

# The Betsie Current

Volume VII, Issue 6

Early August

www.BetsieCurrent.com FREE!



## Living the Dream

David Stapleton managing Crystal Lake Golf

By Jenn Ryan

### Current Contributors

In 1984, David Francis Stapleton took his first golf swing ever at Crystal Lake Golf Course. He was 10 years old. Stapleton was attending a junior golf event with one of his brothers and their father. His love of golf—and of Crystal Lake Golf Course—began that day.

Now, decades later, Crystal Lake Golf remains Stapleton's favorite course—so much so that, recently, after almost 20 years of corporate ladder-climbing and more than one stress-related health scare, Stapleton, now 44, finds himself managing his favorite course.

"It's a dream come true," says Stapleton, who began the job of general manager over

Memorial Day weekend. Not only that: he is working on a deal toward ownership. Although that prospect may seem daunting to some, it is a welcome change of pace for Stapleton, who has been on a de-stress journey this past year.

### The Return Home

As a life-long athlete and competitor, Stapleton has long found respite and challenge in the game



David Stapleton is the new general manager of Crystal Lake Golf, 160 acres of sprawling fairways overlooking Crystal Lake. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

of golf. Whether as an avenue for sport/fitness, business negotiations, or as a mental "break" from the grind of the workday, golf has been an important part of his life since that very first day, back in 1984.

Stapleton's family had moved to Benzie County just four years earlier, in May of 1980. He is the youngest of six children, all having graduated from Benzie Central High School. Stapleton actually had a summer job at the golf course during high school, from 1988 to 1991. After graduation in 1992, Stapleton went to Hope College for academics and athletics. He played football for the Flying Dutch, until a back injury that required surgery led him to transfer to Central Michigan University, where he earned a business degree.

Please see Stapes on page 6

## Keeping History Visible in Lake Ann

Almira Township's well-organized museum collection

By Beau Vallance

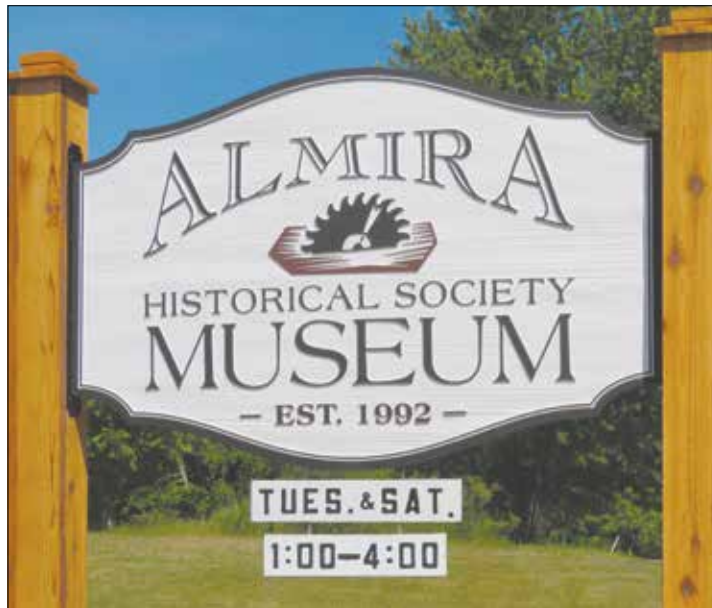
### Current Contributor

She recognized his voice behind her in a crowd at the Cherry Festival in Traverse City in 1991, decades after she had last worked the town switchboard. And, as it turned out, he now owned that switchboard!

Medford Sattler's father had owned the Oviatt Telephone Company, serving Almira Township and Lake Ann, and the switchboard had served the 59 area telephones that were in service (at \$1.25 per month) before the change to dial phones in 1953. Sattler agreed to give the switchboard to Vera Carmien, on condition that she never sell it. So Carmien drove all the way to Sattler's home in New Hampshire to bring the switchboard back to Lake Ann, and it is now exhibited, alongside the old post office service window, at the

Almira Township Historical Museum.

Carmien is the founder and board president of the museum, and she takes seriously this role of preserving the local history. Her own history is part of it: Carmien had served as Lake Ann's switchboard operator and also its postmaster back in the day, doing both jobs inside her father's store (now the Lake Ann Grocery, or "John & Sandy's," to some). Her father, Max Goin, owned the store from the 1930s until it



The Almira Township Historical Museum shares its three-acre complex with six historic structures. Photo by Beau Vallance.

closed in 1976, when a new post office was built. The switchboard and post office had shared space with groceries, toiletries, and other essentials, and her family had lived in the back of the store.

"I feel that Lake Ann is as important as any village in Benzie County, and we have many artifacts that relate specifically to Lake Ann that we thought were worth displaying," Carmien says. "So we created our own historical society and museum for people to visit and learn about our area."

### Local History

The museum was built in 2003, and it has an "Old West" false façade, easy to spot on Maple Street, about two blocks west of the store. Six historic structures share the three-

Please see History on page 9

## Schtickers and Schwag

Petoskey stone inspires Sleeping Bear Rocks clothing line

By Olivia Jones

### Current Contributor

As soon as Suzie Viswat and Sarah Dilley are asked what makes Up North living so special, they share an almost childlike smile and simultaneously respond: "Lake Michigan."

The two women began as strangers, growing up in two different parts of Michigan. Dilley's first home resided on the shores of Sleeping Bear Bay in Glen Haven, her childhood filled with memories of searching for Petoskey stones with her grandfather during the calm of morning. She attended Glen Lake Community Schools, surrounded by people she had known her entire life.

"I wanted to escape," Dilley admits. "I went to Michigan State University for school, and

I thought there was no way I wanted to live here, it's so small."

This was short-lived; the older that Dilley became, the more that she grew to appreciate the natural beauty of the area, eventually pulling her back.

In contrast, Viswat was raised in Detroit's urban setting, before her parents bought a house Up North in 1967.

"Growing up in the city was great," Viswat remembers. "There were a lot of advantages to living in a big city, but



Suzie Viswat (left) and Sarah Dilley (right) show off their new branded T-shirts. Photo courtesy of the Glen Arbor Sun.

[Northern Michigan] is where my heart is. The people are kind, and look where we live—you couldn't ask for a more beautiful place to live! Every season has its incredible beauty."

This shared admiration for the beauty of the area convinced these two women to make Northern Michigan their permanent home, way before they knew each other.

"I wanted to allow my kids to grow up in a place where you can maintain that naivety about the rest of the world," Dilley says about her choice to come back to her hometown. "Once that's gone, it's gone. I wanted them to grow up believing that people are inherently good and kind and helpful."

Viswat fell in love with the idea of peacefulness after growing up in the city.

Please see Rocks on page 7



See our website for:  
classes • retreats • workshops • Ayurveda services  
[www.YogaAtLadaka.com](http://www.YogaAtLadaka.com)

### Lake Michigan Access in Frankfort



MLS 1849523 \$1,250,000

- Historic 1910 Beach House w/ Lake Michigan Access & Views
- 2895 Sq. Ft., 5 Bedroom/3 Bath
- Expansive Back Deck w/ Views of Lake Michigan
- Located Just 3 Blocks from Downtown Frankfort

Your Real Estate Connection to  
Northern Michigan Living

**LAND CONSULTING  
SERVICES**  
A Full Service Real Estate Company

**Kristin Tebo 231.930.8847**  
**Kari White 231.651.0923**  
**Jay White 231.631.0574**

Office 231.399.0269 | 329 Main St | Frankfort

[LandConsultingServices.com](http://LandConsultingServices.com)

# BATS?

A Lifetime of Experience  
Locally Owned & Operated

**MIPEST**  
MICHIGAN PEST CONTROL 231.715.1830  
BEULAH, MI | [MIPEST.COM](http://MIPEST.COM)

**Bee Dazzled**

*Gifts from the Hive*  
Beeswax Candles  
Herbal Soaps  
Honey & Herbs  
Aromatherapy

231-882-7765  
6289 River Road • Benzonia, MI 49616  
Open May-Dec • Monday-Saturday

# Christina & Graydon Steele: TCAPS Teachers

## Questions & Answers with community faces

Christina [Harig] and Graydon Steele have known each other since they were six years old. They are high school sweethearts who began dating in 2002 and who graduated from Benzie Central High School in 2004. Now husband and wife, they returned to live and work in the area as teachers, working to instill empathy and compassion in the next generation, whether that be their students or their own children—watching the Steeles with youngsters, it is very obvious the amount of intention that they put into every interaction.

Following Benzie Central, they both went on to earn Bachelor's degrees in teaching from Central Michigan University in 2009.\* When it came time for the student-teaching portion of their education, the couple came back to their roots—Graydon student-taught at Platte River Elementary in Honor (now closed), and Christina was stationed at Long Lake Elementary. Typically, student-teaching is one full semester of CMU's program, but Christina and Graydon only spent half of that time in Northern Michigan before traveling to Ghana to student teach for six weeks at the end of 2009.

Now with eight and six years of teaching in the Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) system under their belts respectively, Christina and Graydon are certified teachers for K-8 education, and they recently completed their Master's degrees in the Art of Teaching, with a focus on 21st-century learning, this past May. Until recently, they both worked on the east side of Traverse City but lived in Lake Ann, which was quite a commute; however, Graydon spent the last year teaching at nearby Westwoods Elementary, which serves the TCAPS portion of Lake Ann families (the remainder going to Benzie Central's Lake Ann Elementary), and Christina will be transferring to "the west side," as well, starting her first year at Traverse City West Middle School in September.

The couple was married in 2010, and they now have a budding family that includes: three children, daughter Siella (6) and sons Sawyer (3) and Briggs (1); two dogs; two cats; and eight newly hatched chickens, to replace the three that were massacred by a neighboring opossum. They have recently moved a few miles down the road to their "dream house" on five acres on a dusty dirt road in the middle of the woods.

In short, this dynamic duo are work-a-holics: "Sure, we have a puppy and we just had a baby, but we don't really sleep anyway, so why not finish our Master's degrees and buy a new house?" Christina laughs.

Continuing with our interview series on impactful Benzie County characters, *The Betsie Current* caught up with the Steeles as they were moving Christina into her new classroom.

**THE BETSIE CURRENT:** Why did you return "home" to Northern Michigan after leaving the area?

**CHRISTINA STEELE:** We always knew we wanted to return home—eventually. We always felt blessed to have teachers at Benzie Central who encouraged us to go to college and who believed in us. We wanted to give back to the community that gave so much to us. Plus, our families are here! When we graduated from college, teaching jobs were hard to come by, so we were interviewing for jobs in Arizona and Florida. However, we both did [some of] our student-teaching here, and I had done a long-term sub position for the woman who I student-taught under at Long Lake Elementary, so I feel like that greatly helped in immediately getting me interviews at TCAPS; I was offered two jobs, so we decided to stay in the area and try to give it a go under my lone salary, at least for a little while. We seconded-guessed our decision a bit at first, until Graydon's sister and brother-in-law's dog was lost and everyone around dropped everything to help find her, including us, and I remember thinking that this support system would not have been present elsewhere.

**GRAYDON STEELE:** It was a couple of years before I got a long-term sub position at Westwoods Elementary, and ultimately that role as

"the guitar-playing substitute teacher" led to a job offer for me within TCAPS, too. Whether it's playing "Happy Birthday" to a student or whatever is current on the radio, the students—and faculty—really got to know me through my guitar-playing, ha!

**CURRENT:** Your families are both pretty rooted



Graydon and Christina Steele with their children: Sawyer (left), Siella (center), and Briggs (right). Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

in Benzie, right? Are you one of those weirdo legacy families that go back like 10 generations...? If so, explain this.

**CHRISTINA:** My grandfather, Jerry Harig, moved here from Grand Rapids to start his own store in the 1980s. It was called Jerry's IGA and was located in Beulah, where Papano's Pizza is currently. He owned it from the '80s to the late '90s. My dad, Ken Harig, followed him here, but he had me and my German momma, Andrea [Loeffler], in tow at that time—my parents met when my dad was stationed with the army in Germany, and I was actually born there. Once here, they added my three younger sisters to our family. We moved away [to Scottville] for about a year or so when I was in 2nd grade because of my dad's job at Pepsi, but then we moved back to Benzie, and my mom, my youngest sister [Raenee], and quite a few of my cousins on our dad's side still live here, but my dad and one of my sisters [Jenn] has moved downstate, and another sister [Melanie] is out in Virginia.

**GRAYDON:** My grandmother, Carol [Gray] Bright's family homesteaded their property on Almira Road in Lake Ann. Her grandfather, Silas Gray, moved here with his family in 1870, and the property is still in his name. My grandma was actually one of the last babies to be born on the homestead in 1928. We still go to her for stories of the area. She and her five siblings each bought a piece of property on Pearl Lake in 1979, in order to keep the family together and to build memories. You can find us camping and fishing at Pearl Lake on most days in the summer. It is a gift that I am incredibly thankful to my family for, and now my own children are making the same memories that I grew up having. That's pretty special.

**CURRENT:** Explain a little about how you found your "dream house" and what makes it so dreamy.

**GRAYDON:** We just moved in February to our dream home, one that was built by an area pastor and his family. The house is meaningful, because it is located behind the property where I grew up in Lake Ann, and it's a stone throw from my grandma's property on Pearl Lake. We are surrounded by our family in the place where I grew up: my siblings and their young families, my parents, cousins, aunts, uncles, grandma. I get to show my kids where I rode my bike, which trees I used to climb, and where I shot my first deer. We also now have five acres to run, play, explore, garden, and raise chickens. It is my dream come true.

**CURRENT:** How many different classrooms have you each taught in, at which schools? How have you seen your work grow and change? How do you hope that it will continue to grow? Why was it important to get your Master's degrees? What's next?

**CHRISTINA:** Teaching has become increasing-

ly data-driven, with a huge focus on standardized teaching. I hope that parents, students, and community members follow the decisions that are being made regarding education at both the state and federal level, because education needs community advocates now more than ever—our children are our future, and they deserve nothing less than the best. I taught one year

of 2nd grade at Blair Elementary in Grawn, and the rest has been spent bouncing around Traverse City East Middle School: 6th grade language arts and 6th-8th grade science. This fall, I'll be teaching 6th grade science at Traverse City West Middle School. It's a little scary to be at a whole new building, but it's something that I'm really excited about at the same time. Teaching at the middle school level can be incredibly challenging at times, but it is also the most rewarding, I feel, as it is a time in a child's life when they need lots of support but have trouble voicing it; there are a lot of things that middle-schoolers are dealing with for the first time—middle school is marked with change! Getting our Master's

degrees was important to us for several reasons: firstly, we truly enjoy learning, so going back to school was fun for us. We also wanted to continue to grow in our profession and learn more; we strive to be great educators for our students.

**GRAYDON:** Teaching is a lot of fun! I try to teach my students the value of learning and try to do so by making it fun and engaging. There is a statistic somewhere about the amount of laughter kids get a day vs. adults, and I happen to be in career that provides me more than my daily dose of laughter. I have taught nearly all elementary grades—I taught 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades at Cherry Knoll Elementary, which was conveniently located next door to [Traverse City] East Middle School, where Christina was working, but last year was my first year at Westwoods Elementary, which is really close to our house and a much better commute. I love the hugs and pictures that I get in 1st grade, but 5th grade is probably my favorite, because I get to prepare them for a new stage in life and they get my jokes! Getting my Master's degree was important for my own quest for knowledge. I enjoy learning. We both really enjoy teaching the sciences, especially nature-based education, given our wonderful Northern Michigan ecosystem.

**CURRENT:** What kinds of things do you do for fun now, when you're not working?

**CHRISTINA:** Now that we are finished with our Master's program, we feel as though we can breathe! Our favorite thing is definitely snuggling with our kiddos, along with wrestling, Nerf gun fights, or dance parties. We also love to be outdoors—camping, swimming, fishing, hiking, collecting bugs, frogs, turtles, monarch caterpillars, searching for Leland blue stones (our favorite hobby), and hanging out with family. We like to keep busy, but not too busy to enjoy dinner with our kids around the table, a game of Uno, possibly a quick pillow fight, and then, of course, a bedtime story and then like a bazillion "good nights," drinks of water, and anything else that our young kids can do to avoid bedtime.

**GRAYDON:** Plus a good dose of around-the-house projects. Fishing and hunting, too!

**CURRENT:** What other things are you involved with? How did you get involved with them, and why are you passionate about these causes?

**CHRISTINA:** We are pretty busy with school and are involved with lots of district and building initiatives—bond passage, anti-bullying committees, curriculum-writing, school talent show, and leadership teams. Outside of the school world, I am on the Almira Township Parks and Recreation Committee, which I'm passionate about, because I get to help make decisions that better our community. It's fun to be involved with things that go beyond myself, and we're trying to instill that in our kids, even

at their young ages. They have helped by volunteering their time spreading mulch, planting trees, etc. for Parks and Rec, which gives them the opportunity to see that they play a role in our community and have a duty to be active members of our community. Last year, the kids helped me to pick out a new playground structure for Almira Township Park and helped to assemble it. This year, we are getting a new disc golf course at the park, and I am also working on trying to get a walking path connecting our parks.

**GRAYDON:** Like Christina said, we're trying to raise children who are positive assets to our community—who are empathetic, compassionate, and hopefully will change the world for the better. Additionally, we've helped to coach TBAYS soccer up at the Keystone Fields in Traverse City, and I give the occasional guitar lesson.

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

**CHRISTINA:** We live and work in the one of the most beautiful places on the planet! Lake Ann is quaint, a nice distance from the hustle and bustle of Traverse City. Rewards have been help in raising our family—for instance, Graydon's mom watches our kids three days a week while we both work full-time jobs; my sister Raenee has been a huge help, and my mom, "Oma." Challenges for us have been longer commutes for work, back when we both were working on the east side of Traverse City but living in Lake Ann; also student loan debt, childcare availability, and a lack of diversity/culture.

**GRAYDON:** The most rewarding part of our job is working with children—we get to laugh multiple times a day and are rewarded with empowering students. Watching students learn and grow is a great source of pride.

**CURRENT:** Is there a busy season for you or is it pretty constant year-round? (ex. Everyone always says to teachers, "It must be nice to get your summers off." How annoying is that?)

**CHRISTINA:** During the school year, it definitely feels like a non-stop marathon. It's hard to stop and catch our breath. Teaching is rewarding but an incredibly difficult job: managing and teaching children during the school day (27 for Graydon, 33 per class period for me); creating engaging lessons; calling home; following state, district, and building initiatives; grading work and projects outside of the school day. During the school day, we have to be on, 100% of the day. We always smile when people make the comment about having summers off and say, "The profession could always use more teachers." I also challenge these people to get involved in a school or classroom.

**GRAYDON:** In the summer, we both attend trainings, write curriculum, etc. I also wait tables at Crystal Downs Country Club from June through September; I've been there for 14 years, and I'm actually the head server, basically because I've been there longer than anyone else. Christina used to work there, too, before we had kids, and she'd have a year on me if she were still there—she's the one who got me that job, back in college.

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

**CHRISTINA:** We both hope that we are making a positive impact on the community. We both strive to be amazing teachers, and that sometimes trickles into our home life, as we try to

balance with raising a young family. We try to make learning engaging, but we also both set very high expectations for our students—we want them to enjoy coming to our classrooms, but they also know and understand that they need to work hard.

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

**CHRISTINA:** We love the Frankfort and Beulah 4th of July parades, the Fall Fest in Frankfort, as well as hayrides, apple-picking, and other fall activities. We love hiking Pyramid Point and Otter Creek, and midnight tubing down the Platte River in the summer.

**GRAYDON:** Beach campfires under the stars, and we also love the Perseid meteor showers. We love the Cherry Bowl Drive-In, but miss Harry. We were stoked when Lake Ann Brewery—the "LAB"—came to town to join The Stone Oven, and stand-by favorites since we were kids continue to be the Roadhouse, East Shore Market's Judy sandwich, and a slice of Cherry Hut cherry pie a la mode. [Of note: Christina was a server at The Cherry Hut for years before she waited tables at Crystal Downs.]

**CURRENT:** How have you seen Benzie County change since you moved here? What are your hopes for the area in the future?

**CHRISTINA:** We have not seen huge changes but have appreciated watching new businesses in the area, such as Stormcloud [Brewing Company] and St. Ambrose [Cellars]. I hope that we continue to see kids pursue their dreams and be active voices in the trajectory of Benzie County. It seems—but maybe this is just the viewpoint of a "now-adult"—that people here have more of an awareness of social change and the impacts that decisions have on our communities, more so than when we were growing up here. That's a good, positive change.

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

**GRAYDON:** I think that the talented young people who already see the value of living and working here have jumped at the opportunity of coming back or staying. To those young individuals, I encourage them to get involved, if they are not already. I have seen a lot of wonderful additions being made to our community by people with a vision. I definitely think that affordable housing is important, so that people of all socio-economic levels can live and contribute to our communities. I also think that available and affordable childcare, preschools, and young-five programs would help to make living here doable for young families.

**CURRENT:** What does your perfect summer day look like in Benzie County? How would you spend it?

**CHRISTINA:** We'd start the day with oatmeal, topped with fresh-picked fruit from the day before. Then packing the car and loading up the kiddos and stopping for a yummy Judy from East Shore, then heading to Lake Michigan for the day, probably Esch Road/Otter Creek. We'd stay all day and have a small beach fire in the evening, cooking s'mores and watching the sunset, and then lying on the beach, answering our kids' questions about constellations and trying to spot the first satellite.

*\*From 2004-2006, Christina attended nearby Alma College, where she played on the women's soccer team, before transferring to CMU to pursue an integrated science major, which was unavailable at Alma.*

### Editor's Note

There are a number of unsettling changes that have been proposed for Michigan schools, including the controversial proposal for social studies curriculum standards that would decrease references to the Ku Klux Klan, LGBTQ rights, and climate change, according to *Michigan Public Radio*: "The proposed plan would also downplay the impact of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [NAACP] and remove the word 'democratic' from any reference to 'core democratic values.'"

The standards are now being reviewed as part of a public comment period, which has been extended [from the original end date of June 30] to September 30, due in large part to public outcry against these changes.

Want your voice to be heard on this and other hot education topics? Visit [bit.ly/MDEsocstud](http://bit.ly/MDEsocstud) online.

## Surfaces by Tilecraft

400 Main Street,  
Frankfort, Michigan 49630  
231-352-8130 Fax 352-8132  
[surfacesbytilecraft@yahoo.com](mailto:surfacesbytilecraft@yahoo.com)

From Tile, Stone to wood, cork, bamboo, vinyl and carpet. We have the elegant flooring surfaces you want for your ultimate cottage or year round northern escape. Check out our great selection of countertop material too. Granite, Cambria Quartz, Corian, Laminate and Slab Porcelain Tile.

Our team of sales associates, design consultants and installers have concentrated on bringing the latest in home surface designs to service the people of Northern Michigan. Our goal is get you

"Living well on Fabulous Surfaces"





Fudge, Ice Cream,  
Chocolates,  
Caramel Corn  
& Brittle



231 399-0350 • 413 Main St. Frankfort

## ROCKS LANDING



231-399-0158 [www.rocksoncrystal.com](http://www.rocksoncrystal.com)

Crystal Lake Dining - Tuesday-Sunday 5-9pm  
7 miles north of Frankfort on M-22




2018 Annual Fundraiser  
Friday, August 10 at 6:00 pm

132 Coast Guard Rd. | PO Box 1513  
Frankfort, MI 49635 | (231) 352-4151

www.oliverart.org  
Classes | Exhibitions | Events | Gift Shop

Sauna Anywhere



**SAUNA DUDE**

231-651-0287  
SaunaDude.com

MOBILE SAUNA RENTALS

**STORMCLOUD**  
BREWING COMPANY

*Music on Tap*

Aug 6 - Levi Britton  
Aug 7 - Barelyon  
Aug 9 - E Minor  
Aug 12 - Open Mic w/ Blake  
Aug 13 - Abigail Stauffer  
Aug 16 - Elvis Karaoke

**Live Music Monday thru Friday!**

CRAFT BREWS · BRILLIANT BITES  
BELGIAN INSPIRED · MICHIGAN MADE

STORMCLOUDBREWING.COM  
303 MAIN STREET | FRANKFORT, MICH.

EXPLORE ALL OF THE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CITY OF FRANKFORT ON THE SHORES OF BEAUTIFUL LAKE MICHIGAN.



OPEN ALL YEAR LONG

**GREAT FOOD, FREE SMILES.**

**OPEN DAILY 11 AM - 8 PM**

**THE CHERRY HUT**

*A Northern Michigan Tradition Since 1922*



211 N. Michigan Ave. (US 31) Beulah, MI 49617 231-882-4431 CHERRYHUT.COM

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK. DAILY SPECIALS**

AT GENO'S, OUR CUSTOMERS ARE MORE THAN JUST FRIENDS, THEY'RE FAMILY. WHETHER THE SNOW IS FLYIN' OR THE SUMMER BREEZE IS BLOWIN',



STOP IN AND EXPERIENCE LOCAL FLAVOR AT IT'S BEST!  
Located in downtown historic Thompsonville  
14848 Thompson Ave  
231-378-2554 - carry out available  
GenosSportsBar.com

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## CONSTANTLY FLOWING

### Everyday

Heros of the Storm: a ranger-led shipwreck rescue re-enactment program every day, all summer long, at the Maritime Museum in Glen Haven. 3-3:30pm. Lyle Gun Firing from 3:30-4pm.

Ranger-led twilight talks every day, all summer long. Topics may vary. Meet at the DH Day Campground amphitheater and Platte River Campground amphitheater. 8-9pm.

### Mondays

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.

Pilates with Anna at the Oliver Art Center in downtown Frankfort. annamallien@gmail.com 10-11am.

Free yoga class for seniors with Michelle Leines at The Gathering Place Senior Center. 10579 Main Street in the Honor Plaza. 231-525-0600. 10-11am.

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.

MIFiberShed at Grow Benzie is a place for fabric, fiber craft, and clothing to be recycled, remade, or exchanged. Clear out your closet or sewing/craft room and get inspired to make new stuff. We give fiber nine lives before the landfill. Come use a sewing machine, help to sort donations, and acquire clothing for \$1 per pound! Donations give you fibercredit to use in the shop. Workshops on the 2nd Monday of the month. MIFiberShed is open every Monday 12-7pm. Call/text Emily Votruba at 231-399-0098 or email emilyvotruba@yahoo.com to join the email list.

Zumba with Suzanne at The Gathering Place. All welcome. \$3 per class. 2:30pm.

Grow Benzie Farmers' Market: Fresh vegetables and fruits, baked goods, bread, jam, honey, maple syrup, artisan crafts, and more will be for sale at each market! There will be free cooking and nutrition-education classes every week from 3:30-5pm. 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.

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

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.

Zumba for \$3 at The Gathering Place. 5:15pm.

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. \$10 per class, with some mats available, if you do not have one. 841 S Pioneer Road just outside Beulah/Honor. Text 231-218-0655 to register. 6-8pm.

### Wednesdays

Zumba for \$3 at The Gathering Place. All welcome.

\$3 per class. 8:30m.

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

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.

PLARN at The Gathering Place. Crochet plastic mats to donate for the homeless. For more info, call Dawn at 231-525-0601. 1:15pm.

Storm Riders Cycling Club: join the rides every Wednesday, or just those that you can make! Explore rotating sections 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! 6:30pm.

Chairlift Rides: Enjoy panoramic views of three counties and top-of-the-mountain attractions, such as live music and a cash bar. \$7 per person, but ages 8 and younger ride free with a paying adult; all house guests ride free. Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville. 7pm.

### Thursdays

Arcadia Brach Library hosts sewing school basics at the Pleasant Valley Community Center. 231-889-4230.

Ranger-led beach walks in the Sleeping Bear Park at the Maritime Museum beach; help collect data for research on this 1-mile hike. 11-12pm.

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

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 computer-related questions. Read to Denny, the cute little dog! 12-5pm.

Board Game Day at the Darcy Library. 2-5pm.

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/child pair. It can be as fun/focused as you prefer, 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 home of Linda & Dave Schweyer in Bear Lake. Open to all levels; \$13 per session. 231-383-1883. 4-5:30pm.

Bike with a Sleeping Bear park ranger: leave from the Dune Climb parking lot/Sleeping Bear Heritage Trailhead. 4:30-6:30pm.

Knitting for NICUs: Ashley Taillard leads a knitting guild, which is fulfilling the clothing needs of the neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) of Northern Michigan hospitals. Children's activities are available during this time, so that parents do not need to find childcare. Bring your own knitting supplies or purchase a starter kit on site. Free lessons will be offered for those who do not know how to knit. The guild meets at the Crystal Cafe at 1681 Benzie Highway/US-31, in the Shop'n'Save plaza. 5:30pm.

Guided mountain bike rides, hosted by Crystal Mountain Recreation, on mountain bike trails, the Betsie River Pathway, surrounding two-tracks, and season roads. Riders must be at least 16 years old with some mountain bike experience, but this is open to all skill levels. Helmets required. Drop-in rides are free; rental bike with helmet is \$19 per ride; helmet rental is \$10 per ride. All rides leave the Mountain Adventure Zone and end at the Beach House. 6-7:30pm.

Jake Frysinger performs harmonious cover songs and originals on acoustic guitar at The Roadhouse Mexican Bar & Grill in Benzonia. 6-9pm.

Doc Probes performs at Cold Creek Inn in Beulah. In addition to his own singer-songwriter compositions, Doc spans a wide range of musical genres, including folk, traditional, gospel, old-time, Irish and Celtic, blues, mellow rock, easy listening, jazz standards,

country, and latin music. 6-9pm.

Open Mic Night at St. Ambrose Cellars. 6-9pm.

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

### Fridays

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

Fun Dance time with Ms. Vickie at the Benzie Shores District Library. 10am.

Walk in the shoes of early homesteaders. Meet at Port Oneida Farms Heritage Center. 11am-12pm.

Ranger-led "Dune Discovery" program: how were the dunes formed? Meet at the Dune Climb Pavilion. 1-1:30pm.

Tech Support to help you navigate the tech world. Please call in advance to schedule your appointment with Robert. The Gathering Place. 1-2pm.

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

Magical History Tour: A collaboration between the Benzie Area Historical Society and Benzie Bus, the Betsie Bay Tour departs from the Benzie Area Historical Museum in Benzonia at 2pm. \$15. Call 231-882-5539 to reserve your spot in history!

30th summer of Beach Bards Bonfire: "by heart" poetry, storytelling, and music on the beach at The Leelanau School. \$1 per being. Children's hour begins at 8pm; adults at 9pm.

### Saturdays

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

MIFiberShed at Grow Benzie is open 9am-4pm.

Ranger-led walk to learn what life was like along the Manitou Passage. Meet at Sleeping Bear Point Trail to hike one mile. 11am-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.

Ranger Rendezvous at DH Day Log Cabin in the DH Day Campground to learn what is going on at Sleeping Bear Dunes. 1-1:45pm.

Tours of Stormcloud's production brewery and tasting room, complete with an overview of the brewing process and guided tastings. All participants will take home a Stormcloud logo tasting glass or sticker. \$10 per adult or teen (ages 12-20), children under age 12 are free. Reservations required: stormcloudbrewing.com/brewery-tours/ Tours are each about 45 minutes long, and tours begin at 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, and 6pm.

Chairlift rides at Crystal Mountain. 7pm.

Dance Party at the Frankfort Beach with Vickie Slater. 231-620-1411. 7-8pm.

\*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 discoveryyogami.com.

### Sundays

Ranger-led four-mile paddle of the Platte River. Bring your own kayak or rent one. Reservations required. Meet at the Platte River Picnic Area in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. 10am-12:30pm.

## ON DECK

### Thursday, August 2

Emma Cook and Questionable Company is a small band with a curiously large sound, formed in 2013 out of the thriving Burlington, Vermont, music scene. Three friends combined their nuanced styles to form this funk-folk trio that delivers a gritty, honest, and soulful performance. Emma's songwriting and vocals have been compared to Sara Barielles, Amy Winehouse, and Susan Tedeschi. Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

**Thursday, August 2**

Wink, our favorite treehugging melody maker, is hugely entertaining and one sweet dude, performing at Iron Fish Distillery. 6:30-9:30pm.

**Thursday, August 2**

Blind Dog Hank offers musical delights for all ages. They play blues, rock, folk, and cover all of your favorites. Bradley's Pub & Grille at Interlochen Golf Course. 7-9pm.

**Thursday, August 2**

Jazzy Blowout featuring Ted Alan (guitar), Dave Huber (saxophone), Tom Short (flute), John Lindy (drums), and Andy Evans (bass) at St. Ambrose Cellars. 7-10pm.

**Thursday, August 2**

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

**Thursday, August 2**

Barefoot performs a free concert at Portage Point Inn and Marina. 8-11pm.

**Thursday-Friday, August 2-3**

Family Week with Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre, featuring 50-minute *Hamlet* and education workshop performances, all shows begin at 7pm on Tank Hill in Frankfort.

**Thursday-Sunday, August 2-5**

Summer DOG Party at Twisted Trails Offroad Park in Copemish. Colt Ford performs Friday; DJ Fade performs Saturday. We are working on Phase 2 of our new property, and we are goign to have a few night-wheeling nights, so get those lights hooked up. \$50 weekend pass; \$10-\$30 day passes.

**Friday, August 3**

Ted, Fred, and the Cosmic Coufefe perform at St. Ambrose. 6-9pm.

**Friday, August 3**

The Whiskey Charmers perform at Iron Fish Distillery. 6:30-9:30pm.

**Friday, August 3**

Don't miss the first performance at the new Stormcloud Tasting Room! No Resolution will take the stage. Grab a beer, find a seat on the lawn, and enjoy an evening of "summer porch music." 7-8:30pm.

**Friday, August 3**

GSnacks is fun and funky, performing at Lake Ann Brewing Comapny. 7-10pm.

**Friday, August 3**

Chad Benson, a singer-songwriter from Lansing, performs at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

**Saturday, August 4**

57th annual Frankfort Rotary Chicken BBQ in Mineral Springs Park in downtown Frankfort. Tickets are a \$10 donation. 11:30am-6pm.

**Saturday, August 4**

Strobelite Honey is an original spin on soul, funk, dance, and rock. They will perofrm in the Iron Fish barn from 3:30-6:30pm for a private party for MR Productions, and then in the bar from 7:30-10pm. Buckley's pride and joy, Mike Youker, will be on guitar and vocals; Larry "the hamma" Hammond on drums; Stu "the studabaka" Ford on bass; and Justin "Omaha" Palmer on keys and vocals.

**Saturday, August 4**

Trina Hamlin performs at St. Ambrose. 7-9pm.

**Saturday, August 4**

Blind Dog Hank performs rock, rhythm, folk, and blues at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 7-10pm.

**Saturday, August 4**

Walk-a-thon: walk, run, or bike from Frankfort's Bellows Park on Crystal Lake, at the corner of Bellows Avenue and South Shore Drive. All proceeds to benefit Benzie Senior Resources, a non-profit organization serving the seniors of Benzie County. Please contact 231-325-0600 or info@benzieseniorresources.org for an information packet. Registration from 7:30-9:30am.

**Saturday, August 4**

If there were a drink named after Evan Burgess, it would be 98 percent Jack Daniels, one percent ice baby, and once percent drink umbrella. A night of music, laughs, and maybe some Jack at The Cabbage Shed. 9pm.

**Sunday, August 5**

Support the Benzie Central Football Program by participating in golf! 18 holes of golf, raffle, prizes, food, and fun. Crystal Lake Golf & Events. To register, call 231-882-4061. 10am.

**Sunday, August 5**

Jake Frysinger performs harmonious cover songs and originals on acoustic guitar at Iron Fish Distillery. 3:30-5:30pm.

**Monday, August 6**

Painting with Toinette at St. Ambrose. \$30 per person; all materials provided. 5:30pm.

**Monday, August 6**

Levi Britton performs at Stormcloud Brewery.

**Monday, August 6**

Mindful Art-Making & Fiber-Spinning Demo: join Jenn Ryan in making a handmade work of art, while adding a coping skill to your "life" tool belt. Anyone interested is welcome to attend; youth need adult supervisor with them. In order to ensure that we have sufficient supplies for this workshop, please email lisa@growbenzie.org or leave a message at (231) 882-9510 to register by Friday, August 3. Event will take place rain or shine. Note: we will have some room for drop-ins, so if you hear about this event at the last minute, please check-in to see if we have enough materials. It is likely we will! \$5 per person. Grow Benzie. 2-4pm.

**Tuesday, August 7**

Bareylon performs at Stormcloud Brewery.

**Thursday, August 9**

E Minor performs at Stormcloud Brewery.

**Friday, August 10**

Maggie McCabe performs at St. Ambrose.

**Saturday, August 11**

25th annual Milly Open: all proceeds to benefit the Isaac Julien Legacy Foundation Scholarship Fund for local high school seniors. \$65 per person includes 18 holes of golf, cart, snacks, dinner, and prizes. Crystal Lake Golf & Events. 10am.

**Saturday, August 11**

Flipside performs at St. Ambrose.

**Monday, August 13**

Abigail Stauffer performs at Stormcloud.

**Thursday, August 16**

Elvis karaoke at Stormcloud Brewing Company.

**THE JON ZICKERT GROUP**

*Meet the Team*

<b>ALICIA CHILDERS</b> Buyer's Specialist 231.383.3294	<b>JON ZICKERT</b> Lead Realtor 231.631.1337	<b>RACQUEL HUDDLESTON</b> Buyer's Specialist 231.590.0464
--	--	---

**IRON FISH DISTILLERY**

MICHIGAN'S FIRST FULL LINE FARM DISTILLERY!

TOURS, TASTINGS, DELICIOUS CRAFT COCKTAILS, YUMMY SNACKS!

COME ENJOY OUR GORGEOUS TASTING ROOM, PATIO, OUTDOOR GAMES, FIRE PIT AND TOURS.

LIVE MUSIC & FOOD TRUCKS MOST WEEKENDS.

VODKA • GIN • RUM  
**WHISKEY**  
& SPECIALTY LIQUORS

OPEN YEAR ROUND  
2.5 MILES FROM CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN RESORT

14234 DZUIBANEX ROAD, THOMPSONVILLE, MI 49683  
231.378.FISH(3474) • IRONFISHDISTILLERY.COM

**ST. AMBROSE CELLARS**  
841 S. Pioneer Rd - Beulah, MI

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

**TUESDAYS**  
Yard Yoga - 6PM

**WEDNESDAY**  
\$2 Beer All Day

**THURSDAY**  
25% Off Howlers and Growlers of Mead & Cider  
**AND**  
Open Mic - 6PM

**UPCOMING MUSIC**

**August 3 - Ted, Fred & Cosmic Covfefe**

**August 4 - Jen Sygit**

**August 10 - Maggie McCabe**

**August 11 - Flipside**

**Coho**

Scenic Patio Over-Looking Betsie Bay  
Fine Wines, Spirits, and Michigan Drafts  
Supporting Local Farmers & Producers  
Private Parties and Catering  
Relaxing Lunches - Elegant Dinners  
Daily Happy Hour

320 Main St, Frankfort • On Betsie Bay  
(231) 352-6053  
www.CohoFrankfort.com

# The Betsie Current

P.O. Box 90 • Frankfort, MI 49635  
Phone: (231) 649-3988  
editor@BetsieCurrent.com  
ads@BetsieCurrent.com  
billing@BetsieCurrent.com

Editors: Jordan Bates, Aubrey Ann Parker  
That one guy: Jacob Wheeler  
Contributors: Linda Alice Dewey, Olivia Jones, Jenn Ryan, Noah Sorenson, Beau Vallance, Norm Wheeler  
Delivery: Joe Cissell  
Bookkeeping: Randi Stoltz

*The Betsie Current* is a free tabloid, published 12 times this year and distributed throughout Benzie County. Advertising inquiries, comments, suggestions, critiques, articles, photos, poems, and letters are welcome. © 2018, *The Betsie Current*, all rights reserved. www.BetsieCurrent.com

**Storage Units Now Available!**

6x10	10x20
10x13	10x25
10x10	10x30
10x15	20x20

231.352.7970

BENNINGTON LUND Mercury ShoreStation TWIN BAY BOAT CO. LSP Inc.

2461 FRANKFORT HIGHWAY FRANKFORT, MI 49635  
MACDONALDMARINEINC.COM

**RAISED IN BENZIE.  
BORN TO SELL HOUSES.**

**Jamie Gray Knowles Benzie.**  
jamie.gray@CBGreatLakes.com

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
SCHMIDT REALTORS  
231.882.8000

**Michigan Shores Cooperative**

*Northern Michigan's most desirable independent living community, overlooking Lake Michigan.*

641 Michigan Ave, Frankfort  
231-352-7217  
www.MichiganShores.net

**focus GALLERY**

NOW OPEN 10-6 DAILY! 402 MAIN STREET, FRANKFORT (NEXT TO CRESCENT BAKERY)

VOTED BENZIE COUNTY'S BEST ART GALLERY IN 2016!

STUNNING ARTWORK FEATURING THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN AND BEYOND

www.focusfrankfort.com 231-399-0327

**We've got money to lend!**

**Frankfort**  
Community Federal Credit Union  
frankfortcu.org

**SHARE CERTIFICATES**  
6 MONTH - 0.5% APY  
12 MONTH - 1.5% APY  
Annual Percentage Yield

**YOUR PLACE UP NORTH AWAITS!**

**KATHY NEVEU**  
231.342.0921  
kathy@kathyneveu.com  
www.KathyNeveu.com

**PERFECT OFF PLATTE LAKE**  
Adorable 3 BR home/cottage in park-like wooded setting; Big Platte Lake access. Everything updated; perfect décor. Move right in! In addition, a 1300 sq ft garage – room for your car, boat, & the toys. Near dunes, M-22, & many other venues. \$275,000

**BEULAH COUNTRY RETREAT**  
Peaceful countryside home on 5 acres – ease your soul here! Open flr plan, wood flrs, large bedrooms, sunroom. 2-car garage PLUS 32x30 polebarn w/ storage loft. Located close to Crystal Lake, dwtn Beulah, & bike trail. \$250,000

**Not sure where to even begin with your home project? We do!**  
**Interior designer & licensed builder.**

Design and Construction from a woman's perspective.  
From space planning to finish selections to furniture, we create solutions for any size project and budget.

**For a complimentary consultation call 231-325-3043 or visit www.duperrondesigns.com**

**DUPERRON DESIGNS INC.**  
Interior design that reflects your personality & lifestyle.

# Stapes

Continued from page 1

Before, during, and after college, Stapleton helped to manage the family business—Stapleton's Corner Store, at the stop light in Benzonia—before it sold to its current owner in 2004. Additionally, Stapleton has been using his business acumen for the past 14 years in Traverse City, where he led a multi-million dollar print company.

Early in 2018, however, life changed significantly after he was downsized from his long-time employer. A combination of factors allowed him to explore a crossroads of sorts—would he move away, start anew, or invest back home?

Stapleton began researching, doing a lot of self-reflection, and taking care of his health. A long-time sufferer of psoriasis, attributed

via floor-to-ceiling windows. A sign hangs over the newly refinished wood bar in the center of the room that says, "Forecast: Sunny with a chance of golf;" and the lyrics from John Mellencamp's "Pink Houses" echo from the kitchen: "Oh, but ain't that America, for you and me; ain't that America, we're something to see, baby; ain't that America, home of the free."

Out the windows, the sun shines on the fairway, with lush trees, an apple orchard up the center, and a spectacular view of Crystal Lake's sparkling blue water. A big, white event tent is set up, as well as patio umbrella tables. Stapleton's smile is infectious for customers, who comment on the changes that they can see since the last time that they visited this course.

"Yeah, we're getting some stuff done," Stapleton shrugs humbly as he checks them in.

The beer-delivery guy cracks a joke: "Man, how can you stand this view all day long?"

The course—located just off the beaten

## A Day of Golf

Nine Holes: \$20 with a cart; \$15 after 2 p.m.  
18 Holes: \$40 with a cart; \$30 after 2pm.

Driving range: \$4 per bucket of 40 balls or \$7 per bucket of 90 balls

League Night: Tuesdays and Thursdays



to a high-stress and toxic work environment and a lack of self-care, his body was covered head to toe with one of his worst outbreaks ever—more than 85 percent of his body was under a major stress attack. His doctor told him that he needed to find a way to decompress and de-stress.

One day at a time, Stapleton started paying attention to what really mattered. He dug into a meditation and self-care practice; he began a cleanse, eliminating alcohol and monitoring his diet.

As soon as spring sprung, he returned to his beloved golf course and found an opportunity that seemed too good to be true—now, five months after what began as a tumultuous shift, he feels like he is 25 years old, and the outbreak is almost completely gone.

"I went from psoriasis covering 85 percent of my body to just five percent of my body within three months of taking good care of myself," Stapleton says. "My doctor told me that it takes most people four to six months to do that, sometimes even longer."

With renewed vigor, clear skin, and a new job, he could not be happier. Strong in body, heart, and mind, he works day to day to live a life of intention, with laser sharp focus.

"I've learned that it is possible at any age to focus on an idea or goal that gives life purpose and meaning," he says. "The deliberate and intentional steps forward will not be perfect, however daily progress—meeting or exceeding small daily goals—has reduced my stress level to almost zero and healed my body."

**Not Just A Golf Course**  
Upon walking into the clubhouse, there is a nearly 360-degree view of the golf course

path, along US-31 about a half-mile north of Beulah—boasts a remarkable 160 acres of sprawling fairways and was designed by legendary golf course architects Bruce and Jerry Matthews. Bruce Matthews created the first nine holes in 1970, while his son, Jerry, designed the challenging "back nine" in 1987. Whether played in its entirety or in parts, the course is a challenge to golfers of all skill sets.

Stapleton remembers when he worked here in high school, back before neighboring courses like Pinecroft or Champion Hill were open, when he and the owner would ring up 250 rounds of golf in a day—Stapleton hopes that the changes he is making will bring locals back to Crystal Lake Golf.

Stapleton has already implemented changes, including updates, such as a brew-pub-feel in the clubhouse, a more diverse beverage offering (including local favorites from Stormcloud Brewing Company and St. Ambrose Cellars, as well as Northwoods Soda, to name a few), and live music on (most) Friday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The staff is enthusiastic and hardworking; together, their ideas for the future are growing exponentially, Stapleton says. The "pub grub" menu expands regularly and includes daily specials—burger, chips, draft (soda or beer) for \$10; pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, draft (soda or beer) for \$10, for instance.

Not just a golf course, though, Stapleton says that this is both an event site and a fun, local watering hole—with a view. Whether you are a golfer, have a class reunion, anniversary, party, fundraiser, or wedding to plan, there are limitless possibilities with a venue like this, he says.

Stapleton's ultimate dream is to create

a destination that is open year-round; one where people can be happy, be present, be in nature, and enjoy the beautiful wilderness that surrounds the property.

**A Day in the Life**

The early bird gets the worm, they say; for Stapleton, that means rising early—4 or 5 a.m.—taking a jog on some of the pristine 160 acres of the course, and completing his morning routine, which often includes meditating while gazing out into the wilderness habitat and rolling fairways. (So far this summer, he has seen hundreds of deer, turkeys, birds of all kinds, steer, and even a black bear!) He then grabs a healthy breakfast, cooked by his work colleague, Augie Sanchez, who Stapleton says makes the “best scrambled eggs in the county, sorry Mom!” After breakfast, he gets to work, compartmentalizing his dream.

Making calls, doing research, brainstorming with visionaries, and fine-tuning his goals, Stapleton sets up tee times, takes the time to make conversation with golfers and visitors to the course, slings beverages behind the bar, and works to build a cohesive team, one that is well-trained, as stress-free as possible, and who are in it for the long haul.

Stapleton is like any small business manager, involved in every aspect of the businesses.

Working through training updates, as well as software and infrastructure improvements and efficiencies, he is no stranger to doing what it takes to accomplish a task. No surprise, given that he comes from an intelligent, well-respected, hardworking family of community-minded folks—father Tom Sr. owned and operated Stapleton’s Corner Store for 24 years; mom Eileen worked as an elementary school counselor and currently enjoys retirement thoroughly (especially playing Bridge with friends); sister Christine is owner of Stapleton Realty; sister Trish is a teacher for Traverse City Area Public Schools; brother Tom Jr. works for Watson Benzie auto dealership; sister Sarah co-owns Practical Engineers, Inc. as a consulting engineer for new construction and renovations, and she also coaches varsity girls basketball at Benzie Central High School; and brother Matt is principal of Frankfort Junior and Senior High, as well as FHS varsity football coach.

David Stapleton attributes much of his success to the love and respect of family and friends and the clear-sightedness that he has gained from his meditation practice.

Sure, he knows that he is just at the beginning of his journey, but he trusts that he is now on a sustainable path—it is all about creating a life and venue that is as stress-free as possible and sharing it with every human he can.

Stapleton hopes to one day be able to provide an avenue for people to share their stressors with others and to learn from each other and to support one another.

“A special ‘thank you’ to the amazing, close-knit Benzie community and to those friends and family members who have helped out and supported me during this process,” he says. “In learning about how stress can be linked to some major health issues, staying active is a priority for me to remain healthy.”

*Crystal Lake Golf is located at 8493 Fairway Drive. Stay tuned to what is going on at Crystal Lake Golf by liking them on Facebook or visiting their website CLGolfOfBeulah.com or by emailing CLGolf.Beulah.MI@gmail.com. Call 231-882-4061.*

*Think that you or someone you know might be suffering from the ill effects of stress? Check out bit.ly/StressHotlines to learn more and to get help; there is information for the general public, for veterans and their families—everything from help finding a therapist to the suicide prevention hotline. Do not suffer in silence.*

# Rocks

Continued from page 1

“There’s something about being able to walk out your door in the morning and not hear traffic or electronics,” she says. “It doesn’t take longer than five minutes to get to somewhere quiet.”

After having lived in Utah for a while, Viswat says that the thing she missed the most was the water.

“I think people take that for granted,” she

calls, in order to gauge a reaction from the public. After having worked at Funistrada for the last 18 years, they had developed a strong sense of community to bounce ideas off of. Luckily, people seemed to like their designs.

“Every step is a huge step for us,” Viswat says about their progress. “We are lucky that it has worked out really well; we’ve just tried to take things slowly. It was the perfect pairing of people to do this. I’m glad that Sarah [Dilley] is my partner and my friend.”

Taking what Dilley refers to as “the Bob Sutherland approach” to business, they sell stickers, hats, T-shirts, and sweat-

shirts out of the back of their car. [Bob Sutherland started what is now the Cherry Republic empire back in 1989, with barely enough money for gas and no funds for college, by selling “Cherry Republic” T-shirts sporting the motto “Life, Liberty, Beaches, and Pie” out of the trunk of his car.]

“We’ve had a lot of incredible initial support from people who know us and who have travelled this path with us,” Dilley says. “The retail

business was intimidating, because neither of us has any idea what’s going on. We are just stumbling our way through this.”

Luckily, both Dilley and Viswat always know who to call when they are unsure of how to take the next step.

“We have a lot of people that we have cultivated relationships with over the years,” Viswat says. “Everywhere I’ve gone has afforded me someone that knows a lot more about something than I do.”

Despite not having any experience in the retail business, the two women have had great responses from their beloved community.

“When you’re starting with nothing more than what you have in your pocket, hoping it’s eventually going to come back into your pocket, it’s been really incredible to have the kind of support and guidance from everyone,” Dilley says. “The community has been willing to give us a shot.”

Grateful for the opportunity to share ideas near and dear to their hearts, Dilley and Viswat want to give back.

“We eventually want to give back to the community, by giving back to water conservation, something we both believe a great deal in,” Viswat says. (They even have plans for a children’s book in the works.)

All they hope is that their products bring out a sense of hometown pride in those who wear them, reminding each and every person about the natural beauty that persuades people from near and far—including Dilley and Viswat—to call this area home.

*Sleeping Bear Rocks products can be found at Baywear in Glen Arbor and Frankfort; Maple City Short Stop in Maple City; Great Goods in Suttons Bay; Empire Outdoors in Empire; and Lake Ann Grocery, otherwise known as “John & Sandy’s.” You can also order online through their website Sleeping-BearRocks.com.*

*A version of this article originally published in the Glen Arbor Sun, a semi-sister publication to The Betsie Current.*



The logo was designed by co-owner Sarah Dilley’s brother-in-law, a Chicago architect. Image courtesy of Sleeping Bear Rocks.

says. “You go out there, and you look at it, but you just don’t really see it for what it is, the largest freshwater [source] in the world. And it’s right here.”

**Change In Pace**

The duo’s journey together began when they were working as servers at Funistrada, an Italian restaurant that is nestled in Burdickville, on the east side of Glen Lake.

“That’s where it all started,” Viswat says. “About five years ago, I was looking around and thinking that I worked with some of the brightest, most articulate, greatest women. I was thinking that I’m getting older every day, and there must be something else. I loved where I worked, I loved the people [at Funistrada], but you can’t do it forever. There has to be another way to survive.”

Viswat was not alone; Dilley was feeling the same way at that time.

“We got together and had a brainstorming session about what makes you think of this place,” Viswat recalls. “And we both agreed on the Petoskey stone.”

Thinking that the iconic stone had not really been used commercially all that much, the women began working together, writing down phrases and words that would eventually become their logo for a Petoskey stone-inspired retail endeavor: Sleeping Bear Rocks.

“Our first logo was a rush to do something, and it really wasn’t right,” Viswat admits. “I think, deep down, we both knew that, but we just wanted to put something on a physical sticker, so we just went ahead and did it. But it wasn’t really commercial enough.”

The path that led them to discovering their current and improved logo was one of chance.

“My brother-in-law from Chicago was staying with my family,” Dilley says. “He saw our original design, which was made with actual physical stones. He’s an architect and very artistically inclined, so he started just sketching. [Viswat and I] just looked at each other and said, ‘Yes, that is exactly it.’”

**From Stickers to Schwag**

The two began with simple sticker de-

feel better.

ChristinaMassage.com

*A Love Of*  
**HAIR**  
Hair - Wax - Nails - Tanning

Check out our Facebook for all of our new services!

10960 Main St.  
Honor, MI 49640  
(231) 227-5683



VISIT OUR COFFEE BAR & ROASTERY

in the Village at Grand Traverse Commons,  
next to Left Foot Charley

highergroundstrading.com



Try our new gyro egg rolls!

Main Street, Frankfort  
Right next door to Real Estate One.

**Crystal Adventures**

17227 Vondra Rd. at M-115  
Thompsonville, MI 49683



231-378-2831

LODGING & MORE

Your Up North Headquarters

Only a mile from Crystal Mt. Ski Resort near Thompsonville

**KIDDER PAINTING SERVICES**

• Interior/Exterior Painting • Powerwashing  
• Deck Sealing/Staining

SERVING NW MICHIGAN • FULLY INSURED

231-651-0302

**MICHIGAN RAG CO.**

**HOURS:**  
Mon. - Sat. 9:30am-5:30pm  
Sun. 11am-4pm

**Clothing With  
A Sense of Humor**

**Stop in and See Us!**

On the Corner of Fifth  
and Main Frankfort

**ORDER ANYTIME  
1-800-373-1451**



Home of the  
**FRANKFORT  
FILM FESTIVAL**  
OCTOBER 18-21 • 2018  
FEATURING AWARD WINNING FILMS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE  
**HISTORIC THEATER  
OPEN YEAR 'ROUND**  
FIRST RUN FILMS & CINEMA CLASSICS  
Available for Special Events  
301 MAIN • FRANKFORT, MI 49635  
FRANKFORTGARDENTHEATER.COM

## Orchard House

Assisted Living Apartments



**Pick the Best!**

Grace Road, 651-0473  
www.ColbysOrchardHouse.com

Outstanding Plants, Reasonable Prices



Annuals, Hanging Baskets,  
Planters, Perennials,  
Succulents, Fall Garden Mums,  
Poinsettias

231-882-7226

Open May 1 to December 24  
10am to 5pm

Check us out our public Facebook Page  
2034 Eden Hill Rd., Beulah, MI., 49617

L I S A  
M U S G R A V E  
D D S



QUALITY  
DENTISTRY



1 2 4 S . B E N Z I E B L V D .  
B E U L A H  
L I S A M U S G R A V E D D S . C O M  
2 3 1 - 8 8 2 - 9 6 8 3

**ADVANCED TREE REMOVAL BEAR LAKE, LLC**  
Arcadia, Bear Lake, Benzonia, Beulah, Frankfort, Honor  
Herring Lakes, Onkama, Platte, Thompsonville  
**231-590-8689**  
**CALL ANYTIME FREE ESTIMATES**  
TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL, BUCKET TRUCK, CHIPPER  
FAST, FRIENDLY & INSURED



**Aubrey Ann Parker Photography**  
Now taking reservations for senior portraits.

231-649-3988 • AubreyAnnParker@gmail.com

# Resurrecting a Shipwreck Tale

Mystery of woman's death still haunts maritime history

By Jed Jaworski

Current Contributor

**Editor's Note:** Many of our readers are surprised to hear that we had two years of publication back in 2005-2006. This article is from our 2005 archives, but we really find value in the local history, and we thought that you would, too—whether you are reading this for the first time ever or just for the first time in 13 years.

[In 2005, it was] the 125th anniversary of a dramatic event in the history of Betsie Bay and one that resonates today.

On October 16, 1880, a fierce and sudden storm struck the Great Lakes, sinking 90 vessels and claiming 118 lives. With great risk and sacrifice, residents labored to save the crew of one of these shipwrecked

vessels. To the astonishment of many, the only woman on board, a cook named Lydia Dale, was never rescued. The controversy surrounding the abandonment of the woman lashed to the mast of the sinking ship surfaces and then fades into the sands of time, much like the remains of the shipwreck itself.

The 130-foot schooner *J. Hazard Hartzell* left Michigan's Upper Peninsula with a load of iron ore bound for the Frankfort Furnace Company, the remains of which still stand in Elberta's Waterfront Park.

The ship arrived at 3 a.m., so the captain decided to tack to and fro outside the harbor and await daylight before entering. The ferocious gale suddenly struck, and the helpless ship was blown towards the Elberta Bluffs, crashing down upon a sandbar some 900 feet from shore. The hull cracked asunder, and the ship began to sink, as it was pounded on the lake bottom with the rising and falling seas.

The crew of seven men and one woman were forced to climb up into the masts to escape the frigid water. The woman cook was ill and was assisted by her shipmates to gain the relative safety of the foremast.

At daybreak, a young boy, living near Elberta, witnessed the awful plight of the *Hartzell* and quickly passed the word into town. A gallant man, named John Woodward, rode fleetly on horseback to sound the alarm at the Point Betsie Life Saving Station. Against the obstacles of rugged terrain, wind, and snow, a half-ton cart loaded with lifesaving apparatus was hauled to the wreck site.

Meanwhile, townspeople began to gather on the beach near the wreck. Using pieces of driftwood laid upon the sandy bluff, they spelled out a message in huge letters: "Lifeboat coming," and they built a roaring signal fire.

This provided some comfort to the stranded sailors, who were covered in ice and numb from exposure. Near noon, the lifesaving crew arrived, owing to the aid of many townsfolk who had cleared away brush and hauled the heavy cart—by hand—up and down the wooded hills and sandy bluffs.

The Lyle gun, a cannon built to save lives by shooting a projectile with a line attached,

was fired and the line connected to the wreck. With this line, the breeches buoy and life car were rigged to haul the imperiled crew ashore.

The first person rescued was the first mate, followed by two sailors in the life car. When interrogated as to why the woman was not the first ashore, the rescuers were told that "she would be on the next trip."

With great exertion, the life car was hauled out to the wreck again. Through the wind-whipped snow and spray, shadowy figures could be seen lowering themselves in the life car.

At last, it was brought ashore through the raging surf and opened; two sailors were helped out, but no woman.

The crowd became angry, fearing the crew might abandon a helpless woman. The life car was quickly sent out again as night was fast approaching.

On this trip, the *Hartzell's* captain and second mate appeared. Stunned, the rescuers rushed the car back to the wreck, knowing that the swaying mast could topple at any minute, drowning the woman and two remaining sailors.

In the stormy darkness, it became impossible to see if anyone was descending into the swaying life car. It was kept out a long lime to give the sailors every opportunity to save the woman.

Finally, the word was given to haul on the line, and the life car emerged from the blackened surf.

The crowd rushed into the water and hauled out the damaged and capsized life car.

The two remaining men were found inside, but no woman. The crowd threatened to become an angry mob, and the Life Saving captain quickly intervened. Turning towards the two sailors, he demanded: "Why wasn't that woman brought ashore?" Both sailors replied: "The woman is dead and has been for some time."

There was nothing to be done to recover the woman's body in the blackness without extraordinary risk to the rescuers, so the frozen and exhausted band of townspeople and lifesavers scattered into town. At daybreak, the lifesavers reassembled at the scene, but found the wreck had vanished.

Seventeen days later, Lydia Dale's body washed ashore at Frankfort. The county coroner ruled she had come to death by drowning, implying that she had actually been alive when abandoned and thus perished when the mast toppled into the storm-tossed lake.

What really happened on the mast of the *Hartzell* may never be known.

The U.S. Lifesaving Service's annual report—in period Victorian style—summarized: "Although this occurrence was singularly ghastly and mournful, it is necessarily reduced to a secondary place in the recital by the noble character of the exploit of rescue which accompanied it. It will at once be remarked that this rescue was largely accomplished by the aid of the people from town, for never was public recognition due to service in a human cause more justly deserved than in this instance."

Want to read more of our 2005-2006 archived stories? Go online to [bit.ly/TBC2005](http://bit.ly/TBC2005) and [bit.ly/TBC2006](http://bit.ly/TBC2006).



A historic illustration of Lydia Dale, fighting for her life in the mast of the *J. Hazard Hartzell*.



# History

Continued from page 1

acre complex: the fire barn, housing a 1946 International fire engine that still runs in parades; a blacksmith shop from Habbeler's Mill; a boathouse, outfitted with a rowboat and boating equipment; a two-unit outdoor privy from the Manistee and North-Eastern Railroad depot; the very small, one-bedroom Thompson-Kuemin House, furnished in 1940s style, with electricity and water but no indoor toilet; and the larger, late-1880s, two-story Babcock House, home of Lake Ann's first Methodist Episcopal minister.

The historic buildings were all moved from elsewhere in town. Elmer Bisler, a museum board member and town council

niches along the outer walls and in glass cases in the center.

Museum professionals call everything "objects"—a photograph, a plow, an old textbook, or a flag, all are "objects." According to the museum's brochure, the collection has about 1,500 objects, far fewer than the Benzie Area Historical Museum's 14,000 objects in Benzonia. Though the exhibition space looks full, there is much more in basement storage. This is typical, as most museums exhibit only the best and most representative objects, a fraction of their collections—10 to 12 percent is common—allowing for the best use of space and avoiding redundancies. (Example: one 46-star flag is enough.) Arranged in thematic groupings, the objects reflect stories that are clarified by short object labels and longer wall text.

### Staff, Volunteers, and Exhibits

It takes a lot of work to manage the objects of a museum. Of the 35,000 museums in the country—more than all of the McDonald's and Starbucks combined, and in nearly every county—over half are "small," where all of this curating work is done by three or fewer staff members, plus many dedicated volunteers.

The Almira Township Historical Museum is one of these small museums, and this one has no staff at all: all object management, promotion, and fundraising is handled by the 10 volunteer board members and other citizens as needed.

All of the objects were donated, including the historic houses on the property. I did not see a budget, but it is common for local history museums not to have funds for acquisitions and to depend, instead, on donations by local citizens and their relatives—the switchboard from the son of the telephone company owner is a classic example.

Carmien gave me a tour, counterclockwise from the post office window and switchboard at the front of the museum. Here are some highlights:

- A front corner hosts an annual temporary exhibition. Right now, it is a large collection of Victrolas and other early-1900s record players, one belonging to the museum and the others

- to a collector in Traverse City.
- There are implements from the office of Dr. Shilliday, the town doctor whose house with the big veranda still occupies a street corner in town. There is a blood-pressure cuff, and ledger books show prices for procedures from 1905-1908: \$2 to deliver a baby at home, for example. In this niche is also a pump organ, owned by the Schneider family who lived next door to the museum; the organ was donated by a Schneider descendant.

- A section on schools: there were five schools in the township, and their photos are posted with lines to their positions on a map. Greenbrier School and Almira (officially Thomas Edison) School are still standing.
- There is a notable collection of Texaco artifacts from Carmien's son, including many miniatures and two red, full-sized, standing gas pumps, like the ones that once stood in front of her family's store.
- Military: a corner is filled with uniforms that were once worn by local heroes; these objects are mostly World War II, plus there is a wooden footlocker and some World War I personal equipment. (Of note: one Navy uniform had arrived in a plastic bag in poor condition, with no funds to clean it. But the Modern Dry Cleaner in Traverse City took care of it, refusing payment for restoring a military uniform.) On the high shelf are flags, folded into triangles and protected in plastic, with 45, 46, 48, and 50 stars.
- Logging: photos and implements from the Habbeler Mill on the lakeshore, which closed in the 1930s. A 54-inch white circular sawblade is hard to miss, but there are awls and chains and other tools, too.
- Textiles: a 1922 quilt, embroidered with names—people had paid five cents each to have their names included—and two muslin wedding dresses, one displayed with a wedding photo of the bride wearing that dress. Around the corner, in the back hall, near the office, is a patchwork quilt that was made in 1940 for a family whose house had burned, each piece signed by its maker.
- Photos of the devastating tornado of 1956.
- A niche is devoted to kitchen and cooking implements, with a mannequin dressed for the 1940s. Nearby, a glass case displays amazing shoes.
- Another niche is devoted to farm tools, including a homemade fly swatter.

Outside on the grounds, there are more things to see—Carmien says that the historic buildings are visitor favorites, along with the post office window and the switchboard.

### Next Steps

There are plans for expansion.

"We have raised about half of the \$250,000 we need to add an annex, connecting the main museum and the fire barn," Bisler says. "The annex will make a big difference in what we can exhibit."

For the volunteers who keep the museum going, it has been satisfying work. Bisler is a relative newcomer to Lake Ann, arriving the same year that the museum opened. He is proud of the museum's success and of "all the years of being frugal with our money, not overspending, and volunteers donating money, materials, and a lot of their own time."

"Nothing can replace the good times and friends made in putting this together," Carmien says. "And most important [gesturing to the whole large room], we've saved all this!"

When asked how visitors react when they come in, she says: "It's fun, and it's wonderful that people do come in, especially young people who don't have a clue [about the township's past]."

The switchboard and post office were communication tools of their day. Now the museum uses those objects to keep that history visible, telling the stories to new generations, communicating across time.

*The museum is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Visit [AlmiraHistoricalSociety.org](http://AlmiraHistoricalSociety.org) for a calendar of events, including Magical History Tours on summer Saturdays (a partnership with the Benzie Area Historical Society and the Benzie Bus). Funding comes from the annual Lake Ann Homecoming event in early July, along with personal donations and annual memberships.*



The Oviatt Telephone Company's switchboard (top) served the 59 area telephones of Almira Township and Lake Ann, before the change to dial phones in 1953. Middle: old-timey educational tools on display. Bottom: the Almira Township Historical Museum was built in 2003, and it has an "Old West" false facade, which is easy to spot on Maple Street in Lake Ann. All photos by Beau Vallance.

member, calls the complex "a village within a village." (Greenfield Village, near Detroit, is another example of this kind of museum environment—buildings moved from elsewhere to create a representative grouping of life long ago.)

The museum itself is almost 2,500 square feet of neatly divided open space, stuffed with meticulously organized objects that reflect aspects of the town's history. Welcomingly open and comfortable, the museum tells its stories in spaces that are divided into shallow

SURF SHOP & APPAREL / RENTALS / LESSONS

## LIVE THE FRESHWATER LIFE

231.326.9283 (WAVE)  
sbsurfandkayak.com  
Empire, Michigan

224 St. Joseph Ave.  
Suttons Bay  
231/271-4930

332 Main Street  
Frankfort  
231/352-4489

Wayne & Sue Jameson  
Owners  
Village Sampler  
Plaza • M-22  
Glen Arbor  
231/334-3411

Come in and See Us!

27th year in business!  
Working with Buckets of Rain  
to build community gardens in  
Detroit

## LAKE ANN GROCERY

"IF WE DON'T HAVE IT,  
YOU DON'T NEED IT."

DOWNTOWN LAKE ANN SINCE 1981  
275-6479 • OPEN 7 DAYS, 6 A.M. UNTIL 10 P.M.

## Paddle 'n Paint

### BASS LAKE WATER TOUR

Sat, August 18,  
9am to 12pm  
Pre-register!

**BENZIE** CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
280 S Benzie Blvd, Beulah  
231.882.4391  
[www.benziecd.org](http://www.benziecd.org)

ALL YOUR BUILDING NEEDS AT OUR HONOR LOCATION

50 Years

[www.honorblgdsupply.com](http://www.honorblgdsupply.com)

231-325-4551  
10635 Main Street in Honor

# Chatting with Crooner Emma Cook

Questions & Answers with community faces

Northern Michigan native Emma Cook is now a fulltime musician who lives in Burlington, Vermont. She will perform with her band, Questionable Company, at the Lake Ann Brewing Company on Thursday, August 2, at 6:30 p.m. The trio is a small band with a curiously large sound, formed in 2013, when three friends combined their nuanced styles to deliver a gritty, honest, and soulful performance. Cook's songwriting and vocals have been compared to Sara Barielles, Amy Winehouse, and Susan Tedeschi.

Below is an interview with Cook, performed by Norm Wheeler of the *Glen Arbor Sun*.

**GLEN ARBOR SUN:** When did you start singing/performing, and what moment made you realize that you wanted to be a singer/songwriter? What was your epiphany?

**EMMA COOK:** I've been performing and singing since I was a little one! I would ham it up in my musical family. "By the Light of the Silvery Moon" was one of my first performance numbers. It wasn't until high school that I started formally songwriting, and since then, songwriting has been my main creative outlet. I can't pinpoint to a specific moment of epiphany that made me want to be a singer and songwriter—this is the person I've always been.

**SUN:** Who did you listen to and learn from? Who were your early influences?

**COOK:** There are so many incredible contemporary artists that I like to watch live—like Lake Street Dive, Brandi Carlile, The Wood Brothers, The Tedeschi Trucks Band—that are so inspiring to me. Not only because of their musicianship but because of the energy they bring to the stage and what they share with their audiences. I just saw Janelle Monae in concert [recently], and that was a learning experience—

the professional and stamina it takes to put on a 90-minute show where she never stops moving! And the message she brings to her music about love, equality, and inclusivity is inspiring. She's

lot when I'm doing physical work. I worked in an orchard and wrote a lot for our recent album, *Take It Home*. And I like to take walks or go on a bike ride and find natural rhythm to write

to. Moving my body helps me write. And then I'm out in the world. I'm inspired by everyone and everything—this planet, these people, experiences, stories. My songs are a true reflection of my life experience.

**SUN:** How would you characterize the style, or genre, of the band? Does your music fit into any identifiable category?

**COOK:** We don't fit neatly into any one genre. And that's OK! We've been calling our genre "folk-funk" since we started,

since we were combining forces. In a recent album review, we were described as "bluesy pop-rock." You'll have to decide for yourself when you come to our next show!

**SUN:** Are there other groups out there that you emulate or imitate, or are you searching for your own unique sound? How does that work?

**COOK:** We are searching for our own unique sound. For me, there are bands and performers that I mentioned earlier that I admire and imitate in the sense that they bring enormous energy and skill to the stage.

bringing activism and such a strong message of empowerment to her fans and providing so much hope to people. I'm learning from artists like her. My early influences were the musicians who played at Blissfest and Wheatland, and around the song circle with my parents! I learned to harmonize pretty early in these settings, and that's something I'm incredibly grateful for.

**SUN:** What is your process for songwriting? Do you hear a melody, or do the words come first and you create a melody around them? What are your sources of inspiration for your songs?

**COOK:** My process is always different. But typically, I start with a melody and the word. Those will get worked out and change a little when I sit down at the piano or the guitar. I find I write a



Emma Cook and Questionable Company will perform at Lake Ann Brewing Company on Thursday, August 2, at 6:30 p.m. Image courtesy of the *Glen Arbor Sun*.

*A version of this article originally published in the Glen Arbor Sun, a semi-sister publication to The Betsie Current.*



## Aubrey Ann Parker Photography

Now taking reservations for senior portraits.

231-649-3988 • AubreyAnnParker@gmail.com

**JOHN MARSHALL**  
INSURANCE AGENCY

P.O. Box 199 • 209 S. Benzie Blvd.  
Beulah, Michigan 49617  
mike-mullen@jma.net

Tel: 231-882-5591  
Fax: 231-882-9349  
Toll Free: 800-507-3384

Auto-Home-Commercial-Life-Health-Disability-Investments

**BELL TITLE LAKESHORE**

Truly local, independent service since 1985!

We're in our 33rd year of keeping real estate transactions and title insurance smooth for all parties...let our history work for you!

231-882-9691  
cryan@belltitle.com

205 S. BENZIE BLVD., PO Box 83, BEULAH, MI 49617  
WWW.BELLTITLELAKESHORE.MYNETWORKSOLUTIONS.COM

**COLD CREEK INN**

DINING & LODGING

10% Off  
perch • pizza • planked whitefish  
231-882-5531

**PAUL GERHART**

HONOR MICHIGAN

**TREE SERVICE**  
989-600-7452

**CRYSTAL CAFE**

LIVE GRATEFULLY  
Eat • Drink • Sip Responsibly

Live music all weekend!  
Open year-round, 7 days a week.  
231-383-4395  
Winter hours: 6am-8pm.  
Summer hours: 6am-10pm (Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend)

**Crystal Lake Community Business Association**  
presents

**MUSIC IN THE PARK**

August 2 • 7pm • The Ramblin' Band  
August 9 • 7pm • The Standing Hamptons  
August 16 • 7pm • Robin Lee Berry & The Good Souls

**SIDEWALK SALES DAY**  
Saturday, August 4  
Beulah and Benzonia

The **ROADHOUSE**  
Mexican Bar & Grill

Open Daily at 4 PM

**HAPPY HOUR**  
Mon. - Fri., 4 - 6 PM

TOP OF THE HILL IN BENZONIA  
(231) 882-9631 • roadhousesalsa.com

# Mr. Bossner's Woodshop

Post-war German immigrant creates gifts of wood for all

By Linda Alice Dewey

Current Contributor

In the shade of the old locusts, at lovely Dorsey Park on Little Glen Lake, lies the original Dorsey cabin. Built around 1860, it is one of the oldest structures—if not the oldest building—in Leelanau County.

On any given day, from April to October, you might find the cabin door open. There, you will see an 83-year-old man working at his scroll saw, creating beautiful, ornate items. He gives away everything that he makes.

Sigismund (Sigi—pronounced “Ziggy”) Bossner was born in Poland in 1934 to German parents. In 1939, they were called back to Germany because, they were told, “the Russians were coming,” which was a lie. During the Second World War, Bossner’s family lived with his grandmother near the Belgian-Dutch border. Meanwhile, his father served in the German army, then was captured.

When the war was over, Bossner and his family learned that everything they had been told by his government was untrue.

“We realized it was all propaganda, what Hitler did this to us,” he says. “All the Jews—we didn’t know they were killed left and right.”

Now, all was lost.

“We lost the war,” he says. “We had no home; we never would go back to Poland. It all changed; we had no future.”

Bossner apprenticed as a “tool-and-die man,” as a dream began to grow inside him.

“More than anything, I wanted to go to the United States of America,” he says. “I said, ‘The only place I want to be is in the United States and to see the skyscrapers and Niagara Falls.’”

His uncle had emigrated to Detroit five years before, had earned his citizenship, and now offered to sponsor him.

“You had to have residence and [an] occupation,” Bossner says. Staying with his uncle would qualify the residence requirement, and the U.S. consulate in Frankfurt, Germany, arranged for him to work at a tool-and-die shop making \$2.20 an hour—big money!

“In December of ’55 I said goodbye to my parents and went to Bremerhaven and came to New York,” Bossner recalls. He stayed in Detroit with his uncle, whom he knew well, having spent boyhood summers on his uncle’s farm in Germany.

Eventually, Bossner’s family also arrived, and he moved into an apartment with them on the East Side of Detroit.

The job that the consulate arranged was “good work,” Bossner says, “but it didn’t last long. I was not there even a year.”

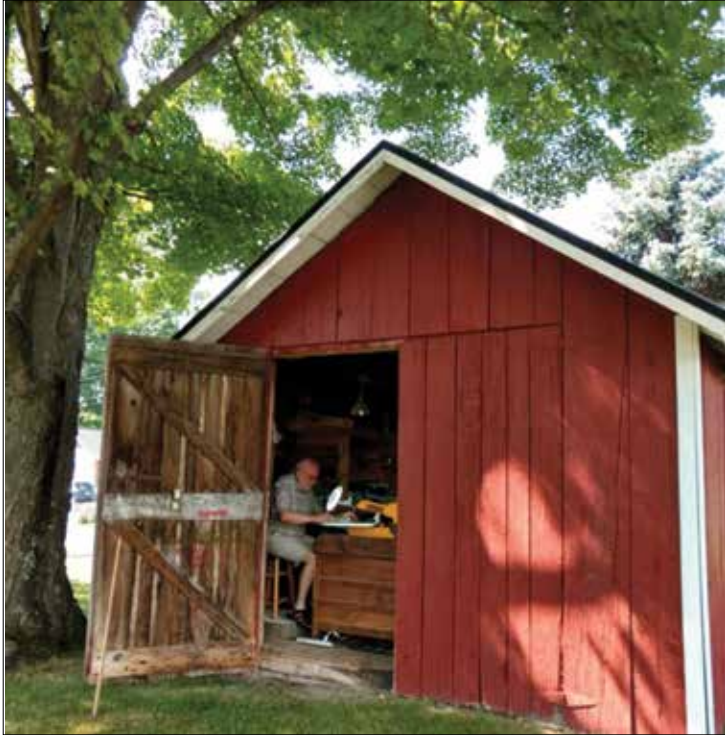
When he had filled out his papers in Germany, he had said that he would be willing to join the U.S. Army. Now the Army was calling him up. After a stint in Germany (“I had a good time with the girls,” he laughs. “They all wondered how I could speak German so well!”) and some time in Lebanon, he was back in Detroit with a full discharge and his U.S. citizenship. He met his wife, Shirley, at church. They married in 1961 and had two children.

The little family began coming to Northern Michigan in 1966. Their first stay was at Crystal Lake.

“In that week, we drove around in that area,” he

recalls. “And we came down here on M-22 and saw that dead-end street here and saw that lake. I said, ‘Look at that beautiful lake. I have to investigate it.’”

A cottage down by the lake had caught his eye. “We stopped and talked with Mr. Hodge, the owner of the [Maple Lane] motel,” Bossner says.



Sigismund “Sigi” Bossner is an 83-year-old woodworker in a 158-year-old cabin. Photo by Linda Alice Dewey.

“He said to call in January, and we could rent that cottage.”

They spent summer vacations there, then at the Dorsey Cottages.

“We eventually were fortunate enough to buy this trailer here in 2000.”

Meanwhile, after 18 years as a tool-and-die man, Sigi followed his musical talent (piano, singing, choir director) and learned to rebuild and tune pianos—grand pianos: Steinways, Baldwins, Yamahas.

“I was lucky I had the skills, working with my fingers with small things,” he says. He had served his apprenticeship in Germany making teeth for zippers—small, fine work. “So that let me do the fine work in rebuilding pianos—all the action work, strings, pin block, sound board.”

He did this for more than 35 years. At 70, he started “monkeying around” with woodwork.

“My thinking was, ‘Wood is so much easier to work with than metal. With metal, it’s hard to fix. With wood, you just take another piece and start,’” he says, likening the scroll saw to “a sewing machine that cuts the wood and follows a pattern.”

Soon he was cutting out designs. The first one that he made was an elaborate, three-dimensional tulip for Shirley.

“I went from one thing to the next,” he says. “I got my magazines every month, got my pattern and instructions, and met other guys working with wood. Here, I have a place I go every day and work on wood. Years ago I made larger things—a parrot puzzle [colorful, beautiful], a clock [wall clock in the shape of a wristwatch]. I gave so many away.”

He continues: “I also made rocking horses which looked like a motorcycle we called the ‘Rockin’ Harley.’ One year, a car dealership owner bought several and gave them all to the Make a Wish foundation. All our grandkids have them.” (He has five—grandchildren, that is.)

“I like to work with all kinds of wood; it’s interesting to do,” Bossner says. “Wood is very forgiving. And here, I’m so fortunate to have a friend, Tom Wigton, who gives me all the wood! He won’t take money for it.”

Bossner knows Wigton from the Christian Men’s Bible study group that meets Saturday mornings at the Glen Lake Community Church.

When he has accumulated an armload of trinkets, Bossner lays them out on the seat of his walker and takes them around to everyone he sees at the trailer park and gives them all away.

Lately, it’s been ornaments and trivets.

“That’s the latest thing,” he comments. “Last

year, already I did trivets. It was ornaments for quite a few years, then nativity sets. Everybody has a toast picker.”

In the winter, the Bossners live in Clinton Township, where he also gives everyone in the senior group “something” every year.

At 83, Bossner has plenty of health issues, but he doesn’t complain.

“I’m doing well now,” he says. “I bless the Lord.” Shoulder, heart, balance, legs—he’s been through a lot, wife Shirley says.

“I have only one eye,” he admits. He lost sight in the other to macular degeneration. But instead of lamenting the loss, he looks at what he does have. “I’m so fortunate to have one eye. I do [my work], and that’s fine. I’m just fortunate that I can do these things. I’m so good now, it’s amazing.”

He concedes: “At one time, we were ready to put the sign up here, ‘For Sale.’ And then the owner, Duane Shugart, said, ‘Why don’t you wait a year and see how you are?’ I’m so glad we did I sit here and look out at the lake. People come and sit here and ask, ‘How much do you charge to sit here?’”

What does he think of America today?

“Coming from the Eastern Bloc of Europe, coming into this country here, this is paradise for me,” he says. “I have nothing but good for this country and what’s in it—the way you can go around, the nature we have here, what you can afford. I’m thinking about so many people in other countries; they don’t have anything that we have. I treasure every day I have in life.”

*A version of this article originally published in the Glen Arbor Sun, a semi-sister publication to The Betsie Current.*



Buy this awesome poster from Joe Cissell at [joecissell.com](http://joecissell.com) or call 231-352-9927.



**MONICA COLE**  
REALTOR®  
231-383-2391

**CENTURY 21**  
Sleeping Bear Realty  
408 MAIN ST, FRANKFORT, MI 49635

**Bagel Factory • New York Style Deli  
Catering • Full Service Bakery**

Like us on Facebook

L'chayim



DELICATESSEN

Cookie



our bagels are great too!

**231.882.5221**

Beulah • Open Year Round

**231.352.5220**

Frankfort • Open May~October

# FLY BENZIE BUS



**FAST.  
EASY.  
RELIABLE.**



**BENZIE BUS**

Regular trips to Cherry Capital Airport Monday-Saturday  
48 hours advanced notice for reservations  
You choose pickup location // \$20 per adult // \$10 per student

**Book your ride: 231.325.3000 ext 1**



**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR  
SEMI-ANNUAL LEE SALE**



Earth-Friendly Upholstery

**20% OFF** CUSTOM ORDERS

**MAY 25 THRU JUNE 23**

OPEN | MON THRU SAT 10AM - 5PM | SUN 11AM - 3PM

231.352.4202 | 311 MAIN ST. | FRANKFORT, MI | [EXPLOREBETSIEBAY.COM](http://EXPLOREBETSIEBAY.COM)



**THIRD COAST  
DENTAL GROUP**

(formerly Franke Family Dentistry)

Same Familiar Faces,  
Same Great Practice,  
Whole New Name...

Restorative/Preventative | Porcelain Crowns & Veneers  
Tooth Colored Fillings | Implants | Bonding  
CEREC® Same-Day Dental Restorations  
Hygiene Laser Treatment

**231.352.9221**



[THIRDCOASTDENTALGROUP.COM](http://THIRDCOASTDENTALGROUP.COM)



DR. WALT  
& DR. JANA  
FRANKE



DR. CHELSEA  
GUZZO



Love the land. Pass it on.

Protecting Significant Natural, Scenic and  
Farm Lands and Advancing Stewardship,  
Now and For Future Generations.



[GTRLC.ORG](http://GTRLC.ORG)