, supported by extensive primary and secondary research and its warts-and-all storytelling, cannot possibly reveal the full essence of its subject. The inner space of humanity has an unknowable dimension. Nonetheless, Goddard unpacks a plausible portrayal, which makes the book a worthy read for Harrison fans. There is not much terribly new revealed here, especially for those of us who are well acquainted with his books and articles that advanced his celebrity.

I’ve read every one of Harrison’s

books, some twice; one, *The English Major*, three times (perhaps because I’m one). And reading is as close as I got: I never met the man in person. Which means I never had a drink with him, though I certainly would have welcomed the chance to belly up to the Bluebird bar and be regaled by the legendary northern Michigan bard. Never went trout fishing with him. That likely wouldn’t have happened anyway, as Harrison preferred the more romantic pursuit of flyfishing to that of my everyman baitcasting.

What’s more, obviously, I never had the pleasure of being in Harrison’s orbit of friends in high places, the likes of actor Jack Nicholson, novelist Tom McGuane, and chef Mario Batali. What great—and most likely sinfully excessive—adult fun that would have been. Although summary treatments are provided by Goddard, most of what happened in those merrymaking events remains known only to the participants. There is something to be said for that.

When I was bartending in the late ‘70s and throughout the ‘80s, if someone took a photo in the bar—note that dim settings require flashes—the whole barroom instantly ground to a momentary halt. The sacrilegious offender was then met with icy stares. (Today, photo documentation of nights out is practically an expectation.) Similarly, regarding the development of a biography, I contend that some things really are better left unsaid, a lesson not well understood these days.

Goddard necessarily spends considerable time highlighting Harrison’s relationship with drugs (quitting cocaine at the age of 50), alcohol (an addiction



which, as documented, clearly contributed to his demise), food (Harrison’s 37-course gastronome’s dream in Burgundy, France, in 2004, covered in detail by the 2017 book *A Really Big Lunch*, says it all) and philandering (which had been no closely held secret, though the frequency of his while-married dalliances, as put forth in the book, came as a surprise). Yet, there is an intriguing relative silence regarding his vices from the women in his immediate circle.

His deceased wife, Linda, noted as a very private person, was quoted sparingly compared to many of the other main characters. Harrison’s assistant, Joyce Harrington Bahle, comes up in the book now and then, though not as often as expected given her central role in Harrison’s writing production and in managing his business and sometimes personal affairs. And his daughters, Jamie and Anna, are generally rather reticent about Harrison living so close to the edge with his substance abuse and gluttony.

Although I found myself clamoring for more from them all—inquiring minds want to know—upon finishing the book, I accepted what was offered without any complaint. A certain discretion can be added by subtraction in biographical undertakings, as *Devouring Time* exemplifies.

Harrison’s familial female coterie provided steady emotional support to a profoundly talented writer and just as flawed man. Without them, it seems certain that his exquisite, prolific output would never have been as considerable as it was. It also leaves me wondering, as a local bookstore owner once mentioned to me, what further genius might have been shared with the world had he not been such a heavy drinker.

On this point, I have some personal and professional insight to offer. There is something liberating about over-indulgence, especially for younger writers and artists whose bodies and brains can take the punishment, that can mysteriously and positively con-

tribute to a creative effort. However, it’s a grace that comes at a cost.

For male Harrison fans of my age—boomers, a generation that is slowly passing from this Earth—he was definitively and imperfectly a “man’s man.” For example, in promoting his first work of fiction, *Wolf* (1971), the publisher, Simon & Schuster “described the novel as being told from the vantage point of ‘one of the last male chauvinists of his time.’” Even back then, such openly sexist writing, though brilliantly and often humorously told, was slowly turning toward being thought of as passe by a more judgmental and enlightened society.

Although equality is a proper ambition for all of humanity to share in, I submit that the inability to laugh at ourselves and our faults—a unifying mechanism—is sadly being victimized nowadays in the process. Harrison understood the risk in being so plainspoken and bawdy. I love him for it yet today.

Two of his most frequently appearing protagonists in his novellas, *Brown Dog*, the generous-to-a-fault, alcohol-loving outdoorsman, a half Finn/half Michigan Chippewa Indian, and Detective Sunderson, a retired Michigan State Police gumshoe from the Upper Peninsula, were easily and unrepentantly enchanted by women. I can’t help but laugh out loud when reading their unlikely encounters of the amorous kind. Harrison deeply understood the landscape of the male mind, including its most primitive side, its drive and appetites.

Yet writing the novel *Dalva* (1988) and its follow-up, the sweeping *The Road Home* (1998), in the remarkably convincing voice of his lead female character, fooled all his critics who accused him of sexism in his writing, of which Harrison was firmly unapologetic. He had a story to tell and knew how to get there.

The poet/novelist/novella virtuoso/essayist spoke to me in all these varied genres that framed his creative thinking. He movingly conveyed his abiding affection for the outdoors. Fascination with songbirds. Desire for solitude. Reverence for trout streams and their creatures. Fondness for upland game hunting with a loyal bird dog and a good friend. Mixed yet entirely compatible sense of Buddhist/Christian/Animist spirituality. Appreciation of cocktail-inspired conversation. Gut-busting sense of humor. Intolerance for fools. And an awe of the universe and how he miraculously happened to show up in it.

You can’t get that unique package just anywhere. It has to be Harrison.

See JIM HARRISON on page 9



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Journey in photos: Glen Arbor digs out of epic March snowstorm



JIM HARRISON
continues from page 8

Pondering the Harrison biography calls to mind a personal anecdote. My Great Uncle George’s man cave in Paterson, New Jersey, had an irresistible aura about it, especially for a 10-year-old boy. (Aside from William Carlos Williams’ epic poem of the same name, perhaps Paterson is most famous for the Passaic Falls murder scene in *The Sopranos*.) It was there, on steamy summer afternoons in the mid-sixties, where I would settle in front of the industrial-sized window fan and eagerly peek at my uncle’s stack of men’s adventure magazines like *Argosy* and the more titillating *True Men* with its curvaceous, Nazi-enslaved or under-wild-animal-attack innocent women on the cover, desperate for rescue. I didn’t yet understand male adult yearnings then, but they were certainly beginning to stir.

On the wall facing my chair was a large chromolithographic print of “Custer’s Last Fight,” painted in 1884 by Cassilly Adams. For years, Anheuser-Busch distributed the Battle of the Little Bighorn print to bars across the country, up until the early seventies. Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer is heroically depicted as the last white man standing in his glorious going out while the dead and the mortally wounded are being summarily scalped. As 19th century

western America historians have noted, Adams took some painterly liberties in depicting that historically fraught moment. Yet it fired my young imagination.

I’m certain that the enigmatic Jim Harrison, who viscerally and artfully understood what made men tick, would get a kick out of that painting and my uncle’s men-only (and men-in-the-making-only) sanctum. In writing about such a setting, he would have had a field day with it.

Goddard’s discerning, probing-as-needed biography of arguably Michigan’s foremost man of letters—certainly Leelanau County’s—a literary contribution that Harrison’s readers will want on their bookshelf, may well spark similar uniquely personal associations. Such was the power of Harrison’s pen.

Whether relating his insatiable hunger for earthly delights through his male characters or surprising us with his Dalva-esque understanding of the female perspective, this much is certain: Damn, Jim Harrison could write.

Tim Mulherin’s latest book is This Magnetic North: Candid Conversations on a Changing Northern Michigan. He is currently writing a book on Michigan and Indiana wildlife.

Visit GlenArbor.com to read “Devouring Jim Harrison,” our interview with Harrison biographer Todd Goddard, which published in November 2025 in the *Sun*.

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SAUNA*continues from page 1*

Michigan Sauna Club that winter, followed by many trips back and forth from Grand Rapids to bask in scantily clad weekend hangs with new friends up here. I made it my mission to eventually move up to the Leelanau, with the intent of building saunas up here.

I was in the early stages of developing a business, when COVID hit. Then it seemed like overnight “sauna” became the new buzz-word. I wondered if it was some embellished Baader-Meinhof phenomenon that I was noticing this increase due to my own intense interest, but sure enough the past few years have proven that the mirror was outward-facing.

Mobile and public/commercial saunas have become a mainstay throughout North America and popularity is surging globally for this ancient form of connection. It’s not some gimmick or a “biohack” that fell from an influencer’s lap, and people are beginning to recognize that for themselves. I suppose I’m not surprised then, that the pulse has returned to the heartbeat that created it.

Sun: What did you learn from the inaugural Sauna Fest last year? What will be different this time around?

Borza: Nick Olson and I spearheaded the first Michigan Sauna Fest against the better recommendations of mostly everyone we consulted. We decided to create this from scratch, with limited prior experience, in few months’ time. We were eager to bring it to life, and had to navigate a lot of legal and logistical novelty regarding permits, ticketing, website design, insurance and so on. Many times we had to convince ourselves to just keep going, and that it would all work out. It

was hundreds of hours of excitement paired with uncertainty. We did not have our final permits approved by the Traverse City board until two weeks before the event, and I was weary to sell tickets or even get the word out until we knew with certainty that it was happening. People showed up by the hundreds, on a frigid weekend in February/March and fully embraced the nine mobile saunas gathered at Clinch Park. We were sold out for every session, and it was evident that Michigan had some diehard sauna folk willing to embrace the elements. However, our music and entertainment tent pavilion, along with the food trucks and other free public events were not as well-supported. Weather played a major factor in that—and in our decision to “simplify” and move the event to mid-April this year, in hopes that winter would be less of a hindrance to the social side of the gathering.

Expect more saunas, a centralized social area in the marina parking lot, and some great giveaways—including two brand new sauna stoves from the nation’s oldest sauna stove manufacturer Nippa Sauna Stoves, based right here in Beulah.

Sun: Tell us about spring saunas vs winter saunas? How does the experience differ?

Borza: It seems like this year is waiting to tell us all that answer. Is it done being winter yet? Don’t get me wrong, there is no confusing that most people associate sauna with a winter activity. April was not the preferred month on our poll for dates. We come out of hibernative states, thirsting to move on to the next thing. In most places, that makes sense. Here, in Northern Michigan, winter seems to linger in our bones, even only if the sun dips behind the clouds for what



A backyard sauna deep in the woods of Leelanau County, near the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

seems like a decade of minutes. Water has resolve, and no one will dare tell Lake Michigan to warm to our standards. So here we are, at the boundary of what we think should happen, and what is. Sauna in the spring is a remembering that transitions in the north take time, and often need a little coaxing, as we all do, into that next phase.

Sun: You’re a caretaker on a remote island in Lake Michigan, right? Yet you’re a fixture around Leelanau County, and show up at all the great events, including Empire Winterfest and Beryl Days. So where do you actually live? (Do you have a doppelganger?)

Borza: That seems to be an existential question these days. I left a career in Grand Rapids as a science teacher in 2019 and moved to Leelanau County in search of a dream. A dream that included finding a home up here, and settling into this land that fascinated me viscerally since looking out over Lake Michigan from its shores. I guess you could say I’m still dreaming, somewhere out there.

The reality is I’ve spent the last seven years sleeping in every quiet nook and side-street from Northport to Frankfort, living out of a 1980s camper, that finally gave out on me this Winter. I have many friends that have taken me in over the years, when the wood-stove could not keep. That’s probably why I’m kind of ‘everywhere’ on my time on the mainland. I suppose that how dreams work—you have to navigate these unknowns and build them into a reality.

Sun: What can you tell us about the barge project? What are your goals for this, and how soon?

Borza: Yup. I bought “The Barge”—and thought that if I did it quietly and unassumingly, without public spectacle, that I could navigate all the politics that came with it. The vision has been to create a floating sauna platform, open to the public, that would allow access to our Great Lakes, even in the winter months. The idea was well-received by local marinas and partners that encouraged moving forward with the plan.

We took a massive gamble and had it re-floated, removed the unsightly crane that had dominated its back-story for years, and had it moved to temporary safe location—but I also quickly realized that many here hold onto history as if it is a beacon for the past. The goal to have it dry-docked, inspected, and begin work to ensure its structural integrity and worthiness for a public space has received significant push-back from the boatyards and communities with the power to help. While I want to remain tactful and go at this behind the scenes, it may be time for resurfacing its past, publicly, in order to make a breakthrough. Alternatively, I could solve my housing dilemma and finally have some lakefront property?

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YOUTH FOR CHRIST

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VanSteenhouse, known as the “Bear Man” for surviving a grizzly attack in the Canadian wilderness a decade ago—which he credited to divine intervention—retired from a lucrative banking career and launched Bear Man Ministries. He built a luxury home in Leland in 2018. Apollos Properties applied to Leland Township in Fall 2025 for a land use application to convert the north side of the downtown building, which VanSteenhouse acquired for \$1.2 million, into a religious youth activity “clubhouse.” Leelanau Lighthouse, the Cramers’ local Youth for Christ chapter, began using the space for a ministry in February 2025. The location overlooks the Leland harbor and the Fishtown shanties—a prime tourism draw during the summer months, when thousands flock to Carlson’s Fishery and catch ferry rides to the Manitou Islands.

“We believe that [Fishtown Preservation Society] may have, perhaps unintentionally, misled the Assessor and the Township when it initially applied for its property tax exemption. And FPS has certainly failed to advise the Assessor as its expanding commercial and economic development activity on its tax-exempt parcels,” White’s letter states. “We do not believe that FPS is properly considered a ‘charitable institution’ under MCL 211.70, and that even if it were a ‘charitable institution’ it is not eligible for a property tax exemption under MCL 211.70 because it leases a number of parcels out to for-profit businesses and operates a short-term vacation rental business out of another. Therefore, we believe that the Assessor and/or Board of Review should review and revoke all of FPS’s property tax exemptions.”

White offered no comment when reached by the *Glen Arbor Sun*.

Fishtown, community opposition to youth ministry

David Burkhardt, chair of Fishtown Preservation Society’s (FPS) board of directors, sent a letter to the Leland Township Planning Commission on Dec. 2, 2025, opposing Apollos’ bid for a special land use permit for the ministry.

“The character and use of the neighboring properties in a manner that will safeguard Fishtown’s economic vitality and support the commercial and tourism-based environment on which Leland depends are important to the success of our mission,” wrote Burkhardt. “We express no opinion regarding the religious beliefs, advocacy, or programming of the applicant or its tenant or their relevance to the grant of the requested permit. But we are concerned about the effect of that

action as it relates to zoning integrity, historic district protection, and the land use compatibility that the Planning Commission is required to protect. It should be noted that the proposed ‘clubhouse’ is located within the State- and federally-recognized Leland Historic District.

“A significant part of FPS’ earned revenue is from rentals received from tenants operating retail outlets in our shanties. Adaptive reuse of its properties is an accepted source of revenue for a nonprofit preservation organization. These mom and pop enterprises are dependent upon a strong flow of pedestrian traffic, and their success is closely linked to that of the Main Street merchants in ‘downtown Leland’. Any erosion of the retail commercial operations in either of these locations would be likely to adversely affect the other.”

Leland school parents and local businesses have also opposed a youth ministry in harbor square overlooking Fishtown—both at public hearings and in letters to the Township.

A Memorandum of Concern sent on Nov. 28, 2025, and signed by more than two dozen Leland business owners stated: “We are aware of, and support, numerous citizen letters that express a deep commitment to preserving Leland’s C-1 district as a retail area-with pedestrian-oriented continuity and irreplaceable small-town character. We are also aware of, and support, those citizen letters that state the fact that Youth for Christ is an international organization, not a ‘club’.”

The memorandum specifically referenced a white paper by Bart Skorupa entitled “Youth for Christ as a Chain-Scale Operator: Risks for Leland.”

FPS offered the following statement to the Sun on March 14, in response to VanSteenhouse’s lawyers’ letter questioning its tax-exempt status:

“Fishtown Preservation Society stands by the submissions we have already made to the Leland Township Planning Commission. Our position is that this is fundamentally a zoning issue, and we oppose the Apollos Group’s application for a Special Use Permit under the current C-1 zoning rules. We are aware of an attempt by Jim VanSteenhouse to persuade the Leland Township Assessor to revoke the property tax exemptions previously granted to Fishtown Preservation Society. We are confident that those exemptions were granted in compliance with applicable law and do not expect any changes.”

Planning Commission vote expected on April 15

New “findings of fact” from outside legal counsel are expected prior to the April 15 Planning Commission

meeting. Those findings are expected to come from Tom Grier of Running Wise & Ford.

The Commission, led by new chairperson Lee Cory, requested additional legal advice following the body’s Feb. 18 meeting, during which she and other commissioners took issue with the initial findings of fact detailed in a memo that Brad Wierda, a lawyer at Traverse City’s Smith & Johnson Attorneys, prepared for Leland Township. In that memo, Wierda highlighted Apollos’ First Amendment concerns and found that a Youth for Christ ministry would fit Leland’s zoning definition as a “club.”

Some community members who spoke on Feb. 18 in opposition to YFC’s downtown youth ministry opined that Wierda, who prepared the Township’s initial legal brief, was biased and shouldn’t have been given the assignment. They pointed to Wierda’s resume as an alum of Calvin College, a private Christian school in Grand Rapids, and a former school board member at Traverse City Christian Schools—as evidence that he was too close to Youth for Christ.

Commissioners in February voted

4-1 in favor of postponing their decision on Youth for Christ’s special use permit for a downtown ministry until April 15. (The March meeting was canceled due to a late winter snowstorm.)

Planning Commission meetings have been held these first three months of the year at Northport High School auditorium to accommodate large and impassioned crowds.

Cory told the *Sun* she expects the Planning Commission to hold their vote on Wednesday, April 15. The meeting is scheduled for 6 pm in Northport.

FILMS

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holder after-parties at local breweries, outdoor tours, student film showcases, and two evening galas at the City Opera House—including the Michigan premiere of the Mary Oliver documentary *Saved by the Beauty of the World* (May 2) and the northern Michigan premiere of *Listers: A Glimpse Into Extreme Birdwatching* (May 1).

Learn more and buy tickets at TC.FreshCoastFilm.com.

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20
26

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NORTHPORT ARTS ASSOCIATION

2026 CALENDAR of EVENTS

| | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------|---|
| 4/14 - 4/24 | Robert Bayer Photography | 7/18 | Gene Rantz Memorial Plain Air Wet Paint Sale 6-9pm |
| 4/30 | FREE Open House, 3-6pm with Connected by Cause (NPS) | 7/19 - 8/8 | Gene Rantz Memorial Plain Air Exhibit |
| 5/1 - 5/10 | Connected by Cause (NPS) | 8/15 | Harbor of Creativity Invitational Opening Reception 5-7pm |
| 5/23 | FREE Northport Photo Exhibit, Opening Reception 5-7pm | 8/16 - 9/12 | Harbor of Creativity Exhibit |
| 5/24 - 6/13 | Northport Photo Exhibit | Sept | FREE Say It Out Loud |
| 6/20 | FREE Members Exhibit Opening Reception 5-7pm | 10/3 | Annual Meeting 4-5pm |
| 6/21 - 7/11 | Members Exhibit | 10/3 | 10 Years in Place Shape, Form & Light |
| 6/27 | FREE Say It Out Loud | FREE | Opening Reception 5-7pm |
| 7/17 & 7/18 | Gene Rantz Memorial Plain Air Paint Out | 10/4 - 10/31 | 10 Years in Place Exhibit |
| 7/18 | Kids Plain Air & Celebration! | 11/28 | FREE Holiday Arts & Crafts 10am - 5pm |


OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Summer Hours: May 1 thru Sept 12 Tues - Sun 12-4pm

FREE Monday Night Figure Drawing 6:30-8:30pm
FREE Third Thursday Art Nights 6:30-8:30pm
FREE Monday Paint Studio 9am -12pm
Creative Workshops & Presentations
Summer Kids Camp & Teen Clay Studio


NorthportArtsAssociation.org
301 N. Mill St. Northport, MI
A Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization



Grand Traverse Lighthouse By Lynn Anderson



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Community Action for Clean Energy

Discounted Solar for Everyone!

Leelanau Energy, in partnership with the Groundwork Center, is hosting a solar discount purchasing program for Leelanau county.

We offer a 15% discount on your solar purchase. Organizations still enjoy a 30% or greater federal credit as well *


Learn more about the **Access MI Solar** program at these community meetings:

- * **Tuesday May 12, Leland Township Public Library, 4:30 pm**
- * **Wednesday May 13, Glen Lake Community Library, 4:30 pm**

<https://www.leelanauenergy.org/access-mi-solar-2026>

* Don't delay, deadline for action is May 31, 2026

* Federal tax credits for RESIDENTIAL solar ended 12/31/25, those for eligible ORGANIZATIONS still active.





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35TH *Anniversary*

HOT PICK DRAWINGS

Sunday, May 24 • 9AM – 2PM

Play with your Grand Rewards Players Club card on table games or slots for a chance to be one of 21 winners of \$35 Rewards Play!

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Take a picture in front of our selfie station located in front of the video wall and post on our social page using #LegacyOfLuck for a chance to win:

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\$35 Rewards Play

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