

The Northern Camper

FREE

August 2009

Vacation Destination Must See Wonders of Michigan

- + This Old Camper ~ Deals On Used Wheels
- + History Corner ~ Folklore With a Bite
- + got rocks? ~ So What Is the State Gem Stone?

Plus Recipes, Puzzles & Camper Information

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 Editor's Pencil

Vacation Daze

It hasn't felt like the dog days of summer yet.

Sometimes it's August before we go sleeveless and jump in the water without a second thought. At this point I'm still sticking my toes in first but I will jump, "cold turkey," before summer's end. To all you kids who are splashing around on cold days, here's to youth!

What are you doing to make your summer fun? My husband and I were caught in the best rain storm with our two dogs. It was one of those rains that started soft and warm, and made you want to start skipping. Then it intensified to downpour as dogs wagged wet tails and we splashed in puddles that made the best squirt guns out the side of our shoes. And short of ice cream, the rain drops I licked off my face were some of the best I had tasted all summer.

So are you going to let a little cold and rain dampen your campin'? No way, Hoséa. And if walking in the rain isn't your thing, we have some areas to see and be awed by in our "Out and About" feature. Most places are free and all have a "story." Take the extra time in your travels for a visit, photo-op and add to your own vacation stories.

Anyone want dessert? The answer should be a resounding "YES!" especially on vacation. Recipes are all for the sweet tooth this month, many with fruit that you can get fresh at your local farmers' markets.

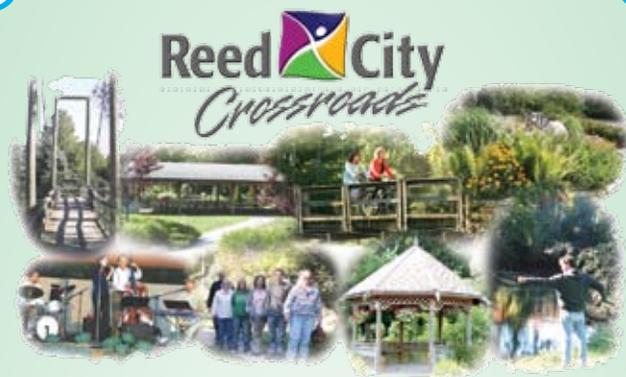
Apré dessert, sit around the campfire and select your best story-teller to share and scare you (just a little) reciting the Michigan Dog Man folklore. Then if you still feel brave enough for that stroll through the forest, keep an eye and ear out for "who-who-who" may be out there. Sighting a Great Horned Owl would surely be a gift from mother nature and another tale to be told around the campfire.

Wake up the next day and it's that light rain again? Don't fret—go look for rocks! This can be some of the best picking times as the rain highlights what types they really are. And if you're as far as Lake Superior, look for Michigan's state gem stone (I'm not tellin' you what it is, read the story). Keep in mind you can look and touch, but you can not take.

How much fun do you think you can have? With fairs and festivals still on the calendar, the big one that got away still waiting to be caught or just taking time so often not taken to read or do a little crossword—what makes you happy?

Stay in those not-so-dirty jeans and t-shirt an extra day. Leave that watch packed. Eat that ice cream then go take a bike ride. Let your gauge be your smile and your laughter. And when you feel like you're in a different place, a little younger, a little less worried—you are now the master of your vacation. Enjoy.

~ Jim Dissette and Kathy Salvatore



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The Northern Camper



Volume 5, Issue 4 ✦ August 2009

The Northern Camper is distributed May through September for Wexford, Missaukee, north Osceola, west Roscommon, west Traverse, north Leelanau and south Antrim counties.

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About The Cover

To see a Great Horned Owl while camping in Michigan's wilderness is to experience one of those startling moments in nature when we connect with a creature of almost mythological proportions.

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www.northerncamper.com

~ Out & About ~

Michigan Wonders & Curiosities

You know you're in Michigan when the RV is filled with enough rations to get the entire family through the next millennium and someone calls out, "Are we there yet? I'm hungry." Yup, Michiganders hunger for adventure that extends far beyond the 97 State Parks and six state forests, searching for that out-of-the-ordinary, ("oh wow, isn't that cool?") spot that most likely won't be found in a typical travel guide. Here are some wonders and curiosities for the family who wants to make the most of their Michigan vacation.

THE MYSTERY HILL ~ Benzie County

Known to locals as the Putney Corners phenomenon, it's a desolate country road in northern Michigan that has all the trappings for becoming another Blair County prodigy, already endowed with its own cult following. People from all over the state drive to Putney Road in Benzonia for an experience some call mystical, and others simply refer to as baffling.

Amazingly, it's a small section of the road, bordered by cornfields, that seemingly zaps your car backward uphill without any effort on your part at all. Shaking your head in disbelief, like everyone else, you'll try not once but several times over, certain each subsequent attempt will unlock the mystery. It doesn't.

Common sense says the whole thing is an optical illusion, or perhaps some magnetic force. Folklore says the power comes from Blaine Christian Church at the top of the hill, pulling all the sinners back into its fold. Makes sense. No one has left the area without "feeling" the tug.

It's not easy to find, but definitely worth the trip. For guaranteed success, take the following directions and a good compass:

From northbound M-31 in the southern portion of Benzie County, go to Joyfield Road. Turn left onto Joyfield and continue to Putney Road. When you see the church, that's Putney Corners. Make a left turn, heading south and drive down to the bottom of the first hill, a few hundred feet, until you can spot the STOP AHEAD sign in your rear-view mirror. Drop your vehicle into neutral, and you'll all be motoring skyward in reverse.

TWO IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Be sure you're on the south side of Putney, off Joyfield.
- Be sure that there's not another vehicle behind you!

If you do get lost, try reaching the **Benzie County Chamber of Commerce** at (231) 882-5801 or (800) 882-5801.

SMOOCH A MOOSE ~ Traverse City



It may come as a surprise that people in Michigan drive from hours away to kiss a ninety-year-old-moose. But they do. And they've been doing it for years, although no one can remember when this smooching tradition first began.

Sleder's Family Tavern in Traverse City, believed to be Michigan's oldest continuously operating tavern, opened its doors in 1882. Where once only men sat and drank, today men, women, and children come to enjoy good food and fun.

Part of that fun includes smacking lips with Randolph, a 1500 pound moose hung on the wall in a traditional kissing mount. Why kiss a huge animal head? Some hypothesize that puckering up started out as a soccer team initiation. Others say the moose was so big, hunters used to kiss him for good luck on their own pursuit. One bartender suggested, "It has to be good luck. Either that or they get the flu."

The famous smooch with the moose is so romantic, you will most certainly hear bells. (The bartenders make sure of that.)

Catch the fun (or a cold) 7 days a week at Sleder's Family Tavern, located at 717 Randolph Street (231) 947-9213 or visit their website www.sleders.com.

Michigan Wonders & Curiosities *(continued from page 5)*

THE COW AND THE TOMBSTONE ~ Traverse City



Randolph (see “Smooch a Moose,” page 5) isn’t the only celebrated animal in Traverse City. There’s Traverse Colantha Walker, quite possibly the world’s only cow to have her own tombstone. A bountiful bovine born on April 29, 1916, she contributed more than her fair share to the farming operations at the former Traverse City State Hospital, earning the title of “World’s Champion Cow,” the greatest lactating cow ever known.

Throughout her years, Colantha Walker really put out—200,114.9 pounds of milk and 7,525.8 pounds of butterfat. Her monumental tombstone, expressing all her vital statistics, sits at the side of the road, near the barns where she left her mark. A huge banquet was held to commemorate her passing on January 8, 1932, where it’s been said she was eulogized by guests feasting on royal portions of prime rib.

To pay your respects, head to the west side of Traverse City, west of U.S. Highway 31 (Division Street), north of the Meijer’s store. Turn west on 11th Street, (watch for the stone pyramid) and continue straight. The noted grave site is on the dirt road (Red Drive) opposite Building 217.

Take this opportunity to visit The Village at Grand Traverse Commons. Designed in a grand 19th century Victorian-Italianate style, the Commons was originally a state asylum that fell in to disrepair and obsolescence in the 1970s. A consortium of architects and investors led by regional builder Ray Minervini restored the building complex to its original grandeur. For the last seven years it has been one of the US’s most accomplished restorations and has been recognized by historical societies as an award winning success. In its new incarnation it hosts a multitude of eateries, boutique shops, salons, art galleries, venues for live music, gourmet markets, most of them situated in Building 50, the hub of the old campus. There is even an intergenerational healthcare and residential community for those who would like to stay a little longer. For more information visit www.thevillageetc.com.



ALWAYS CHRISTMAS ~ Frankenmuth

Christmas in August might seem like a crazy conjunction but if you’re near Frankenmuth you can’t miss the giant roadside Santas beckoning you to pull over your sleigh—car I mean. Frankenmuth is home to Bronner’s Christmas Wonderland, perhaps the largest Christmas store in the world. The moment you enter Bronner’s you will be dazzled into forgetting which month it is. It’s immense 50,000 trims and gifts to look through, all in an alpine-like building larger than 1½ football fields. Founded in 1945, the Christmas Wonderland is part of an even larger surprise. The town of Frankenmuth is a replica of a Bavarian community complete with horse drawn carriages, a sternwheel paddleboat (The Bavarian Belle), restaurants, golf courses and even a wedding chapel if you are so inspired. Founded by Lutheran immigrants in 1845, Frankenmuth languished as a village until the 1960s when the Zehnder family decided to renovate the town into a Bavarian-themed tourist attraction. Today, “Little Bavaria” welcomes more than 2 million tourists a year. It’s well worth a day visit! Just south of Saginaw, off I-75 (Rt 23). Visit www.frankenmuth.org and www.bronners.com.



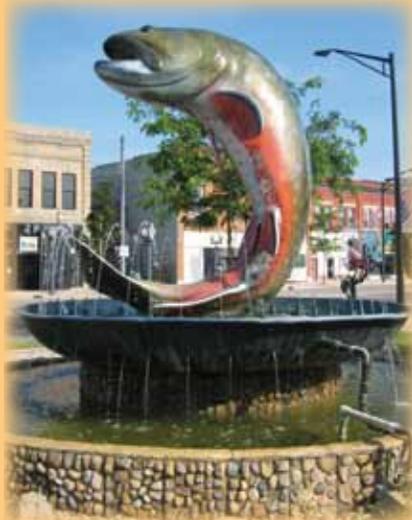
THIS TROUT COULD CATCH YOU ~ Kalkaska

Now, are you ready for a whopper of a fish tale? This one is 17 feet long, 12 feet high, and it took more than 320 hours to reel in. No, it's not fiction. The fact is those are the statistics of the National Trout Monument.

Constructed in 1966, this work of art commemorates the passage a year earlier of a bill declaring the brook trout as Michigan's official state fish. It was local grocer, Leo Nelson, who wound up being the one selected to turn out the finished product. Like many artists, he chose to work with his model au naturel: an actual frozen trout.

The fisherman's shrine showcases Nelson's masterpiece emerging from a fountain of colored lights. With mouth wide open, the fidgety fish appears to be leaping for the fly—that is, if the fly's still there.

You can catch this striking tribute to the trout right in the middle of town on Cedar Street, aka U.S. Highway 131, aka M72, aka M66. Other questions can be answered by the **Kalkaska Chamber of Commerce** at (231) 258-9103.



THE SHOE TREE ~ Kalkaska

Everyone gets a kick of the sight on the east side of U.S. Highway 131, M66, just north of Kalkaska. What at first appears to be a cluster of brightly colored birds in a wide-spreading tree turns out to be none other than hundreds of pairs of shoes embodying the souls of the branches in a nest of high-heeled spikes, sneakers and boots. Each twosome appears to be gently strung as if they were Christmas ornaments.

Yet it's not a special occasion that causes these heels to kick up the bark—it's an everyday occurrence that commenced with first sighting in January 2001. This tree's not a loafer, and continues to surreptitiously spurt new growth while the old growth occasionally walks away.

(continued on page 8)

Cadillac

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Michigan Wonders & Curiosities *(continued from page 7)*

DA VINCI'S HORSE ~ Grand Rapids

If you happen to be traveling near Grand Rapids, hold your horses and go see the 24' bronze sculpture of a horse whose one leg you could barely get your arms around. The sculpture, inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's notes and drawings—the original clay model was destroyed by the French when they invaded Milan in the 15th century—is one of the Meijer Garden's most imposing sculptures. And that's saying a lot—they have the largest outdoor collections of sculptures in the midwest. da Vinci's horse is one of two



castings, the other commissioned by a museum in Milan Italy. The 16-year saga of its creation is fascinating and a testament to patience and artistic innovation (it weighs 15 tons). It's well worth the few dollars admission and besides, you can always spend a few hours wandering the Meijer Gardens. More about da Vinci's horse can be found at www.leonardohorse.com.
Frederik Meijer Gardens sits on East Belt Line just off Interstate 96. It's open every day until 5 p.m. and until 9 p.m. on Thursday during the summer months. Admission is \$7 U.S. adults and \$1 less for seniors and \$3.50 after 5 p.m. on Thursdays. ✦



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CAMPER'S GADGET

Pie Irons

Pie Irons are a wonderful and versatile way to cook in camp. What you can cook is only limited by your imagination and creativity. Children love cooking servings by themselves. The following suggestions offer how to put your pie iron to use on your next campfire. And don't forget they work great in fire places, on wood stoves, grills, and even on your kitchen range.

- Makes reuben sandwiches, pizza pies, grilled cheese, calzones, scrambled eggs, chocolate croissants.
- Cooks fruit pies, hot desserts, pudgy pies, hot ham and cheese, jelly pies, tuna melts.
- Fries potatoes and onions, eggs, hamburgers, omelets, meat loaf, pork chops, hot dogs, and bratwurst.
- Grills french toast, sausages, steak, sloppy joes, rocky road treats.
- Bakes rolls, pies, cornbread, biscuits, empanadas, seafood and fish.
- Toasts breads, s'mores, tortillas, camp treats, bagels and much more!

Pie Irons are affectionately called by various names including: Pudge Pies, Mountain Pies, Hobo Pies, Sandwich Cookers, and Pie Shams. In the U.K. pie iron style sandwiches are known as Toasties, and in Cuba and throughout Florida as "Sandwich Cubano." Australians call them Jaffle Irons and Italians call them Panini Grills. Whatever you call them, they make for a fun family cooking adventure, and provide delicious meals and easily portable finger foods and snacks.

Tasty Treat

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					1	4
		3	8	9	5	
6		1				
			2	5	1	
3	4					
2			7		8	

ANSWER ON PAGE 23

New!

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COOKIN' CAMPER'S

CAMPFIRE CARAMEL APPLES

- 1 Large Apple, Peeled and Cored
- 1/2 Teaspoon Butter
- 1 Caramel Square Cut into Quarters
- 1/2 Teaspoon Sugar
- Cinnamon to Taste

Place apple on heavy duty foil (two times bigger than the apple). Mix butter, sugar, and cinnamon together. Stuff caramel into center of the apple.

Rub butter mixture on the surface of the apple. Seal the apple in the foil and place hot coals for 15 to 20 minutes.

CHOCOLATE FONDUE

- Small Sauce Pan
- 2 Large Bags Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips
- 1/2 Cup Fresh or Canned Milk
- 1/4 Cup Orange Liqueur
(Or whatever liqueur you like!)

Cut up chunks of the following: apples, bananas, pears, dried apricots, blueberry or banana muffins, rice crispy treats, pretzels, popcorn, marshmallows, strawberries, etc.

In a small sauce pan melt chocolate with milk and liqueur on grill over campfire stirring frequently. Take chunks and dip into chocolate. This can also be made with white chocolate chips or caramels.

CHOCOLATE RASPBERRY BURRITOS

- 4 8-9" Flour Tortillas
- 1 Cup Semisweet Chocolate Chips
- 1 Cup Fresh Raspberries
- 2 Tablespoons Melted Butter
- 2 Teaspoons Sugar
- 1/2 Teaspoon Ground Cinnamon

At home, mix sugar and cinnamon and store in a zip-lock baggie. Don't forget to bring it with you camping.

At the campsite, stack the tortillas and wrap in a piece of foil; grill over indirect (med-low) heat, turning once, for about 5 minutes until they are warm and pliable.

Sprinkle 1/4 cup each of the chocolate chips and raspberries in the center of each tortilla; fold in the sides and roll up (like a typical burrito). Brush rolls with half of the melted butter. Grill burritos over indirect (med-low) heat, turning once, for about 3 minutes, until they start to show grill marks and the chocolate chips are melted.

Remove from heat and brush with remaining butter. Sprinkle with stored sugar and cinnamon mixture. Serve warm.

**These can be made at home on the grill. They are great with a scoop of vanilla ice-cream. Great recipe that kids can help you make!*

APPLE BOATS

- 1 Apple per Person
- Raisins
- Cinnamon
- Brown Sugar

Core apple. Surround apple in aluminum foil. Put in raisins, brown sugar and cinnamon. Wrap apple in aluminum foil and place on coals. Rotate occasionally. When your apple boat is done cooking it tastes like sweet apple sauce with peeling.

CAMPFIRE ÉCLAIRS

- 1 8-ounce Can Pillsbury Crescent Dinner Rolls
- 2 Vanilla JELL-O Brand Pudding Snacks
- 1 Tub Betty Crocker Whipped Frosting (Chocolate)
- Thin-Tip Cooking Sticks
- Aluminum Foil
- Pam Cooking Spray

Cover tip of stick with aluminum foil and spray with Pam. Stretch one crescent roll over foil and squeeze tip to close and tighten. Cook over campfire until golden brown turning frequently. Crescent roll is done when it slides off the foil easily.

Fill center of crescent roll with vanilla pudding, spread chocolate frosting on top, and enjoy! Makes 8 servings.

TOTALLY DECADENT S'MORES

- 1/2 Cup Mascarpone Cheese
- 1/4 Cup Mini Semisweet Chocolate Chips
- 1 Tablespoon Finely Chopped Candied Orange Peel
- 1/2 Teaspoon Vanilla
- 24 Chocolate Graham Crackers, Each 2-1/2 Inches Square
- 1 Cup Mini Marshmallows

Don't blink! This grown-up version of a childhood favorite will disappear fast.

Mix cheese, chocolate chips, orange peel, and vanilla. Spread one teaspoon of mixture on each cracker. Top 12 crackers with 7 to 8 marshmallows. Cover with remaining 12 crackers. Place crackers in center of cooking grate. Grill 2 minutes. Serve warm. Makes 12 servings.

Need a Few Veggies to Balance Out Dessert?

by Natalie Davis



Ah, the tastes of summer. Fruits and vegetables, juicy and delicious, picked fresh from the garden. No garden? Just visiting? Not to worry. Local farmers are on hand at area farmers' markets to provide residents and visitors alike with a variety of in-season delights.

The **Farm Market at Ben Jeffs River Park** is nestled along the Muskegon River on M-55 between Lake City and Houghton Lake. The market is open every Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Selection varies by the week, but a staple this summer has been vine-ripened tomatoes grown at Amy Armstead's farm, Garden in the Woods, in Lake City. Armstead also provides fresh brown eggs, lettuces, and berries. Later in the season, look for peppers, corn, squash, apples, and more. The market, new this season, is host to not only farmers, but artisans as well.

Missaukee Farmers' Market is situated in Lake City's downtown City Park on the shore of Lake Missaukee. It is open Thursdays, August 13 through September 3 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The market is coordinated by the Lake City Area Chamber of Commerce. You can find farm fresh produce, baked goods, and live entertainment.

Cadillac Farmers' Market is located at Chestnut and Lake streets across from the boat launch (don't let construction keep you away). They are open Tuesdays and Fridays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

What a way to spend the day—strolling along the Muskegon River or watching the sun set over Lakes Missaukee, Mitchell or Cadillac. Enjoy the bounty that summer has to offer! ✦

This Old Camper



A Do-It-Yourself Guide For Camper Maintenance

by Gerry Bandelow, Lake City

Summer vacation destinations are beckoning.

The thoughts of pure country air, beautiful lakes, steams and forests call to us. We yearn to sit around a campfire or cast a bobber into the water...so what's keeping you?

Maybe for some the thought of leaving the cozy comforts of home doesn't sound like an enjoyable experience. For others it's "sticker shock" from pricing new travel trailers, which brings us to this edition of *This Old Camper*, purchasing an older camper.

A camper is like owning a miniature home that can be taken with you. You can decorate it to your tastes, stock it with the camping essentials and make it comfy just like home. But before buying a used travel trailer there are some things you must know. Here are a few buying tips that may help you in your quest.

First and foremost determine the amount you would like to spend or come up with a price range. One thing you don't want to do is worry about camper payments while trying to relax on vacation. Some bank's interest rates may be slightly higher on a camper because it is a luxury item so make sure you get all of the financial details worked out before you start looking at campers.

Ideally you should look for a camper that has "flat-lined." This is a camper that someone else has "eaten" the depreciation value on and has reached a value that has hit close to bottom, but is still in great shape. This means you can purchase it one year and sell it in a couple years for about the same price. There are some great deals out there—I've seen several nice campers this year for under a grand—you just have to be patient.

Next, determine the purpose of the camper. Where are you planning on using it? How many people will be staying in it? Will the camper need to have a bathroom, stove, fridge, furnace, air, awning—things like that. Take everything into consideration that you would like to have.

Now that you have the first two details out of the way you need to figure out what you are capable of hauling.

Let's first look at the different types of campers starting from smallest to largest.

Pop-up campers are ideal for cars, small SUVs and pickups. These fold down for less wind resistance and are light weight. The pop-up can come fully loaded or bare bones. They do have some drawbacks; if the sides are fabric they do tend to rot and mildew over time. Another drawback can be holding heat if the camper will be used in colder weather like fall trips or deer season.

Another camper is the truck slide-in and fifth wheel which are easy to haul and allow things like boats and other trailerable toys to be pulled behind the truck or camper. The disadvantage is you are committed to owning a truck to pull it.

Next is the tow behind camper. These are available in a lot of variations and need to be hooked onto the car or truck's bumper or trailer hitch. These type of tow behinds come in single or multiple axle.

Now determine what your vehicle is capable of towing.

Truck slide in campers and fifth wheels may require a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton rather than a $\frac{1}{2}$ ton pickup depending on the trucks weight capacity. As far as towing capability is concerned, you need to be concerned with two numbers—GTW (gross trailer weight), which is the maximum weight your vehicle is designed to pull, and TW (tongue weight), the downward force (measured in pounds) your hitch ball can support. Both of these figures can be found in your vehicle's owner's manual and should be top-most in your mind when considering which trailer you can tow. All of this has to be considered when purchasing a travel trailer. This is where a tandem axle may be better for you then a single axle. One of the biggest advantages to owning a new camper compared to an older camper is weight. The newer campers use much lighter material.

Now to the fun part—once you have the details out of the way you can start shopping! You might have a few used camper dealerships in your area. That's great news since you will have a wider selection and a knowledgeable salesperson to offer advice and recommendations. Of

(continued)



This Old Camper *(continued)*

course you can also find plenty of used campers for sale through your local classifieds and on-line like Craigslist.

Keep in mind that some of the best deals are sitting in people's front yards! Look at a lot of campers. It's the only way to find the one that's just right for you!

During your search, there are a lot of things to keep in mind. I suggest making a checklist to remind yourself of all the things you are looking for. Take notes. Make a list of the good and bad things you find with each camper you look at so you can go over them later.

When assessing the camper, start with the exterior. Look for dents, dings and rust. Check the roof for cracks. Are the vents damaged? Check the awning to see that it pulls out as it should and is not damaged by mildew. Do a safety check of the lights and tires so that you will not experience problems on the road.

Next, move inside. Are there problems with the ceiling? Does it have water damage or spots that sag? Check the floor for soft spots. Make sure all of the appliances work properly. If the unit has a water pump and water heater make sure they operate properly.

Have fun searching and remember to include the family and keep it fun. For suggestions or comments contact me at thehappycamperguy@yahoo.com. Look for next month's column where I'll cover storing your camper. ✦

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Michigan Dog Man

Things that go bump in the night are the grist for legend and folklore and every region seems to have its own home grown version of weird sightings and “encounters” from UFOs in Roswell New Mexico, Big Foot skulking through the Olympic forests of Washington State, vampire aliens eviscerating cattle and sheep anywhere there are cattle and sheep, to Chessie (think Nessie on the Chesapeake Bay).

Michigan has its own mascot of horror—the Michigan Dog Man. It walks upright (sometimes), has a mouthful of needle-like teeth, glowing reflective eyes and howls in the distance at inappropriate times, like when people are lost on dark, lonely roads or taking a midnight stroll through the forest. So far, none of these creatures have knocked on the front door looking for handouts or close-up photo-ops.

As one poster on a web site dedicated to the unusual and paranormal stated, “I don’t believe in anything . . . until I’m in the woods, at night, alone and unarmed . . . Then I believe in everything!” Belief in the “unnatural” thrives with fear. That said, over the years there have been literally hundreds of sighting of strange dog-like creatures walking erect on two legs through the forests of Michigan and Wisconsin. Most reports are made by hapless campers, hikers and farmers. One report (unsourced by *The Northern Camper*) was made by DNR officials in Wexford County who reported a strange

attack on a cabin and lots of large dog prints surrounding the area. Dog prints do not make a shape-shifting creature from the netherworld, but stories like this become inkblots for our interpretations.

The official kickoff for the Dog Man legend can actually be pinpointed. A song called “The Legend” written by Steve Cook was broadcast by radio personality Jack O’Malley at WTCM in Traverse City

as an April Fool’s prank. The song-story incited a rash of calls from people who swore they had witnessed such a creature. Fuzzy photographs and murky film clips began to appear from all over the state and the legend went viral, spreading through the media all the way to the Sean Hannity Show, USA Today and Paul Harvey. Cook maintains a web site, **michigan-dogman.com**, where he continues to offer CDs of more refined versions of “The Legend,” links to other web sites with similar interests, and helps generate new interest in the story. One very cool aspect to Cook’s endeavors is the fact that most of the revenue gleaned from the sale of his CDs is donated to local charities, specifically animal humane societies and rescue organizations.



What more fitting a bequest than donations gleaned from our crazy interest in giant walking dogs seen through the mists of our imagination? Or are the old Indian legends true—that shape-shifters, spirits from the old Indian nations, appear every seventh year of each decade to howl and remind us that we may not be alone on our walks through the dusky woods. ✦

Emperors of the Forest



Few birds can claim “emperor of the forest” status.

Any avid bird-watcher would tell you that each bird has its own particular brand of beauty but owls have a special place in the pantheon of our feathered friends. And the Great Horned Owl just might be the grand-daddy of them all.

Its call is classic and familiar: from 3 to 8 deep hoots that sound like “Whose-awake, me-too” or “Who-who-ah-whooh, who-ah-whooh.”

There are about ten different subspecies of Great Horned Owls and they vary in size and color. However, the general appearance of each race is similar. In North America only the Great Gray Owl and the Snowy Owl are larger.

The Great Horned Owl is characterized by large ear tufts, yellow eyes, an owl’s facial disk, a lack of a visible neck, and feathers down to the talons. As with most birds of prey, the females are larger in size. Their wings’ span can be up to 60”.

Plumage varies from very dark in the Pacific Northwest to very pale in the Arctic. A typical adult is mottled gray-brown above, buff below, barred dark brown, with a tawny face and a distinctive white throat patch. Juvenile or immature owls are similar to adults but have a lighter or more rufous (brownish-red) color until they mature. Their ear tufts are smaller and the white throat patch is less distinctive.

Contrary to popular belief, owls can not turn their heads completely around. They can rotate their heads 270 degrees, thanks to extra vertebra in their necks. Because their eyes are fixed in their sockets, they can’t move their eyes up or down or side to side. The owl has to move its whole head to compensate for the fixed eyes. Owls also have incredible senses of hearing, a trait that allows them to hunt at night. Their ears are located on the sides of the head, but are off-set, not symmetrical like human ears.

The Great Horned hunts most of the time at sunrise and sunset and they typically hunt from a perch. Keen hearing would be useless if the owl itself made a lot of noise, so owls have evolved the ability to fly in nearly complete silence due to the soft fringes on the leading wing feathers. When hunting, owls will glide silently down on unsuspecting prey. With the silent flight, the Great

Horned Owl is usually successful in capturing its prey. Rodents, snakes, rabbits, squirrels and even other owls appear on the Great Horned Owl’s dinner list.

The Great Horned Owl was first recorded by English speaking observers in the Virginia colonies, hence the Latinised form of its name—*Bubo virginianus*—after Queen Elizabeth, “the Virgin Queen.” Obviously, native americans were well aware of the large bird’s presence and many tribes from Sioux to Ojibwa wove Great Horned Owls (among other types) into many of their sacred traditions. Feared or revered, the large owl has a predominant role and we can go even farther back in history to find the image of an owl impressed on Greek coins to symbolize Athena, goddess of wisdom.



B.C. PIZZA

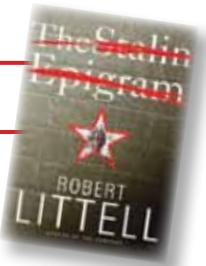
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Book Review



Based on a riveting historical episode, *The Stalin Epigram* is a fictional rendering of the life of Osip Mandelstam, perhaps the greatest Russian poet of the twentieth century - and one of the few artists in Soviet Russia who daringly refused to pay creative homage to Joseph Stalin. The poet's defiance of the Kremlin dictator and the Bolshevik regime - particularly his outspoken criticism of Stalin's collectivization rampage that drove millions of Russian peasants to starvation - reached its climax in 1934 when Mandelstam, putting his life on the line, composed a searing indictment of Stalin in a sixteen-line epigram and secretly recited it to a handful of friends and fellow artists.

Would Stalin and his merciless state security apparatus get wind of this brazenly insulting poem? Would the poet's body and spirit be crushed under the weight of the state if they did?

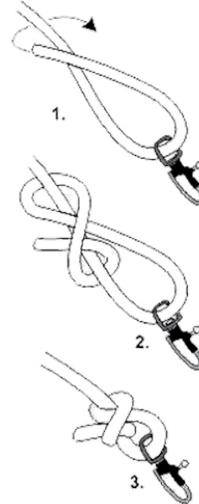
Narrated in turn by Mandelstam himself, his devoted wife, his great friends the poets Boris Pasternak and Anna Akhmatova, along with vivid fictional characters, *The Stalin Epigram* is the page-turning tale of courage and the human spirit told in deftly poetic prose by a perceptive, talented writer. With the benefit of extraordinary research and an almost mystical empathy, bestselling author Robert Littell has drawn a fictional portrait of the beleaguered poet struggling to survive the running riot of Stalinist Russia in the 1930s. This memorable novel culminates in a wholly unexpected encounter that illuminates the agonizing choices Russian intellectuals faced during the Stalinist terror and explains what drew Robert Littell to the poignant subject in the first place.



Camper's Knot

Buntline Hitch

Use this knot to fasten items such as snaps and rings to rope or cord. It forms a small, neat and very reliable knot. Not to be used however, for tying into a climbing rope.



Pass end of rope through shackle, then back up across standing part. Make a turn around standing line, forming a loop with the shackle at the base of the loop.

Bring free end across tops of both parts of loop. Make a turn around standing part of loop, making sure free end exits between itself and the standing part of loop.

Pull knot tight down onto shackle.



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Pull Tabs

got rocks?

Green Stone ~ Michigan's State Gem

by Kevin Gauthier (edited by Joan Haut)

When I tell people that Green Stone is our state gem, I get a puzzled look followed by "I thought it was the Petoskey stone?" Yes, Petoskey stone is our state stone and very widely recognized, but Green stone (scientific name Chlorastrolite) is our state gem stone. Green stone is a beautiful gem that often falls behind the spotlight of our highly collectable Petoskey stone.

Like the Petoskey stone, Green stone has a turtle shell like pattern, however, it is formed in gas bubbles trapped in



cooling basalt known as amygdaloidal basal. It is not a petrified coral or a green Petoskey stone as some people think. The stone is primarily found in the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale, with those from Isle Royale being the highest gem quality. Isle Royale,

today, is a national park where collection of any kind is not allowed. However, I have cut some beautiful gems from pieces collected there before the island became a national park.

The material from Keweenaw is a bluish green to dark green with a more muted contrast in color where the material found on Isle Royale will be a light to dark green with vivid contrast in colors. Both variations are fibrous in nature which allows a well cut gem to display chatoyancy. This phenomenon of "changing" colors from light to dark can also be seen in tiger eye or a spool of thread when the light reflects off each individual thread at a different time when you move it. You may find little rounded pea size pebbles of Keweenaw green stone that has broken loose from the basalt along the shore line in the Upper Peninsula. There is a local shop in Houghton, Michigan called Keweenaw Gems and Gifts. If you are in the area, this is a good rock shop to visit and see many varieties of the local area gem stones.

Cutting and polishing green stone can be tricky. The stone often forms in a botryoidal formation (bubble) and it is difficult for a novice to determine how much to grind away from the crust of the stone to expose more pattern. Grinding too far loses the vibrant detail of the turtle shell pattern. I have cut and polished thousands of green stone and highly recommend if you are fortunate enough to have some, bring or send them to **Korner Gem** for cutting, or advice on cutting. Over the years I

have seen a lot of green stone cut incorrectly leaving the stone muted and decreased in value. A high quality stone the size of a pea with an excellent cut will yield as much as \$40, a quality polished gem the size of a dime as much as \$150. Green stone along with Opal and Fire Agate from Mexico becomes a desirable piece of jewelry in the hands of a skilled cutter. After all we are talking about a gem stone recognized by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA).

I am always surprised at how many Michigan residents do not know we have such a unique and valuable gem stone right here in our state. The only place in the world that Green stone formed is here. So now that you know about Green stone you can educate both residents and visitors to the state about it. In fact, a picture of green stone is usually printed at the top of state maps along with the state bird, the robin.

What Michigan rock would **YOU** like to read about in *The Northern Camper*? E-mail kornergem@chartermi.net, title "Northern Camper question." ✦



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903 N. Mitchell St., Cadillac, MI 49601

Campground Directory



Missaukee County

Ben D. Jeffs River Park • County • (231) 839-4945
 PO Box 800, Lake City, MI 49651
missaukee.org/parkdept.htm

Located on Muskegon River, 16 miles east of Lake City on M-55. 66 acres. 17 primitive sites, pit toilets, well, pavilion.

Crooked Lake Park • County • (231) 839-4945
 PO Box 800, Lake City, MI 49651
missaukee.org/parkdept.htm

Located on southern edge of Crooked Lake, near Jennings. 60 acres, 1000' sandy beach. 37 primitive sites, 15 with electricity. New bath house, hand water pumps, sanitation station, hiking trails, boat launch.

Goose Lake • State • (231) 775-9727
michigandnr.com/parksandtrails

Located 2.5 miles from Lake City, south of M-42, off Al Moses Rd. to west. First-come, first serve. 54 sites for tents and small trailers. Rustic camp, vault toilets, hand water pumps. Good boating and fishing.

Hopkins Creek Equestrian • State • (231) 824-3591
michigandnr.com/parksandtrails

Located 5.5 miles north of M-42, up Lucas Rd. Adjacent to shore to

- shore riding/hiking trails. First-come, first serve. 16 sites for tent and small trailers. Group trail camps available by reservation.
- **Long Lake – Missaukee • State • (231) 775-9727**
- michigandnr.com/parksandtrails
- Located 3.5 miles northwest of Lake City. M-42 north to Randall Rd., west 1/2 mile to Almoses Rd., north 1/4 mile to Goose Lake Rd., west 1.5 miles, Green Rd., north to camp. First-come, first-serve. 20 sites for tent and small trailers. Rustic site, vault toilets water hand pumps.
- Great boating, outdoor recreation. Access to Goose Lake State Forest.
- **Maple Grove • City • (231) 839-4429**
- lakecitymich.com/michigan/area-parks
- Located 4 blocks from Lake Missaukee, east end of Union Street.
- 32 sites, electric, water, rest rooms, baseball field, sanitation station.
- Community building with kitchen available for events.
- **Missaukee Lake Park • County • (231) 839-4945**
- **PO Box 800, Lake City, MI 49651**
- missaukee.org/parkdept.htm
- Located on north shore of 2000 acre Lake Missaukee. 33 acres. 170 total sites; 96 water, electric, sewer; 21 electric only. Rest rooms, sanitation station. 1400' sand beach, baseball fields. Boat ramp with 68 slip rentals for docking.

(continued on page 20)



Affordable Quality Golf

Stoney Creek Golf Course

231-839-7777 • 4664 S. Morey Rd. (M-55/M-66)

Cadillac: M-55 east, 8 miles to M-66, turn left (north), 1/4 mile. Lake City: M-66 south, 4 miles.



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Per Person	\$6	\$10
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ANY Day of the Week

Campground Directory (continued from page 19)



Reedsburg Dam • State • (989) 275-4622
michigandnr.com/parksandtrails

Located 5 miles northwest of Houghton Lake via M-55 and Co. Rd. 300. First-come, first-serve. 38 sites accommodate up to 40'; 15 waterfront. Rustic site, vault toilets, water hand pump. Boat access, rental, fishing.

Rustic Rafters • Private • (231) 229-4433
9446 N. Nelson Rd., Moorestown, MI 49651
www.rusticrafters.com

Located in northeast corner of Missaukee County. 5 heated log cabins, 17 sites for trailers with electric, water. Rest rooms, sanitation station. Reservations suggested for cabins.

Osceola County

Cadillac Woods • Private • (231) 825-2012 or (877) 727-2267
23163 M-115, Tustin, MI 49688
www.cadillacwoodscampground.com

Located on M-115, 6 miles southeast of US-131, 8 miles southeast of Cadillac. 50 sites, water, electric; 6 cabins, group tent area. Rest rooms, sanitation station, store, laundry, free mini-golf.

Crittenden Park • County • (231) 734-2588
3641 S. 50th Ave, Sears, MI 49679
osceola-county.org/County%20Departments/Parks/parks.htm

Located on east shore of Big Lake, east of Evart on US-10 to 50th Ave., south 2 miles to park entrance on right. 80 sites, electric, water; 20 rustic. Sanitation station, store. DNR boat launch adjacent. Pavilion available by reservation.

Rambadt Memorial Park • City • (231) 832-2245
227 E. Lincoln Ave., Reed City, MI 49677
reedcitycrossroads.com/city/parks

Located on Reed City's west end. First come, first serve. 13 sites, electric, water. Rest rooms, sanitation station, trails on Hersey River. Free concerts Friday and Saturday nights during summer.

River Country Campground • Private • (231) 734-3808
6281 River Rd., Evart, MI 49631
campandcanoe.com

Located on Muskegon River, US-10, north 1 block east of light, 1.5 miles on River Rd. to fork in road, stay right, 2 miles. 130 sites. Rest rooms, laundry, store. Canoe, kayak, tube rentals, miniature golf.

Rose Lake Park • County • (231) 768-4923
11726 Youth Dr. • LeRoy, MI 49655
osceola-county.org/County%20Departments/Parks/parks.htm

Located east of Tustin and LeRoy off US-131 on Rose Lake. 48 acres, 1300' beach. 160 sites, most water, electric; some primitive. Rest rooms, sanitation station, store, boat launch, golf. Pavilions available by reservation.

Roscommon County (West)

Houghton Lake Travel Park • Private • (989) 422-3931
370 Cloverleaf Ln., Houghton Lake, MI 48629
michcampgrounds.com/hnlktlpc

Located 1 block east of US-127 and M-55. 60 sites, 16 with sewer; cabins. Rest rooms, sanitation station, laundry, pool. Public access to Houghton Lake.

West Houghton Lake Camp • Private • (989) 422-5130
9371 Houghton Lake Dr., Houghton Lake, MI 48629
westhoughtonlakecampground.com

Located 1 mile east of US-127 and M-55, 1/2 mile north on Houghton Lake Dr. 127 sites, 47 with sewer. Rest rooms, laundry, store, rental trailers. Near Houghton Lake public access.

Wooded Acres Family Camp • Private • (989) 422-3413
997 Federal Ave., Houghton Lake, MI 48629
michcampgrounds.com/woodedacres

Located 2 miles east of US-127 and M-55. M-55 east to 2nd light (Loxley Rd.) and go south 1.7 miles to Federal Ave., camp on left. 101 sites, 12 with sewer. Rest rooms, store, cabin rentals, trolley rides in season.

(continued on page 22)

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CAMPER PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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63					64						65			
66					67						68			

Across

- 1 Film flop
- 5 Band leader Xavier
- 10 Pirate's quaff
- 14 Mideast bigwig
- 15 River to the Missouri
- 16 Went by bus
- 17 Social outing
- 18 ___ of Troy
- 19 [ding-dong] "___ calling"
- 20 Post-Cold War power arrangement
- 23 Airline to Stockholm
- 24 Born, in bridal bios
- 25 Like many a bog
- 28 NATO member
- 31 Rock bottom
- 35 Strong temptation
- 36 Like a football, before kickoff
- 38 Santa __, Calif.
- 39 Lehar work, with "The"
- 42 Crackerjack pilot
- 43 Punctual
- 44 "A __ technicality"
- 45 Porterhouse, e.g.
- 47 "You bet!"
- 48 Flattens, in the ring
- 49 Toupee, slangily
- 51 Strauss's "___ Rosenkavalier"
- 52 Cohabitant of sorts
- 59 Mob bigwig
- 60 Wavy pattern in fabric
- 61 Fill with cargo
- 63 In the strike zone
- 64 Cyber-sales
- 65 Place to wait
- 66 Declare false
- 67 Convened anew
- 68 Like the Sabin vaccine

Down

- 1 One "B" in B&B
- 2 Muscat's land
- 3 Tiny pest
- 4 "Punky ___" ('80s sitcom)
- 5 Pacific salmon
- 6 Exploitative type
- 7 Unmitigated ___
- 8 Turned gray
- 9 Mortise mate
- 10 Like good eggs
- 11 Wander about
- 12 Garlic quality
- 13 ___-Xers (boomers' kids)
- 21 Very, in teen slang
- 22 Extend, in a way
- 25 Big cats
- 26 How we stand
- 27 Come to terms
- 28 Togetherness
- 29 ___ Hawkins Day
- 30 Molecule builders
- 32 Name in Chicago politics
- 33 Emcee's task
- 34 Tears to the ground
- 36 MYOB part
- 37 Merino mother
- 40 Li'l Abner's family name
- 41 Texas Panhandle city
- 46 National Guard center
- 48 England's ___ Gardens
- 50 Pyle of Mayberry
- 51 Resided
- 52 Spelunker's milieu
- 53 Ready for business
- 54 Symbol on a staff
- 55 Neeson of "Michael Collins"
- 56 Indy driver Luyendyk
- 57 Worth a C, perhaps
- 58 Novelist Ferber
- 59 New England catch
- 62 Sushi order

Campground Directory (continued from page 20)



Wexford County

Baxter Bridge Campground • State • (231) 775-9727 **michigandnr.com/parksandtrails**

Located on Manistee River, 12 miles northwest of Manton via M-42 and 31 Rd. First-come, first-serve. 25 sites tent and small trailer; 3 accommodate 40'. Rustic camp, vault toilets, water hand pump. Canoeing, trout fishing, wildlife viewing.

Birchwood Resort & Camp • Private • (231) 775-9101 **6545 E. M-115, Cadillac, MI 49601** **www.birchwoodresortmi.com**

1 block southeast of Lake Cadillac on M-115 or 2 miles northwest of US-131, Exit 176. 33 sites, full hook-ups; cabins; no tents. Rest rooms, docking, pontoon rental.

Camp Cadillac • Private • (231) 775-9724 **10621 E. 34 Rd. (Boon Rd.), Cadillac, MI 49601** **campcadillac.com**

Located off US-131, Exit 183, east 1 mile. 115 sites, 30 with sewer. Rest rooms, store, pool, petting zoo, barrel train rides, bike rentals.

Coolwater on the Pine • Private • (231) 862-3481 **9424 W. 48 1/2 Rd., Wellston, MI 49689** **coolwatercampground.com**

Located 2 miles south of M-55 and 2 miles east of M-37 on Pine River. 65 sites, electric, water; cabins, trailer rentals, group sites. Rest rooms, laundry, Blue Ribbon Trout Stream, ORV and bike trails.

Hemlock Campground • Federal • (231) 723-2211 **fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/pages/Recreation/camping.htm**

Located in Huron Manistee National Forest. 2,600 acres. 19 sites on west end of Lake Mitchell. Tables and fire rings only; wildlife viewing.

Kestelwoods Campground • Private • (231) 862-3476 **10860 W. 48 1/2 Rd., Wellston, MI 49689** **kestelwoods.com**

Located 1 mile south of Pine River on M-37. 96 sites, water, electric. Rest rooms, store, restaurant, pool, canoeing, rafting, biking.

Lake Billings RV Park & Camp • City • (231) 824-6454 **221 E. Elmore St., Manton, MI 49663**

37 full hook-ups; 48, electric, water. Rest rooms, sanitation station.

Long Lake – Wexford • (231) 775-9727 • State **michigandnr.com/parksandtrails**

• Located 8 miles northeast of Cadillac via US-131 to Campground Rd. First-come, first-serve. 16 sites tent, small trailer; rustic sites, vault toilets, water hand pump. Boating, motorcycle trail access.

Mitchell State Park • State • (231) 775-7911 **6093 E. M-115, Cadillac, MI 49601** **michigandnr.com/parksandtrails**

• Located between Lake Mitchell and Lake Cadillac, west of Cadillac on M-115. 334 acres. 221 sites with hookups. Visitor's Center, beaches, boat ramps to both lakes, historic canal connects two lakes.

Northern Exposure • Private • (231) 885-1199 **285 Manistee River Rd., Mesick 49668** **northernexposureinc.com**

• 260 sites; 220, water, electric; 100 waterfront; 40 primitive. Rest rooms, sanitation station, boat launch, beach, Saturday night movies. Manistee National Forest biking and hiking trails, canoeing, rafting, (campsite pickup by Wilderness Canoe on Manistee River).

Old US-131 Campground • State • (231) 775-9727 **michigandnr.com/parksandtrails**

• Located 7 miles north of Manton via US-131 and Old US-131 on Manistee River. First-come, first-serve. 25 rustic sites, tent, small trailer. Canoeing, trout fishing, wildlife viewing. Direct access to North Country Trail for hiking, mountain biking and nearby for ORVs.

Pat's RV Park • Private • (800) 665-9890 or (231) 885-1056 **2981 North 7 Rd., Mesick, 49668** **patsrvpark.net/rvpark**

• Located at Hoodenpyle Dam on the Manistee River. 87 sites; tents, RVs, cabins. Boat rental.

Peterson Bridge • Federal • (231) 723-2211 **940 S. State, Route 37, Cadillac, MI 49601** **fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/pages/Recreation/camping.htm**

• Located off M-37, 1.5 miles north of Wellston on Pine River. First-come, first-serve. 31 total sites; 20 paved, 11 tent. 4 vault toilets, 1 flush, 3 spigots. Canoe access to Pine River.

The Campground LLC • Private • (231) 824-9111 **10330 E. M-45, Manton, MI 49663** **e-mail: thecampground@att.net**

• Located off US-131, exit 191, east 1/2 mile on M-42. 30 sites, 22 full hook-ups.



The Coffee Cup

“Biggest Breakfast in the North”

Open 7 am–3 pm 7 Days
Daily Specials

*For everything from the best cup of coffee
to a complete meal!*

Locally Owned
and Operated
231-839-4859
84 N. Morey Road, Lake City
(1 block North of M-55)



Away from home and need your
prescription filled?

Located in Foster's Super Market
9 am-6pm Mon-Sat • (231) 839-5800

Jerry's PHARMACY



PUZZLER SOLUTIONS

Sudoku (Puzzle Page 9)

1	9	2	3	7	4	6	5	8
5	7	4	1	8	6	2	9	3
8	3	6	9	2	5	4	1	7
9	8	7	5	6	2	1	3	4
4	2	3	8	1	9	5	7	6
6	5	1	4	3	7	9	8	2
7	6	8	2	5	1	3	4	9
3	4	5	6	9	8	7	2	1
2	1	9	7	4	3	8	6	5

Crossword (Puzzle Page 21)

B	O	M	B		C	U	G	A	T		G	R	O	G
E	M	I	R		O	S	A	G	E		R	O	D	E
D	A	T	E		H	E	L	E	N		A	V	O	N
	N	E	W	W	O	R	L	D	O	R	D	E	R	
		S	A	S						N	E	E		
P	E	A	T	Y		U	S	A		N	A	D	I	R
U	R	G	E		O	N	A	T	E	E		A	N	A
M	E	R	R	Y	W	I	D	O	W	W	A	L	T	Z
A	C	E		O	N	T	I	M	E		M	E	R	E
S	T	E	A	K		Y	E	S		K	A	Y	O	S
			R	U	G					D	E	R		
	C	O	M	M	O	N	L	A	W	W	I	F	E	
C	A	P	O		M	O	I	R	E		L	A	D	E
O	V	E	R		E	T	A	I	L		L	I	N	E
D	E	N	Y		R	E	M	E	T		O	R	A	L



CARL T. JOHNSON Hunting & Fishing Center 231-779-1321

AUGUST SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8 ~ Picnic in the Park, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Annual Fundraiser for Interpretive Programs in Center. Donations appreciated.
- ~ Live Wildlife Sampler, 10 a.m. - Noon; 1 - 3 p.m.
Jim McGrath of Nature Discovery
- ~ Pellet Gun & Archery Range, 3 - 5 p.m.
- ~ Float Fishing on Canal, 6 - 8 p.m.
- 29 ~ Hunter Safety Class, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Pre-registration required, (231) 779-1321
- 30 ~ Hunter Safety Class, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Pre-registration required, (231) 779-1321

Carl T. Johnson Hunting & Fishing Center

Mitchell State Park – Cadillac (across from campground)

Join Us For Summer Fun
Visit our gift shop!

Books, Plush, Shirts, Souvenirs

Nature Programs • Exhibits

Archery and Pellet Gun Ranges

Open 7 days a week 10-6

231-779-1321

Bring this ad in for 10% off your purchase at our gift shop.

FESTIVITIES

Buckley

Aug. 13-16 • Buckley Old Engine Show
Camping \$20. (231) 263-4181, gulliver@chartermi.net.

Cadillac

Tues. & Fri., 8 am - 4:30 pm • Farmer's Market
Chestnut St. parking lot across from city boat dock.
(231) 775-6310

Thursdays, 7 - 9:15 pm • Upbeat Cadillac
Rotary Pavilion. Ten-week series of jazz concerts by various artists. (231) 775-0181, ext. 111

Aug. 7-9 • Camp Cadillac Family Olympics!
Great fun, even for a couch potato! (231) 775-9724, campcadillac.com

Aug. 13-15 • West Fest
Ski shows, races, fun for kids. Contact Cadillac Area Visitor's Bureau (231) 775-0675.

Aug. 15-16 • Camp Cadillac Halloween
Visitor fee \$5. (231) 775-9724, campcadillac.com

August 17-22 • 101st Annual Northern District Fair
Wexford Civic Arena (US-131 & 13th St.), 231-775-0657

August 28, • WWE presents RAW LIVE!
Wexford County Civic Center. Superstars include John Cena, Triple H, The Big Show, The Miz, Kofi Kingston, Matt Hardy, Ted DiBiase, Cody Rhodes, The Colons, Santino Marella. Tickets \$40 & \$25 (*plus service charge) available at Wexford County Arena Box Office, www.centralticketoffice.com or charge by phone at (231) 779-9520 or (800) 462-7979

Sept. 11-13 • Camp Cadillac Fall Fest!
(231) 775-9724, campcadillac.com

Houghton Lake

Sept. 5-6, 9 am - 5 pm • Labor Day Craft Show
HL High School. (989) 389-4500, nccraft@yahoo.com

Hoxeyville

August 21-23 • 7th Annual Music Festival
Featuring Buddy Guy, Galactic & Bill Frisell Trio. Nestled on 75+ acres of pristine north country within Manistee National Forest. Two stages national artists, third featuring local talent. Campground with full amenities. New, beer tent & Farmers' Market. hoxeyville.com

Lake City

Aug. 8 • Street Fair & Car Show
Downtown Lake City. Arts, crafts, baked goods, more. Northern Cruisers Car Club cruise Friday evening.

Aug. 13, 20, 27 & Sept. 3, 5-8 pm • Farmers' Market
Fresh produce by local farmers and live entertainment.

Sept. 17-20 • Festival of The Pines
Beverage tent with music Friday and Saturday night. Parade, Lumberjack Competitions and more!
Lake City Chamber, (231) 839.4969, lakecitymich.com

Merritt

Mondays, 6-9 pm • Golden Agers Dance Night
Senior Ctr. Dancers, musicians welcome! (231) 328-4447.

Sat., 11 am - 4 pm • Ben Jeffs River Park Farmers Mkt.
M-55, east of Merritt. (231) 394-1509, missaukeepaddlesports.com

MERRITT SPEEDWAY

Aug. 8 - MI Auto Racing Fan Club Night

Aug. 15 - Sprints On Dirt, Super Late Models, Pro Trucks, Sportsman & Factory Stocks

Aug. 22 - 3rd Leg of Best of Best Crown Jewel

Aug. 29 - Championships for Super Late Models, Modifieds, Plus Pro Trucks, Sportsman & Factory Stocks

Sept. 5 - Winged Outlaw Late Models, Modifieds, Plus Championships for Pro Trucks, Sportsman & Factory Stocks

Sept. 6 - Smr. School Bus Races Plus Monster Trucks

Manton

1st Sat. Night of Month, 6-10 pm • Old Time Jamboree
Manton High School. Square and Round dancing Refreshments, (231) 429-7025.

Aug. 6 - Sept. 17 (Wed.) 9 am - 1 pm • Farmers Market
Railroad Park, Downtown Manton, (231) 824-3391

Sept. 4-7, • Annual Harvest Festival
Manton's largest event, parade featuring Scottville Clown Band. (231) 824-3585, mantonmichigan.org

Reed City

Fridays, Saturdays • Music in the Park

Aug. 13-16 • Great American Crossroads Celebration

Aug. 15, 5-7 pm • Chicken BBQ • VFW Post 2964
reedcitycrossroads.com, (231) (832-2245)

Tustin

Sept. 6, 1 - 4 pm • CAMS Model Airplane Show
CAMS Air field. Large variety of planes and helicopters. Admission free. cornj.rchomepage.com/