

Wonderland

Life on a ball

By F. Josephine Arrowood
Current Contributor

Recent visitors to Honor confront a mystery at the site of a once-notorious local landmark. The pink “Question Mark” building, as many called it, has completely disappeared from the historic downtown district, its grassy lot at the corner of Main and Henry streets now occupied only by a For Sale sign.

Where did the Question Mark building go? Who will buy the vacant lot? What will they do with it? And what was that old painted palace all about, anyway?

While the structure has subsided into dust, memories of its most colorful and creative era live on: in hearts, minds, and purpose-driven ways of life all over the country.

In the fall of 1990, Jon Wagman had an

idea. Many ideas, actually, all looking for a home. The California native had recently graduated from Pasadena’s Art Center College of Design (ACCD) and was visiting fellow alumnus Dan Sturges in Frankfort. The two had studied design, transportation, urban design, the arts, and environmentalism. Wagman wanted to create a gathering place where anyone could walk in and join together: an experimental, experiential incubator and laboratory where process and product would meet—like art school, but for life.

The Village of Honor—centrally situated along US-31, about 25 miles west of Traverse



The Question Mark building. Photo by Robert Bushway Photography.

City—seemed like a good place. He found a building for rent in the careworn business district, a relic of the early 20th-century lumber boom. The building, gray with age and battered by neglect, had originally been a general mercantile store, dance hall, and Masonic lodge, and later it served as a grocery store, with

apartment rentals upstairs.

Wagman initially named their venture the Great Lakes Center for Creative Development, which later morphed into the more compelling name of Wonderland.

“At our first meeting with the landlord, a baby bird fell out of the wall,” says Wagman from his current home in the mountains of Santa Cruz, California. “The building was in pretty bad shape, even then.”

They painted the building magenta, green, and gold. A large, eye-catching sign—a zingy question mark with the Earth as its dot—was created by another ACCD alumnus: animator and filmmaker Mark Whiting. (Whiting, originally from Birmingham, Michigan, later created the title character in the animated

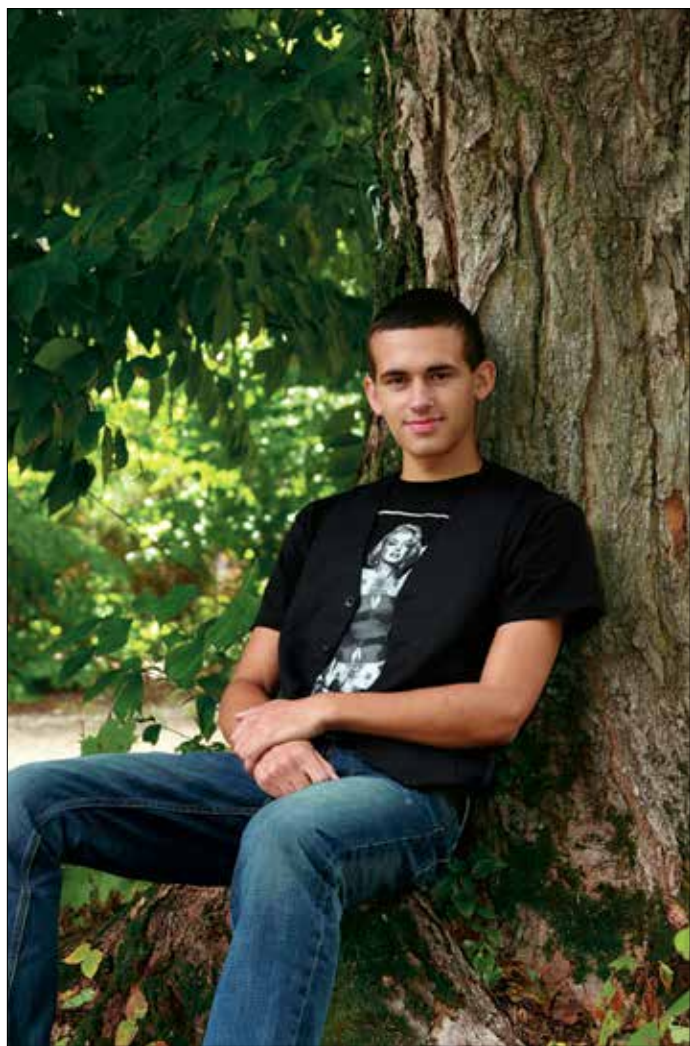
Please see Wonderland on page 3

A Legacy

A year can make all the difference

By Christina Ryan-Stoltz
Current Contributor

If you had asked me last summer what my passions were, I would have told you that I was trying to discover what else they may be, “now that my only child is nearly raised and about to begin his senior year of high school.”



9/13/14 Isaac Julian Ryan-McKinnon, age 18. Photo by Craig Caugh at NorthLight Studios.

I kept it pretty simple as a mama; raising Isaac was my joy and purpose in life. While I have helped here and there with some community events over the years, I truly lacked the conviction to commit myself to any real

level of activism or solidarity, always feeling my time was spoken for. I come from a family of givers/do-ers, and I married into a family of givers/do-ers, but I was quite content to focus the majority of my time and energy on my boy.

A year can make all the difference.

Last October, Isaac took his own life. In a moment, the life I knew and loved was over. The reverberations of his death, his choice, this loss spread out like aftershocks from an earthquake. How did this happen? Why? What did I miss? What on earth do I do now?

In the wake of this horrendous loss, I began to discover staggering statistics on suicide as well as common sense strategies for raising awareness and increasing prevention. I think the most important things I have learned so far are:

- 1) Suicide can happen to anyone; there isn’t a “type” of person that is more susceptible.
- 2) Kids talk to each other about things they would never share with adults.
- 3) Any threat/mention of suicide should be taken seriously.

Armed with an ever-increasing library of information, support, and resources, an idea has begun to take shape as far as where to cultivate my

passion and conviction within my community—you don’t always choose your cause, sometimes your cause chooses you.

Please see Isaac on page 7

What’s In A Name?

Stories behind the names of Benzie County

By Samantha Graves
Current Contributor

In talking with the Benzie Area Historical Museum staff about the names of places like “Benzonia,” “Betsie,” and “Beulah,” the feeling quickly comes over you that they get asked these questions a lot.

Many visitors to this beautiful place have marveled over the meanings behind the names, and they’re not alone—a name like Benzonia is as rich with possible interpretations as it is fun to say. And

as it turns out, even we locals haven’t quite figured it all out, but hopefully this article will help you make up your own mind as to what was the true meaning behind the names that the settlers chose.

To understand the likely intended meaning of a name, the name must first be put into historical, religious, and cultural context with the people who pinned the name to this place. For instance, at the time that the region was bestowed its many names, both *Zonia* and *Beulah* were semi-popular names for girls and may not have carried the unusual ring they do with the modern ear.

Additionally, it is important to remember that these names may have morphed as new dialects came into the area over time. Look,

for example, at the name of our Great Lakes state—the Ojibwe for ‘big lake’ is *mishi gun*, which was preserved, though altered slightly as European settlers arrived and adopted its use.

What’s in a name? Whether altered from another form or carrying with it some underlying story with heavy historical context,



The Betsie River gets its name from the sawbill ducks that frequent the area. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

the names of places in Benzie County tell the stories of our people and this place.

Benzonia

The county name of “Benzie” is an abbreviated form of the longer “Benzonia,” a conjunction of two words with a very old origin in a far-away place. Though Benzonia could just as easily refer to the Latin *ben zona* for ‘good woman,’ as it could the Hebrew, *ben Zion*, for ‘son’ of ‘Zion,’ neither is likely the intended meaning, and a whole myriad of interpretations exist in between. The traditional interpretation includes one variable meaning in Latin for *ben*, translated to a ‘high hill’ or ‘mountain,’ and *zonía*, or the Greek *zona*,

Please see Names on page 6



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Benzonia Public Library

Celebrating 90 Years

From Staff Reports

The Benzonia Public Library is pleased to celebrate its 90th anniversary within the Mills Community House, a building which itself turns 106 this year.

Prior to being housed at the Mills, the library “floated around” the community in private homes for many years, as did many other area libraries. The Benzonia Public Library as we know it today, however, was the

recital hall—occurred in the 1990s. The site is now managed by the Mills Community Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is supported by donations, rentals, and fundraising events—not your tax dollars.

Throughout the years, there have been few changes to the main floor, where the library is housed—that is, until the latest remodeling project.

Discussions among the Benzonia Public Library board began on how best to utilize the space and create a comfortable, inviting li-



The Michigan Room has been completely renovated, with upgrades that included new walls and paneling, improved lighting, and a beautiful fireplace. Photo courtesy of Amanda McLaren.

first “officially established” library in Benzie County, meaning it was the first to have normal operating hours and staff, according to Lou Yock of the Benzie Area Historical Museum, with regular hours at the Mills dating back to 1925.

The building was once a high school and before that a college, funded by a group of educators from Oberlin College who settled at the east end of Crystal Lake in 1858. After a disastrous fire at the Benzonia Academy in 1909, the community raised \$2,200 for a new structure—the same one that sits at the site today. A wealthy Manistee lumber baron also matched these funds, stipulating that the new building needed to be constructed of brick, not wood. Additional funding for the eventual total cost of \$12,000 was spearheaded by Reverend Harlow Mills, who himself made a generous donation as a memorial to his late wife, Mary Fisher Mills.

The Academy closed nine years later in 1918 and was deeded to the Benzonia Congregational Church, with the proviso that it be used for cultural, educational, and outdoor activities for the community. After a renovation that included an auditorium and a gymnasium, the building reopened in 1925 and was named the Mills Community House after the beloved reverend who had helped to save the site nearly two decades before—also at this time, the library absorbed all of the Academy’s books.

By 1972, the building had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Later building upgrades—including a fully equipped kitchen, new roof and heating system, an elevator, and upper level auditorium/

brary while still maintaining the look and feel of this historical space. The first thing decided was that no operating money—millage or penal fines—would be used in the renovation. Rather, memorials and bequests of varying amounts received over the years were banked, and a handsome individual donation toward the project was also received.

With these monies, the library has been transformed over the last year and a half.

It all began in the winter of 2014 with the revamping (insulation and drywall, new shelving) in the fiction, nonfiction, and reference rooms. A computer “nook” housing six public computers was added. Then last spring, the Catton Room, the Michigan Room, the hallway, and the restrooms were all completely redone. Updates to these areas included: covering crumbling walls and paneling; improved lighting; installing a beautiful electric/vapor fireplace, a custom-built circulation desk, and new carpeting; and a repurposing space to fit today’s needs.

Cheery paint and refurbished woodwork provided the final touches to bring this hard-working, 90-year-old library space into the 21st century. Having finished these major areas, planning will begin for remodeling of both the children’s room and the staff room. The atmosphere is both modern and cozy but also a trip into the past.

Benzonia Public Library also has a new mission statement: “Preserving yesterday, enriching today, inspiring tomorrow in our community.” Its goal is to offer quality items, programs, and services to our community, director Amanda McLaren told *The Betsie Current*, adding that the library is determined to do all it can to be a beacon, an enlightening source for Benzie County residents and visitors.

PUBLISHING DATES 2015

May 21, June 4, June 18, July 2
July 16, July 30,
August 13, August 27
September 10
October 1, November 12
January 14 (2016)

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The Benzonia Public Library will hold an open house on Sunday, August 9, from 2-5 p.m. The public is invited to attend this event. Board members from the library and the Mills will be on hand to answer questions and give tours of the recently remodeled building. Meet folks, past and present, who have contributed to the long life of this iconic landmark and community library. To find out more, call the library at 231-882-4111 or visit 891 Michigan Avenue in Benzonia.

Wonderland

Continued from page 1

movie *The Iron Giant*, and he worked on *Finding Nemo* and television series *Garfield and Friends*, among other projects.)

Artist H(e)aven

In the spring of 1991, Wagman and crew issued a call to artists for an opening exhibit. The Grand Opening of June 21 was covered by the Traverse City *Record-Eagle*; the show explored "...perceptions of life on a ball... your vision of this wonderland we call earth." Thus the Wonderland name took flight.

"People started coming out of the woods, literally," Wagman says.

One person to do so was Dan Kelly, a Crystal Lake-based artist and filmmaker who was a deep collaborator at the space.

"I'd been living on the north shore of Crystal Lake by myself for two or three years, didn't really know anyone," Kelly recalls. "Then all these people showed up at once; some had summer associations to the place, others were local. It was a perfect storm! The core gang that did stuff in the space were Joel Buzzell, Jon [Wagman], Sturges, [Tom] Grabowski, Jim Barnes, Willie Church, Maryke Steenstra, Bill Joslyn... The enthroning ethic was pretty significant. Shows, activities like 'tossed salad' improv performances, a fashion show that got out of control—so much fun! It was an amazing space for collaborators with a strong artistic bent, way ahead of its time. The whole idea of the place—it scared people."

Wagman recalls that some people who assumed Wonderland was a drug-dealing hangout for hippie types.

"Actually, there was a drug hangout in a building across the street from us—it was a group of high school-age kids, not us," he laughs.

Artist Sue Brightheart of Suttons Bay remembers visiting with a "Figure on Saturday" life-drawing group and a nude model, at the behest of the late Charly Hansen, who "hung out" at Wonderland frequently.

Glass artist and environmental activist Judith Comstock—a cofounder of the Northwest Michigan Environmental Action Council (NMEAC)—also became a dedicated member of the nascent artists' community.

"We had maybe a thousand books for sale that dealt with the environment, art. Jon [Wagman] had his T-shirts to sign and sell," says Comstock, who maintained the gallery and bookstore, which also housed the work of other artists, during that frigid first winter; her studio was on the other side of the large building, where she worked on commissions of stained, etched, and carved bas-relief glass.

"It was great to have this little group—they were about 15 years younger and had a different kind of energy that was so good, so positive," Comstock continues.

In addition to Dan Kelly, she cites book-

shop owner Tom Grabowski and his future wife, Ashley Goerisch; her sister Kristin; writer-photographer Michael Murphy; and sculptor Dewey Blocksma, among many others who passed through Wonderland's doors. Sturges, an innovative automotive designer who worked on electric vehicle prototypes, also rented workspace there.

Falling On Hard Times

Comstock recalls that the landlord and the dilapidated condition of the building were contributing factors to the demise of Wonderland. There was a complicated lease, "12 pages long, including paying his lawyer fees. The heat went out over the winter holidays, and nobody wanted to fix it; they were worried." And with Northern Michigan's seasonal, tourism-based economy, making a viable, year-round living proved arduous at times.

Despite these obstacles, the group continued to use Wonderland for another summer as an innovative space for the intersection of ideas, the arts, and the environment. In many ways, it foreshadowed the current "smart growth," mixed use development, and community design philosophies—both urban and rural—which drive the success of groups like today's Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities (formerly known as the Michigan Land Use Institute, which formed in Beulah in 1996). Honor's own non-profit organization, Honor Area Restoration Project (HARP), embodies Wonderland's spirit in its quest to revitalize and redevelop the village and surrounding areas of the Platte River valley. HARP's website states such core values as "positive approach, non-political, volunteer based, community driven."

By 1992, the Wonderland group had left the pink building on the corner of Henry Street, with the space gradually subsiding to its final chapter as an eyesore and focal point for the continuing decline of Honor's business district.

"The landlord had gotten people deeply involved...got a lot of sweat equity out of us and then decided to raise the rent," Kelly says. That was the end of it; Jon [Wagman] was frustrated, and it got too complex."

The township eventually took possession of the building, condemned it, and paved the way for deconstruction last spring. Salvager Vince Rodriguez was able to reclaim many historical architectural elements, including huge white oak beams and a woodstove, manufactured in 1880. The sale of the lot will go toward helping HARP and Platte Township to redevelop downtown Honor.

And the iconic Wonderland sign—the question mark with the Earth as its dot? After the Wonderland group vacated the building, Kelly says that the landlord took down the bottom part of the sign [the Earth]—"we only found it on the last day of the recycling project this spring, in the basement." The top part of the question mark was left, along with the rest of the vacant building, to endure the harsh elements for the next 25 years, acquiring both its weathered patina and an unsavory, erroneous reputation as the symbol of some sort of

out-there, hippie-drug enclave.

According to spokesman Ingemar Johanson, HARP plans to turn over the painted wood pieces to Kelly, who will restore it to its former colorful, intriguing glory.

"It was a cheap piece of plywood with house paint—its archival quality is pretty limited, and it's on its last legs," Kelly states.

However, Kelly feels strongly that the sign should somehow remain in the public realm, as a vital part of Benzie County history. An ideal solution that could satisfy both aims might involve a civic booster purchasing the piece at a HARP fundraiser (date to be determined), then donating the piece, perhaps to the Benzie Area Historical Society.

Wherever it eventually lands, the Wonderland/Question Mark sign stands as an enduring tribute to a group of fearless creatives, who carried some of the magical energy generated in that space to other Northern Michigan communities and beyond.

For more information about HARP, visit their website at RestoreHonor.org. To contact the realtor selling the vacant lot where Wonderland once stood, check out the For Sale signs on the corner of Main Henry streets in Honor.



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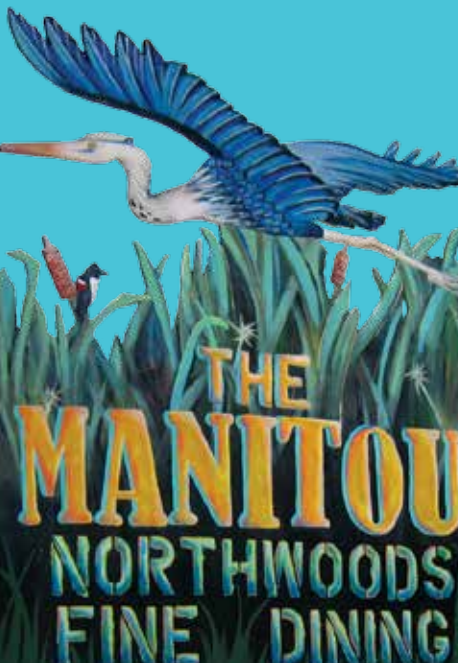
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Power Vinyasa with Jenn at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. Email jennswetland@gmail.com if interested. 7:45-8:45am.

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

Circle Time for infants and toddlers at the Benzie Shores District Library at 630 Main Street in Frankfort. Infants and toddlers (+ 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. 10-11am.

Fitness Fusion with Beth at the Oliver Art Center. Email annamallien@gmail.com if interested. 10:15-11:15am.

Grow Benzie Farmers' Market at 5885 Frankfort Highway (M-115) in Benzonia. 3-7pm.

Tuesdays

Sunrise Flow Yoga with Lara at Oliver Art Center. Email annamallien@gmail.com if interested. 7:45-8:45am.

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

Honor Farmers' Market in Maley Park. 9am-3pm.

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

Tangle Time: Tangling is a simple way of creating designs from repetitive patterns. It is easy to learn, portable, fun, relaxing, and can be enjoyed by all ages 12 and up. Bring your own materials—cardstock, paper, fabric, jewelry, clay, wood, rocks—or use those provided. Benzonia Public Library at 891 Michigan Avenue in Benzonia. 2:30-4:30pm.

Earth's Mightiest Heroes summer reading program. Darcy Library at 7238 Commercial Street in Beulah. 4:30-5pm.

Minecraft Club at Darcy Library. 5-7pm.

Zumba classes at The Gathering Place in Honor are open to the general public and taught by Suzanne Waring. 6-7pm.

Pick-up soccer at Memorial Park across from Shop & Save and behind Watson Benzie car dealership in Benzonia. Open to ages 12 and up. All skill levels encouraged. 6-8pm.

Wednesdays

Power Vinyasa with Jenn at the Oliver Art Center. Email jennswetland@gmail.com if interested. 7:45-8:45am.

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

Tai Chi for beginners. Space is limited, so please contact Aimé Merizon at 231-645-3711 or artis4anyone@gmail.com to register. Suggested donation is \$10 per session. Darcy Library. 11am-12pm.

Knit 2gether at Darcy Library. Crocheters also welcome. 1-3pm.

Thursdays

Fitness Fusion with Beth at the Oliver Art Center. Email annamallien@gmail.com if interested. 7:45-8:45am.

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

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

Guided hiking tours at Michigan Legacy Art Park at Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville are a great way to learn about Michigan history. The environment and the sculptures are a fun activity for adults and families. 9-10am.

Every Hero Has A Story is a national program that encourages early literacy and fosters a lifelong love of reading while having fun. Children of all ages are welcome at Story Time with Miss Charlotte at Benzie Shores District Library. 10-11am.

Computers with Carol at the Darcy Library. Ask Carol computer-related questions. 1-5pm.

Quilting at Darcy Library. 2:30-5:30pm.

Writers Club for kids and teens at Darcy Library. Share what you're working on—novel, comic book, or anything else—and if you'd like, get feedback from your peers. 3-5pm.

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. 3-6pm.

Storytime with Kris at Darcy Library. 4:30pm.

Teen yoga and meditation with Jenn at the Oliver Art Center. Email annamallien@gmail.com if interested. 4-5pm.

Power Vinyasa with Jenn at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. Email jennswetland@gmail.com if interested. 5:30-6:30pm.

Pick-up soccer at Memorial Park across from Shop & Save and behind Watson Benzie car dealership in Benzonia. Open to ages 12 and up. All skill levels encouraged. 6-8pm.

Steven Fernand sings the best songs from the last century at the Cold Creek Inn in Beulah. No cover. 6-9pm.

Beulah Music in the Park: A different musical artist every Thursday. Free family fun. Bring a chair or blanket. Brought to you by the Crystal

Lake Community Business Association along with many gracious sponsors. 7-8pm.

Open Mic Night at The Cabbage Shed in Elberta. 231-352-9843. 8pm.

Fridays

Sunrise Flow Yoga with Lara at Oliver Art Center. Email annamallien@gmail.com if interested. 7:45-8:45am.

Pilates sculpt with Anna at Oliver Art Center. Email annamallien@gmail.com if interested. 9-10am.

Crystal Mountain Farmers' Market. 3-6pm.

Saturdays

Birding with Keith Wesphal: Hike the Michigan Legacy Art Park with Keith, an active birder for 48 years, to identify birds by their song. Bring your binoculars to spot birds that make the 30-acre preserve their home each spring. Meet at the Art Park trailhead. Suggested \$5 donation. 8:30-10am.

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

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

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.

Lego Saturdays at Benzonia Public Library. For boys and girls ages 6 to 106. Dates will vary, so call 231-882-4111 to see if there will be Legos on Saturday!

Steven Fernand sings the best songs from the last century at the Cold Creek Inn. No cover. 6-9pm.

Sundays

Guided hiking tours at Michigan Legacy Art Park are a great way to learn about Michigan history. The environment and the sculptures are a fun for adults and families. 9-10am.

Interlochen Farmers' Market in the big parking lot behind Ric's. 9am-2pm.

Integrative Yoga at the Oliver Art Center. Young or old, novice or seasoned practitioner, yoga is for everyone! Explore yoga on your own terms and discover all that it can do for you. Adult drop-in fee is \$15, student/senior drop-in fee is \$10. 10:30am-12pm.

COMING SOON

Thursday, July 30

Benzie Conservation District's 3rd water tour of the year on Pickerel Creek and Twin Lakes. Bring your own canoe/kayak; life jacket/PFD; dress for the weather! If you don't have access to a canoe or kayak, contact us at 231-882-4391 or mike@benziecd.org, and we'll do our best to find one for you to use. \$5-10 suggested donation. 9-12am.

Thursday, July 30

Story time with Sunny & the Elk: Learn how a local girl's discovery took her to the Smithsonian! Our special guests will read some of their favorite stories and share with you what inspires them. There will also be a craft or



BENZIE-CALENDAR.COM

MORE EVENTS ONLINE

activity. Benzonia Public Library. 3pm.

Friday, July 31

Brittany Gibbons's first book, **Fat Girl Walking: Sex, Food, Love and Being Comfortable in Your Own Skin... Every Inch of It**, is a collection of essays on love, sex, marriage, and motherhood. The book has been gaining media attention and fans since its release in May. Author of the blog *Brittany Herself*, she will share her true stories about growing up overweight and weird in rural Ohio, having three children by accident, and becoming a national body-image advocate—all part of her journey to self love. Not a diet or cookbook, Gibbons uses humor and honesty to remind us that being chubby doesn't mean you'll end up alone and unhappy. Darcy Library. 7pm.

Friday, July 31

Interlochen Faculty Revue: singer-songwriters Courtney Kaiser-Sandler and Kyle Novy will share the stage with cellist Crispin Campbell and percussionist John Driscoll for a performance that highlights the teaching talent of Interlochen. General admission is a \$10 suggested donation. Michigan Legacy Art Park. 7 pm.

Saturday, August 1

The 6th annual Port Oneida Heritage Run through the beautiful scenery of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore supports preservation of the Park's historic resources. We're offering two runs this year: a challenging 5K trail run/walk on the Bayview Trail or the Tiller's 10K on the Bayview Trail, back gravel roads, and a portion on the Lake Michigan beach! Professional chip timing! Location is the Charles Olsen farmstead at 3164 W. Harbor Hwy/M-22, three miles north of Glen Arbor, just west of Port Oneida Road. Online registration for \$28 at events.bytepro.net/PortOneidaRun closes on Thursday, July 30, at 5 pm. Walk-on registrations are \$33. Kids Schoolhouse Dash for \$5 (no pre-registration): Children ages 9 and under can start the day off with a quarter-mile dash from the Olsen barn to the historic one-room schoolhouse.

Saturday, August 1st

Pilot Error—the up-to-the-minute feature film, inspired by the true story of a French airliner missing in the Atlantic—is set for a special Northern Michigan premiere at Frankfort's historic Garden Theater. The film includes a talkback, led by Michigan filmmaker Roger Rapoport and a veteran airline-training pilot. 5pm.

Saturday, August 1st

Local Motion (formerly known as the Benzie Home Health Care Walk-a-thon): The non-profit organization has served Benzie County residents for 40 years. Funds are raised during its annual walk-a-thon around the south shore of glorious Crystal Lake. Enjoy a stroll or ride with your neighbors and friends. Running, biking, skating, and kayaking have been added to the traditional walk for this fundraising endeavor. Registration begins an hour prior to at Bellows Park/7th Street Beach on Crystal Lake near the CSA. A delicious brunch is served after the walk-a-thon for its participants. Email info@benziehome-healthcare.org or call 231-715-3234 for more information. 9am.

Tuesday, August 4

Computer Basics with Dustin at Benzonial Public Library! Tuesday, August 4, 1-3 pm and Wednesday, August 12, 5-6:30pm. Local computer whiz Dustin Wolpoff will answer your questions and offer help for the computer related issues that baffle you! Let Dustin help you unlock the mysteries of the computer.... bring your own or use one of our public computers. These sessions are FREE! www.benzonialibrary.org 231-882-4111

Wednesday, August 5

Rockin' to Read: Musical stories and children's

parade in downtown Thompsonville, courtesy
of the Betsie Valley District Library. 11AM

Thursday, August 6

Storytime with Josh Stoltz, director of Grow Benzie. Hear and perform wacky stories and create sidewalk art! 3pm.

Friday & Saturday, August 7 & 8

Port Oneida Rural and Cultural Fair: History comes to life at six historic farmsteads and the Port Oneida Schoolhouse. 10am-4pm.

Friday, August 7

Finish your day with music and a community chicken BBQ at the Olsen Farm. Dinner includes chicken, potato salad, corn on the cob, cornbread, lemonade, and cake. Proceeds benefit the Port Oneida Fair, presented by Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear. Please buy tickets in advance for \$15 each. 231-334-6103. 4:30-7pm.

Friday, August 7

With influences of folk, bluegrass, and country, Ruth and Max Bloomquist have created a heart-touching, audience-pleasing, acoustic Americana that is all their own. General admission is a \$10 suggested donation. Bring your own lawn chair. Michigan Legacy Art Park. 7 pm.

Friday, August 7

Oliver Art Center's Annual August Fundraiser: Fun-Raiser! Our 15h annual art auction will have garden-themed art and experiences from local artists and businesses that you can bid on. Enjoy live music, wine, and appetizers. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Dress is casual, and doors open at 5:30pm.

Saturday, August 8

Benzie Household Hazardous Waste/Electronics Collections. Appointments are required for these collections. There is no charge for residents to dispose of household hazardous waste. These collections are funded by the Benzie County Recycling Program. Unfortunately, there may be a charge for some electronics due to changes in Michigan's e-waste policy. Call 231-882-0554 for an appointment at the collection that is most convenient for you. 9am-12pm.

Sunday, August 9, 2015

Celebrate 90 years of the Benzie Public Library at the historic Mills Community House. Board members from the Library and the Mills will be on hand to answer questions and give tours of the recently remodeled building. Meet folks, past and present, who have contributed to the long life of this iconic landmark and community library. 2-5pm.

Wednesday, August 12

Read with therapy dogs Chaz and Denny at the Betsie Valley District Library. 11am.

Friday, August 14

Isaac Julian Legacy Foundation concert at St. Ambrose Cellars will be a night of very special music, as well as a silent auction, children's activities, and a gathering of those who loved Isaac. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages will be available, and a couple of food trucks will be around for more hearty appetites. St. Ambrose Cellars will be selling their delicious products, as well. There will be four musical acts performing that you won't want to miss, including Michigan's own Joshua Davis. The suggested donation for admission is \$20, with children under 12 getting in free. Please bring your own lawn chairs! 841 S. Pioneer Road, Beulah. 6-10pm.

Friday, August 14

The Accidentals: Back by popular demand, Traverse City singer-songwriters and multi-instrumentalists, Katie Larson, Savannah Buist, and Michael Dause have created a sound all their own that is winning praise from music lovers across the country. General admission is a \$10 suggested donation. Michigan Legacy Art Park. 7 pm

Friday, August 14,

Frankfort United Methodist Church's 9th Annual Pulled Pork Picnic. Tickets for adults are \$10; children (under 12) are \$6; extra sandwiches are \$4 each. 537 Crystal Avenue/M-22 in Frankfort. 5-7pm.

Across

- Sajak and Summerall
- Brooks or Blanc
- Raison d' _____
- 4,840 square yards
- Actress Plumb of *The Brady Bunch*
- Without slack
- She played Carla on *Cheers*
- Soccer star Hamm
- Common sign
- Sweater number retired by the Red Wings in honor of Alex Delvecchio
- A player you cheer at the Big House
- Homes of *Castor canadensis*
- Author Fleming
- Former base of Brandon Inge
- Take one before you eat tacos
- Sonnet, for example
- 1988 Penny Marshall comedy
- One if by _____
- Layer of rock
- Dull
- Marty McFly's friend
- Hotel chain (with 28 Down)
- It keeps the lawn green
- Whiney musical genre
- Paul Newman's game in *The Hustler*
- Long fish
- One of a pair
- Mountainous region of western Russia
- One of the grammatical FANBOYS
- John of the Velvet Underground
- Cinema's most famous clownfish
- Justin Verlander stat
- Off days for athletes

Down

- Headline?
- Pain
- More with the times
- Two if by _____
- Short letters
- Villainous doctor of *Austin Powers*
- "She's _____ Home" (Beatles tune)
- Forevermore
- Andy Kaufman sitcom
- Ancient fixer-upper
- Diminutive suffix
- The US never found one in Iraq
- "_____ It" ("Weird" Al Yankovic hit)
- Common southern roadkill

24. Software report that tormented Peter Gibbons in *Office Space*

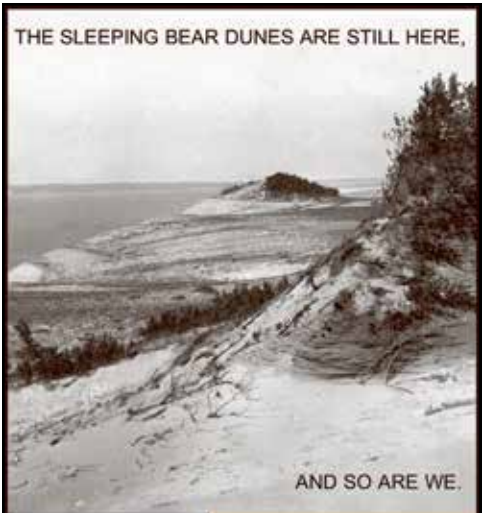
- How some like it
- It follows "ready" and precedes "fire"
- The longest one in the world spans Louisiana's Lake Pontchartrain
- See 37 Across
- Infamous insecticide
- A player you boo at the Big House
- 32,000 ounces
- Common setting for a joke
- It follows "Charlie" and precedes "Echo"
- Twirled
- Very tiny hole in your face
- B-52's hit
- Lecherous look
- 5280 feet
- Small bills
- Elvis' motto (abbr.)

Big House

Find the answer online at
<http://bit.ly/1Mw1MCQ>

By Eliza Prager and Dan Flanagan,
 exclusively for *The Betsie Current*.

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Names

Continued from page 1

meaning a ‘girdle.’ (For instance the cluster of stars that make up Orion’s belt are called the *zona*.)

These root words for the name Benzonia point to the devoutly religious men and women who settled here in the mid-19th century.

In 1858, a small group of families from Oberlin, Ohio, calling themselves the “Christian Colony,” arrived to establish an institution of learning on the shores of Lake Michigan. [See our article in this issue about the history of the Benzonia Public Library at the Mills Community House, formerly the Benzonia Academy, founded by these Christians from Oberlin.] Charles Bailey and Dr. James Barr Walker—well known for their contributions to the region’s history—arrived as part of this group and are credited with the naming of the county. (It is important to note that the name also carried personal significance to Walker, whose adopted son’s name was James Benzonia Walker and whose grandson’s name was also James Benzonia Walker, though it was shortened to J. Ben to avoid confusion.)

Ties to faith are evident in the root origin of the name. It is likely that the high mountain *ben* refers to is the Temple Mount, a sacred place in Jerusalem for three of the world’s largest religions, while *zon*ia, the girdle, is likely a reference to the security or steadfastness of the settlers’ religious convictions.

Those unfamiliar with these roots attribute the name Benzonia to a Greek-Latin hybrid meaning ‘the good air.’ *Ben* or *bene*, meaning ‘good,’ is perhaps a play on the name Zephyrus, a Greek deity and bringer of the cold north wind. A more appropriate translation might be ‘the good north wind.’

Benzonia is full of rolling high hills that girdled or protected settlements, and its location along the shores of the big lake lends credibility to each of these interpretations—it certainly wouldn’t be the first time a name in Benzie has sparked meanings and story outside of those intended.

The Betsie

While some may long for a hint of romantic folklore surrounding the name of the Betsie River, the only romance involved is perhaps that between a pair of sawbill ducks.

The name “Betsie” is actually derived from the direct translation of the Native American

word *Unszigozbee* meaning ‘sawbill ducks,’ waterfowl common to the region’s waterways.

With the arrival of the French missionaries, *Unszigozbee* became *Riviere Aux Bec Scies*, which translates literally to ‘River of the Beak Saws.’ By the time that the English arrived, it was shortened to *Bec Scies*, which the English pronounced “Betsie.”

Beulah

Few people know that the original name of “Beulah” was “Crystal City.” Since the village is literally standing on a place that, up until 1878, was entirely under the lapping waves of beautiful Crystal Lake, the original name made sense as a city rising from the depths of Crystal Lake.

In 1878, Archibald Jones—a man who had for the previous five years heralded the need for a canal between Lake Michigan and Crystal Lake—opened the floodgates and unwittingly dropped the water level on Crystal Lake by more than 20 feet, exposing miles of new shoreline. This newly exposed land was flat and treeless, making it an ideal place for the railroad and for a future settlement.

Out of what seemed like a colossal engineering failure rose the Village of Beulah, renamed for its pristine beauty and countenance. The new name, according to the Benzie Area Historical Museum, means ‘a place that borders Heaven.’

Beulah is a Hebrew word that means ‘married,’ though it refers only to a woman who is married. It is also referenced in The Bible and in later literature as a place close to Heaven or Zion, and in John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*, it is ‘the promised land.’ All in all, the name seems a fitting tribute for the land that was newly discovered, right under the water.

The Good North Wind

Whatever name we give to these special places, the common theme is a reverence for this part of the world that we call home. The names reflect a resonance with the sacred that was held by those newcomers who gazed upon the hills rising up from Lake Michigan and felt the cool, clean air being carried from the north.

Interpretations may vary slightly, but the feeling of adoration is the one ‘girdled’ constant—and for those of us who live in and visit Benzie, it is not a far stretch to imagine this place as close of an idea of Heaven as we can get on this earth.

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Isaac

Continued from page 1

IJLF Takes Flight

Within hours of Isaac’s death, my family and I had faith that we would eventually find the bearings to begin to identify how we might help others avoid a similar tragedy. As time marched on, shock wore off, and healing began, it became clear that the information we were gathering to place one foot in front of the next could be useful to others.

The impact that Isaac’s death has had on our lives and on the members of our small community necessitates that this is a conversation we must continue to have—with other families, with schools, and with each other. We started asking ourselves questions and, with those answers, we determined a course of action that has begun to lay the groundwork to create a foundation that we hope will, most importantly, help someone else’s Isaac.

Thus began the Isaac Julian Legacy Foundation (IJLF), still very much a fledgling think-tank, as the rawness of our loss still dominates our daily lives. It is our deep desire to explore viable options for creating peer advocate training that embraces a holistic philosophy for the trainees and all those who they may serve and reach.

It is our sincere hope to begin the task of researching and, hopefully, creating training for teens that is sensitive and relevant to Isaac’s age group; training that may help foster ways to identify and connect suicidal teens to the resources needed to help them out of crisis.

After recently attending a workshop through the University of Michigan and the Michigan Public Health Institute, I have met folks who are willing to help us in this endeavor.

Can and How

I have thought considerably about Isaac’s legacy—in life, as well as in death. His was a light that shone brightly all of his days, yet I now understand that anyone can find himself/herself in a situation where hope is lost.

I want to believe that hope can be restored. I want to believe other lives *can* be saved if others know precisely *how* to help.

The IJLF’s first benefit will take place on August 14 from 6-10 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cellars. We will be fundraising for this peer

advocate training initiative, and the money raised will determine the trajectory of our goals. In other words, the more that we raise, the greater the impact we hope to have. Will we create a weeklong summer camp held on this beautiful western coast of Michigan? Will we create one-day trainings and travel to schools? Will we bring in a panel of experts to meet with our community? Will we give scholarships to students wishing to become suicide prevention specialists?

I don’t yet know all the answers. But what I do know is that I will direct and devote my life force to honoring the legacy that my beautiful boy has left us with, in hopes that it will, indeed, help someone else’s Isaac.

I hope that you will join us for a night of very special music, a silent auction, children’s activities, and a gathering of those who loved Isaac. We will have snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. A couple of food trucks will be available for more hearty appetites, and St. Ambrose Cellars will be selling their delicious products, as well. The silent auction will go from 6-8 p.m. and represents the collective generosity of our amazing community. There will be four musical acts performing that you won’t want to miss, including Michigan’s own Joshua Davis.

The suggested donation for admission is \$20, with children under 12 getting in free. (Please bring your own lawn chairs!)

We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming kindness, support, and love that we have received and continue to receive from our community; thank you for letting us continue to talk about our beautiful boy, as well as participate in the important dialogue of suicide awareness and prevention.

St. Ambrose Cellars is located at 841 S. Pioneer Road; the address is technically Beulah, but the location falls somewhere between Beulah and Honor, about three miles from Benzie Central High School. If you are unable to attend but would still like to send support, please mail checks to The Isaac Julian Legacy Foundation, P.O. Box 304, Frankfort, MI, 49635. Please include your name, mailing address, and email address if you would like to join the mailing list for updates. IJLF is in the process of determining the appropriate legal structure for the foundation, in addition to the best way to proceed as an organization; the organization will keep every donor apprised of the progress that is made.

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