



Not Just a Fishy Face

Four new businesses open in Honor

By Susan Koenig

Current Contributor

From car repair to art, the Village of Honor has added four new businesses and revitalized some of the older ones.

It is easy to zip through this small town on your way to Traverse City and points beyond, but it is more advisable to stop and have a look. With just over half of a square mile in total area, Honor has long been known as the “home of the Coho salmon.” In fact, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the annual Coho Festival, which takes place at the end of August. The village of 328 souls was incorporated in 1895 and named for an early (white) settler, Honor Griffin.

Honor has drawn anglers from around the world to fish the clear waters of the Platte River and Lake Michigan in pursuit of the big fish. In recent years, however, the vagaries of economics have not been good to the area, and the town has appeared a bit run down, with old decrepit buildings in full view and not much going on. All that is changing, however, and the town seems to be entering into a kind of Renaissance.

“I am so pleased to see people coming in with creative [business] ideas and making something work,” says Bill Ward, president of the Village of Honor.

New In The Village

On a recent visit to Honor to check out the new enterprises—all located on the north side of the street, between the Honor Bank and the Post Office—here is what I found, to my surprise.

I parked on the side street (Henry), across from the bank, and noticed flowers and benches on the corner, attractively lining the block in front of the **Iron Horse Auto and Small Engine Repair** shop—an outdoor landscape that seemed a bit unusual for that kind of business, so I walked in and found the owner, Gary Taylor.

Taylor came to Honor from Traverse City two years ago, and, he admits, it was not so hard for him to start a business here, because most of his customers followed him from Grand Traverse County to Benzie. Ladies, as well as gentlemen, will love this place, because it is not “just” a repair shop. Imagine waiting for your vehicle, while surrounded by flowers and watching the world outside go by, but here is the other surprise: Gary’s wife has added a charmingly eclectic, ruggedly feminine room, including an array of chic T-shirts, a wall of stylish hats, and even jewelry, for wearing while you are riding your Harley or just going out. The space makes it fun



Jim and Susan Johnson, who recently opened Jim’s Joint BBQ in downtown Honor. Photo by Susan Koenig.

to shop while you wait!

Gary Taylor is really busy, so make sure to call ahead for an appointment 231-735-3774, but do not hesitate to drop in and see what else is going on.

Around the corner, on Main Street, I walked into **Jim’s Joint BBQ** and was greeted enthusiastically by the owners, Jim and Susan Johnson, the kind of people who make you feel at home immediately. This lively, brand-new “joint” has, according to Susan, a “fast casual” eat-in or to-go style, and by the time that you have ordered and taken your drinks from the cooler, you are ready to go. Unpretentious, clean, and inviting, the restaurant boasts excellent pork, beef, and chicken barbecue, Philly steaks, grilled flatbread sandwiches (including veggie), salads, and soups. It is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and closed Sundays.

The Johnsons hail from the Holt, Michigan, area but have been coming to their cottage in Honor for 33 years.

“We worked downstate,” Jim remarks. “But we always felt that we lived here... now work is a lot easier, because when we go home, we are where we want to be. We feel honored to be in Honor!”

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Weaving Community Together

Grow Benzie’s MIFiberShed

By Nicole L. Bates

Current Contributor

Have you ever thought about where your clothing comes from? Really thought about it? “Made in China.” Made in the Philippines.” “Made in Mexico.”

Or thought about where your clothes go when you are finished with them—you gain weight, you lose weight, your teenage son grows six inches in a year, or you just can no longer rock that neon pink leotard that got you so many compliments in the ’80s.

Sure, some of these items can be donated to Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN), Love Inc., or Goodwill. But what about those items that simply cannot be donated—the severely out of style, the ones that have holes or are stained—where do those items go? If you are like most Americans, they probably end up in a landfill.

Now there is another option in Benzie County, however, and it has many crafters, fiber artists, and thrifty used-clothing connoisseurs quite excited.

The Grow Benzie MIFiberShed, located in the blue pole barn building behind Grow Benzie, celebrated its grand opening last month. Visitors can buy new-to-them used garments, as well as donate their old garments.

“Our goal is to eliminate fiber waste, in all its forms, through redistribution and recycling,” says Emily Votruba, founder and visionary behind MIFiberShed.

The Fibershed Concept

A lot of time and energy, not to mention documentary filmmaking, has gone into

the “local” idea when it comes to our food-production cycle—there is increasing awareness that food is fresher, tastes better, and has a lower carbon footprint when it comes from nearby.

Over the past few years, though, there has been added interest in creating local economies around clothing, garments, and textiles, as well.

The invisible circle that we can draw around where our garments come from has been coined the “fibershed” concept. Similar to the concept of a “watershed,” a fibershed is a geographical destination. At the center of this land-based idea is the core belief that keeping things as local as possible—



Cool gear that you can buy!!! (Well, you can’t actually buy the Detroit Lions hat, because it already sold.) Photo courtesy of Grow Benzie MIFiberShed.

from growth, to production, to distribution of fiber goods—is key to creating sustainable communities.

The idea of a sustainable clothing cycle is a bit different than a sustainable food cycle, however. With food, the entire process can begin and end in the same area, without any outside influence. In the fiber cycle, much of the material will enter the area from outside sources, but the hope is that those materials will be reused in the local area, rather than be thrown away.

In September 2014, Votruba participated in the inaugural Fiber Arts Weekend, with a panel discussion at Interlochen Center for the Arts that focused on the impact of fiber production and the birth-to-death cycle of fiber products. There have been three Fiber Weekends thus far, and last year, the

documentary film *The True Cost* was shown. The film asks what is the price—ecologically, socially, holistically—for our disposable clothing culture? For instance, almost 80 billion pieces of new clothing are purchased each year around the globe, and about 82 pounds per person ends up in the landfill. (For more, see a previous article from *The Betsie Current* last fall on this topic.)

Influenced by Carol Laughing Waters—a handweaver, natural-plants dyer, and founder of the Leelanau FiberShed Guild—as well as the folks behind Crosshatch Fiber Guild West Bay, the Grow Benzie MIFiberShed and the MIFiber Guild hope to keep the entire process local, fair trade, and environmentally responsible in the Benzie County area.

The founders of the MIFiberShed project also hope for this location to be a place where crafters and fiber artists can find low-cost materials to experiment with, as well as like-minded people with whom they can trade ideas.

“We’d like to become a resource, a low-stakes way for people to experiment with fiber and craft projects,” Votruba says.

How Does It Work?

MIFiberShed accepts donations of fiber scraps, clothing, thread, yarn, lace, and fibercraft tools. For every pound of items donated, you will receive one fibercredit. These fibercredits can then be used to purchase items at the MIFiberShed at a rate of one fibercredit per pound of material. In other words, one pound in equals one pound out.

Shoppers are welcome, with or without donations or credits. One pound of material can be purchased for five dollars, cash or check, and

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Maria Blazejewski: Pro Baller

Questions & Answers with community faces

At one point or another, it may be every tiny athlete's dream to play professional sports when he or she grows up. But most kids eventually come to grips with reality and grow out of this phase—not Maria Blazejewski, 26, originally from Beulah, who now plays professional basketball abroad.

Blazejewski graduated from Benzie Central High School in 2009 as an all-state basketball player and soccer goalie, then went off to study exercise science at Lake Superior State University, where she was a four-year starter on the basketball team, a three-year All-Conference player, and named Lake State's senior athlete of the year. This really should come as no surprise, given that she comes from a basketball family: her older sister, Meredith (BCHS class of 2003), was also all-state in basketball and played during all four years at Adrian College, while her dad, Mark, just retired from 30 years of teaching and coaching—both track and girls basketball—at BCHS, and he also played basketball for LSSU, from 1974-1978. (His 1975-1976 team was inducted into the LSSU Hall of Fame last fall.)

During her senior year in college, Maria Blazejewski was averaging 17.8 points and 6.5 rebounds per game. Since graduating in 2013, the 6-foot-1-inch forward has played basketball professionally for three and a half seasons—in the Czech Republic, Germany, Luxemburg, Puerto Rico, and Portugal, most recently.

Each team internationally is only allowed so many Americans or foreign players, which makes it very competitive; many European countries have multiple leagues at varying levels, which makes European teams a bit easier to get on. While waiting for the right offer to come along to play overseas, Blazejewski worked as an assistant strength and conditioning coach in the fall of 2013 at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. She began playing in the Czech Republic at the start of 2014, playing the second half of the season for Karlovy Vary, a team in the Czech Republic's top league, then she returned for a full season in 2014-2015 (September-May). During the 2015-2016 season (September-May), she played for Bender Baskets Grünberg in the German DBBL North League, where she averaged 14.7 points and 8.1 rebounds per game. After finishing the season in Germany, Blazejewski was contracted by Ezzella Ettelbruck, a team in Luxembourg, for the playoffs of the Luxembourgish league. She averaged 15.5 points and 6.9 rebounds per game as they made it to the semi-finals of the League Championship.

Then, from August through October of 2016, she played on a Puerto Rican team, Lajas Lady Cardinals, in the BSNF league—notably Puerto Rico's only professional women's basketball league—for a condensed season of three games per week for 12 weeks, compared to the nine-month European seasons. There, she averaged 20.7 points, 9.4 rebounds, and 3.0 assists per game, earning selection to BSNF's All-Star Game, where she had 12 points, six rebounds, four assists, and

one steal. At the end of December 2016, she accepted an offer from CAB Madeira of the Portuguese FPB, the country's first league, and played for the remainder of their season, until the beginning of May 2017. This past season, she averaged 18.5 points, six rebounds, and two assists per game, and her team made it to the Final Four of the league play-offs, resulting in a second place finish; she was also named to the All-Star Game, playing on the winning Team Sul (Team South).

Though Blazejewski spends about eight to nine months of the year living and playing abroad, she typically returns to Benzie County

for all five positions on the court. My freshman year, at about 5'8", was spent as the point guard for Benzie's varsity squad. As a sophomore, I was all of a sudden close to 5'11" and, due to that and the positions that we needed to fill that year, I played a lot inside, as a post player. My advice for young people in the area would be: never hold out for a growth spurt or really anything that is out of your control. Use what you have as strengths, and then continue to work on your weaknesses. Prepare and take advantage of playing multiple positions and filling different roles on any team.



Maria Blazejewski wears medals from her All-Star Game win in Portugal, with jerseys from her time spent in the Czech Republic, Germany, Luxemburg, Puerto Rico, and Portugal hanging from the fence behind her. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

CURRENT: What is it like having to negotiate a contract? Do you have an agent, like Jerry Maguire? Do you get free stuff, like shoes?

BLAZEJEWSKI: My agent is the one who negotiates the contracts—she isn't Tom Cruise but still is pretty awesome! We communicate often and always make sure to be on the same page when it comes down to what is negotiated and ultimately included in a contract. As far as free stuff goes, it kind of just depends on the team and league. It's not as much as one would think, mostly sweats, t-shirts, practice gear. The main thing I always make sure to bring back is my uniform.

CURRENT: What are the non-money/stuff-related perks to your job?

BLAZEJEWSKI: This whole experience has really enriched my life and changed my view of the world. I never would have imagined all of

for our beautiful summers of June through August. While she is here, Blazejewski puts her experience and her degree to use—this is the third summer that she has taught classes for female athletes, and she helps out in the community by reffing high school tournaments and shoot-outs.

Continuing with our interview series on impactful Benzie County characters, *The Betsie Current* caught up with Blazejewski at the Benzonia basketball courts.

THE BETSIE CURRENT: How old were you when you first started playing basketball? What got you hooked?

MARIA BLAZEJEWSKI: I was in the gym as young as I can remember, because my father was a basketball coach and my older siblings were on basketball teams. My mom even bought the "Little Tykes Hoop" for the house. My first organized team was in the 4th grade, playing for the Northwest Hoops AAU organization.

CURRENT: We know that you had a growth spurt in high school—from 5'7" your freshman year to 6'0" your senior year. That must have helped your game quite a bit, right? Do you think there is hope for more young people in Benzie County to play sports professionally, or should they be holding out hope for a late growth spurt, too?

BLAZEJEWSKI: I had a pretty major growth spurt between my freshman and sophomore years of high school. Having height in basketball is, of course, never a bad thing. However, what helped the most was the versatility that resulted—I was practicing the skills needed

the places that basketball would take me. Living in another country is extremely eye opening—you experience different cultures, traditions, holidays, food, drink, and just day-to-day life. We usually only get one day off a week, but if there is an off-weekend or time after the season, I make sure to explore new places and travel to other countries. I have met so many people and made wonderful friendships that I never would have had otherwise.

CURRENT: How have you seen your work grow and change? How do you hope that it will continue to grow? What is next?

BLAZEJEWSKI: I now have played many different styles of basketball, for all kinds of coaches; learned new drills and philosophies of the game. I try to use all of that—and the positive and negative experiences—to continue to grow as a player. I am continuing to work on my versatility, and outside game especially, to play for better teams and at a higher level. The mental/sports psychology aspect and needing to perform at a high level consistently is something that I have really worked on and need to continue to focus on.

CURRENT: Is the WNBA in your future? How do you think that playing here would be different than playing abroad?

BLAZEJEWSKI: It would be pretty amazing to reach that level, but, at the moment, I want to continue to move up abroad and really want to win a league championship. It would great to be so close to family and friends, however I would miss the travel and history of places



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CURRENT: What do you miss most about this area while you are away?

BLAZEJEWSKI: What's great about the overseas basketball season is that I can come back to Benzie County in the summer, my favorite time of year here! I miss the beauty, familiar faces, and familiarity the most.

CURRENT: What other things are you involved with in our local community? How did you get involved with them and why are you passionate about these causes?

BLAZEJEWSKI: This is my third summer teaching a six-week-long, two-day-a-week, strength and conditioning clinic that is tailored to female athletes. The classes take place in Chum's Corners at Elite Physical Therapy Sports Performance, where we work on agility, speed, strength, and power. We've had student-athletes from many neighboring schools attend: Benzie, Kingsley, Kalkaska, Glen Lake, TCAPS, and others. Also, I officiate high school basketball summer shootouts and scrimmages, and I provide individual/group basketball-skills training sessions. I'm also going to be helping to run the Elite Basketball Academy at Manton High School on Wednesday mornings later this month; it'll be open to all middle school, high school, and college female basketball players of Northern Michigan through mid-August.

CURRENT: We know that you studied exercise science in college. How does that influence your basketball game? How does it influence your non-basketball work?

BLAZEJEWSKI: My degree and experience working as a strength and conditioning coach have been huge in helping me to prepare for the season and prevent injuries. It also gives me the opportunity to help develop other athletes and see their excitement in accomplishing new things. To our young female athletes, especially, I want them to know that it's a good thing to be confident, strong, and healthy.

CURRENT: What are the biggest challenges and rewards of working and living in Benzie County and in Northern Michigan, in general? What is the best or most rewarding part of your work here?

BLAZEJEWSKI: It's often challenging to train here in the off-season. My resources are more limited, compared to an urban area. I have to really search for open gyms, other people to work out with, and I need serious self-discipline to condition and work on individual skills by myself a lot of the time. However, it's rewarding to then provide young athletes with the opportunities that I never had here—it's rewarding to be an example of working hard to achieve goals and to be able to encourage youth to dream big!

CURRENT: What kind of impact do you think you have been able to have, as a young person, on the community here?

BLAZEJEWSKI: Giving kids the opportunities and knowledge I never had at their age, to grow and excel as an athlete. I think I have shown that being born and raised in a small town is not a limitation. I don't use it as an

excuse, but rather, it's made me realize the importance of out-working others, being self-motivated, and not giving up. The community has also impacted me—I have always received so much support from teachers, coaches, friends, and others from Benzie County.

CURRENT: What could Northern Michigan do to attract more talented young people back to this area?

BLAZEJEWSKI: By doing exactly what you are doing [in *The Betsie Current*]*—*informing our community and others of the life stories of those from the area; covering the success stories and achievements of those who have gone through our schools and lived in this area.

CURRENT: What are your favorite local events and activities? Any favorite dining, recreation, hiking spots?

BLAZEJEWSKI: I love spending time at the beach, on the water, and just outdoors, in general. I never truly realized how amazing this area was until traveling to other places in the world. Our fresh water and the Great Lakes, in general, cannot be beat!

CURRENT: How have you seen Benzie County change since you graduated high school? What are your hopes for the area in the future?

BLAZEJEWSKI: My hope is that we continue to be more open minded to people, cultures, and languages that are different from our own. We need to encourage and provide opportunities for youth to learn about the world and all of the different people that inhabit it. There are many ways of living and viewing things—broaden your horizons and be more accepting and respectful of differences.

CURRENT: What else does Northern Michigan/Benzie County need?

BLAZEJEWSKI: We need to acknowledge and appreciate those who are already so giving of their time, knowledge, and talents, especially for our youth. If it hadn't been for the people who positively influenced me and went out of their way to help me, I probably wouldn't be here today.

Blazejewski's strength and agility classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays at Elite Physical Therapy in Chum's Corners. Classes began June 20 and will continue through August 3; 10-11 a.m. is for junior high athletes, while 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. is for high school athletes. Email mblazejewski4@gmail.com to see if you can still register for the remaining 2017 classes or to get on the email list for the 2018 classes. Meanwhile, Wednesday morning THBA Elite Basketball Academy workouts with Trevor Huffman and Maria Blazejewski will take place at Manton High School on July 19 & 26 and August 2 & 9. Female basketball players 7-9th grades will be from 9-10:40 a.m. (\$15), while 10-12th graders and college players will be from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (\$20). For individual and/or group basketball-training requests and further info, contact via email. To follow Blazejewski's basketball career and find out who she will play for this fall (negotiations are currently ongoing), stay tuned to ScorersFirst.com/Maria-Blazejewski.html or follow her at @mkblaze4 on Instagram, where she posts updates, pictures, live game stream info, and more.

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Mondays

Barre Fusion (Barre + Yoga + Fitness) with Beth at the Oliver Art Center. 770-235-9306. 9-10am.

Circle Time for infants and toddlers at the Benzie Shores District Library at 630 Main Street in Frankfort. Infants and toddlers (+ their parents/caregivers) will have fun rhyming and moving with Miss Char, as well as a focus on repetition. Each week, children build their repertoire of rhymes, both old and new. There is an informal playgroup following Circle Time. 10-11am.

Yoga class for seniors led at no charge by Michelle Leines at The Gathering Place Senior Center. 10579 Main Street in the Honor Plaza. 231-525-0600. 10-11am.

A volunteer will be at the Benzie Shores District Library to repair clothing while you wait. No formal wear or upholstery; no drop-offs. 10:30am-12pm.

Cards at The Gathering Place. We have a dedicated group of card sharks who play Pinochle weekly during lunch, but we aren't limited to Pinochle: grab your friends and join us for euchre, cribbage, and rummy, too! 12-1pm.

Grow Benzie Farmers' Market: Every Monday at 4pm and 5:30pm, there will be free cooking and nutrition-education classes. All are welcome! Fresh vegetables and fruits, baked goods, bread, jam, honey, maple syrup, artisan crafts, and more will be featured at each market! You can also tour our new edible trails and try out mini-golf! The Grill Benzie Food Truck will be there so bring the family for dinner! 5885 Frankfort Highway (M-115) between Benzonia and Frankfort. 3-7pm.

Tuesdays

Sunrise Rotary Club's weekly meetings are over breakfast at the Cold Creek Inn of Beulah. Come join us! 7:30-9am.

Stretch and tone with Jean at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. Email annamallien@gmail.com if interested. 9-10am.

Gentle yoga in the barn at the First Congregational Church of Benzonia. All levels welcome. Donation. 10am.

Technology Tuesday: Benzie Shores District Library in Frankfort offers assistance with technology. Learn how to download ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines to your personal devices. 10am-12pm.

Music by the Melody Makers at The Gathering Place. 10:30am-1:30pm.

Knitting Group at Benzonia Public Library. A "knit-along" project for those who want to work on the same project, or bring your own project if you prefer; we'd love your company! Need help? If you are having troubles with a current project, bring it along and we'll help you get it straightened out. Call Michele at 231-383-5716 with any questions. 1-3pm.

Chair Yoga class for \$5 at The Gathering Place. 3:30-4:30pm.

Yoga with Kari at Pleasant Valley Community Center in Arcadia. Open to all levels; \$13 per session. 231-383-1883. 5:30-7pm.

Yard Yoga with Jenn Ryan at St. Ambrose Cellars. Register via text 231-218-0655. 6-7:30pm.

Steve Fernand plays Ballads a la Bossa at the Cold Creek Inn. 6-9pm.

Wednesdays

Pilates with Anna at the Oliver Art Center. annamallien@gmail.com 9-10am.

Stay Fit with Doris at The Gathering Place. 10-11am.

Fitness Fusion (Yoga + Fitness + Pilates) with Beth at Discover You Yoga & Fitness. 770-235-9306. 10-11:15 am. *

Michigan Legacy Art Park (Crystal Mountain) is offering ATV-riding tours to guests who may be unable to hike the rustic, hilly trails. Tours take place at 10 am on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, from June 21 through August 12. Because seating is limited to five passengers, advanced registration is required for these tours. Tour is free with \$5 admission. 10am-12pm.

Open studio at the Oliver Art Center. Participants are strongly encouraged to become members and to contribute a donation of \$2 per visit. 10am-4pm.

Bingo at The Gathering Place. Cost is \$1 per card or bring a prize. 12:30-1:30pm.

Yoga with Kari at the Oliver Art Center. Open to all levels; \$13 per session. 231-383-1883. 5:30-7pm.

The Storm Riders Cycling Club is rolling through beautiful Benzie County this summer. Join the rides every Wednesday, or just those that you can make! Explore rotating sections of rides around Frankfort and Elberta. Rides will begin and end at Stormcloud Brewing Company, and riders get a discount on their first beer after the ride. No registration; just show up!

Thursdays

Elberta Farmers' Market at the Elberta Pavilion Park. 8 a m - 12:30pm.

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. annamallien@gmail.com 9-10am.

Adult coloring at Benzie Shores District Library. All materials provided. 10-11am.

Bible Study at The Gathering Place. 10-11am.

Bunco at The Gathering Place. 1-2pm.

Computers with Carol at the Darcy Library at 7238 Commercial Street in Beulah. Ask Carol computer-related questions. Read to Rosie, the cute little dog! 1-5pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend Open Clay Studio at the Oliver Art Center, including families! Per 4-visit block (12 hours total, used how you like), \$60 fees cover one adult or one adult and child pair. It can be as fun or focused as a student prefers, and all skill levels should consider taking part. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times in the studio. Price includes: 25 pounds of clay, glaze, and firings. 3:30-6:30pm.

Yoga with Kari at the Ware Farm of Bear Lake. Open to all levels; \$13 per session. 231-383-1883. 4-5:30pm.

Open Mic Night at The Cabbage Shed in Elberta. 8pm.

Fridays

Pilates with Anna at the Oliver Art Center. annamallien@gmail.com 9-10am.

Bunco at The Gathering Place. 9:30-10:30am.

Wii Bowling at The Gathering Place. 1-2pm.

Saturdays

Fitness Fusion (Fitness + Yoga + Pilates) with Beth at the Oliver Art Center. 770-235-9306. 9-10 am.

Body Sculpting on the ball with Deanne at Oliver Art Center. annamallien@gmail.com 9-10 am.

Frankfort Farmers' Market at Open Space Park on Main Street, between 7th & 9th streets, along the beautiful waterfront. 9am-1pm.

Michigan Legacy Art Park's ATV-riding tours. 10am-12pm.

Farmers' Market and Flea Market at the Interlochen Eagles #3503 at 20724 Honor Highway/US-131, three miles west of Interlochen. Consisting of Michigan-grown fruits and veggies, flea marketers, cottage food vendors, artisans, arts & craft vendors, and independent reps. 12-4pm.

Steve Fernand plays Ballads a la Bossa at the Cold Creek Inn. 6-9pm.

*Yoga classes at Discover YOU Yoga and Fitness in Frankfort every day of the week, except Saturday. For a complete schedule and more information on classes and rates, visit discoveryogami.com.

Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre Schedule

All shows at 7 pm.

Tuesday, July 18:	The Merchant of Venice (preview)
Wednesday, July 19:	Coriolanus (preview)
Thursday, July 20:	The Merchant of Venice (opening)
Friday, July 21:	Coriolanus (opening)
Saturday, July 22:	The Merchant of Venice
Sunday, July 23:	Coriolanus
Tuesday, July 25:	The Merchant of Venice
Wednesday, July 26:	Coriolanus
Thursday, July 27:	The Merchant of Venice (closing)
Friday, July 28:	Coriolanus (closing)

ON DECK

Thursday, July 13
Jazz North plays at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Thursday, July 13
Alfredo plays at the Mayfair Tavern in Elberta. 7pm.

Thursday, July 13
Beulah Music in the Park features Rachel B. 7-9pm.

Thursday, July 13
Based in New York City, Mulebone is the musical partnership of multi-instrumentalist John Ragusa and roots-music-specialist Hugh Pool. They perform at Stormcloud Brewing Company in Frankfort. 8-10pm.

cal partnership of multi-instrumentalist John Ragusa and roots-music-specialist Hugh Pool. They perform at Stormcloud Brewing Company in Frankfort. 8-10pm.

Friday, July 14
Alfredo Improv performs at St. Ambrose Cellars. 6-9pm

Friday, July 14
Nick Vasquez plays at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Friday, July 14
Melissa Lee plays at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Friday, July 14
Eric Engblade plays music on the deck at The Cabbage Shed in Elberta. 8-11pm

Saturday, July 15
5th Annual Up North Stand-Up Paddleboard Classic takes place on Crystal Lake in the morning and Lake Michigan in the afternoon. The day's events will begin with the Crystal Lake SUP Challenge, which will consist of an Elite 6-mile (2 laps)/3-mile (1 lap) recreational and Junior Rec (ages 13-16) 3-mile (1 lap) and a FREE kids (ages 7-12) 1.5-mile

(1/2 lap) Diamond Configuration Buoy Race. 231-882-2527, or visit UpNorthSUP.com. 8am-8pm.

Saturday, July 15

Miss Atomic at St. Ambrose Cellars. 6-9pm

Saturday, July 15

Dale Wicks plays at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Sunday, July 16

Jake Frysinger plays at the Mayfair Tavern. 7pm.

Sunday, July 16

Open Mic Night at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Monday, July 17

Project 6 plays at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Monday-Friday, July 17-28

Session 1 of Summer Introductory Dance lessons with Arlene Larson, a registered teacher with the Royal Academy of Dance, at the Betsie Hosick Health & Fitness Center. Classes include: beginning balet, beginning character dance, and pre-primary ballet. Class times, skill levels, and ages vary, so call 231-882-9314 or check out Kicks-DanceWear.com for more information on how to register. Private and group lessons for more advanced students are available, upon request.

Tuesday, July 18

North Carolines plays at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Tuesday, July 18

Jeff Bihlman plays at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Wednesday, July 19

Mike Youker plays at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Wednesday, July 19

Uncle Z at the Mayfair Tavern. 7pm.

Wednesday, July 19

Chloe & Olivia KImes play at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Wednesday, July 19

Jarod Blackstone at The Cabbage Shed. 8pm-12am.

Thursday, July 20

Dunes Brothers at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Thursday, July 20

Rhett Betty at the Mayfair Tavern. 7pm.

Thursday, July 20

Akimbo plays at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Fri-Sun, July 21-23

Dunesville Music Festival in Lake Ann. Over 20 bands, rustic camping. Dunesville.com

Friday, July 21

Akimbo plays at St. Ambrose Cellars. 6-9pm.

Friday, July 21

Jim Crockett Band plays at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Friday, July 21

Blake Elliott plays at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Friday, July 21

Jack Pine Savage plays music on the deck at The Cabbage Shed from 6-9pm. Rootstand plays inside from 9pm-12am.

Saturday, July 22

Third Coast, a professional modern dance company, will be performing at the Oliver Art Center. Free. 1pm.

Saturday, July 22

Chris Michels plays at St. Ambrose Cellars. 6-9pm.

Saturday, July 22

Full Cord plays at Lake Ann Brewing Com-

pany. 6:30-9:30pm.

Saturday, July 22

The Pistil Whips play at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Sunday, July 23

Jake Frysinger plays at Mayfair Tavern. 7pm.

Sunday, July 23

Whiskey Charmers play at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Monday, July 24

Ron Kluck plays at Mayfair Tavern 7pm.

Monday, July 24

Kasondra Rose plays at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Tuesday, July 25

Jeff Bihlman plays at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Tuesday, July 25

New Third Coast plays at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

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TUESDAY JULY 18
... YARD YOGA W/ JENN RYAN
FRIDAY JULY 21
... AKIMBO (LIVE MUSIC)
SATURDAY JULY 22
... CHRIS MICHELS (LIVE MUSIC)

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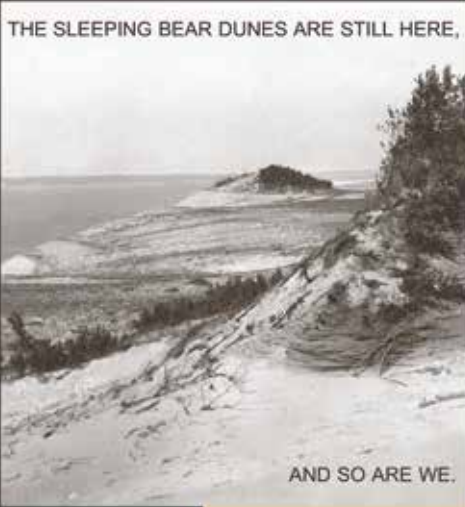
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Fiber

Continued from page 1

that money will count as a donation toward Grow Benzie.

If you have donations, or wish to exchange used material for new-to-you material, the MIFiberShed requests that you bring freshly laundered items during business hours; there is not currently a drop site for items to be left outside of business hours.

MIFiberShed is unique in that they accept, even welcome, broken, torn, and permanently stained items—as long as they are washed prior to donating—that other resale centers turn away. Additionally, they will accept unprocessed wool, alpaca, and scrap angora, as long as it is washed. MIFiberShed also welcomes non-fiber items that would be useful for running the shop itself, such as clothespins and plastic storage tubs with lids.

How Can I Get Involved?

Those with an interest in fiber crafts, or a passion for small business incubation, can support this project in a variety of ways—volunteer time as a worker during business hours; become a craft project leader; bring donations and leave with new-to-you clothing or material for art projects; join the Facebook group, and spread the word!

The Grow Benzie MIFiber Guild is also looking for volunteers, crafters, and local fiber producers to form a community of individuals to collaborate and make this local fiber cycle project beneficial to all involved.

During winter hours, MIFiberShed plans to collaborate with other area fiber guilds and donate or exchange materials needed for local crafters and to run the Days For Girls project, also located at Grow Benzie, in the basement sewing studio. (See a previous article about Days For Girls from Volume V Issue 12 of *The Betsie Current* here: bit.ly/2tFQIPH)

Good News for Crafters

Do you have a great project idea, but do not have the money to start up your own business? MIFiberShed can help!

With an emphasis on crafting, fiber art, and small-business start-up, another goal of MIFiberShed is to provide a neutral space where individuals can “test the market” on a product or idea, without the prohibitive start-up costs.

“We’re literally giving material away and hoping that someone will do something with it,” Votruba says. “I would like to see small businesses emerge that have been inspired by materials that they find here.”

So far this summer, a few crafters have used the MIFiberShed space to work on projects using recycled fabrics and local fiber. For instance, Votruba is experimenting with carded milkweed fluff to use as a buoyant stuffing for floating beach items, such as toys. Votruba’s mother, Mary Link, has been working with donated T-shirts, converted to “yarn,” to make durable rugs with the basic knitting stitch. Michael Shaw has been working on his beautiful hooked rag rugs using strips of fabric.

One project that MIFiberShed would like to spearhead, in collaboration with Grow Benzie, is the production of beeswax-coated food wrap, using donated cotton fabric. The beeswax would come from Grow Benzie’s hives. The product could be made on-site and then sold at Grow Benzie’s Farmers’ Market or at MIFiberShed. This would be a perfect example of the full-circle theme that is being emphasized by the Guild and its members.

Grow Benzie is located at 5885 Frankfort Highway/M-115, just outside of Benzonia. The Grow Benzie MIFiberShed is open Mondays from 12-7 p.m and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. They would love to expand their hours and are actively seeking volunteers to help during additional days and times. Throughout the summer, and given enough project leaders, workshops will be held at MIFiberShed during Grow Benzie’s Farmers’ Market hours, on Mondays from 3-7 p.m. Stop by or call 231-399-0098 to see what else you can do to help.

New Outside The Village

The Honor Area Restoration Project (HARP) is a citizen group that has ramped up its efforts to rejuvenate the Honor area. The project’s first success was the removal of Bud’s gas station (recently purchased and soon to be remodeled) and the removal of the infamous Question Mark Building (the lot is now for sale), both on Main Street, in the heart of the village.

Recently, the group has launched a major fundraising effort to acquire a 52-acre tract of land that includes 1,500 feet of Platte River frontage. It will be called Platte River Park to be used for public enjoyment. This beautiful piece of woods, river, and open land would be used for picnics, fishing, and hiking.

The parcel is located along US-31, nestled between the Platte River, Indian Hill Road, and Deadstream Road. (Look for fundraising signs near the site on Indian Hill Road and US-31, south of the village.) Until now, the lot has been in the hands of the Kuck and Hanley families for 100 years, and HARP’s plan for the property is to gift it to Homestead Township, so that it can be enjoyed by this generation and future generations to come. Platte River Park would be the only barrier-free access to the Platte River, upstream of Platte Lake and the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, according to Ingemar Johansson, HARP’s president.

“People of all abilities will be able to enjoy the river with a quarter-mile stretch of river frontage,” Johansson says. “I haven’t come across a single person who doesn’t like this project.”

The purchase price is \$300,000. HARP’S goal is to raise \$120,000, with up to \$180,000 in matching funds coming from the DNR’s Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, a state fund dedicated to providing outdoor public recreation. They have taken in \$20,000 so far. Rotary Charities of Traverse City is supporting the project, and Alliance for Economic Success is providing the skills needed for committee members to organize the fundraising drive.

“The idea is to not only preserve this magnificent stretch of Platte River but also to enhance the prosperity of the area,” Johansson explains. “People will stop and enjoy the river, fish, play, hike, pick blueberries—yes the patch is very much alive—and in the process, frequent the local business establishments. This will add jobs and business opportunities. It will add to the quality of life for the village, the township, and the county.”

Visit RestoreHonor.org or Facebook.com/HonorAreaRestorationProject, where there is a video showing the site of the park and other information, including how to donate online. Checks can be made to “Honor Area Restoration Project” and mailed to HARP, PO Box 123, Honor, MI, 49640. For more information, email ingemar7@gmail.com.



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Boys & Girls • K-6 grades
\$30 registration fee: includes your own ball and T-shirt

Pre-register or show up to camp • Memorial Park fields in Benzonia, behind Watson Benzie auto dealership.

Fish Face

Continued from page 1

How is the barbecue? I chatted with customer Chris Mills, a barbecue entrepreneur himself, who happened to drop by to check out the Joint's fare, which he pronounced "delicious." And he would know, being the nephew of Memphis, Tennessee's "barbecue legend," Mike Mills.

Then, in walked in the energetic and dedicated Honor Village president, Bill Ward. I asked him how he felt about the recent new endeavors.

"This positive vibe feeds itself and enhances the quality of our village life," Ward explains. "Even older businesses such as Platte River Inn and Lumberjack's have rejuvenated."

Ward added that the town has been busy on maintenance and upkeep, getting ready for the big Coho Festival celebration in August. Additionally, there are a lot of ideas being presented to the Village Council lately, including a much-needed crosswalk (that will slow down the traffic, and potentially bring in more patrons), and more landscaping, not to mention suggestions and hopes for the former site of the Question Mark building, now demolished.

Ward's order was ready, when in walked Mike Watters, who recently opened **Natural Brushstrokes**, art inspired in nature, the green building on the corner at 10966 Main Street, just up the street, near the Post Office. Watters was coming in to retrieve his barbecue, so I bid my farewells to the Joint and followed him to his art/crafts/jewelry/gifts/souvenirs gallery, where I met his wife, Beverly (Harris) Watters, born and bred in Benzie County. The couple met downstate, and after Mike retired from the Sheriff's Department, eager to develop his art, they bought 10 acres near the north shore of Crystal Lake and decided to take a chance on opening their own business.

He paints and makes bird feeders, plus a plethora of other craft items, while she creates jewelry and solar lamps, among other projects. Her daughter, a photographer, exhibits some of her work at Natural Brushstrokes, and there is a separate room for an art gallery, where Mike displays his oeuvre and accepts works on consignment from outside vendors. When you visit, allow some time—it takes a while to see everything—and ask Mike Watters to play you a tune while you are wandering around (or find him at Open Mic Night at St. Ambrose Cellars on Thursdays). Hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 12-5 p.m., closed Sunday and Monday. For more information, call 517-962-3131.

Last but certainly not least, visit 10960 Main Street at the lovely, completely renovated **A Love of Hair** and—if you are lucky—find the inimitable owner, Carrie Corey, in her office. (The only reason that I was able to corner her is because she is temporarily slowed down, due to a broken ankle. An amazing entrepreneurial spirit resides in this lady, so keep an eye on her! She even has plans for a store, to be located next to the salon, that would sell "real/good food," as in, fresh vegetables, items for tourists, such as sunglasses and hats, but this plan is still in the works.) In addition to adding tanning rooms to this space, Corey has hired two employees, Scott Strong and Anita Scribner, who provide professional hair styling, waxing, and nails in a colorful, comfortable atmosphere. Call 231-227-5683 to make an appointment.

"People kept telling me that Honor needed a salon," says Corey, who opened the salon in early January after renovating the building.

Additionally, Corey and her family also



Gary Taylor, owner of Iron Horse Auto & Cycle Repair in downtown Honor. Photo by Susan Koenig.

own Corey's Big Dog Towing and Recovery in Benzonia, and they recently purchased the former Bud's gas station in Honor. When I found Corey in her salon office, she was looking at plans for the renovation/revival of Bud's. She is hoping to break ground in the fall on "Corey's Convenience," which will include not only gas (and diesel) but a also convenience store with an expanded deli section.

All of the Honor business owners whom I spoke to conveyed a similar sentiment: they want more businesses to come to Honor and not compete, but coalesce together. There is a real feeling of togetherness in this Renaissance era, and it is something special.

We know that our readers use the amenities of the Honor Shopping Center, so take a few minutes to drive or walk into the village, as well. There is plenty of easy parking, and you might be surprised at what you find!

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