

#### North Huron Students Excel in Farm Bureau Contest

Three students from North Huron Schools have been named local winners in the 54th annual America & Me Essay Contest sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance. The three students are Elisa Lopez, first place, Maya Leadingham, second place, and Wesley Kosinski, third. All three received award certificates for their achievement. As the school's first place winner, Elisa's name will also be engraved on a plaque for permanent display in the school.

Elisa's essay now advances to the state level competition, from which the top ten essays in Michigan will be selected. The top ten statewide winners will be announced in April and will each receive a plaque, a medallion and a cash award of \$1,000. Farm Bureau also presents each top ten statewide school with a \$1,000 check, along with an additional \$500 if the school was sponsored by a Farm Bureau agent.

Several thousand eighth grade students from nearly 200 Michigan schools participated in the 2022-2023 America & Me Essay Contest. The topic of the 2022-2023 contest was "My Personal Michigan Hero." North Huron congratulates all essay participants and are especially proud of these three local winners.



Wesley Kosinski, Maya Leadingham,

Elisa Lopez

Submitted by:

### Beth Fischer



Junior High Math/English Teacher 8th grade National Junior Honor Society Advisor North Huron School

### **Coming soon**

ThumbKids.com Coming To Port Austin and Port Hope Summer Program Port Austin:

Kindermusik (see kindermusik.com) for children ages 0-6 with an adult, for 45 minutes of music and movement and JOY.

We will share songs, dancing, movement, instruments and social skills in a group setting once a week on Saturday afternoons. Our class will meet at locations to be announced from 4:00 to 4:45p.m. The classes build from a specific theme based curriculum. You are welcome to come to multiple classes or drop in as your schedule allows. The cost is \$10 per class, or \$15 for sibling groups. A parent, relative or adult friend/guardian must attend and be ready to have fun!

Class dates: June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, August 12, 19, 2023.



Diane Stewart is a licensed Kindermusik educator and has enjoyed teaching the program for over 15 years in the Milwaukee suburbs. She has also taught and directed in home school co-operatives and in the performing arts community since the 1980s. She and

her husband have recently moved to Port Austin after spending a life time of summers in the area. Diane's goal in these classes is to bring joy and friendship to children and families through musical play. We will make musical memories and grow life time learners while strengthening family and community bonds.

Kindermusik is an internationally acclaimed program attuned to the developmental stages of children, encouraging creativity, exploration and happy social interaction.

To contact Diane text at 262 893 0869 or email at eloisestewart48@gmail.com ~

### Bank 1884 Food & Spirits

8646 Lake St, Port Austin, MI 48467

Located in Downtown Port Austin National Historic Site

### **HOURS**

The Bank 1884 restaurant open

closed Monday & Tuesday

**Wednesday 5PM for Pasta Night** 

& regular dinner menu

Thursday 11 AM to 8 PM Friday and Saturday 11 AM to 9 PM Sunday 11 AM to 3 PM for Lunch ~ Reservations: 989-738-5353 ~

## Shelley's Bar & Grill

8745 Pearson Rd, **Grindstone City, MI** 989-738-5105

**Open to Dine-In or Carry-Out** Kitchen is Open 6 DAYS A WEEK

### **HOURS**

Closed Mondays
Kitchen Opens @ 11AM TUESDAY—FRIDAY Closes 8PM on Sunday. Every other Day Kitchen Closes at 9pm Bar Sunday – Thursday Closes @ 9PM Bar Friday & Saturday Closes @ 12AM Watch Facebook for Daily Specials

St. Patrick's Day specials Torned Beef and Tabbage and Shepherds Pie.

### J & J's Party Store

next to Shelley's Bar & Grill 8743 Pearson Rd Grindstone City

989-738-5046

open daily at 10:00AM,

Sunday thru Thursday close at 7:00PM, Friday and Saturday close at 8:00PM.

~ We carry food staples, refrigerated dairy, beer, wine, liquors and other basic supplies including some fresh vegetables. ~

## The Landing Tavern

8724 Lake Street **Port Austin Michigan** 989-738-9750

Friendly place to eat-in, take-out and/or have a drink

**Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays** 

Kitchen Hours

3:30 PM -8:30 PM

Bar closes when slow

St Patrick's Day specials Corn Beef Sandwiches and Reubens & Party Friday, March 17th, Karacke at 9pm

Karaoke **Every Saturday Night except** March 18th



3337 Pointe Aux Barques Road Grindstone, MI

989-738-7665 **RESTAURANT HOURS:** 

Friday 3-9pm Saturday 8am to 9pm Sunday 8am to 7pm.

**Breakfast Saturday & Sunday until 11** 

Hours will increase as the season progresses.

### **American Legion Post 499**

8875 Hellems Road, Port Austin MI 989-738-1223 Eat In / Take Out \*\*\*Kitchen is open to non members\*\*\* \*\*\* Winter Hours \*\*\*

Monday: noon to 7pm or slowness\* Tuesday thru Friday: 3pm to 9 or slowness\* Saturday: noon to 9pm or slowness\* Sunday: noon to 7pm or slowness\*

\*will close before posted time if warranted. \_\_\_\_\_

Open euchre Mondays @ 1:30pm

Open euchre Thursdays @ 7pm

\_\_\_\_\_ JAM SESSON Every Wednesday @ 7:30pm

**JAM SESSON** 

Saturday @ 7:30pm 3/11/23 \_\_\_\_\_

> Blue Star Mothers Dinner 5pm-7pm **Wednesday 3/15/23**

Corned Beef, Boiled Potatoes, Cabbage, Carrots-Parsnips, Rolls & Desert



Sunday 3/19/23 St Patrick's Euchre Party @ 1 PM food, raffles and fun!



Blue Star Mothers Dinner 5pm-7pm **April 19, 2023** Chicken & Dumplins, Coleslaw, Corn, Corn

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Bread, Bread & Rolls. Proceeds go to troop and Veteran projects.

\_\_\_\_\_

Saturday 4/15/23 JAM Session @ 7:30 pm

Sunday 4/30/23 **Pancake Breakfast** 9am - 12pm



Shelley's Annual **Detroit Tigers Opening Day Party** Thursday, April 6th First pitch: 1:10PM

Raffles, Give-aways, Drink Specials, Food Specials!

Reservations highly recommended! (989)738-5105

This is our yearly fundraiser for the Special Olympics!

Shelley's Bar & Grill 8745 Pearson Rd, Grindstone City, MI

### **QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

What does a barge, a 25-foot Whaler, and a box of old door knobs have in common?







ANSWER on page 11

#### **GET TO KNOW YOUR GOVERNING BODIES**

Port Austin Chamber of Commerce 5:30pm meetings are 1st Wednesday of the month at the Port Austi Welcome Center on 1 West Spring Street. 989-738-7600

Village of Port Austin Council 6:30pm meets on the 2nd Monday of month at the Village Hall. 89-738-5199.

Port Austin Township Board meets at 5pm meetings are held 3rd Monday of the month at the P A Township Hall at 8751 N. Hellems Rd. 989-

**Port Austin Township Library Board** 10am meets on 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Pt Austin Township Library 114 Railroad St. 989-738-7212.

### **Go Girls Going Strong at North Huron Schools**

By Lily Guitar, 8th grader

Go Girls is a program run by art teacher Mrs. Traci Souva for 7th grade girls at North Huron School. It is a toolbox of strategies to help navigate the teenage years. From learning how to talk about yourself positively to figuring out how to maintain friendships, the girls are always learning something new and fun.

The program meets weekly after school for about 16 weeks. Each week focuses on a new topic that everyone could use help on such as planning for the future, being a girl in today's society, establishing a positive body image and a positive mindset, establishing independence, making and keeping friends, handling stress, and recognizing media messages. Not only do we talk about these topics, but we also have guests come and do activities like hair tricks and makeup basics. They teach us skills like cooking tips, frosting cakes, journaling, and crafts. We also learn about health and wellbeing, incorporating yoga and techniques to handle stress.

In the fall before the Go Girls "season," Mrs. Souva organized a tea party fundraiser and bucket raffle at the Pasta House in Kinde, MI to help support Go Girls. While the school purchases all the needed items for the curriculum, the tea party supports the Go Girls program by supplying money for t-shirts, a pamper package for each girl, and the swim/pizza party as the concluding party.

Since I was in Go Girls last year, I have used many of the skills I have learned in the outside world. I have established a more positive mindset about my body, and I have become more confident with my everyday choices. One of my favorite parts about Go Girls was being able to go home everyday with new perspectives on different situations.

We are very fortunate to have a program like this at North Huron Schools, but we could not have continued with it without all of the amazing supporters along the way. We appreciate every single one of the donations and all of the guests willing to take time out of their day to come and present.



From left: Mrs. Traci Souva, Paige Campbell, Lily Campbell, Mrs. Katie Noble, Allison Souva, Marissa Prill, Macie Ventline, Grace Szymanski



**Lily Guitar** 







**Fire Safety Tips**By Jason Zimmerman, Port Austin Fire Chief

Mother Nature may not be showing us any signs of spring yet, but by golly when you look at the calendar it says we are into spring!!! Spring time brings warmer weather, longer days, trees budding, mud, and allergies. It also means time to fire up the grill, get the lawn mower going, and get the

outside painting and staining done. I look forward to spring every year, and I know that everybody else does too!! Below I have highlighted six key tips to safely combat spring cleaning from the National Fire Protection Association and myself.

### Inspecting and cleaning your grill

Inspect your grill carefully and make sure it's free of grease or fat buildup. Clean out any nests, spider webs, or other debris you may find.

For propane grills, check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Make sure the tank valve works properly as well and replace old rusty tanks. On gas grills make sure the burners are functioning properly.

### Clean out your clothes dryer.

Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe for your dryer is not restricted and that the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. This includes making sure the outdoor vent flap is not covered by snow. You should also make sure you clean in the inside lint trap before every use. Move things that can burn, such as boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, away from the dryer. Clothes that have come in contact with flammable substances like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

### Keep debris well away from your home

Every year we respond to many grass, field, and woods fires. While burning piles of leaves and brush is a great way to get rid of this material. but one must take proper precautions to protect their and their neighbor's property. **Dispose** of branches, weeds, leaves, pine needles, and grass clippings that you have cut to reduce fuel for fire.

**Remove** leaves, pine needles, and other flammable material from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck to help prevent embers from igniting your home.

**Remove** dead vegetation and other flammable materials, especially within the first 5 feet of the home. Move construction material, trash, and woodpiles at least 30 feet away from the home and other outbuildings.

### Properly use and store gasoline

Use gasoline only as motor fuel, never as a cleaner or to break down grease. Only store gasoline in a container that is sold for that purpose and never bring it indoors, even in small amounts. Never store gasoline containers in a basement or in the occupied space of a building. Keep them in a detached garage or an outdoor shed. Make sure the container is tightly capped when not in use.

### Carefully dispose of rags with paint and stain

The oils commonly used in oil-based paints and stains release heat as they dry. If the heat is not released in the air as the rags dry, the heat is trapped, builds up and can cause a fire.

Never leave cleaning rags in a pile. When you're finished using the rags, take them outside to dry, keeping them well away from the home and other structures.

Hang rags outside or spread them on the ground and weigh them down so that they don't blow away.

Put dried rags in a metal container, making sure the container is tightly covered. Fill the container with a water and detergent solution, which will break down the oils.

Keep containers of oily rags in a cool place out of direct sunlight and away from other heat sources. Check with your town for information on how to properly dispose of them

Use/store flammable & combustible liquids with care

Flammable and combustible liquids should not be used near an open flame.

Never smoke when working with these liquids.

If you spill liquids on your clothing, remove your clothing and place it outside to dry. Once dry, clothing can be laundered.

Keep liquids in their original containers. Keep them tightly capped or sealed. Never store the liquids in glass containers.

One last topic that I would like to cover since spring-time is upon us is burn permits. Burn permit can be obtained from your local fire chief. I am often asked what I can burn and not burn. It is legal to burn organic material such as wood, leaves, grass, brush, etc. It is illegal to plastic, rubber, foam, milled lumber, furniture, electronics, chemicals, or hazardous materials. All burning must be done safely. This means that the fire will be attended at all times, all other materials and equipment will be kept at a safe distance. Illegal burning will come with consequences such as fines and possible court fees and fines.

Your local fire department and Michigan Department of Natural Resources takes burning very seriously! Please call your local fire department before you burn. If you live in Port Austin or Hume Township please call me at 989-413-9379. The Village of Port Austin has strict burning ordinances; all yard waste can be taken to the dump site on Hellems Rd next to the Port Austin Sewer Plant.

I hope everyone gets out and enjoys this early spring time season safely!!

~



### **MARCH2023**

### **Lunch Menus & Activities**

Time to Stop Being a Couch Spud & start meeting / making new friends.

U & I Club 8255 N. VanDyke Port Austin 989-553-1268 Monday Tuesday Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Suggested Donation Hot or<br>Menus are subject to change<br>hour notice. Meals includ<br>For Lunch Reservation                | ning Center frozen meal \$2.50 per meal . Chef Salad available with 24- e milk, bread & margarine ns at least a day before 0-843-6394 | 15 Closed<br>for Staff Training  | Meat Loaf (14) Baked Potato with sour cream & Chives (41) European Veggies (4) Tropical Whip Fruit (23)           |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20 Breakfast Casserole (15) Oatmeal (13) Cinnamon Apples (19) FF Choc. Milk (20) Orange Juice Box (13)                        | 21<br>Country Fried Steak (4)<br>Country Gravy (6)<br>Red Bliss Potatoes (22)<br>Cauliflower & Peas (6)                               | Swedish Meatballs (15) Egg Noodles (19) Scalloped Tomatoes (8) Blueberry Crisp (30)              | 23<br>Chix Salad/ Croissant (25)<br>Pasta Salad (26)<br>Tomato, Cuke Salad (3)<br>Cheese Stick (1)<br>Orange (16) |  |  |  |  |  |
| 27<br>Bourbon Pork Chop (11)<br>Rice Pilaf (22)<br>Brussels Sprouts (6)<br>Apple (26)   | 28 Salmon Patty (10)<br>Roasted Potatoes (26)<br>Italian Veggies (5)<br>Navel Orange (16)   | 29 Beef Stroganoff (6) Egg Noodles (19) Green Beans & Mushrooms (5) Apple Cobbler (20)           | Mashed Potatoes (19) Lima Beans (20) Tropical Fruit Salad (22)  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Activities Coordinator B Activities are subject to  | nent Commission<br>Jarb Grifka 989-673-4121<br>O change without notice.<br>Pailable at Club after April 1st                           | 15<br>Senior Dining Center Closed  | 9:00 Coffee with Friends 16 10:00 World News 11:00 St. Patrick's Anagrams 12:00 Senior Lunch 12:30 Cards          |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9:00 Coffee with Friends 20 10:00 Lucky Trivia 11:00 Walking Club 12:00 Senior Lunch 12:30 Bingocize                          | 9:00 Coffee with Friends 21 10:00 Today in History 11:00 Finish the Phrase 12:00 Senior Lunch 12:30 Cards                             | 22<br>Catered Meal   | 9:00 Coffee with Friends 23 10:00 World News 11:00 March Trivia 12:00 Senior Lunch 12:30 Cards                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9:00 Coffee with Chat 10:00 News Update 11:00 Walking Club 12:00 Senior Lunch 12:00 Celebrate March Birthdays 12:30 Bingocize | 9:00 Coffee with Friends 28 10:00 Today in History 11:00 Would You Rather 12:00 Senior Lunch 12:30 Cards                              | 9:00 Coffee with Friends 29 10:00 Nostalgia 11:00 Memory Tray 12:00 Senior Lunch 12:30 Bingocize | 9:00 Coffee with Friends 30 10:00 World News 11:00 Guess the Price 12:00 Senior Lunch 12:30 Cards                 |  |  |  |  |  |

Wednesday morning 'Beginner Line Dance Classes" will continue from 10am to 11am with instructor Donna Rupersburg. No need to preregister. Just show up ready for some exercise, fun, smiles and rock & roll. They would like for you to become a member of the U & I Club and make a donation of \$1 each time you attend a class to help pay for utilities. But, neither is compulsory!

## Port Austin Rews end of March & April 2023 EVENTS

| SUNDAY                       | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY                                  |
|------------------------------|--|----------|--|---|--|---|
| Location                     | acebook for a cebook for a cebo | of Port  | MARCH 15 10am Dance Class @ U & I American Legion Blue Star Mothers Dinner 5pm- 7pm then JAM SESSION   | MARCH 16<br>4:30pm Port<br>Austin Town-<br>ship Planning<br>Commission<br>public meeting<br>see page 11 | St<br>Patricks<br>Day                                  | MARCH 18                                  |
| MARCH 19                     | MARCH 20  MARCH 20  First  Day of  Suring  | MARCH 21 | MARCH 22 EVERY WEDNESDAY  10am Dance Class @ U & I =========  JAM SESSION at American Legion evening.  | MARCH 23  | MARCH 24 All local Restaurants have usually serve fish | MARCH 25  Karaoke at the Landing Tavern   |
| MARCH 26                     | MARCH 27 Thumb button group meet at 1pm pm at the Port Austin History Center, see page 10  | MARCH 28 | MARCH 29 10am Dance Class @ U & I =======  JAM SESSION at American Legion evening. more dancing  | MARCH 30  | MARCH 31   | APRIL 1 April Fools Day. Have a good one. |
| 2 Palm Sunday  Palm Sunday   | 3  | 4        | 5 10am Dance<br>Class @ U & I<br>========<br>JAM SESSION at<br>American Legion<br>evening. more<br>dancing                                       | 1:10pm Shelly's<br>1st Pitch Party<br>see page 3  | 7 Good Friday  GOOD FRIDAY                             | 8<br>Karaoke at<br>the Landing<br>Tavern  |
| 9 Easter Sunday Happy Easter | 10   | 11       | 12 10am Dance<br>Class @ U & I<br>========<br>JAM SESSION at<br>American Legion<br>evening. more<br>dancing                                      | 13  | 14   | 15<br>Karaoke at<br>the Landing<br>Tavern |
| 16                           | 17   | 18       | 19 10an Dance<br>Class U & I Club<br>====================================  | 20  | 21   | 22<br>Karaoke at<br>the Landing<br>Tavern |
| 23                           | 24   | 25       | CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  CHAMIN  CAppreciation  Quecheon  Wednesday, April 26th, 2023  The Franklin Inno onthe Menu  Round Chiden buffet  See Dage 8 | 27  | 28 see page 8  | 29 see page 8                             |





## Welcome to Walt's Meat Market in Port Austin!

(989) 738-7020
Brandon & Pam McEwen
Owners
Opens Mid April 2023

3189 Port Austin Road Port Austin, MI 48467

### ANGEL STREET OPENS APRIL 28

The thriller, *Angel Street*, is now in production and opens at the Port Austin Community Playhouse at the end of April. Written by British dramatist Patrick Hamilton in 1938, the play is one of the longest-running non-musicals in Broadway history.

The play tells the demonic story of the Manninghams of Angel Street. Under the guise of kindness, Jack Manningham is slowly torturing his fragile wife, Bella, into insanity - in his efforts to cover his search for a treasure from his diabolical past.

Angel Street is the US title for Hamilton's original British play titled Gas Light (which served as the inspiration for the classic 1944 movie, Gaslight). In fact, the term "gaslighting" was coined at that time to refer to the psychological manipulation of a person over a period of time (similar to Mr. Manningham's treatment of Bella).

The play is being directed by John Jacobus. Steve Mausolf plays the part of Mr. Manningham, and Bri Krull plays his wife, Bella. Others in the cast include Charity Bratland (Elizabeth), Jason Ramirez (Inspector Rough), Miette Maurer (Nancy), and James Hunt (policeman).

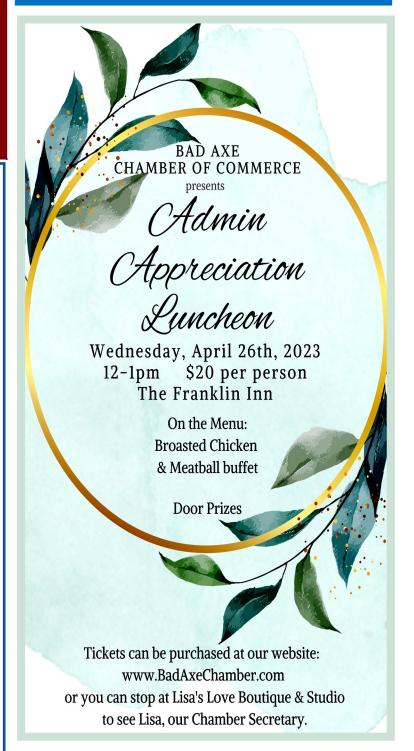
Show dates are April 28, 29, 30 and May 5, 6 and 7. Fridays and Saturday shows are at 7:30 pm, and Sunday matinees are at 2:00 pm...

For more information or to make reservations, call PACP at 989-738-5217.

### Notice from Village Clerk

The garbage pick-up rate for Port Austin Village residents will see an increase. It is going from \$20.60 to \$24.00 on your water bills every two months.

Amanda Nienaltowski

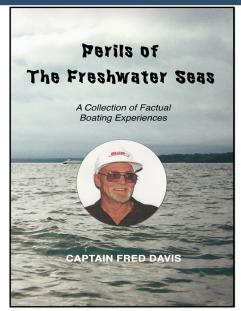




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CAPTAIN FRED DAVIS' BOOK, PERILS OF THE FRESHWATER SEAS, IS A MUST READ FOR SEAGOERS. FIND IT AT

WWW.THUMBTRAVELS.COM/PERILS.HTML.

18 TALES OF RESCUES ON LAKE HURON
AND 15 CHAPTERS EDUCATING BOATERS.

## SUMMER 2023.....and the Lighthouse restoration begins!! Article by Joyce Stanek photo by Kevin Jimkoski

The Port Austin Reef Light Association (PARLA) was awarded a grant for just over \$600,000 last July for the purpose of restoring the exterior of the 123 year old lighthouse. Bid specifications were prepared in July for the restoration work, and in September, the bid was awarded to International Chimney Corporation (ICC)

ICC went out to the light in September to measure windows so they could be ordered. They are now waiting for the weather and water conditions to improve so they can get set up and ready to work (hopefully by the end of April). They will have a barge to assist in getting equipment and supplies out to the lighthouse. Work crews will use a 25 foot Whaler for transportation to the light and back to shore. (As) a side note - ICC is looking for a long-term rental for four workers, as a landing spot for when they are not staying out at the lighthouse.)

Cleaning and repointing the historic masonry is one major project they will be working on. In some cases, they will need to actually replace some of the century-old exterior bricks. Concrete work is also at the top of the list, including filling cracks and patching some areas.

The list continues: fabrication, installation and painting of the stair railing; repairs and painting of the perimeter railing; chimney stack repair; door fabrication, installation and painting; the removal and replacement of existing windows; replacement of exterior wood trim

and steel lintels; metal roof repair; wood shutter repair; and emergency generator and enclosure.

Probably one of the most challenging projects will be the framing of the dormer. The original fog signal dormer was located on the north side of the building. It was in such disrepair by the 1980s that it had to be torn down when the new roof was installed in 1988.

PARLA plans to also tackle the interior work needed at the lighthouse this summer. The work on those projects will be separate, and paid for separately, from the exterior projects. All of the restoration work will follow the specifications of the Historic Structures Report that PARLA had completed several years ago.

The summer of 2023 is certainly going to be a BUSY one!



## **Highly Recommend**

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Monday thru Friday
989-269-8122 or 800-968-8122

## Port Austin History Center 1424 Pointe Aux Barques Road

1424 Pointe Aux Barques Road Port Austin, MI 48467 **989 551 5532** 

Free Admission (Air Conditioned)

Thumb button group will meet March 27th at 1 pm at the Port Austin History Center, 1424 Pointe Aux Barques Road. Guest speaker, Hedgie Cartwright, will share her collection of Civil War Uniform Buttons.

Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served.

The Port Austin History Center's 2023 Season will open weekends beginning April 1st., 1 - 4 pm.

Stop by for a visit.

### A MAN, A VOICE, AND A GUITAR

by Dennis Hafeli



Through my involvement with the Port Austin Porch Fest since its inception in 2016, it has been my honor and pleasure to contact, meet, and schedule scores of musicians to perform at this very popular mid-summer event. Despite receiving no stipend and having to travel variable distances to get here, musicians continue to apply, a testament to our village, our residents, the appreciative audiences, and their intense devotion to what they do.

One of my personal favorites, a man for whom I have the utmost respect, is a 67 year-old singer/songwriter named Kenny Lang. Four years ago, Kenny and his beautiful wife Che, herself an accomplished cellist and nurse practitioner, moved to Port Austin; he will be performing at his fifth Porch Fest this coming June 24. With his proximity, we have shared many conversations and experiences since our first meeting, and I have come to greatly admire and respect this man for the way he manages his life and shares his musical talents.

Born in Detroit and spending most of his formative years in Dearborn, Kenny developed a love for music, both instrumentation and words, very early in life. Singing early-on in church choirs; learning to play the guitar, bass, and mandolin by age 13; and performing in a rock band with high school friends, music was definitely in his blood. However, after high school, he continued on with music, uniting with some friends and forming a group called the Lone Star Revue. This band favored country music, a style which, in Kenny's mind, portrayed "honesty in music, both in words and instrumentation."

After five years playing mostly the bar scenes, Kenny decided to focus on the bass guitar, and eventually became a member of a band called Nightbird. The group purchased its own bus and traveled the country, going wherever the job offers called. During this time, Kenny began dabbling in songwriting. Inspired by one of his heroes, Waylon Jennings, he wrote a song titled "Should I Laugh or Should I Cry," about life on the road. Beginning to feel burned out by the lifestyle and the travel, he left Nightbird at age 32 and opted to run sound for other musical groups, as an employee of Blues Factory Records.

Five years later, he left the sound business, decided to focus ex- for a real treat.

clusively on playing the acoustic guitar, and began to seriously pursue songwriting. He has presently written about sixty songs, seemingly not a sizeable number over a thirty year span. However, Kenny strives for absolute perfection in his songs, both with words and with music. He regards his works as "divinely inspired," and they must be "personal, from the heart." He believes that you can't write what you don't know. If he feels that he is not using the correct phrasing, or the music just doesn't feel right, that idea will be set aside until the time comes when he can get it right. One of his musical heroes, country legend Rodney Crowell, once stated, "When an artist gets it right for himself, then it's right for everybody!"

Kenny has a deep affection for the War Dog Memorial in South Lyon, Michigan. After his first visit, walking through the grounds and spending hours gazing at the tombstones, he felt compelled to write a song about these "heroes." The result, achieved after re-writing and re-working it many times, was a song called "Four Legged Hero," an emotional ballad which brings tears to his eyes virtually every time he plays it. He has recorded the song, and is invited to perform it live regularly at memorial services held at the cemetery.

A letter he sent to the director of American House Independent Senior Living introducing himself and requesting the opportunity to entertain residents changed his world dramatically. He was signed on to perform at several of their locations; word began to spread, and before long he was in popular demand at numerous assisted living facilities throughout Michigan. At its peak, he was performing over four hundred times a year, a solitary man wearing a cowboy hat and carrying an acoustical guitar. Whether he is playing for two or three people, or for a sizable group, Kenny and his music tell stories that everyone present can relate to, from their own life experiences to familiar songs from their past.

Coincidentally, one of the groups for which Kenny plays regularly is Catholic Charities, a day-care facility for adults with dementia, based at St. Lucy's Church in St. Clair Shores, which happens to be my down-state parish. When he makes his monthly appearance there, I go down and listen to him, and I watch the pleasure and gratitude present on the faces of the four or five assembled. He treats everyone with great respect and puts his heart and his soul into every song, regardless of the crowd size.

I personally could listen to Kenny for hours. His sincerity, his warmth, his authenticity, plus his outstanding talent are unique. Ask Alexa to play songs by Kenny Lang, or google him. You are in for a real treat.

## Port Austin News

Barbara King: Editor/Owner
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989-738-0122 portaustinnews@gmail.com
Ace Reporter = Dennis Hafeli
American Legion = Gina Volz
North Huron Schools = Stephanie Anderson
Jason Zimmerman = PA Fire Chief/Fire Safety
Reporter at Large = Joyce Stanek

If you would like to have the paper emailed to you every month, email your name and email address tα portaustinnews@gmail.com

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### "Question of the Month" ANSWER:

They are integral components in this summer's restoration project at the Port Austin Reef Lighthouse!

The barge will be used to move equipment and supplies out to the light; the Whaler will be used to transport the work crew; the antique door knobs will be utilized for some of the restored (original) doors at the lighthouse.

### **Port Austin Township**

Planning Commission public meeting
March 16 @ 4:30 pm (Master Plan Public Hearing)
4:30pm at Port Austin Township Hall
8751 N. Hellems Rd
Port Austin, MI 48467
Phone: 989-738-6808
Paul Nienaltowski, Supervisor

### Edward Jones<sup>®</sup>

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### **Compare our CD Rates**

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

6-month

5.0

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**/**Ο ΔΡΥ\* 9-month

5.15

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APY\*

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5.3

% APV\*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



Kaitlyn J Fay Financial Advisor 1616 Bad Axe Rd Suite 3 Bad Axe, MI 48413-9301 989-269-6369

\* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 03/13/23. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

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### Join Us For A

## Pasta Buffet Benefit

providing future educational funds for

## Maya Leadingham

daughter of Rachel Bronson



# Sunday, March 19, 2023 Noon to 3 pm at Pasta House Ballroom

337 Main Street, Kinde, MI \$15 per person / 5 & under free

### All-You-Can-Eat Menu

Mostaccioli with Meat Sauce | Cavatappi with Marinara Sauce Cheddar Bacon Mac & Cheese | Salads, Bread & Beverages

CARRY OUT AVAILABLE

50/50 Raffle every 30 minutes | Gift Basket Drawing

### **Donations Accepted!**

Make checks payable to: Maya Leadingham Donations may be sent to: P.O. Box 366, Port Austin, MI 48467



Maya & Rachel

On February 2, 2023, Rachel Bronson lost her life in an auto accident. She was just 36 years old and leaves behind her 14 year old daughter, Maya.

Rachel was on her way to a job she had started the previous week. When she interviewed and later accepted the job offering, she spoke of how this career change would allow her to provide future educational opportunities for Maya.

We hope to help make her vision a reality.

Sponsored by friends and coworkers of Rachel Bronson Questions? Call Bill or Richard at 989-453-4444