

Grow Benzie Hosts First ‘Bayou on the Bay’ Fundraiser

Blues & zydeco picnic scheduled Frankfort’s Open Space Park

By Jacob Wheeler
Current Editor

Joshua Stoltz has long dreamed of a celebration that marries Louisiana’s Cajun culture with that of his native Benzie County. And after more than a year of planning, Stoltz will soon get his wish.

On Saturday, August 29, Grow Benzie—the nonprofit community center and food-education hub—will host Bayou on the Bay, a blues and zydeco picnic and fundraiser in Frankfort’s Open Space Park. The one-day event will feature Louisiana cuisine and Michigan ingredients, as well as blues and zydeco musical acts from both states.

Stoltz first proposed the idea last year, when he became executive director of Grow Benzie. He wanted to host a fundraiser that would feature blues, zydeco, and gumbo—the spirit of the Big Easy, made with local Northern Michigan produce.

At first, this may seem an unlikely merger, but let Stoltz explain.

“Down south, they live in the swamp and celebrate their country roots, just like we do in Benzie,” Stoltz says. “They gather around food and music just as much as we do. So it seemed like a good match.”

This is the first year for the event, which will include food trucks featuring Louisiana dishes made from Michigan foods, as well as different gumbos prepared by local celebrity chef, Steve Tebo.

Though he now can be found in the



Guitarist, singer, composer, and lyricist Luke Winslow King, originally from Cadillac, will be playing at the Bayou on the Bay. Photo courtesy of Luke Winslow King.

kitchen at Chimney Corners Resort during the summer, Tebo is highly regarded in the region for the work that he’s accomplished as

a restaurateur and as a “super-volunteer” with local organizations, such as the Northern Michigan Culinary Arts Council, which puts on community dinners at Grow Benzie throughout the winter months.

At the Bayou event, Tebo will host a black pot cooking demonstration to showcase his popular gumbo recipe. A beer garden will offer local beer, mead, and wine, alongside beer from Abita Brewing Company, one of Louisiana’s earliest microbreweries, founded in 1986.

“We’re excited about this event and what it represents,” says Scott Harrison, president of Grow Benzie’s board of directors. “Bayou on the Bay is a fundraiser, but it’s also an opportunity for our organization to celebrate its successes with the community it supports. It’s perpetual.”

Please see Bayou on page 6

Up One Side and Down the Other

A day on US-31 in Benzie County (Part I)

By Susan Koenig and Aubrey Ann Parker
Current Contributors

U.S. Highway 31—one of the original 1926 routes, adopted for uniform marking in the United States System of Highways—is a 1,280-mile north-south road that connects southern Alabama to northwestern Michigan. Its southern terminus is at an intersection with US-90/US-98 in Spanish Fort, Alabama, while its northern end point is at an interchange with interstate I-75 to the south of Mackinaw City, Michigan.

Considering the beauty of our lakes and

the charm of our villages, we in Benzie County tend to forget about the corridor that actually brings visitors here. However, all along the 18 miles of Benzie County’s portion of US-31, you can find numerous great businesses that



North on US-31, a few miles outside of Honor, you will find Rich’s Roadside Cafe and Jodi’s Tangled Antler.

can meet your needs, and there are plenty of activities, eateries, and scenic vistas along the way, too. From auto/marine supplies to party stores to veterinarian offices, so many of these businesses make it possible to get nearly everything on your

to-do list accomplished without ever leaving the county—who wants to deal with Traverse City traffic in the summer, anyway?

Let’s take a ride up one side—beginning just outside Benzonia, heading northeast—and down the other, turning around before we cross the line into Grand Traverse County to return southwest. Though there are plenty of businesses within the town lines along the US-31 corridor also, this article seeks to identify those located outside; the in-betweeners who still manage to make it, despite not being very

Please see US-31 on page 5

Cottage Names in a Favorite Place

The many ways people name paradise

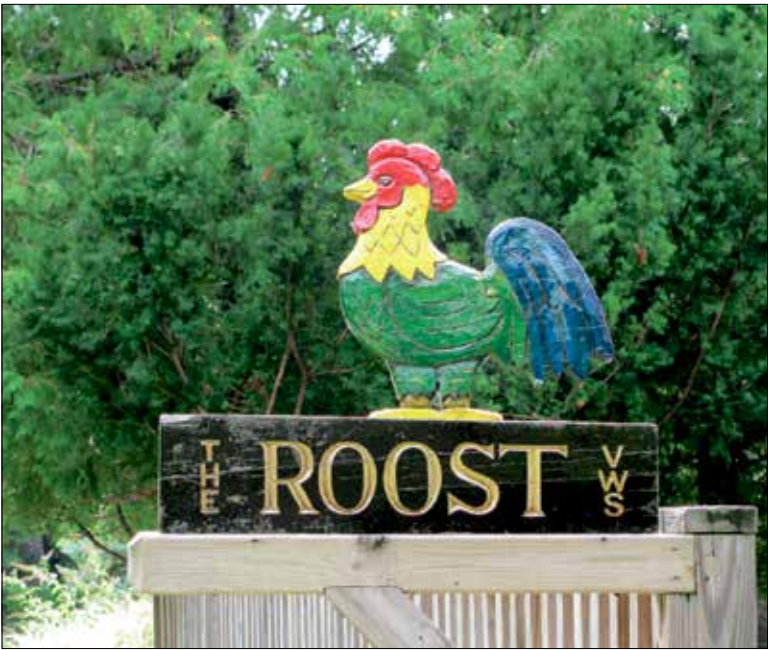
By Beau Vallance
Current Contributor

While the English often name their houses, here in the United States, we typically do so only for our seasonal cottages. The roads of Northern Michigan are dotted with endearing cottage names painted and carved into roadside signs. Some signs seem homemade; others look professionally produced. Some are simple; others have elaborate scenic images and distinct fonts. Some may refer to a family name, the setting, the structure itself, values, or preferences; a few declare that this is paradise.

I recently became curious about patterns in cottage names, having noticed many that name “paradise” and proclaim the perfection of lake life. I guessed that these were typical—it turns out I was wrong. The reality is more interesting.

While biking around Crystal Lake, both Platte lakes, and both Glen lakes over several summers, I photographed more than 200 cottage name signs. I was interested in both the cottage names and the imagery of their signs (mostly roadside signs), and I looked for clues to family traditions and interests.

In my career, I taught teachers how to use art in teaching, and



A hand-made cottage sign shows that this cottage has some charm, or the residents get up way too early. Photo courtesy of Beau Vallance.

name signs communicate directly by using various simple visual styles. I started wondering about the categories that the names fell into, and I found several; some names even fell into multiple categories. Here are some examples, but be on the lookout yourselves, as they can surprise you. (Some resort names may not always be obvious).

Fewer than 10 percent of the cottage names I saw proclaim perfection: Elysium is a prime example, so are Blue Heaven, Delight-house, Land of Ahhhs, Paradise Too!, Glen Heaven, Unger’s Utopia, Shingri-La (playing with a last name), and—now gone—the mixed message of Paradise on one side and Pandemonium on the other. I was surprised by this low count of only 10 percent.

Although we talk about our Up North places as idyllic escapes from everyday life, we name them mostly with simple descrip-

Please see On the Rocks on page 6



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Mondays

Power Vinyasa with Jenn at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. 7:45-8:45am.

Pilates with Anna at the Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

Circle Time for infants and toddlers at the Benzie Shores District Library at 630 Main Street in Frankfort. Infants and toddlers (+ parents/caregivers) will have fun rhyming and moving with Miss Char, as well as a focus on repetition. 10-11am.

Fitness Fusion with Beth at the Oliver Art Center. 10:15-11:15am.

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

Tuesdays

Sunrise Flow Yoga with Lara at Oliver Art Center. 7:45-8:45am.

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

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

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

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

Minecraft Club at Darcy Library. 5-7pm.

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

Wednesdays

Power Vinyasa with Jenn at the Oliver Art Center. 7:45-8:45am.

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

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

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

Thursdays

Fitness Fusion with Beth at the Oliver Art Center. 7:45-8:45am.

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

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

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

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

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

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

Everyone is welcome to attend Open Clay Studio at the Oliver Art Center, including families! Per 4-visit block (12 hours total, used how you like), \$60 fees cover one adult or one adult-and-child pair. It can be as fun or focused as a student prefers, and all skill levels should consider taking part. 3-6pm.

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

Teen yoga and meditation with Jenn at the Oliver Art Center. 4-5pm.

Power Vinyasa with Jenn at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. 5:30-6:30pm.

Steven Fernand sings the best songs from the

last century at the Cold Creek Inn in Beulah. No cover. 6-9pm.

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

Fridays

Sunrise Flow Yoga with Lara at Oliver Art Center. 7:45-8:45am.

Pilates sculpt with Anna at Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

Crystal Mountain Farmers’ Market. 3-6pm.

Saturdays

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

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

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

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

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

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

Sundays

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

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


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

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Friday, August 28

Concert at Frankfort’s Mineral Springs Park features Salt City Dixie Jazz Band. 231-352-7251. 7 pm.

Saturday, August 29

First Annual 31 Scramble-Disc Golf at Osprey Landing Memorial Park in Benzonia. Register at 31 Head Shop in Benzonia across from Wesco.

Saturday, August 29

Grow Benzie’s Bayou on the Bay: Blues & Zydeco Picnic at the Frankfort Open Space. 231-882-9510. 12-11pm.

Thursday, September 3

Benzie Audubon presents Ari Cornman on Wolves. Another family-friendly program at the Tribal Outpost, this one featuring Ari Cornman, senior wildlife biologist for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. 7pm

Friday, September 4

Ann and Steve Loveless are going to be assembling their Art Prize submission in downtown Beulah at the Here & Gone Gallery. “3 Chairs Art” is 25 feet long. Come and see it at this unique reception “sneak peek”. Wine and cheese. 5-7 pm.

Saturday, September 5

“Hit The Wall” art series at L’Chayim features a beautiful display of alcohol ink paintings by artist Lynne Case Hernandez. L’Chayim will host a wine and cheese party at the downtown Beulah location. 5:30-7:30pm.

Saturday, September 5

Fall Birding at Platte Point with Benzie Audubon. Bring your park pass and meet at the parking lot next to the rest rooms at the west end of Lake Michigan Road. Carl Freeman will lead us on a search for fall migrants and late summer birds. Depending on the temperature and lake level, a wade or boat shuttle across the Platte River may be involved. 231-352-4739 9:30am.

September 12

Tri Up North Triathlon in Frankfort/Elberta – Bike Paddle Run. (231)352-7251. 9am.

Saturday, September 12

St. Ambrose Cellars Tasting Room turns 1 and is having a birthday party. 841 S. Pioneer Road, Beulah. 5pm-12am.

Saturday, September 12

Taste of Benzie & Beyond, Mineral Springs Park Frankfort – Grab a taste of local restaurants and caterers as well as beer and wine tasting. (231)352-7251. 11:30am-3:30pm.

Saturday, September 12

Grassland Marsh Birds & Migrants Benzie Audubon. We will meet at the Arcadia Dunes Grassland Preserve on Keillor Road, where Brian Allen (723-7956) will lead us on a search for migrating sparrows, confusing fall warblers and possible rarities. After the Grassland we will check out the Arcadia Marsh. 8am

Wednesday, September 16

Plant It Wild-Identifying Native Trees and Shrubs. 6:30pm: Scrumptious Potluck Dinner and brief annual meeting. Bring a dish to share, place settings, family and friends. 7:15 p.m. — Josh Shields and Kama Ross will demonstrate how native trees and shrubs provide food and shelter for native insects and wildlife.

Friday, September 18

Benzonia Public Library presents ALISON DeCAMP. My Near-Death Adventures. Set in a Michigan logging camp in 1895, DeCamp’s “exuberant debut novel” is aimed at middle-grades but has gained readers of all ages. The Harbor Springs resident and former English teacher will spend the day at Benzie schools and share stories of her narrator, 11-year-old Stan, as part of “Off the Pages” youth activities. Benzonia Public Library presents. 7pm.

Saturday September 19

Have you always wanted to learn more about the native trees, shrubs, and other plants growing in the forest? Join us, the Manistee Conservation District, and the Benzie Conservation District for a nature walk at Misty Acres part of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy Borwell Preserve. Josh Shields and Kama Ross will teach us how to identify each plant. We will also learn many interesting facts about trees and shrubs. Location: Misty Acres GTRLC Borwell Preserve

Farm Area Building. Off US 31 turn east on N County Line Rd/N Manistee County Line Rd. Go about 2 miles and entrance will be on the south side of the road.

Saturday, September 19

Birding by Bike on the BVT with the Benzie Audubon. We will meet at the Betsie Valley Trailhead in Beulah, and from there Bryce and Paula Dreeszen (275-7199) will lead a leisurely-paced bike ride for 10-15 miles along the Trail. Along the way we will be looking for bluebirds while inspecting and cleaning out Trail birdhouses. 10am-noon.

October 4-11

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October 10

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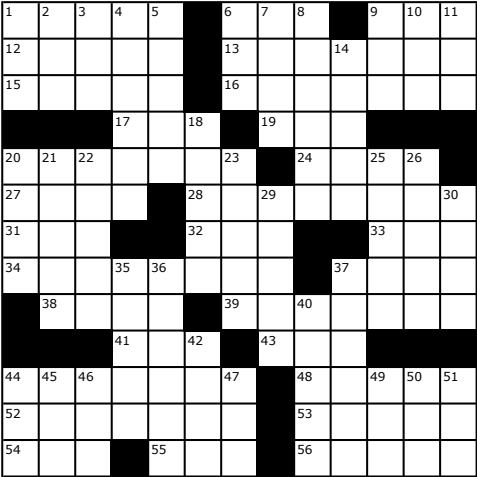


Across

- 1. Some singers
- 6. Coke, say
- 9. Shock and ____
- 12. Janis Joplin, informally
- 13. What a Brooklyn Dodger fan dodged on the way to a game
- 15. Character in lots of jokes
- 16. Engage
- 17. Mischievous sort
- 19. Maple syrup precursor
- 20. Frenchman Louis who created first vaccine for rabies
- 24. Fleetwood Mac album
- 27. Galena and hematite
- 28. Michigan state stone
- 31. Vicious of the Sex Pistols
- 32. A long time ____ in a galaxy far, far away...
- 33. Unit at Stormcloud Brewing Co.
- 34. Cricket’s version of the seventh inning stretch
- 37. ____-B (toothbrush brand)
- 38. Org. founded by Marge Simpson in “Itchy & Scratchy & Marge”
- 39. Beatle’s album featuring “Get Back”
- 41. Cemetery letters
- 43. Spades bid
- 44. Painter’s chemical
- 48. Word in Genesis
- 52. Carbon-14, for example
- 53. Hopping mad
- 54. Goat-legged god
- 55. Word by checkboxes
- 56. Quaking tree

Down

- 1. Loan letters
- 2. Singer Jessica ____ Mayfield
- 3. Soft drink in pink can
- 4. Planetary paths
- 5. Scum
- 6. Harper Valley org.
- 7. Tolkien bad guys
- 8. Word that Dan Quayle famously misspelled
- 9. In the style of
- 10. In Lake Michigan, perhaps
- 11. Palindromic organ
- 14. Autoimmune disease originally believed to be caused by a wolf’s bite
- 18. Cocoon dwellers
- 20. Grape Nuts producer
- 21. Zodiac ram
- 22. Four-door
- 23. Kingly
- 25. Sweep under the rug
- 26. Food on a spit
- 29. Coin stand-in
- 30. ____ log
- 35. Charred
- 36. Poor-sighted pachyderms
- 37. Gretzky and Messier, in the 80’s
- 40. Fibula compatriot
- 42. ____ Le Pew (animated skunk)
- 44. 15%, often
- 45. Way to pay for meds
- 46. Charged particle
- 47. Reagan’s dog
- 49. Madonna trademark
- 50. Consumed
- 51. Pearl Jam’s debut album



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

The Betsie Current

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Liv Buzzell’s Gap Year

Questions & Answers with community faces

By Jordan Bates
Current Editor

As the nights get colder and the winds start to pick up, it’s a sure sign that summer is coming to a close and fall is on its way. Along with fall comes the back-to-school craze, with many newly graduated Benzie County teenagers getting ready for a big transition to universities and colleges, whether in nearby Traverse City, downstate, or on either end of the country.

Liv Buzzell is not your average teenage high school graduate, however. Having just finished this past spring at Frankfort-Elberta High School, Liv will soon be flying to the Netherlands for a gap year.

Becoming increasingly popular, a gap year—also called a “sabbatical year”—is when an individual chooses to “take a year off” before going to college after finishing high school. During this time, students may participate in advanced academic courses, learning a trade, language studies, art studies, volunteer work, travel, internships, sports, and more. Oftentimes, gap years are described as a way for students to become more independent and learn more about their interests before engaging in university life and picking a major and/or a profession.

Though Liv Buzzell’s life and family are firmly rooted in Frankfort and Benzie County—Liv’s grandparents, Jim and Luanne Buzzell, first moved to Frankfort in 1960 after visiting and falling in love with this place four years earlier on their honeymoon; they both went on to teach and he coached the 1965 undefeated football team at Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools—Liv is ready to explore the other side of the world.

Continuing with our interview series on impactful Benzie County characters, *The Betsie Current* caught up with 18-year-old Liv Buzzell, who owns and runs OB and Co. Productions, a video production company that has a great following on YouTube.

THE BETSIE CURRENT: You shoot, edit, direct, and sometimes star in online videos. You can sing, you can play musical instruments, you go off on explorations in your Adventure Log Series, and you volunteer for various productions and organizations. Where do you find all the time, and what inspires you to be so creative and helpful?

LIV BUZZELL: I run on 25-hour days, and I’m probably a secret time traveler. Also, I could use more sleep than I tend to get. I’m happiest when I’m creating, performing, and spending time with the people I do these things with. Being happy is a pretty cool thing, so that’s helpful motivation.

CURRENT: Many of your videos include very interesting song choices. Would you like to recommend a song for our readers while they read this interview?

BUZZELL: “You’re Still A Mystery,” by Bleachers.

CURRENT: Tell us about your role in and the challenges of shooting the short film *SHE*, which has garnered more than 365,000 views

and 9,600 likes on YouTube since its release in December, 2014.

BUZZELL: I was the director of photography and editor of *SHE*, which is a fancy way of saying that I shoved the camera in people’s faces and then made the footage look pretty. I co-created *SHE* with my best friend and favorite collaborator, Charlotte Gruman. The short was shot in less than two hours, was completely improvised, and began as us getting test shots for another project. That in mind, the reception has completely blown us away, and we’re incredibly grateful for the opportunity to tell the story to such a large and well-receiving audience.

CURRENT: Other than *SHE*, what is your favorite video that you have worked on so far? And why is it your favorite?

BUZZELL: I have had the honor of collaborating with singer-songwriter Madison Douglas

a few times this past year, and recently Charlotte and I recorded a live acoustic session for [Douglas’s] song “Unrequited Love.” We grabbed some early morning shots on the foggy Frankfort pier and recorded the music in the basement of my barn. She is one of my favorite musicians, and it’s always a pleasure to work with her. Fun fact—this video isn’t out yet but will be released soon on my YouTube channel as a part of the musical component of Georgia, my latest short film in collaboration with Charlotte Gruman.

CURRENT: Are you able to make any money from your YouTube videos?

BUZZELL: YouTube pays less than \$1 for every 1,000 views on a video that are preceded by advertisements, so the money I’ve made from YouTube is minimal.

CURRENT: You graduated this spring from high school—what’s next for you? And what’s next for your production company?

BUZZELL: I am traveling to the Netherlands for a gap year before I attend college. I have family in the city of Utrecht, so I’ll be living with my Oma [grandma] and learning the language. OB and Co. Productions will be following me overseas, but my brother, Sam, will be taking over the “Frankfort branch,” and together we’ll keep shooting and editing videos for commercial and non-profit groups in this area—so stay in touch!

CURRENT: Who are some of the groups in Benzie County that you have done video work for in the past?

BUZZELL: The Oliver Art Center, Grow Benzie, The May Farm, and some wedding videography.

CURRENT: What’s the hardest part about being young in Benzie County?

BUZZELL: I think that finding access to creative outlets that interest me was hard at

times. But if you yourself are young and in Benzie County, know that creating your own fun and creative things is fine—and that there are people with similar interests, even if you have to look a little harder to find them!

CURRENT: You have volunteered with the Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre for three years now, helping behind the scenes and playing music. What do you find appealing about Shakespeare, and what do you find appealing about the Lakeside Shakespeare company?

BUZZELL: I grew up on Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre summers, and for the past three years, they’ve welcomed me as one of their own. I think my draw to Shakespeare’s work stems from this theatre company’s ability to connect with me as a child and again as a slightly older child. I absolutely adore the people involved in these productions, and they’ve helped me fall in love with theatre and interpreting Shakespeare’s stories.

CURRENT: Your mother, Saskia van Wolferen, is an IT Project Manager, and your father, Joel Buzzell, recently retired from work as a director of Corporate Development and Operations to work as president of the Crystal Lake Watershed Association and taking over your grandpa’s Assembly Inspection Service. How does having such hard-working parents inform your work ethic and your vision of the world?

BUZZELL: Watching my parents do what they love and—as a result—working hard on their projects has definitely shaped how I work. Seeing them succeed with things they love is massively influential.

CURRENT: Since you are leaving for a year, is there anything you’d like to say to your sibling that will go into print for all eternity? (Or at least until someone needs to light their charcoal grill.)

BUZZELL: Hey kid. Look! I’m in *The Betsie Current*! (Like, literally, I’m stuck, can you get me out of here? Thanks, it means a lot.)

CURRENT: Finally, what is your proudest moment?

BUZZELL: I collaborated with one of my all-time favorite YouTube creators early this year on her series *ABC’s of LGBT*. I got to talk about the beautiful spectrum that is gender, and how I fit on it. It was a wonderful experience and I loved the opportunity to talk about something so important to me.

CURRENT: What are your personal pronouns?

BUZZELL: I use “they/them” pronouns and identify as nonbinary.

Find Liv at 3:30 of the “ABC’s of LGBT” to learn more about nonbinary and other gender identities (<https://youtu.be/kJ9ly4cK9tg>). And find some of Liv’s other projects at the following links: “SHE” (<https://youtu.be/XKQgnzN1jo>); “A Doorstep Monologue,” which includes some of Liv’s thoughts on this area and leaving for a gap year (<https://youtu.be/j1DwPUa15tU>); “Her Love”—Madison Douglas and Christopher Bell, a doghouse session and the latest release of a video with Madison Douglas to her original song (<https://youtu.be/4pps2qiXi0M>); “Adventure Log 11 // Me” (https://youtu.be/tv_JNG1O-5k); “Adventure Log 15 // Confetti” (<https://youtu.be/MhEfM5ak7Wg>).



Liv Buzzell playing at the Isacc Julian Legacy fundraiser. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

US-31

Continued from page 1

close to other businesses.

We'll begin at **Grow Supply Center**, at the corner of US-31 and M-115, where you can get everything you need to plant your own organic garden—grow lights, organic fertilizer, seedling starts. Additionally, they have a great selection of grain-free and non-GMO animal foods for dogs, cats, horses, pigs, goats, beef, and chickens. Owned and operated by Mike Crandon and Cassie Thomas, the young couple started the store close to four years ago in order to provide the community with a place to locally source natural gardening products, as well as equipment to start indoor gardening, since our summer and fall crop season in Northern Michigan can be so short and unpredictable.

If you're looking to do a little more than a backyard garden, head next door to **Gillison's**, where they have lots of shiny red tractors and other farming equipment. Not the farming type but still want a pretty garden? Head just down the road half a mile and there is a **statuary** where you can buy cement sculptures of lions, gargoyles, and more. It is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. 231-882-0077.

Further down the road and just past the Betsie River crossing, the **Shop 'n Save Center** can meet many needs, such as grocery shopping (for you and for pets), dry cleaning, banking, and recycling. There's also a pharmacy, an electronics store, and a hardware store, as well as a tax adviser. Here you'll also find the **Crystal Cafe**, where you can enjoy a delicious meal—we counted 28 breakfast items—before you head north. Owned and operated by chef Kris Welty and his wife Dayleen, the restaurant serves fresh, local food that is made from scratch, as well as Leelanau Coffee and Crescent Bakery goods.

Continuing on and through Benzonia, you'll go straight through Benzie County's only spotlight, and then you'll drive down the hill, passing the Benzie County Animal Shelter and the Sheriff's Office on your right, just before the bridge that overlooks scenic downtown Beulah, situated on beautiful Crystal Lake. Make sure to stop at the bottom of the hill and pick up some fresh fruit, tasty trail mix, and some flowers for your new garden at the **Market Basket**. Sharing the parking lot is **The Cherry Hut Restaurant**, where you can get some souvenirs, edible and non. (Maybe a pie for later?)

While you're there, walk over to **Mary's Asian Cuisine**, the new food truck situated on the site of the former Beulah Oil Company, between the Market Basket and what was the Brookside Inn, which is now sitting vacant and for sale. The food truck is run by Mary Ramey, who met and married Jim, a Benzie Central grad, 10 years ago. Daughter of a

chef, Mary was born in the Philippines and raised in Singapore, so her Asian cuisine—composed of all fresh ingredients—is a true fusion of Malay, Thai, and other delectable ethnic fares, so pick up a to-go lunch for the rest of your drive along US-31. (Mary's truck will be open seven days a week from noon to 8:00 p.m. through October. 231-871-0716)

Head out of the Cherry Hut-Market Basket parking lot, and you may need to stop for an ice cream cone from the **Dairy King**, under new ownership as of this spring after sitting vacant for a few years. (Warning: from all the sweets, you might feel the need to stop into **Abramson Family Dentistry** as you head up the hill out of Beulah.)

One of the best views in Benzie County awaits you at the top of the hill between Beulah and Honor, with the peak of St. Episcopal Church looking out at Lake Michigan and the Empire Bluffs on your left. As dazzling as it is, keep going, because you've got more errands to run.

As you head down and into the outskirts of Honor, drop your furry friend off at **Platte Valley Veterinary Clinic and Boarding Center** while you stop at **Upscale Resale**, a warehouse that is set off the road a bit. They've got an ever-changing inventory of gently used furniture and decor for outdoor and in. Just next door is **Tag Limit Outdoors**, where you can pick up any hunting or fishing licenses you may need, as well as the gear to go along with them. (If you prefer watching wildlife to hunting it, you can reserve canoes, kayaks, or tubes for your next jaunt down the river, as **Honor Canoe Rental** is housed in the same building.) Don't forget to give a pat to Buck, the gentle black Labrador who will most assuredly greet you at the door.

If you haven't had your tires rotated or your oil changed in awhile, you should stop at **Northern Auto Sales & Service**, where they'll get you fixed up in a jiffy. Who knows, you may even spot a new car that you'd prefer to swap out for your old one!

You'll cross the Platte River for the first time right before you enter Honor, and notice the **Honor Plaza** shopping center on your right; here you can stop at the **Honor Market**, known for its excellent butcher and deli counter, as well as the great selection of beers and wines. If you're driver's license is expiring soon, you can pick up a new one at the **Secretary of State** (we've heard that folks drive in from out of town to use the Benzie County office because the line is always much, much shorter than what you'll find in Traverse City or elsewhere). The plaza is also the place to get any needs that you may have forgotten about at the Shop 'n Save Plaza earlier: a hardware store, a dollar store, a pharmacy, a movie rental place (who needs Netflix!?), a tanning salon, a hair salon, and **Papa J's Pizzeria & Diner** are all available here.

US-31 winds through Honor, and just before you drive up the hill, there's another ice cream stop at **JoMo's**, which boasts 12 hand-dipped flavors. (If your sugar buzz is at peak-capacity at this point, it's fine to order a

burger and cheese fries instead.)

At the top of the hill going out of Honor, you'll notice a collection of bikes on the roadside on the right at address number 12823. This is home to the **Bike Man of Honor**, Mel Adams. Here, you can buy, exchange, or recycle your cycle. Call 231.534.4907 or stop to see his great collection of bikes for kids and adults that range in style from newer mountain bikes to vintage road bikes, in price from \$30 to \$90.

A short distance away is **The Corner Store**, directly across from the Benzie Bus parking garage. Just a little further is **Gallery 31** and **Platte River Printing**. Since 2005, Holly Nelson has exhibited her beautiful photos of the local area in her own gallery, as well as around the tri-county area. She is daughter of the printers, Diane and Chris. Holly also does framing—your work or hers—so stop in and see what she can do for you. info.gallery31@gmail.com

A few more miles north, you will cross the Platte River for the second time. (Maybe stop at **Veterans Memorial State Forest Camp-ground** on your right to eat your lunch from Mary's food truck or to rendezvous with your canoe trip that you arranged at Tag Limit.)

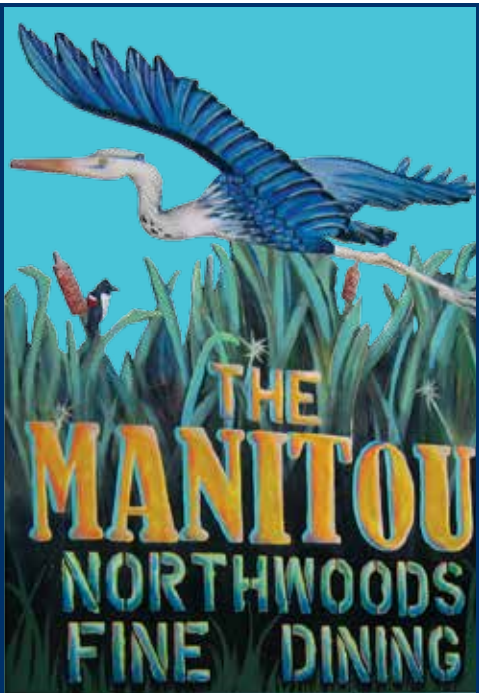
As you continue on, just past the campground, you'll come upon **Jodi's Tangled Antler**. Owned by its namesake, Jody Jensen, the restaurant is a friendly, local spot that is open year round Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m.—and sometimes later—and on Sundays from 4 p.m. on. Here is a good place to stop for a Bloody Mary and an appetizer on your way north. Jodi's boasts a varied menu of fresh lake perch, steaks, burgers, and Mexican, with a full bar and lively karaoke on Friday nights. Sit outside or in, and enjoy!

Just past Jodi's, you'll see a colorful round building, **Rich's Roadside Cafe**, where owner Rich Wiggins has been serving brunch and dinner for 13 years. He's open all year long and is closed on Mondays.

Finally, you can visit **Marvin's Garden Spot**, another option for fresh, local produce and garden supplies, plants (indoor and out), and baked goods. Owner Marsha Blackford has been running the store since 2003, and now daughter Roxanne helps out. Like a little oasis in an otherwise kind of brown section of the US-31 corridor, you'll be blown away by Marvin's lush greenery.

Once you get very close to the county line, you can stop at **Crystal Lake Clinic** of Interlochen (though it's not actually in Interlochen and is still inside Benzie County) for your annual check-up. Dr. Jake Flynn just celebrated his first year at the clinic; he's a Benzie County boomerang who went off to get an education and came back to serve people in the county where he's from. (We wrote about Dr. Flynn in our July 4 issue earlier this year.)

At this point, it's time to turn around and head south on US-31.



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Thank you to A. Papano's Pizza in Beulah and Frankfort, Shop & Save and Save a Lot for providing a delicious lunch during the Family Fun Day Finale. And to all the kids out there who did such a wonderful job reading all summer long, thank you for giving us something to celebrate!



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On the Rocks

Continued from page 1

tions. We let those characterizations speak for themselves.

Most cottage names simply allude to what is visible—the setting, the house itself, the view, or weather features. More than half fall into this “descriptive” category. Thus, we have Leafy Dell, Tall Timbers, Cedar Shores, Edge-water North, Sandy Shores, Birch Grove, The Hilltop House, The M-22 House, and “On The Rocks” (in quotes, surely a double-entendre), as names describing the setting. Actual houses and their features appear in names

such as Shingle-wood, The Cottage, Pinecot, Grey Logs (with matching mailbox), Gray Gables (matching mailbox), and Cedar-Cot.

Weather conditions and view are proclaimed in Blue View Too, Windswept, Sail-view, Windridge, Water Colors, Crystal Clear, True Blue, and The Blue Line.

There is a strong theme of comfortable settlement and ownership, with about 20 percent using names such as Our Particular Harbor, B’s Nest, Nesting Place (now gone), Our House, Aunt Margaret’s, and The Roost.

Additionally, a noticeable thread of personal enthusiasms/loyalty/identity is apparent, as in Maize and Blue Shores, Hoosier Hideaway, Hoosier Glen, The Cat’s Meow, or just a family name like “Stow” that is painted on a fish-shaped board. True Blue, featuring a very blue Glen Lake, might also be University of Michigan alums. The Ahhhs people could be from Kansas.

Equally strong—no surprise—is a theme of escape, refuge or protection: Northern Escape, Snug Harbour, Woody’s Time Out Retreat, Second Wind, Boone’s Time Out, Dry Dock, The Sweet Escape, The Escape Hatch, as well as many havens and harbors. This “refuge” theme is clear.

Puns and wordplay appear: Boot Camp (depicting hiking boots, not military), Dune Good (laidback Adirondack chairs facing the lake), Been There Dune That. But more frequent are plays on family names, like Payne’s Staking, The Wright Place, Herendune, Blenman’s Bluff, JenLake, B’s Nest, Faye’s II, Shingri-La, MacIntosh (on a big red apple), and Roman Empire, near Empire.

Some fun but small categories, with only a few examples, are: second home (Second Wind, Fay’s II, Windswept Too!, Branch Office), literary and historical references (On Waldie’s Pond, Narnia, 10 Downing Street), goal achieved (This Is It, Finally, and—good one for the Old Mission Peninsula—Mission Accomplished). A few use the family name to create a welcoming message (Sadow’s Do Duck Inn, Bob’s All Day Buffet, Walke Inn, Wade Inn).

Only Empty Pockets seems to hint (and with humor) at the cost involved.

As interesting as the wordplay of names is the range of visuals illustrating them. More than half of the cottage name signs include images of some kind. There’s a wide range,

from elaborate depictions of the setting, house, or lake view to stylized trees, boats, and water.

The most elaborate images are full landscape compositions (some gorgeous lake views, as in houses named Water Colors, Willow Point, and Hilltop House). Others are simple abbreviated references to boats, oars, fish, those boots, and empty pockets.

I estimated fewer than 20 percent of the signs to be home-made—most cottage-name signs, if they provide more than just the family name, look professionally made, with careful craftsmanship in design, carving, lettering, and paint quality.

Of course, most houses—even in this land of second-home refuges—are *not* named, and they function just fine

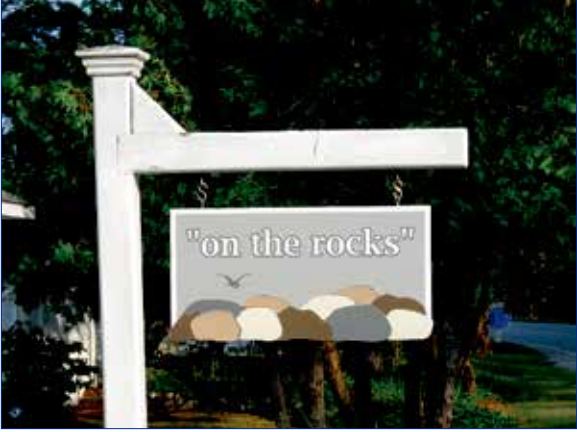
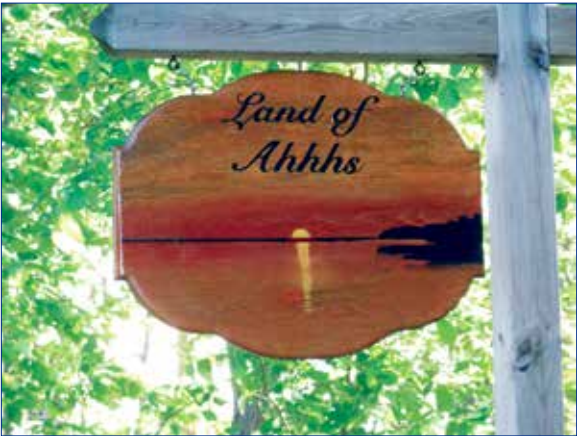
with only a family name and a mailbox. Often it’s the mailbox that signals identity, as does Clan MacArthur’s tartan mailbox.

Decorative mailboxes alone, though, mostly convey enthusiasms, such as fish, tractors, vintage cars, flip-flops, lighthouses, birds, etc., and rarely feature cottage names—Crystal Chambers (with judge wig) is an exception. Most mailboxes are just mailboxes.

And some signs mentioned here are already gone; the cottage sold and the story changed.

But many Up North places do have names, and they seem to be entirely upbeat—cheerful, witty, occasionally ironic, and enthusiastic about local resources. They celebrate the lakes, trees, dunes, the chance to relax among all of this, and a sense of escape from something else.

Our cottage names, taken together, describe a place where we love to be—not necessarily paradise, but a very good place. I wonder how we would name our real houses, if we did.



A sampling of signs for cottages. Photos courtesy of Beau Vallance.

Bayou

Continued from page 1

Food & Music Scene

Bayou on the Bay will also feature the Frankfort Farmers’ Market by extending its hours later into the day and offering farm-fresh produce and local handcrafted products.

The event’s shade tent will be converted to a Silent Disco Party for teenagers after 9 p.m. Silent Disco is a new style of music concert where attendees wear digital headphones to enjoy the music that a live DJ mixes. Gaining attention at national festivals including Bonnaroo and Electric Forest, this Silent Disco will be an opportunity for both adults and youth to enjoy their own styles of music at the same time.

However, the majority of the day will be filled with live Cajun, zydeco, folk, and blues musicians.

For those who are unfamiliar with the term “zydeco,” Wikipedia describes it as “a musical genre [that] evolved in southwest Louisiana by French Creole and Louisiana French speakers which blends blues, rhythm and blues, and music [that is] indigenous to the Louisiana Creoles and the native people of Louisiana... Usually fast tempo and dominated by the accordion and a washboard, zydeco music was originally created at house dances, where families and friends gathered for socializing. As a result, the genre integrated waltz, shuffles, two-steps, blues, rock and roll, and other dance music forms.”

Josh Stoltz’s father, Mark Stoltz, has been instrumental in bringing zydeco music to the Northern Michigan music scene. Spending his winters in the bayou, the senior Stoltz spends his summers playing the washboard and touring around with K. Jones and the Benzie Playboys, of which he is a founding member. He also teaches zydeco dance. For close to two decades, the Playboys have been merging these northern and southern cultures, which was a huge impetus for the younger Stoltz’s passion surrounding this new event.

Along with the Playboys, there will be two bands performing who have received national musical acclaim, including Cadillac native Luke Winslow-King, who is just returning from his summer tour in Europe and Detroit’s Thornetta Davis, who was recently named Blues Vocalist of the Year by Detroit Music Awards. Cajun musician and storyteller Steve Fernand begins playing at 1 p.m.

Thornetta Davis first broke out in 1987 as backup singer for various Detroit soul bands. Since then, she has sung backup for a variety of high-profile artists, including Bob Seger (“The Fire Inside”) and Kid Rock (his self-titled 2003 album). Davis has also been inducted into the Detroit Music Hall of Fame.

Josh Stoltz is optimistic about hosting the region’s only blues festival this summer.

“It’s a privilege to offer this level of musical talent as a fundraiser,” Stoltz says. “Thornetta Davis is legendary in Michigan, and seeing Luke Winslow-King play New Orleans Jazz Festival, tour Europe, and then land in Frankfort is special.”

Stoltz is also enthusiastic about offering zydeco music on the stage.

“I love it. So many of us in [Northern] Michigan grew up listening to both WTCM [country music] and WKLT [rock & roll],” Stoltz explains. “Zydeco is a combination of both—an electric sound with an accordion and washboard. It’s boogie music that makes everyone smile and will be a good time for both locals and visitors from out of town. Music and food bring people together, and that’s what Grow Benzie is good at.”

Tickets, event information, and volunteer details can be found online at www.BayouOnTheBay.com. Event admission for adults is \$20, teens 14-18 is \$10, 13 and under are free. ID required. Food, beverages, and merchandise will be on sale. Grow Benzie was established in 2008, with a mission of helping the community to build self-reliance through education in agriculture, nutrition, life skills, and job training. For more information about the organization and how to volunteer your time or donate resources, please visit www.Grow-Benzie.org or call 231-882-9510.



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What Lurks Beneath

Michigan environmentalists rally to close aging oil pipelines under Mackinac Straits

By Jacob Wheeler
Current Editor

Tourists driving over the Mackinac Bridge to camp or fish in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula this Labor Day weekend won’t see it, but monsters lie in wait below the waterway that connects lakes Michigan and Huron. Enbridge’s Line 5—two 62-year-old oil pipelines that transport nearly 23 million gallons of oil and natural gas liquids a day—are buried beneath the Straits.

Environmentalists, activists, citizens, and a growing number of Michigan policymakers worry that if the pipelines were to rupture and spill oil directly into the world’s largest freshwater resource, the damage could decimate aquatic ecosystems, local economies, and the tourism industry. One in five Michigan jobs are tied, directly or indirectly, to safe and clean water.

In fact, a 2014 study by the University of Michigan called the Straits “the worst possible place for an oil spill in the Great Lakes” and depicted the prospect of a plume from a million-gallon oil spill in the Straits stretching for 85 miles—from Lake Michigan’s Beaver Island to Mackinac Island to Rogers City and down the Lake Huron shoreline.

Worries of an oil spill in the Mackinac Straits are exacerbated by painful memories of a catastrophic 2010 pipeline spill, when 1 million gallons of heavy diluted bitumen “tar sands” crude flowed into the Kalamazoo River watershed. Line 6B in southern Michigan is also owned by the Canadian company Enbridge. That spill—the largest inland oil spill in U.S. history—took four years and \$1.2 billion to clean up.

Enbridge’s oil pipelines in the Mackinac Straits are about 20 years older than its failed Kalamazoo pipeline. (The company claims, however, that it does not—nor does it have plans to—ship more corrosive, heavy crude through the Straits.) A spill directly into the Great Lakes would be infinitely more difficult, if not impossible, to contain and clean up.

Opposition to the Line 5 pipelines has quickly become the pinnacle struggle for many Michigan environmentalists, including local organizations such as the Groundwork Center and FLOW (For Love of Water), which have signed onto the “Oil & Water Don’t Mix Coalition.”

As such, those same tourists driving over the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day weekend won’t see buried oil pipelines, but they will see a flotilla of kayakers and standup paddle boarders on Sunday, September 6, taking to the Straits to protest the pipeline. Similar demonstrations against Line 5 have, in the past, featured environmental luminaries such

as 350.org leader Bill McKibben.

Earlier this year, on July 30, protestors rallied at the State Capitol in Lansing to encourage Governor Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette to shut down the pipelines. On July 14, the state’s Michigan Petroleum Task Force report gave the campaign hope when it declared that the pipelines pose a “clear and present danger to public health and safety, and the environment.”

“Attorney General Schuette has said that the ‘days are numbered,’ for the Straits oil pipelines,” says Liz Kirkwood, executive director of FLOW, a Great Lakes law, policy, and education center in Traverse City. “The task force report did a great job defining the prob-

lem. But how many days will it be before Mr. Schuette and the state take action to protect the Great Lakes and Michigan? They say they have the authority, and we say they should act now. The threat from those pipelines only grows by the day.”

require an independent analysis of alternatives to the existing Straits pipelines; and obtain additional information from Enbridge on personnel, products transported, inspections, and repairs.

The Oil & Water Don’t Mix Coalition spent much of the past year submitting reports and making presentations to the state task force. A report published in April by FLOW identified grave structural concerns related to corrosion, welding and coating failures, and invasive quagga mussel impacts that are weakening the steel pipelines.

“Emergency measures are needed, and they are needed now,” says FLOW expert Gary Street.



Protesters gather at the State Capitol in Lansing on July 30. Photo courtesy of Lynna Kauckeck of Food & Water Watch.

lem. But how many days will it be before Mr. Schuette and the state take action to protect the Great Lakes and Michigan? They say they have the authority, and we say they should act now. The threat from those pipelines only grows by the day.”

“If you believe these existing pipelines pose an immediate threat to the Great Lakes—and we do—the task force recommendations amount to a rearranging of deck chairs on Michigan’s Titanic of oil pipelines,” says David Holtz from Michigan’s chapter of the Sierra Club.

Environmentalists applaud the task force report for finding that—if it so chooses—the state does have the jurisdiction and the power to eventually shut down Line 5. More broadly, the report establishes a framework to determine whether the transport of oil through the pipelines under the 5-mile long Straits segment is prudent or justified, especially when it appears other pipelines or routes could deliver the oil to markets without endangering the Great Lakes and the public and private uses that depend on the lakes.

The report also deems it necessary to prevent the transportation of heavy crude oil through the Straits pipelines; require an independent risk analysis and adequate financial assurance for the Straits pipelines;

The campaign’s efforts and concerns regarding the Enbridge oil pipelines have attracted Midwest and national media coverage, including a prominent feature by CBS-TV in Detroit that ran just before 60 Minutes on Father’s Day and helped to push the pipelines into the top tier of Michigan’s most

urgent environmental threats. Thousands of citizens and dozens of environmental groups, businesses, Indian tribes, and communities have signed on to support the Oil & Water Don’t Mix campaign’s goal.

The local effort has included rally-the-citizen informational sessions earlier this summer at a cottage on Big Glen Lake and at Betsie Bay Furniture in Frankfort. Yard signs opposing the Mackinac Straits pipeline now appear prominently throughout Northern Michigan.

It’s unclear what a massive oil spill in the Straits would mean for Lake Michigan beaches down the coast in Leelanau and Benzie counties. Since the prevailing winds and currents push east, Lake Huron might fare worse. But FLOW’s Liz Kirkwood says that news reports of a pipeline spill, alone, would be catastrophic for the tourism industry.

“The idea of tourists knowing there’s been a catastrophic oil spill in the Great Lakes literally will put a black stain on tourism and the regional economy,” she says. “That could be a real life or death issue for tourism, agricultural tourism, and our wineries and breweries. It took over three years for New York City’s economy to bounce back after 9/11—even after the immediate danger was gone. Don’t forget that intangible.”

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September 11 - October 9, 2015

An opening reception will be held on Friday, September 11th, from 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

Guest Juror: Richard Koodyman

Entries are due to the art center between Thursday September 3 and Saturday, September 5 from 10:00 am - 4 pm. Entry forms can be found at:

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