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May 2018

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Neighbors is published monthly from March through December.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Spring luncheon planned

Cass County Medical Care Facility invites members, friends and guests to come and join them for a delicious luncheon (\$7) on Thursday, May 10, beginning at 11:30 am at the Cass County Medical Care Facility dining room. Reservations are due by May 4. Membership dues of \$5 will be collected at this time.

Send payment for dues and luncheon tickets to Joyce Settle, 62460 Eagle Point Rd., Cassopolis, Mi. 49031. For more information call 445-3198.

Bair Lake Bible Camp kicks off season

Summer Kick Off at Bair Lake Bible Camp will be held Saturday, May 26 from 10 am to 3 pm. The entire family is invited to come to camp for the day.

Experience the wonder of the outdoor on the zipline, climbing tower, by boating or playing gaga ball with the kids. Archery, BB guns, archery tag and more will thrill all ages. Or relax, sit in a chair or in a gazebo and enjoy watching others! A picnic lunch will be served from noon to 2 pm.

All events are free of charge and a gift to the community and friends. Bair Lake is located at 12500 Prang St. in Jones. RSVP and more info at blbc.com.

Cass County Hazardous Waste Collection

The annual Cass County Hazardous Waste Collection will be Saturday, May 19 from 9 am to noon at the Cass County fairgrounds in Cassopolis. Disposal of up to 300 lbs. of acceptable materials is free; over 300 lbs. is \$1.75/lb. No appointment is needed, visitors will be served on a first-come, first-served basis.

No tires, electronics, latex paints, major appliances, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, fireworks, used motor oil, fire extinguishers, ammunition, bio-hazards or propane tanks (20# or larger will be accepted).

For more information call 445-4420. The event is sponsored by Cass County Board of Commissioners

Three Rivers Relay for Life

Now is the time to register for the Three Rivers area Relay for Life event, which is scheduled for June 24 from 3 pm to midnight at the Three Rivers High School Track. Teams and individuals are welcome to walk and join the activities. Survivors and their guest are also invited to attend a special survivor recognition dinner.

Registration forms are available at the libraries in Three Rivers, Constantine, Centreville and Mendon. Or you can register on-line. Just Google Three Rivers Michigan Relay for Life.

The Cassopolis Class of '68 really IS 68!

Well, not all of us, some a little more or a bit less, but really, how many high school graduating classes can add 50 years to their year of graduation and come up with their age? See, it is like a story problem ... do they do those anymore? Kind of unique, eh?

The Cassopolis High School Class of 1968 is planning its 50th reunion June 8 and 9. Friday night will be at Lindy's Restaurant between Cass and Dowagiac, starting at 6 pm. Alumni not just from the class of '68, but from other classes are welcome as well. Food and drinks may be purchased from Lindy's.

Saturday night will be at the COA, on Decatur Road and M-60. Renewing of old friendships will begin at 4 pm. A gourmet dinner will be served at 6 pm.

Farm History Day teaches about early farm life

Washing clothes in galvanized tubs full of suds and washboards, grinding corn into meal, and twisting twine into rope are just a few of the things that kids will learn how to do during Farm History Day at the Michigan Flywheelers Museum. The event will take place Friday, May 11 from 9 am - 2 pm.

Open to schools, home-schoolers and the public, Farm History Day will feature over 30 exhibits and demonstrations, many of them hands-on.

Besides the hands-on activities, students can stroll through Olde Town filled with places like Old Tyme Jail, Farm Machinery Repair Shop, a migrant farm camp, Peaceful Knoll Church and a log cabin. The shingle mill, blacksmith shop and sawmill will



be open and running as well.

The Michigan Flywheelers Museum is located at 06285 68th Street in South Haven. It is open on Wednesdays and weekends from Memorial Day through the end of August as well as for spe-

cial events. Tours are given by appointment. For more information call 269-639-2010, email michiganflywheelers@yahoo.com, or visit www.michiganflywheelers.org or Facebook.

Alumni from other classes are welcome. For information on reservations or questions, contact Greg McCully, 580 0434 or gmccully@comcast.net.

Spring History Program Series

The Niles History Center and Niles District Library are co-hosting a special spring program series. All programs start at 6:30 pm at the Niles District Library Admission is free but donations are welcome! The series will include:

Thursday, May 10: History of the Bonine House, by Cathy LaPointe.

Beckwith to present mystery

The Beckwith Theatre will present the classic mystery, "Laura," by Vera Caspary & George Sklar on May 11-13 and 18-20, with Friday & Saturday performances at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinee at 2 pm. Tickets for all shows are \$15.

Call 269-782-7653 to reserve seats; tickets are purchased at the box office at the time of the performance.

There will also be an opening night wine reception sponsored and a Second Friday beer tasting sponsored.

LAURA is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Log Cabin to open May 28, plans event

The Pioneer Log Cabin of Cass County will re open for its summer season on Memorial Day (Monday) May 28, from Noon to 4:30 pm. Thereafter the cabin will be open Friday, Saturday and Sundays from Noon to 4:30 pm. The staff will offer guided tours and a scavenger hunt for the children aged 6 to 12. There are several new displays this season including a rare "Civil War Apron" worn by women left at home when their men went off to war. Outdoor restrooms are available, picnic tables and rest areas with serene views of Stone Lake in Cassopolis. Teach your kids to fish on the waters edge or watch a peaceful sunset. The Log Cabin Museum is a

free attraction at 400 S Broadway, South of downtown Cassopolis on Stone Lake.

The Museum board has also announced "The First Annual Cassopolis Pioneer Days" living history encampment June 23 and 24, on the Log Cabin Park grounds. This event will be hosted by the 8th Michigan Royal Highland Rangers Unit of Cassopolis. An Encampment also known as a rendezvous, is a tradition that began in 1825 in the "new frontier" territories when trappers, hunters, Native Americans and military converged in areas of new settlements. Reenactors, living history educators and crafts people will be on hand at the Encampment to answer questions and sell or trade wares with whoever attends the gathering.

The 8th Royal Michigan Royal Highland Rangers Unit of Cassopolis, commanded by Major Dougal MacRae, was a branch of the famous Roger's Rangers in the French and Indian War, and part of the Queen's Rangers during the American Revolution. This unit will be conducting training exercises, drills and marching. They will be providing security for the event, free firing small cannons and muskets, and recruiting anyone who would like to be a participant in future or current events. After dusk on Saturday, area Native Americans will join the group by drumming and singing.

The Encampment will continue reenactments, outdoor games, activities until Sunday when all will celebrate our 95th Log Cabin Day in Michigan. The Royal Highland Rangers will sponsor a silent auction to benefit the Pioneer Log Cabin and will accept any type of donation to the cause.

Also on Sunday will be additional crafts people and vendors typical of the 1800's; area musicians and vocal groups including "the Hags" and Champagne Flutes.

There is no entrance fee! For more info on the Encampment or to take part in it, please Call Major Dougal MacRae at 759-9248. Crafts People or vendors for Log Cabin Day on Sunday, should call Nancy Bugajski 228-6331 to reserve space.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Auction to support cancer care

Lakeland Health in Berrien County is supporting an auction by Kurt Schnese that will support local cancer care services while honoring the philanthropic legacy of Schnese's parents, Frank and Sally. The auction will feature a wide range of art, furniture, crystal, and accessories from his estate. All proceeds raised will go to support Lakeland oncology services – a cause near to Kurt's heart.

The auction will be Friday, May 25 from 11 am to 5 pm and Saturday, May 26 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center, 601 Main Street St. Joseph. There will be a \$5 admittance fee.

In addition to the estate sale, a limited number of tickets will be sold to a dinner event, featuring a live and silent auction - to take place the day before the public estate sale.

Items available in the auction include: 19th and 20th century porcelain; Artwork; Crystal; Furniture; ..and much more!

For more information about how to support this event and to preview auction items, contact Lakeland Health Foundations at (269) 927-5143.

Edwardsburg museum programs

The Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum's 2018 season which opens May 16, will showcase three displays. They are "Our Native American Heritage," "How Far We Have Come," a 20th anniversary celebration that highlights donated artifacts from the museum's collection, and a Christmas exhibit that will feature a new 10-foot decorated tree in the main

gallery. Several speakers, a folk concert, and book signings also are also scheduled.

For the opening exhibit, The Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi Indians of Dowagiac will provide many artifacts and copies of historical documents related to its heritage, and two Edwardsburg residents will provide additional Native American display materials.

On Thur., June 21, Blair Topash-Caldwell, archivist with the Pokagon Band, will be the first speaker of the season. She will discuss mound building and historical Potawatomi villages near Edwardsburg as well as the Indian nation's continued presence and cultural ties in the area.

Stephanie Ballew of Edwardsburg will speak on Native American authors on Thurs., July 19. Ballew is a member of the Penobscot Tribe of Maine. She is a native of the Boston, Mass., area, and has lived in Edwardsburg since 1994. Her late husband, Christopher, was a member of the Pokagon Band, for which she worked for 18 years as the Behavioral Health Director.

The second exhibit of the season, "How Far We Have Come," will open on Thurs., Aug. 16, and will feature items from the museum's permanent collections..

On Aug. 16, Folk Singer Barbara Barton, a 1976 Edwardsburg High School graduate, will perform some of her own songs at the museum. Barton is a Detroit Music Awards Best Vocalist in Folk Music and Metro Area Artists and Songwriters Association Songwriter of the Year Resident Artist at Isle Royale

National Park.

The museum will hold its traditional open house at 3:30 pm on Sunday, Aug. 19, following the Edwardsburg All-School reunion, with a special anniversary theme. During that event, Barton, will sign copies of her books. One of those, The Amazing Adventures of a Mid-western Girl, includes a chapter on stories of people she knew in Edwardsburg. An environmental biologist, Barton is a resource analyst with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Colin Knapp of Edwardsburg also will sign copies of at least one of his books. Born in Grand Rapids, Knapp's family moved to Edwardsburg when he was three. He graduated from Edwardsburg High School in 1995, and earned a degree in English from the United States Naval Academy. In 2014, he published an ebook, Sweetwater Dreams: A Mystery Thriller. Two ebooks of poetry were published in 2013 and 2015. His most recent book is Shady Trails in a Light Fog, which he printed in 2017.

Edwardsburg School Superintendent Sherman Ostrander, who is retiring at the end of the school year, will be the speaker on Thurs., Sept. 20. His topic will be "Leading the Schools for 23 years." Prior to his position as superintendent, Ostrander served as the assistant high school principal, middle school principal, high school principal, and assistant superintendent, all at Edwardsburg.

The season's presentations will conclude Thurs., Oct. 18, when Edwardsburg Resident Edward Patzer discusses grow-

ing up in Edwardsburg, and the progress made on the development of the Not-For-Profit Edwardsburg Sports Complex. Patzer founded the sports complex in 2005 and serves as its president.

All events begin at 7 pm. There is no admission charge but donations are welcome. The season's final exhibit will open on Nov. 7 with a new 10-foot high Christmas tree. The season will close on Dec. 15.

QuickBooks classes planned

SCORE Michiana will host a series of QuickBooks classes. The first is Introduction to QuickBooks Online.

This 4-session Introduction to QuickBooks Online class, taught by Lynn Geer, of Geer CPA & Consulting, is being offered at the reduced rate of \$200.

It will meet May 10, 17, 24 & 31 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Each week focuses on specific items: Week 1: Products, Setting up your company, Keyboard Shortcuts, Navigating QBO; Week 2: Sales & Revenue Transactions (Sales receipts, Invoices, Payments, Deposits), Expense & Purchase Transactions (Checks, Expenses, Bills); Week 3: Additional Transition Types (Bank deposits, Transfers, Journal entries), Other Tools banking center, Reconciliations, Closing the books), Reporting capabilities, Reports and settings; Week 4: Go Payments, Payroll, Timesheets, App Center

Future classes include Inventory and QuickBooks Desktop.

Please register asap. Class size is limited. To register email michiana@scorevolunteer.org or call 574-310-8097.

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REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

May 3 - The Automobile: Beyond the Limits of Design by Gilmore Car Museum's David O. Lyon, Dowagiac Area History Museum, \$5 for non-members, 783-2560

May 5 - Women's Fly Fishing, 9 am - 5 pm, Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery, \$25, Mattawan, 668-2876 or ramsey2@michigan.gov to register

May 5 - Free Comic Book Day, During open business hours at participating Cass District Library branches, Stop in for a free comic book! Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

May 5 - Movie: Thor Ragnarok, 10 am, Free popcorn and water provided! Celebrate free comic book day! Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

May 8 - Painted Journal Craft Night, 6 pm, Call to register, space is limited to 12 people ages teen and adult, Paint the cover of a journal to look like a galaxy! Cass District Library- Howard Branch, 487-9214

May 10 - Niles History Center and Niles District Library spring program series History of the Bonine House, 6:30 pm, Niles District Library

May 10 - Cass County Medical Care Facility Auxiliary annual spring luncheon, 11:30 am, \$7, 445-3198

May 11-13, 18-20 - "Laura," a mystery at the Beckwith Theatre, 7:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday, \$15, 782-7653

May 16 -Edwardsburg Museum opens for the season

May 19 - Cass County Hazardous Waste Collection, 9 am - noon, 445-4420

May 21 - Painted Journal Craft Night, 6 pm, Call

to register, space is limited to 12 people ages teen and adult, Paint the cover of a journal to look like a galaxy! Cass District Library- Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

May 22 - 5 pm - The National Association of Retired Federal Employees, SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting at the Super Buffet in Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired /current federal employees, spouses/families are welcome. For information, call Jean Rowe at 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

May 24 - Family Stories Program by Euphoric Stage, 6 pm, Join us for a family night of storytelling and an original piece by Euphoric Stage! Cass District Library- Howard Branch, 487-9214

May 26 - Bair Lake Bible Camp Summer Kick Off, 10 am - 3 pm, 12500 Prang St., Jones blbc.com

May 26 - Lakeland Health Auction of Kurt Schnese family to support Lakeland oncology services, 10 am - 4 pm, Heritage Museum and Cultural Center, 601 Main St., St. Joseph, \$5, 927-5143

May 28 - Pioneer Log Cabin opening for the season, Noon to 4:30 pm, Cassopolis

June 6 - June 6 with "A History of the Beckwith Theater, Dowagiac Area History Museum, \$5 for non-members, 783-2560

June 8, 9 - Cassopolis High School Class of 1968 50th reunion, Friday night at Lindy's at 6 pm, Saturday at COA in Cass, 6 pm, 580-0434, gmcully@comcast.com

June 9 - Diamond Lake Association Annual Meeting, 10-11:30am, Diamond Lake Yacht Club

June 21 - Mound building and historical Potawatomi villages near Edwardsburg, 7 pm,

Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum

June 22, 23 - Diamond Lake All-Lake Garage Sale, 9 am-2 pm Saturday, 9 am - Noon Sunday

June 23 - Lubeznik Center ArtBash 2018, Michigan City, 5:30 pm

June 23, 24 - Cassopolis Pioneer Days, Cass Pioneer Log Cabin, Cassopolis, 759-9248, 228-6331

June 24 - Three Rivers area Relay for Life, 3 pm to midnight, Three Rivers High School

June 26 - 5 pm- The National Association of Retired Federal Employees, SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting at the Super Buffet in Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families are welcome. For information, call Jean Rowe 782 2879 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

July 7 - Diamond Lake Fireworks, 10:30 pm, Fireworks Island, Rain/Wind delay date will be Sunday July 8

July 18 - Native American Authors by Stephanie Ballew, 7 pm, Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum

July 21 - Diamond Lake Triathlon, 7:30 - 10:30 am, Park Shore Marina

July 24 - 5 pm - The National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting at the Super Buffet in Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families are welcome. For information, call Jean Rowe at 782 2769 or e mail jeaowe70@comcast.net

August 16 - "How Far We Have Come," exhibit, 7 pm, Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum

August 16 - Folk Singer Barbara Barton performing at Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum, 7 pm

August 19 - Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum open house, 3:30 pm

August 28 - 5 pm - The National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting at the Super Buffet in Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/ current federal employees, spouses /families are welcome. For information, call Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

September 20 - Sherman Ostrander will speak on Leading the Edwardsburg School for 23 years, 7 pm, Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum

September 25 - 5 pm - The National Association Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting at the Super Buffet in Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families are welcome. For information, call Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

October 18 - Edward Patzer on growing up in Edwardsburg and the Edwardsburg Sports Complex, 7 pm, Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum

October 23 - 5 pm the National Association Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting at the Super Buffet in Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired /current federal employees, spouses/families are welcome. For information, call Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

November 7 - Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum final exhibit of 10-foot-high Christmas tree. Season closes Dec. 15

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PASTA ITALIA CON CHEF DONATO

Bigoli with Sardines

by Chef *Dennis Bamber*

If you ever travel to Venice, make sure you order the whole wheat spaghetti dish called Bigoli. It's a simple sauce with onions, olive oil, and anchovies, and sometimes salted sardines.

In my version, I include both for a very favorable dish. Don't turn your nose up at the sardines, whole wheat pasta or anchovies until you try this. This is my wife's favorite pasta. The key to this dish is slicing the onions as thin as possible as they will partially dissolve in the sauce. Use a mandolin if you have one. I have put "optional" after ingredients that one could leave out and still have an excellent pasta.



Ingredients

1 large onion or 2 medium sliced very thin
6 cloves of minced garlic (optional)
1/2 cup of extra virgin olive oil
1/2-1 cup of chopped Italian or curly parsley
1/2 teaspoon of red pepper flakes (optional)
1 small tin of anchovies
4-6 tins of sardines (optional) you could just use the anchovies
1 cup of very dry white wine
1 lb of whole wheat spaghetti

Directions:

1. In a large deep skillet add the olive oil, anchovies and onions and cook for 15 minutes or longer on medi-



um heat stirring often. If your sardines are packed in extra virgin oil, drain the oil into the skillet. Add the garlic and pepper flakes and cook 3-4 minutes longer.

2. Add the wine and increase the heat slightly and cook uncovered for a few minutes until the alcohol smell goes away and the liquid reduces a bit, about 10 minutes or longer.

3. Reduce the heat to medium and cook covered another 20 minutes stirring often. If the mixture starts to stick, turn down the heat.

4. The onions should now be slightly dissolved.

5. Bring a pot of salted water to a boil and cook the pasta until very al dente, drain and put back into pot.

6. Just before you put the pasta into the boiling water, add the sardines



and parsley to the mixture in the skillet. Turn up the heat slightly and cook for about 10 minutes, stir a few times, and let the sardines dissolve about half.

7. Put a few scoops of the sauce into the pot with the spaghetti and stir for about 2-3 minutes.

8. Serve the pasta in bowls or plates and add the sauce on top.

Hint: You don't have to do this, but I soak the anchovies in white wine in a bowl and the sardines in another for about 20' then drain and use as above before I start the dish.

Health hint: Sardines are very healthy, as are the onions, garlic, olive oil and whole wheat pasta. You don't have to feel guilty enjoying this delicious dish.

~Boun Appetito



Dennis Bamber is an avid cook. He grew up in the restaurant business and has traveled extensively worldwide as well as being a partner in a business in Paris for 9 years. He is a second generation Italian-American. He is currently a Realtor with Cressy & Everett, licensed in Michigan and Indiana, and specializes in lake property.



TO YOUR HEALTH!

Introducing children to dentistry

As a dentist, I am frequently asked, "When should my child first see a dentist?" Parents want to ensure that their child is old enough developmentally, but also emotionally for their dental visit.

The best time for a child to see a dentist for the first time is by their first birthday or within six months of their first tooth erupting, which typically occurs around the six-month mark. A visit early in the child's development helps them become familiar with the dental office and gives the parents a chance to ask questions about what to expect and learn how to properly take care of their child's teeth.

Unfortunately, it is quite common for parents to bring their child into the dentist at the time of their first toothache or the first visible signs of cavities. However, making an effort to provide a good experience at the dentist during early childhood through routine cleanings allows for a child to get acclimated to the dental office environment and develop a positive perception of dental visits. Additionally, routine cleanings will help prevent decay and improve oral health.

Often times, far too little importance is placed on pediatric, or "baby", teeth. As a child is developing the primary teeth



serve a number of important roles. They are involved in the development of speech, in proper chewing function to attain desired nutrition, in saving space for the adult teeth, and also in providing a healthy smile for your child's confidence

that can last a lifetime. Not only are primary teeth important during development, but creating an attitude and mindset that teeth are important and should be properly maintained will continue into adulthood. The earlier that children and

parents can be educated on how to brush, floss, and maintain their teeth the greater the chance they will stick with it later in life.

When you are preparing your child for their first dental appointment it is important to make an effort to desensitize them to the visit. Try bringing them along for one of your routine cleanings. When you're at home pretend to be the dentist and examine their teeth. Use a mirror if you have one and count their teeth out with your finger. Additionally, if you have an older child who does well at the dentist, let your younger child observe this behavior and learn to not fear the dental office. It never hurts to do some research on the topic ahead of time and there are countless assets and interactive games on the Internet concerning this topic. Browse through the resources offered by the American Dental Association and feel free to contact your local dental office for any advice or tips.

Don't put it off any longer. Schedule an appointment for your child and get them started down a path of good oral health for life.

This article was provided by Roger Pecina of Afdent, 605 West Douglas Rd., Mishawaka, IN 46545, (574) 277-7770.

LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

Just happy to see spring finally get here!

by **Jane Boudreau**

Hey Neighbors! And hello May. Hard to believe we are going into the fifth month of the year. I feel like Christmas was just a few weeks ago. Or maybe it was the snow and sleet that still has me shivering. No matter, I'm just happy to see green everywhere. The daffodils are fading a bit, but the tulips are in full bloom. I read somewhere that your tulips will do exceptionally well if you've had a good, long, cold winter. They need the dormancy. I remember now that the few times we had mild winters, my tulips were a little scraggly. So that's one good thing we have going for us after this hellacious winter.

Sometimes you have to focus on the joys in life. First--we made it! I feel good about some of the positive things I accomplished. I read a lot more books than I usually manage to do, and also picked up some gardening and home decorating magazine to peruse and dream. I fiddled with some new recipes (I'm including two for you in this column), and plowed through some organizing projects.



As lazy as I can be, it drives me crazy when I have to face the plain old truth: if I were more organized, life would be much easier. I look at magazines and blogs, and everything looks neat as a pin. I know for a fact, having blogged for twelve years now, that a lot of effort goes into making these rooms look picture perfect. Fresh fruit and flowers are brought in, and the children are hidden in closets. Some ladies will even admit that they rearranged and hid a bit of clutter to make for a pretty picture. But I still feel the insecurity that maybe I'm not keeping areas as neat and organized as I should. The living rooms, even family rooms I see in the media look cozy, warm, and well, perfect.

Sometimes I pacify myself with visions of these kitchens on a weekday morning when the harried mother is making school lunches, helping the six-year old find his shoes, ironing a shirt for her husband, tripping over the cat, and the baby spitting up oatmeal. This is real. This is what happens, people, no matter how pretty the kitchen is.

I've known how bad my kitchen counters are. If I ever forget, my kids and husband will remind me. Am I the only person who keeps the toaster, KitchenAid mixer, food processor, coffee machine, Keurig coffee maker, canisters for sugar and flour, a huge jar for wooden spoons and utensils, cookbooks, and that huge stack of mail, magazines, Post It Notes, and the never ending bills that needed to be paid last week? And yes, I'm lucky to have a lot of counter space. I know most of this can be put away in



cabinets and drawers. I just happen to know, if its not in plain sight, I probably won't use it. A recipe calls for using the food processor, forget it, too much trouble pulling it out (and knocking over the perilously stacked Tupperware). Toast for breakfast, noooo, not pulling that thing out either. Maybe I should bake something today. Hmmmm, that mixer is way back in that lower cabinet, and must weigh three hundred pounds.

One day my husband asked me where the can opener was, he was making a can of soup. I said, "Its in the same drawer it's always been in." He scratched his head and said, "I thought we had an electric one." I, too, was puzzled for a second. I think I actually put it away a few years ago., forgot about it, and bought the little gadget. So you see, I need that stuff in plain sight. Maybe you do, too???

You probably know how much I love summer at the lake. Well actually I love any time at the lake. May is a lot of scrambling around getting the boats and toys in the water, the beach looking purdy, the outdoor furniture, well, out. Oh, don't forget washing windows, getting the garage organized, and weeding and feeding the lawn and garden. When I'm grumbling about this frenzy of these not-so-fun activities, I think of a quote I heard somewhere: Your worst day could be someone's best.

The fruits of your labor will be rewarded. By June you'll be spending slow days enjoying the sun and water. Reading on the dock, pruning and watering the flowers, cooking on the grill and eating under the stars.

Last summer I started to feed the birds. It was the first time I was at the lake more than just a few days here and there. I am loving it. My next door neighbor, Susie, sure knows her birds and she's helped me identify a lot of them. One feeder I can see from inside the house, and another from the patio.

I've had birdhouses all over for a very long time. With the feeders I was always a little guilty that if I only sporadically fed the birds, they would starve or something. Nope, they always seem to make their way over. I was having a bit of a problem with sparrows hogging the feeders, and someone told me to make sure to use a seed blend with sunflowers. Apparently they don't like those. Seems to have worked. I also bought a bird bath so I have a real spa going on for the critters. If you have any bird related advice, please send me an email.

So here we go with the recipes. I wanted to keep it light. Yes, this comes from the gal that gave you beef stew just last month! I think the pasta dish and salad I'm sharing would be great for a casual lunch, or for dinner with company. They are quick, simple and don't require a lot of ingredients. Add some good bread and white wine, voila!

Summertime Pasta Salad

1 lb. linguine
1 cup reserved pasta cooking water
16 oz. bag frozen peas and carrots
1 T olive oil
1 large shallot
3 cloves of fresh garlic
2 eggs, whisked well
1/4 c milk or half & half
1 T dried thyme
salt and pepper to taste
2 fresh lemon juice
Lemon slices for garnish (optional)

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the linguine and cook about 6 minutes or so. Add frozen peas and carrots a few minutes before the pasta is al dente, or just tender. Remember to reserve 1 cup of that starchy water. I just dip a 2 c glass measuring cup right into the pot to get that water. Drain.

Meanwhile, peel the shallot and garlic cloves, chop finely. Heat the olive oil in a small sauté pan, and cook on low about 2 minutes, being careful to not

burn the garlic.

Return the pasta, veggies, shallots and garlic back to the large pot. Mix the whisked eggs in the reserved pasta water just a bit at a time so it doesn't cook (like scrambled eggs). Add the milk and then pour the whole mixture in with the pasta. Toss well and mix in the thyme, salt and pepper. Sprinkle lemon juice over, and serve on a large platter. Serves 6

Wilted Spinach Salad with Shallots and Bacon



1 large container of fresh baby spinach
12 sea scallops
Salt and pepper
1/2 T olive oil
6-7 slices of bacon
1 t reserved bacon drippings
3 scallions (green onions), trimmed
3 cloves chopped garlic
2 T fresh lemon juice



1 t balsamic vinegar

Cook bacon until crisp. Drain and set aside. Reserve 1 t of the drippings. Crumble when it is cool enough to touch.

In a large skillet or saucepan, heat the olive oil over high heat, but avoid letting it smoke. Season the scallops with salt and pepper, add to the hot pan and sear, approximately 2 minutes on each side, or until the shallot is spongy when you press it with your finger. Remove all to a dish, cover and keep warm. Add the bacon drippings to the same pan and sauté the green onion and garlic over low heat until just softened. Add half the spinach and toss quickly until just starting to wilt. Add the remaining spinach, turn off heat, and gently toss all. You want a combination of cooked and almost cooked greens. Toss in the bacon, scal-

Continued on next page. See:

JANE

JANE

Continued from previous page

lions and garlic. Mix the lemon and balsamic together and drizzle over the salad, again, tossing gently.

Chop the scallops into roughly 4 pieces each. Divide the salad over 4 plates, top with the scallops and serve.

Here's wishing you a great month of May. Let's get on the move and get all of our summer prep ready. We can then spend the next three months chilling, eating, enjoying some cool beverages, and soaking up the sun.

See you in June with some full outdoor meals, sides and dessert, all done with no sweat!! Also, some cute ideas for dressing up your patio/deck table.



Chicago, and a little place in the mountains of North Carolina. You can reach her at bindy9@yahoo.com

Jane is a writer and blogger who is a 27 year resident of Diamond Lake. She also has a home in

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Michigan personal auto insurance ... broken down

By Charlie Retherford
Kemner-Iott Benz Agency
of Cass County

Do you ever look at your auto insurance policy and wonder what a certain coverage means? Do you ever get confused just looking at your auto insurance policy? Well, auto insurance is complicated, very necessary, and mandated by law - at least certain coverage is anyway. In this article, we will discuss the coverage in your policy and how certain factors can effect your insurance premium.

First, let's discuss the different coverage you can have on your auto policy: Coverage mandated by law:

1. Bodily Injury and Property Damage. These two coverages are part of your Liability protection. In the event you injure someone or damage their property because of your ownership, maintenance or use of your auto, this is where that liability protection would come from. There are different coverage limits available for your choosing.

2. Property Protection Insurance. This coverage pays for damage your vehicle causes to tangible property; other than motor vehicles generally.

3. Personal Injury Protection (PIP). This coverage benefits a person injured arising from the ownership, use, operation, or maintenance of a motor vehicle. PIP coverage pays medical bills, related expenses, work loss benefits and reasonable funeral expenses for an insured person.

4. Michigan Catastrophic Claims

Association (MCCA). This association was created by the Michigan State Legislature to fund unlimited, lifetime coverage for medical expenses that arise from auto accidents.

Not maintaining liability coverage can result in your license being suspended, as well as, you can incur fines and/or fees, and even spend up to a year in jail if you fail to comply.

Optional coverage:

1. Comprehensive coverage pays for damages resulting from situations beyond our control such as wind, fire, hail, animals, theft, etc.

2. Collision coverage pays for damage to your auto sustained when another vehicle hits your auto or when you hit something (including another car) with your vehicle.

3. Special Tort Liability (mini-tort) pays for damage, up to \$1000, to any one party seeking compensation due to an accident cause by you. Both comprehensive and collision coverage is normally required by your lender when you have a lien or lease on your auto.

Additional coverage such as roadside assistance, rental reimbursement, loan or lease GAP coverage for new cars, etc. can be added to your auto policy as well.

Now, let's discuss about some of the information used by your insurance company to rate your policy; in other words, how the company determines your premium. There are so many factors (or statistics) that play a role in establishing

your premium.

Here is a list of some of those factors:

1. Driving record
2. Location
3. Age
4. Vehicle features (anti-theft, anti-lock brakes, air bags, etc.)
5. Claims history
6. Discounts (multi-policy, group affiliation, etc.)

Insurance companies compile statistics and use those figures to determine who is more likely to have an accident, how serious that accident may be depending on the vehicle involved, how long it may take to recover from any inju-

ry sustained in an auto accident, etc.

Therefore, there are not two policies that are ever the same; there are just too many factors and multiple combinations that determine the final figures.

While most of us do not find insurance matters interesting, your policy is intended to protect you and your assets. Remember since every policy is different, and each company may offer additional coverages, check with your agent on questions specific to your policy. This article is meant only as a general guide to a basic understanding of an auto policy in Michigan.

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OUR CHILDREN

Strategies to motivate math learning

by **SANDY FLEMING**

In an ideal world, kids would be willing and eager to learn math. After all, it's vital to success in almost every adult endeavor, from running a household to getting a job. Math also opens doors to higher paying employment in the sciences and in business. The kids in that ideal world would see the value of learning about the world of numbers, and there would be no fights over homework, math class, and practicing.

I don't know about what goes on at your house, but that's a long way from reality in most homes with children. Most kids see math as challenging at best, and an enemy at worst. Math is about the last academic subject they want to tackle, and it causes more frustration than all of the other subjects combined. Parents and teachers need to work to find ways to get students to learn math. Eventually most students come to realize that math really is important, but between now and then, you need some surefire ways to grab their interest and keep them motivated to learn the next steps with numbers.

No single idea will work for all cases, but if you have a selection in your arsenal, you can find the combination that does the trick with your particular students. Try some of these on for size:

• **Set Goals and Meet Them**

Many people respond to the sense of accomplishment that comes with setting goals and meeting them. It's like having a to-do list and checking off the tasks as they are completed. It can be tough for kids to see the larger whole of math, so help them along by setting smaller goals that work together toward the overall mastery of the subject. Some ideas for different age groups include memorizing the basic facts in each of the four operations, building speed in computation, solving problems with a certain size of numbers, scoring 100 percent on a group of story problems, finding one connection between math and everyday life, or correctly proving a geometry concept.

Whatever goal you are working on presently, be sure to have some sort of visual depiction of progress. You can use charts, graphs, collectibles like stickers, or whatever your student would find understandable and interesting. Younger children often enjoy pictures that become more complete as progress is made, or a game board where their piece moves closer to the finish line. Older students will be able to appreciate a graphic such as a thermometer with a red bar

that rises as they come closer to meeting the goal. Whatever visual you choose, make sure it's easy to read, visible in the student's work area, and kept up to date. There's nothing worse than progressing toward a goal and having no acknowledgment of the accomplishment.

• **Try Some Puzzlers**

Every level of math has brain teasers and games to challenge learners. Some common ones include pictures with embedded shapes, magic squares, number patterns, and challenges such as creating an equation using the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 with any operation to equal an answer of 16. If you can find appropriate puzzles that challenge students while still staying within their skill set, you might find them more motivated to practice and apply the concepts they are learning in math.

This can work because students sometimes question the value of repeated practice on problem sets. Their logic asks, "Why should I do these problems over and over again?" We know that the extended practice helps them store the ideas in their long term memory and truly learn concepts in a way that will allow them to be accessed far into the future, but they often don't have the maturity to understand that benefit. Puzzlers put practice into a different light, and provide a goal other than completing the assignment.

• **Make Connections**

The best way to motivate students to work on their math is to find practical connections to their everyday lives. This eventually turns into the real, live adult way of perceiving the process. When we want to learn something, it's usually because we realize that the knowledge will impact our lives for the better. We seek out new learning when it will solve some problem for us, when it will lead to a job promotion, or when we crave the satisfaction of gaining new knowledge. Children and youth have the same desire. They want learning to make sense and to seem valuable in the short run. The difference is that many kids don't have the maturity to put effort into learning that doesn't have a fairly immediate payoff.

How do you make those connections right now? Well, for one thing, allow your student to see you using math skills in everyday life. Don't wait until after bedtime to balance the checkbook. "Think out loud" when you do mental calculations for things like estimating the grocery bill or figuring out what time to

start the roast to have it done cooking at six o'clock. Arrange lots of math experiences for the kids, as well. Play board games that use play money or require scoring.

• **Learn the Basics**

No one will feel successful at math until they have mastered an assortment of crucial basic skills. These include memorizing the 100 basic math facts in all four operations, knowing the "benchmark" fractions of $1/10$, $1/4$, $1/3$, $1/2$, $2/3$, $3/4$, and so forth, as well as their decimal and percentage equivalents, knowing the names and attributes of the basic shapes (like triangles, circles, squares and rectangles), understanding the difference between perimeter and area, knowing basic units of measurement in both English and metric system as well as how to convert quickly between them, and understanding what types of real-world situations call for which kind of math. Nearly all math tasks, especially in the middle and upper grades, rely on these foundational skills.

Keep a close eye on your student's performance during the early and middle elementary grades, because this is when the skills above are mastered. If your child is struggling with math in the elementary years, intervene sooner rather than later. Once the kids get to middle school, the curriculum moves on to much more complex concepts and kids who don't have the proper foundation quickly begin to flounder. Those Bs and Cs from elementary math class quickly become Ds and Fs in sixth, seventh and eighth grade math. Homework that should take twenty or thirty minutes suddenly will take three or four hours, and it's not long before student (and parents!) are totally overwhelmed.

You can head that situation off at the pass, so to speak, with a bit of monitoring in earlier grades. It's particularly important to watch the kids' progress through those ubiquitous timed tests of the basic math facts. You remember these from your own childhood, I'm sure. The teacher handed out a sheet of 100 math facts and told you when to start. You had five minutes to complete them accurately in each operation. Often, students would compete to see who could master them the most quickly and there were sometimes prizes involved for the ones who succeeded.

Nowadays, these might take the form of "Mad Minutes," where kids have a shorter amount of time to complete a smaller number of problems, but the idea

is still the same. Only by memorizing the math facts can kids answer them automatically, without counting or hesitating. And only with this level of fluency can they hope to be successful at more complex types of math, such as changing the names of fractions or solving long division problems. It's still a crucial skill, but in many classrooms, the emphasis on rote memorization has fallen off in favor of a more conceptual approach to math. Many kids eventually catch on that memorizing is the way to go, but a significant number do not get that message, and these are the kids who are struggling mightily in middle and high school math. So if your child has not mastered math facts by the traditional ages (100 addition and subtraction facts in five minutes in grades 2-3, and 100 multiplication facts in five minutes in grades 3-4 and 100 division facts in 5 minutes by grade 5), then put yourselves to work at home. You can easily monitor the situation by printing out a 100 facts test in each operation from the internet and timing your child. The goal is 100% accuracy in five minutes.

If your child needs some help with this, try playing games that reward speed and accuracy. Flashcards shaped like triangles that have the 3 associated numbers (like 2, 4, and 6 for addition/subtraction and 4, 5, 20 for multiplication/division) are great for learning the two opposite operations together. Try having races and playing memory games. Make practice fun and consistent, and your child will improve in no time at all. Make sure you're offering a meaningful reward for accomplishment, too. Important as it is to learn the math facts, most kids just don't find intrinsic (built-in) rewards from it. You'll likely need to offer some sort of outside incentive, like a treat or a toy or a privilege once the task is mastered.

Your Attitude Counts!

Kids take their cues from their families. If you put a priority on math learning, they will quickly follow suit. Math is right up there with reading and writing for critical skills that support many other academic pursuits, and you want to be certain you're not giving math the shaft by doing and writing.

Sandy Fleming is an educational consultant, tutor and writer living in Edwardsburg. Look for more great ideas and programs on her website at <http://sandyflemingonline.com>.



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FIELD TRIP

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For the Record
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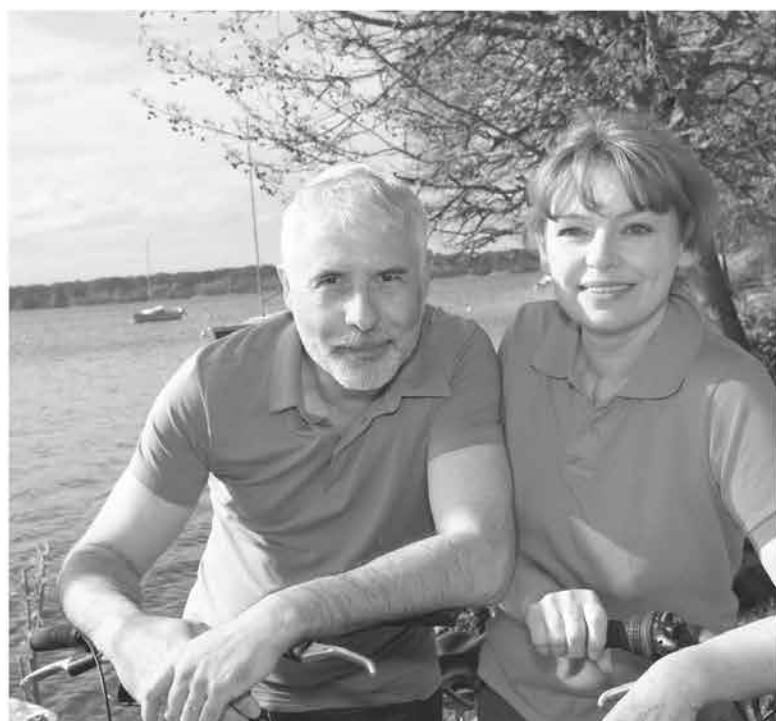


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REAL ESTATE

10 important tips for selling a lake home

by **Michelle Scott**
Michigan Lake Team

If you are trying to sell a lake home, it is important to remember that you also need to sell the lake and community, not just the home. You can change the structure all you want, but the location is unchangeable. Focus on the lake, shoreline and lifestyle, the buyer's top priorities when looking for a house.

Here are 10 helpful tips for potential lake-home sellers to keep in mind:

1. Define the location: Make sure there is a welcoming and well-lit pathway leading to the water's edge/dock - lakefront buyers will want to see the water first.

2. Safe dock/deck: If you have docks, decks and/or shoreline walls, make sure they are sturdy and safe by replacing or repairing any loose boards and cleaning up the seawall. Also, make sure to rope off the floating docks with safety rails, because not everyone is used to walking on them.

3. Shoreline curb appeal: Clean all debris and leaves from shoreline. Rake all aquatic weeds and bottom muck as far out into the lake as you can reach, so it looks clear, some landscaping companies will do this for you. Make sure you have photos posted at the house

that shows the shoreline conditions in ALL seasons, particularly summer.

4. Set the scene: Help them understand what lifestyle they will be able to have by neatly staging your shoreline and lakeside yard with items such as: kayaks, fishing equipment, swim towels, fire pit, etc. Don't overdo it, but buyers are buying the lake house for the lifestyle it will bring them, so provide a great lakefront "experience." Also, staging the inside with a lake "feel" helps.

5. Lake Tour: If possible, have a kayak, canoe or pontoon boat ready (with life jackets). There's no better way to secure a lakefront sale than to get the buyers out on the water!

6. Market the Lake: Create flyers that have EVERY detail on the lake itself for the buyers to read. Including the size (in acres), depth (maximum and average), allowed recreation, boating rules & regulations, Lake Association information, aquatic weeds, public access, boat launches, fish type, etc.

7. Visibility of the lake: When a buyer walks into the home for the first time, they will immediately walk to a window or door where they can see the lake. Be sure all window glass and sliders in the home are perfectly spotless.

8. Marketing Materials: Since 95 percent of buyers start their search on-line, you can't assume the buyer knows anything about the lake and area. You may need to walk them through your location "virtually." Use a professional photographer to take panoramic shots of the lake, as well as photos showing the home from out on the water. These are so important when telling the "story" of your lakefront home.

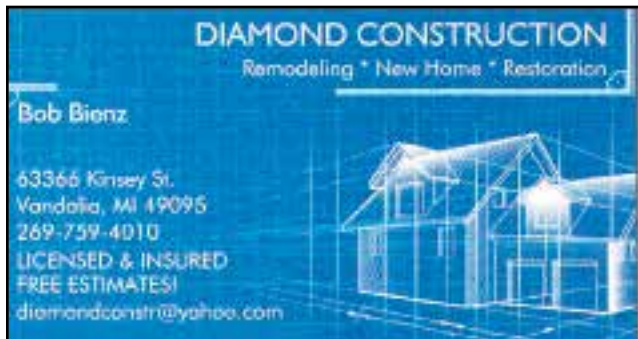
9. Share Your Experience: Write a letter telling about your experience on the lake and leave it out for showings. Talk about your lakefront experiences, raising your children, the benefits of that particular location of the water, the wildlife, the neighbors, the area, your favorite lake activity, etc. It also helps you to remove yourself from your own emotional attachment. This will be critical to the future success of the sales process.

10. Niche marketing: Most Realtors you speak with will be a "generalist" who sell any type of real estate. Lakefront property is unique, your home is unique, and it takes an agent with lakefront knowledge to sell the "lifestyle." Ask any agent you are interviewing about specific lakefront experience (the number of sales, time on market, etc.). Also, ask them to describe your lake as they would to a prospective buyer. If they can't sell the emotional appeal, move on!

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HISTORIC POSTCARDS

Historic postcards depict rich scenes of our area's past

In this issue of Neighbors, Jerdon Real Estate of Dowagiac, owned by Floyd Jerdon and his son Tom, has provided antique postcards of a few of the many lakes in our area.

Floyd and his wife Donna started collecting post cards more than 20 years ago, and since Jerdon Real Estate specializes in marketing lake property, it was a natural fit that Floyd's interest be directed to the lake cards. The collection now numbers many thousands.

Jerdon has recently used many of his postcards featuring the Sister Lakes area in a book written by RL Rasmussen. The book, which retails for \$19.99, is in its second printing by the publisher, Arcadia Publishing.

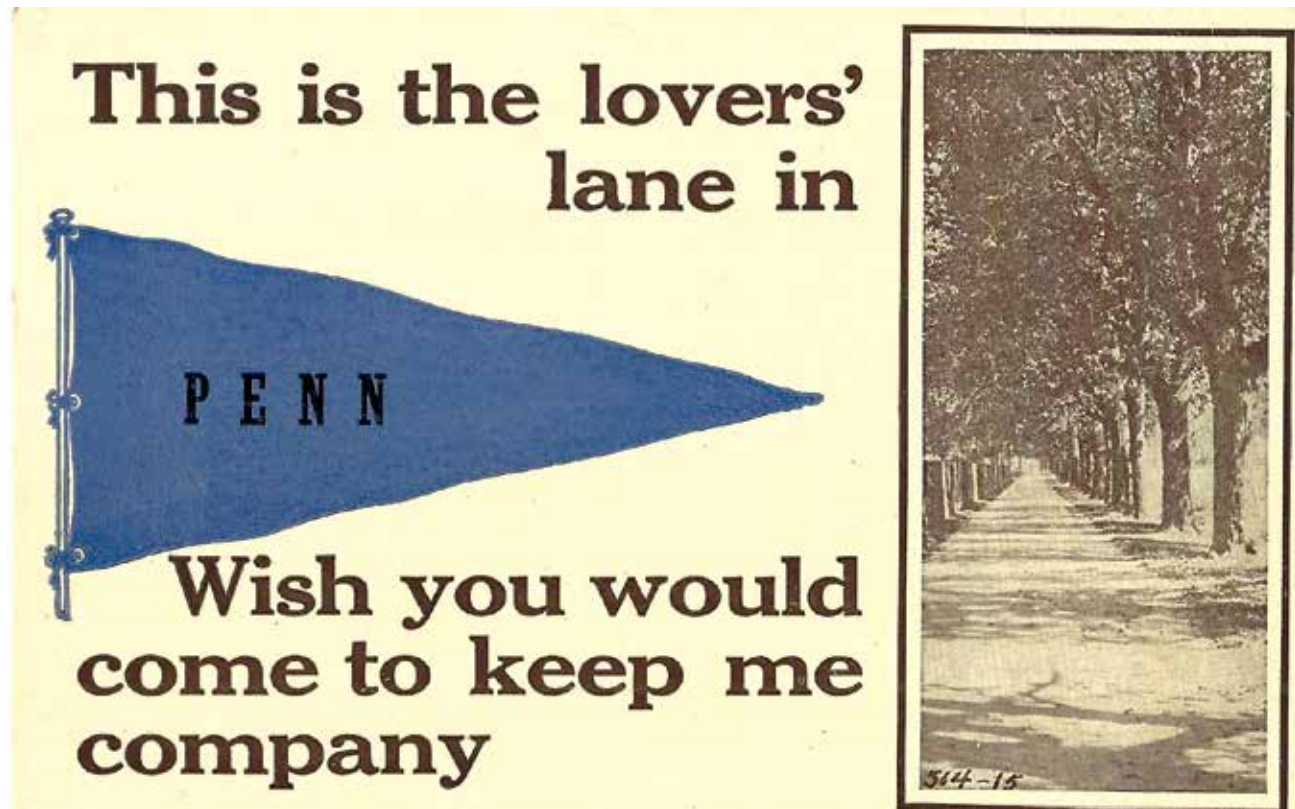
Among other places, the book may be purchased at the Jerdon Real Estate office on M-62 West, and at Whistlestop Gifts, which is operated by the Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce.

For more information or to get a copy of

Jerdon's book, visit the website: www.arcadia-publishing.com

In this edition of Neighbors we have selected postcards showing images of Corey Lake, near Jones, and the nearby area.

In future issues, we will couple additional cards from one or more of the area's lakes with views of nearby communities and countryside.



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NATURE NOTES

Spring brings out a range of wildlife

Provided by Cass District Library
Local History Branch

On Saturday, March 31, Bob and Pat Conrad of Lincoln Township were surprised to see a barred owl land in their backyard fir trees, long enough for Bob to take some nice photos!

Barred owls inhabit larger forest tracts in eastern North America, particularly in Southwest Michigan, have increased in population over the last few decades as second-growth forests have reclaimed once heavily farmed regions during the 20th Century. There has been a greater habitat increase over the last thirty years for the barred owl in Southwest Michigan than in the more urbanized southeast portion of the state.

The barred owl is a great indicator species, reflecting good environmental conditions. In the owls case its presence is telling of high quality forests. The pileated woodpecker and red-shouldered hawk are additional indicator species of a mature second growth, or mature hardwood forest.

The barred owl is named for the vertical bars on its chest and is the only owl in eastern North America with black eyes. Male and females are alike in plumage, and are non-migratory. Barred owls are known to reuse previous nest sites each year, which is referred to in academic circles as nest site fidelity.

Barred owls nest in tree cavities among larger forests, particularly river floodplains and swamps. Barred owls on average lay two or three eggs during the middle of March or early April. Young barred owls typically fledged the nest by May or June, remaining with parents for several months before seeking new breeding territory of their own.

Barred owls eat primarily mice, voles and shrews, but also take eastern cottontails, snakes, frogs and toads. It would not surprise me if a barred owl preyed on a mink, which was featured in last week's column.

Last week I also wrote about a common migrant spring songbird, the eastern phoebe, but I lacked a photo, which I now have thanks to Brad Anderson.

Anderson photographed an eastern phoebe at the Chikaming Township Park and Preserve, located off Warren Woods Road.

Phoebes begin arriving back in Southwest Michigan in early March, usually perching on a branch or limb, bobbing their tails.

Phoebes are the most cold tolerant of all in the flycatcher family and can be seen picking off insects just above water surfaces during cold weather. They winter in southern US, nesting throughout Michigan upon spring arrival. Most depart our area by late November, but a handful of winter records exist, mainly from December.

Osprey also known as the fish eagle, as they feed primarily on fish, and have been featured in my column nearly every spring and this year is no different.

A pair of these large birds of prey are back at their usual nesting platform, near Madron Lake in Buchanan Township, and further proof that osprey continue to reoccupy former



nesting range in the southern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

Ospreys migrate through Southwest Michigan from the latter part of March through late May coming from their wintering grounds of the southern US, south through South America. While most osprey seen in our region travel father north to nest, a few pairs stay each summer in Southwestern Michigan to nest and raise young.

Ospreys were found all over Michigan during the early part of the 19th Century. As forests and wetlands gave way to development, osprey numbers declined. When the pesticide DDT came into use, osprey numbers were reduced yet again due to thin-eggshell syndrome attributed to the chemical. Osprey were eliminated as a nesting species from the southern half of the Lower Peninsula during the middle 20th Century.

Once DDT was banned, osprey numbers began to rise in the Upper Peninsula, northern Lower Peninsula. Since the 2000s, osprey have increased in the southern Lower Peninsula as second-growth forests have matured, in addition to osprey nesting platforms being placed out at prime nesting areas, including the platform near Madron Lake. Prior to the 2000s, there were no breeding season records of osprey in Berrien County. Osprey have

rebounded faster in Cass County due in part to less development and better quality forests near water sources.

Adult osprey pair bond and both take part in the building of the nest, and caring of young. In Michigan, osprey lay eggs during late April or early May and young hatch by early June. By late July or early August the young leave the nest.

Fall migration of ospreys take place in Southwest Michigan from late August through the last ten days of September. Stragglers are seen through October and occasionally later, with just a handful of Michigan reports from early December.

On April 8, I relocated a snowy owl that has been present for several weeks, on top of a phone pole at the corner of Scottdale and Linco Road in Royalton Township. This bird will likely be returning to its nesting grounds, north of the Arctic Circle in the coming days. It was reported at the same location the next day.

Snowy owls are not often reported locally after April 10, so it is worth keeping an eye on this bird.

Please report your sightings to Jonathan Wuepper at wuepperj@gmail.com.

Bob Conrad of St. Joseph captured nice images of an American mink, at the corner of Scottdale and Linco Roads on March 21.

Pictured, clockwise from top left: Barred owl, Lincoln Township, by Bob Conrad, March 31, 2018.

Mink by Bob Conrad of Saint Joseph. Taken March 21, 2018 at corner of Scottdale and Linco Roads.

Snowy owl atop electric pole at intersection of Scottdale and Linco Roads, Royalton Twp. Photo by Jonathan Wuepper, April 8, 2018.

Eastern phoebe at Chikaming Township Park and Preserve, located off Warren Woods Road.

Osprey pair near Madron Lake, Buchanan Twp., photos by Bob Conrad of St. Joseph, April 2018.

Conrad has clear photos of this normally nocturnal animal, which show the animal's slenderness, semi-webbed feet, being a great adaptation for aquatic environments, and the chocolate brown fur which is sought after for mink coats. However, demand for mink fur has fallen in recent decades.

I was asked by Conrad, "Is this a mink, or a weasel," to which I answered "a mink is a member of the weasel family." They are carnivores capable of taking prey larger, such as muskrat. Common prey of the mink include mice, shrews, voles, crayfish, small birds and eggs.

In turn, mink are preyed upon by coyote, fox, and great horned owl. I suspect that snowy owls would take a mink if given a chance.

The American mink does not hibernate, is active year long and found wherever water remains unfrozen.

Mink give birth to 3-4 young in April and May. During the breeding season, males may wander far out of their normal haunts in search of females.

LOCAL HISTORY

The pioneer life of John F. Coulter

Provided by Cass District Library
Local History Branch

Hardships and Incidents of a Pioneer Life in Howard Township, as told by John F. Coulter. Provided by Cass District Library's Local History Branch.

The Coulter home and farm were located on both sides of the intersections of Coulter Street and M-60. During the early 1900s, John F. Coulter reminisced about the early pioneer days in Cass County during the 1830s-1860s, which the Cass District Library has transcribed here.

The incidents transcribed here took place in the Coulter's Chapel vicinity along what is now M-60, then a rough stagecoach trail of dirt and mud.

Note that calomel was given to the sick during the 19th Century as a purgative. It is also called mercurous chloride, containing mercury and causes mercury poisoning.

"My mother went over to see how the [Young] family was getting along, as others in the house were ailing. As soon as she got into the house, Billy said: 'Ann' calling her by her first name: 'how much is a dose of calomel?'"

She replied the doctors generally gave what would lay on the point of a blade of a penknife. He swore he guess

he had taken enough, for he had taken his big packages and upon opening it took a case knife and jabbed into it and supplied his wants. It didn't take Billy's calomel long to get a move on itself and Billy was sicker than he was before, and commenced to vomit fearfully after he got through with that interesting part of the program he swore he had thrown up everything but his legs. I think Billy felt though it were a fact. He finally pulled through and got well, but there was nothing left in the vicinity of his stomach.

A few years afterwards we had a dull Sunday -- rained most all day, and just such a Sunday a boy dislikes. Along in the afternoon father [James Coulter] happened to be looking out the south door and saw Billy's team, a very spirited one, running for dear life, hitched to his wagon, and Billy wasn't anywhere in sight. When they struck the bridge across the creek, close to where the old campground used to be, his jug which contained the 'ardent' flew into the air and turning a somersault lit on the cork, driving it in level and never broke the jug. Father got a horse and immediately went to his home to see how it was with Billy. When he got there Jerry Perkins, his son-in-law, and John Bunbury were fixing the harness to go back and look for Billy.

He had been at Carroll Messenger's [in nearby LaGrange Township] and had got back as far as our place and in going around a curve in the road, where it was

very sliding, lost his balance and fell out, and after the wheels has passed, his head dropped back into the rut and was very much lower than the rest of his body. He could not have lived long in that shape.

He had on a red flannel shirt and when they first saw him they thought it was blood and that he was dead, and of course became a sad group. While Bunbury was turning the team around in order to place Billy in the wagon, Perkins went up to him and discovered he was alive; so he righted him up into a sitting position and remarked to him: "Old man

what are you doing here?" He smacked his lips and blinked his eyes and replied, "I am waiting for a ride."

The once sober group was obliged to laugh, his quick wit and ready answer never forsook him. He lived to be past 80 years and was finally murdered in his home [on December 17, 1879] where he lived all alone -- presumably for his money, as he almost always kept some about him and never would trust a bank."

To be continued...



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THE LAST WORD

Looking for an email address for a large-mouth bass

Sometimes it feels to me that the entirety of the world civilization is conspiring to force me, dragging and kicking though I might, to get me hooked on the Satan-spawned technological addiction of the 21st Century. For some reason the whole world seem to be of the opinion that my life is somehow unfulfilled, that I personally am bereft of principles and that I am a dangerous menace to society unless I finally break down and buy a cell phone.

Two examples of this evil Deep State conspiracy arose last week while I was otherwise distracted with the menial details of manual labor involving a kitchen remodeling project that has been in progress for the last two or three months (a project I believe to be the result of a conspiracy instigated by my wife to get me to shoo the moths away from my back pocket and pry a few bucks out of my wallet in a sum that far exceeds the cost of cell phone, granted, but an amount I had been avoiding nonetheless).

The first example took me by surprise since it involved my youngest daughter, a person of good breeding, high moral character and of enough common sense to know better than mess with dad when it comes to that cell phone thing.

This particular daughter (and also by the mysterious force of genetic propagation, our granddaughter as well) is the undisputed Queen of Cell Phones. I'm pretty sure that immediately after she graduated from high school and had the old-technology, wired pushbutton phone surgically removed from the side of her face, she acquired a cell phone, and in

some bizarre, Satanic ritual was forever united with her phone in a 2001-style Hal-and-Dave bio-techno marriage.

Suffice to say that when anyone who knows her has a cell phone problem, she can fix it, her fingers flying across those tiny, almost invisible buttons faster than a 1950s secretary could peck out "round and round the ragged rock the rugged rascal ran" on a vintage Olympia.

Anyway, maybe as a by-product of her telephonic pact with the devil, this daughter is also very good with computer technology. So, not long after my beloved spouse (BS for short) dumped a glass of vinegar onto the laptop she never liked anyway and I was coerced into buying her a new laptop, the daughter came over to help my BS set up her new computer and sync it with her phone (a concept I avoided even asking about).

Aside from a few choice words as the process evolved (my daughter sometimes talks like a sailor on leave), after an hour or so she turned her attention to me, and presented me with an early birthday present, a new (to me) computer "tablet."

It looked nothing like the tablets I was most familiar with ... until recently tablets were always in pill form.

In just a few minutes she pointed out that it was just like a small computer (she's savvy enough to know that I'm ok with computers) and she began showing me how to access the "apps," which she explained were just like the corresponding computer programs.

"ish," she said.

Now I've heard that "ish" stuff enough to know that it is the 21 Century version of "almost-but-not-quite," so I was a bit skeptical, but I quickly found

myself reading my email, checking the weather, looking at news sites and most of the other things I usually do when I'm plopped in front of my computer ... except I was lounging comfortably on the sofa.

Not bad, I thought as I used my new "tablet" to cast a movie to the boob toob (the baby boomer's version of evil technology). Not bad at all ...

"And dad," she said with an evil grin, "it works just like mom's phone, so if you can't figure out something, she can help." A chill ran down my spine.

"Phone?"

"It's even got a phone number," she said, making me write it down on my secret code sheet. "There's probably a way you can make phone calls and send text messages ... Here, I'll show you."

My teeth went numb in fear.

Alas (ha, ha, ha), despite her best efforts, she was unable to make new "tablet" act like a phone. She seemed deflated.

I was significantly relieved.

"I'll work on it when I have more time," she warned as she left that day.

Now despite my misgivings, I'll admit I like the "tablet." I can take it with me to the doctor's office and sit and read my Kindle books while I'm being ignored in the waiting room before my appointment that was supposed to begin 45 minutes ago.

And while I'm sitting there I can use their free WiFi to check my email, read the news ... all that jazz.

And best of all, it's not a cell phone.

So that brings me to the second example of that Deep State conspiracy I mentioned earlier.

This one is much more sinister.

It started when I went online to buy a new fishing license for the season. Went to the DNR website, just as I have in the past and clicked on "buy a license."

To my chagrin the site had been "updated," and I had to register in order to buy a license online.

Ok, I thought as I clicked on the "register" button. How hard can this be?

It asked for the standard data: name, address, phone, mother's maiden name, number of windows in the first house I ever lived in, how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. You know, the usual stuff ... routine.

But then Satan jumped up.

Near the end was a field that asked for a cell phone number. Underneath it said "REQUIRED FIELD" in red.

I panicked. Quickly I grabbed my secret code sheet and typed in a phone number and hit enter.

I relaxed a bit when it let me continue and actually buy a fishing license.

Whew, I thought.

Then I got worried ... especially when I reviewed the data I'd entered and saw it was my wife's cell phone number.

I immediately typed an email to the DNR explaining that I don't have a cell phone, that I'd used my wife's number and asked if I'd broken a law.

Someone at the DNR responded that, yes, a cell phone number was required, and that no, I'd not broken any laws. Everything was fine.

But as I was fishing later that day, I couldn't help but wonder about why it is necessary to have a cell phone to buy a fishing license ...

After all, I have a tablet ... couldn't I just email the fish?

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