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August 2018

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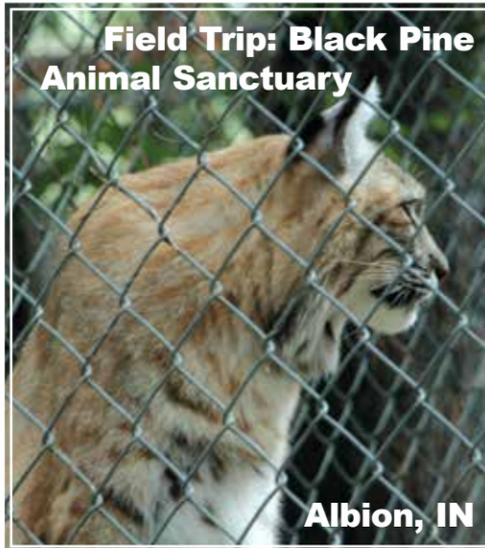


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Neighbors is published monthly from
March through December.

To contact Neighbors
(269) 228-1080
(269) 476-1680

<http://www.cassneighbors.com>
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REGIONAL NEWS

Blues, Brews & BBQ

On Saturday, August 25, from 5-9 pm, the Cass County COA will host a Blues, Brews, & BBQ. This themed fundraiser supporting Meals on Wheels features local music by Out of Favor Boys, Beer Flights sponsored by Sister Lakes Brewing, Wine Flights sponsored by Fenn Valley Winery, and BBQ!

Tickets are \$50 per person or \$400 for a table of eight. The event will have a live & silent auction, dancing, dinner, drinks, & fun for all! Sponsorship opportunities for this wonderful evening are also available. For information about supporting this event, either by donating auction items, sponsoring meals for Meals on Wheels program, or attending, contact Heidi Powell at 445-8110 or email heidip@casscoa.org.

Passenger tire collection

Cass County has received a grant for the collection of used passenger car/pick-up truck tires. Proof of residency is required. Two trailers will be located at the Cass County Building (historic county courthouse), 120 N Broadway, Cassopolis, on Saturday, August 4, from 9 am to Noon.

Antique engine & tractor show

SOUTH HAVEN - Michigan Flywheelers is planning an Antique Engine & Tractor Show: Thursday, Sept. 6 - Sunday, Sept. 9.

For more information visit their web site at <http://www.michiganflywheelers.org> or see them on Facebook.

Cass Fellowship Bible Church

Cass Fellowship Bible Church 64106 M-62 Cassopolis, has scheduled the following events:

Saturday August 4 Annual Pancake & Sausage breakfast 9 - 11 am (Free will donation!)

August 16 & 17 Annual yard sale 9 am - 3 pm

Movies at 6:30 pm (movies to be announced) on Aug. 24, Sept 28, Oct 26

For more information contact Pastor Richard Doran at 269-274-5726.

Barn Swallow events

Auditions for "12 Angry Jurors" and performances of "Dorothy in Wonderland," at The Barn Swallow Theatre will take place in August.

Auditions for 12 Angry Jurors will be held August 2 at 7 pm and August 4 at 1 pm. Performances of the play will be September 27, 28 and 29 at 7:30 pm, and September 30 at 2 pm.

Dorothy in Wonderland performances will be August 16 and 17 at 7:30 pm,

LifeCare Ambulance Paramedic Receives Star of Life Award in Washington, D.C.

Pam Gohn, a paramedic with LifeCare Ambulance for more than 13 years, was the 2018 recipient of the Star of Life Award from the American Ambulance Association (AAA). The Star of Life award honors the contributions of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) professionals throughout the nation who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Gohn was nominated for this prestigious award by her supervisors and fellow paramedics. Gohn's co-workers state, "Pam is compassionate, understanding, knowledgeable and trustworthy in everything she does." According to Steve Frisbie, LifeCare Regional Vice President, "It is [because of] Pam's dedication to her patients, community, and LifeCare family that she was honored with this award."

In June, Gohn, and Frisbie attended the National Stars of Life Conference in Washington D.C., which honors EMS providers from all 50 states. In addition to recognizing the work of EMS providers, the conference



serves to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to hear directly from paramedics and EMTs regarding the impact EMS services make on local communities and patient lives.

Gohn began working with LifeCare in 2005 and in that time has served faithfully in many locations and capacities. It was a life changing car accident in 2003 that led Gohn to the decision of becoming a paramedic. Gohn continued to advance her paramedic training by earning her critical care transport paramedic certification and she currently serves today as the Critical Care Team leader with LifeCare's Cassopolis operation.

LifeCare Ambulance is a, nonprofit, nationally accredited ambulance service providing emergency and non-emergency medical care throughout seven counties in southern Michigan. LifeCare is a member of Emergent Health Partners of Ann Arbor, MI.

August 18 at 2 and 7:30 pm, and August 19 at 2 pm.

To attend any of the performances, call for reservations at 228-6672, or email tickets@barnswallowtheatre.com. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors (60 and over), and \$5 for children age 12 & under.

20th Anniversary Display

The Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum will celebrate the 20-year anniversary of its founding with a special collections exhibit that opens August 16.

Each room will highlight special items collected or donated. Those include a photo board of the Pabreza family, which donated the house that became the museum; a photo board of the original museum founders and members; an antique mandolin from the family of the late Mary Catherine Morse; a display of 100-year-old quilts, the large original school bell found at the farm of the late Norman Shanahan; the original blueprints of the 1923 Edwardsburg Agricultural High School (razed in 2000); a Round Oak Stove, donated by the Tom Geiger family; a pie safe and pottery from the original house; an ice fishing box, railroad memorabilia, and many other items. Special items showcased outdoors will be the outhouse donated by the family of the late Velma Radebaugh of Eagle Lake, and the original hamburger stand that was a long-time feature next to the Uptown Tavern. It was donated by the family of the late Myron Smith.

The evening of Thursday., Aug. 16,

Barbara Barton, a folk singer and environmental biologist from Lansing who grew up in Edwardsburg, will perform at 7 pm. Barton is a Detroit Music Awards Best Vocalist in Folk Music and Metro Area Artists and Songwriters Association Songwriter of the year. She also has been a resident artist at Isle Royale National Park.

On Sunday, Aug. 19, Barton and Edwardsburg Author Colin Knapp each will sign copies of their books at a 3:30 pm open house at the museum. This activity will immediately follow the Edwardsburg Annual All-School Reunion. One of Barton's books, *The Amazing Adventures of a Midwestern Girl*, includes a chapter on stories of people she knew while growing up in Edwardsburg. The other book, *Manoomin: The Story of Wild Rice in Michigan*, was published by the Michigan State University Press late this spring. Colin Knapp will sign copies of at least one of his books. Born in Grand Rapids, Knapp moved with his family to Edwardsburg when he was three. He, like Barton, graduated from Edwardsburg High School. He 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 growing 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.

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REGIONAL NEWS

4-H Versatility Scholarship Event

The Berrien County 4-H program will be hosting its annual 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event on Sunday, August 12, starting at 2 pm at the Berrien County Youth Fair in Berrien Springs. The 4-H Versatility Scholarship event is designed to identify and recognize the most versatile 4-H teen member and horse duo in the Berrien County 4-H Horse and Pony project. The scholarship is awarded to the outstanding 4-H horse and rider versatility combination. Classes for the event include Hunter Hack, Open English Equitation, Western Horsemanship, Gymkhana – Clover Leaf Barrels, and Trail.

An education scholarship will be awarded to the Champion and Reserve Champion in the amounts of \$500 and \$250. Placing ribbons will be awarded to the top ten participants as well.

The 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event is open to any Berrien County 4-H member who is 14 – 19 years of age by January 1, 2018 and has completed the ninth grade. Youth must be enrolled in a Berrien County 4-H horse and pony project club by June 1, 2018.

The horse used for the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Event must be pre-registered and exhibited at the Berrien County Youth Fair by the 4-H member and on the grounds during fair week. Member and horse must be pre-registered or applications post marked for the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event by Friday, July 6, 2018. Registration forms and details on requirements can be found at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/berrien/berrien_county_4_h.



The Berrien County 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event is sponsored by the Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association. For more information about the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event, contact Chrissy Bradford, Versatility Scholarship Chairman at canterloper@aol.com or via phone at 269-362-2915.

9th Annual Underground Railroad Days Had Something for Everyone

No matter what your age, no matter what your interest, the Village of Vandalia Underground Railroad Days was sure to please. Over 1000 visitors came to the tiny Village of Vandalia Michigan recently to enjoy the 9th annual collaboration between the Village and the Underground Railroad Society of Cass County (URSCC). They took guided tours of UGRR sites that told the story of the Kentucky Slave Raid in 1847, and watched local students act it out. They toured UGRR stations at the Bonine Carriage House and the Bogue House. They toured the Bonine House and met Mary Charlotte Bonine, who was born in

the house in 1934, and thoroughly enjoyed talking about growing up in the beautiful Victorian home.

There was a soul food dinner and a rousing Sunday morning church service that drew more than 200 worshipers.

There was music and storytelling, UGRR displays and presentations. And for kids, pony and train rides, face painting and bouncy houses.

Sally Connor's Friday night documentary on the Kentucky Raid was viewed by a large, appreciative crowd.

"We're happy to see so many new visitors from all over the region. There is great interest in the Underground Railroad throughout the country, and Vandalia has an amazing story to tell" said Cathy LaPointe, treasurer of URSCC. "We have four Underground Railroad stations still standing, and 19 UGRR sites around Vandalia on a self-guided driving tour. This festival tells the story of black and white abolitionists working together to help over fifteen hundred fugitive slaves, now called freedom seekers, on their journey to freedom. Many went on to Canada, but

many stayed here and thrived. Their descendants still live here."

Running Wild at St. Patrick's Park

A FUN-d raising run and family fun walk to benefit St. Joseph County Parks will be held at St. Patrick's County Park on Saturday, August 18. Registration begins at 8 am; Run and Walk start at 9 am. There will be a 5K chip-timed run on a trail course; and a 3K Wacky Nature Scavenger Hunt Walk for all ages! Dogs are allowed on 6-ft leash, for the walk only. The event is organized by the Friends of Bendix Woods and Spicer Lake and St. Joseph County Parks. Proceeds will go towards park facilities, programs and bus transportation to the parks for school programs.

There will be awards for the top 3 finishers in each age category, disposable chip timers, great door prizes, and technical t-shirts available for order with pre-registration. Food and beverages will be available after the race.

Registration fee is \$20 per individual pre-registration for the 5K; \$25 day of event. 3K Walk registration is \$15 per individual pre-registration and \$20 day of event. Families registering for the Walk only can get the "Wild Herd" Discount for 3-4 participants, any age, \$35 pre-registration; \$40 day of event. T-shirts are available during pre-registration only for an additional \$9 each. Register and order by August 12 to be guaranteed a t-shirt.

For information or to register go to www.sjcparks.org. To volunteer to help with the event please call 574-654-3155.

St. Patrick's County Park is located on Laurel Road, just north of Auten Road in South Bend.

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REGIONAL NEWS

It's back-to-school time

Make sure vaccinations are on your back-to-school to-do list

Making sure your children are ready for the upcoming school year can be overwhelming. Shots, physicals, haircuts, new school supplies and swag. There's a lot to do and time always seems to move faster than we expect. With the beginning of school approaching, the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department (VBCDHD) is taking the opportunity to remind parents that vaccinations, hearing, and vision screenings are required by law for school-aged children.

Whether children are in child-care, home-schooled or attend a public, private, charter or religious school, they are required to be up-to-date based on their age for certain vaccinations recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/vaccines). Whenever children are brought into group settings, there is a chance for diseases to spread. Students must follow state vaccine laws in order to attend school. These laws are the minimum standard to help prevent disease outbreaks in school settings.



Vaccinations, hearing and vision screenings are required by law for all school-age children in Michigan.

Vaccine-preventable diseases, such as chicken pox, meningitis, pertussis (whooping cough) and others, are still experienced throughout Michigan. Children staying up-to-date with vaccinations is the best way to protect schools and communities from diseases that can cause unnecessary illnesses and deaths.

Vaccines aren't the only item on the back to school to-do list. Did you know Michigan law requires all chil-

dren receive hearing and vision screening prior to Kindergarten entry? Once a child is in school, free screenings continue on a regular basis. School aged children are screened for hearing in Kindergarten and grades 2nd, 4th, 6th and through referrals. Vision screens are conducted in Kindergarten and grades 1st, 3rd, 5th, 9th, at drivers training and through referral. An undiagnosed hearing and vision problem could

interfere with development and early detection and treatment increases children's opportunity to succeed in school.

Dental education and screenings are also offered for children throughout the school year. Permission slips will be sent home with children who attend participating schools. The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department is a partner in the prevention effort to ensure all children are protected for the start of the school. Families are urged to take advantage of VBCDHD's services as soon as possible to beat the rush for back to school immunizations, and hearing and vision screening.

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department provides immunizations, and hearing and vision screenings at the Dowagiac office and Hartford office by appointment. Immunization clinics are held in Dowagiac on the first and third Wednesday of the month and in Hartford every Thursday. For questions about your child's immunization status or to schedule an appointment, call (269) 621-3143. For additional information about VBCDHD and the services available, visit www.vbcdhd.org.

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REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

August 2, 4 - Auditions for 12 Angry Jurors, Barn Swallow Theatre, Edwardsburg, 228-6672

August 4 - Pancake & Sausage breakfast, 9-11 am, Cass Fellowship Bible Church, 64106 M-62, Cassopolis, 274-5726

August 4 - Passenger car/pickup tire collection, 9 am - Noon, Cass County Building (historic courthouse), 120 N. Broadway, Cassopolis (Proof of residency required)

August 6 -- Math Scoops! Ice Cream Math Club Begins, Club is designed for Kindergarten through 6th grade students, Free to join, Cass District Library 866-808-7323

August 7 -- Drummunity: Drum Circle Music Program, 1 pm, Interactive music program teaches rhythm for all ages! Free and open to the public, Cass District Library- Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

August 7 -- Drummunity: Drum Circle Music Program, 6 pm, Interactive music program teaches rhythm for all ages! Free and open to the public, Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

August 8 -- Mason/Union Art Contest Submissions Due Today, 5 pm, Art contest is open to all ages, Prizes for everyone, Contact the library for more info, Cass District Library- Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

August 9 -- Marimbamania: Music and Marimbas from Around the World, 1 pm, Fun music program for all ages! Free and open to the public, Cass District Library- Howard Branch, 487-9214

August 9 -- Marimbamania: Music and Marimbas from Around the World, 3 pm, Fun music program for

all ages! Free and open to the public, Cass District Library- Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

August 11 -- Summer Library Club Ends, Report your reading record by today to receive a t-shirt for participating in the Cass District Libraries summer club! Cass District Library- 1-866-808-7323

August 11 -- Mason/Union Art Contest Awards Party, 1-2 pm, Join us to see the entries in the art contest and see the awards presented to the winners. Cass District Library- Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

August 12 - Antique & Vintage Flea Market, Centerville, 715-526-9769, www.zurkopromotions

August 13-17 --- Lego Day Camp at Main Library, 10 am-12 noon, Limit is 20 kids, Call to register, Designed for kids in 1st grade and higher, Free to attend, Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

August 15 -- Card Making Class, 1-3 pm, Registration is required, Space is limited to 12 adults, Free to attend, Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

August 16 - Dorothy in Wonderland, Barn Swallow Theatre, Edwardsburg, tickets@barnswallowtheatre.com, 228-6672

August 16, 17 - Annual yard sale, 9 am - 3 pm, Cass Fellowship Bible Church, 64106 M-62, Cassopolis, 274-5726

August 16-19 - Dorothy in Wonderland, Barn Swallow Theatre, 22334 US-12, Edwardsburg, 7:30 pm Th, F, Sat, 2 pm Sun

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 18 - Fun-d raising run/walk at St. Patrick's County Park, South Bend, 574-654-3155

August 18, 19 - Lubeznik Center for the Arts Festival, Michigan City, IN, \$5, www.lubeznikcenter.org, 219.874.4900

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

August 20-24 --- Lego Day Camp at Edwardsburg Branch, 10 am-12 noon, Limit is 20 kids, Call to register, Designed for kids in 1st grade and higher, Free to attend, Cass District Library- Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215 August 25 - Blues, Brews & BBQ, Cass County COA, \$50, 445-8110

August 25 - Blues, Brews & BBQ, 5-9 pm, Cass COA, Cassopolis, \$50/pp, \$400/table of eight, 445-8100, heidip@casscoa.org

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 6-9 - Michigan Flywheelers' Antique Engine and Tractor Show, South Haven, www.michiganflywheelers.org

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 4, 5 - 2018 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel Grand Rapids (Airport), <http://www.canr.msu.edu/michiganlakes/convention>

October 13 - Andy Warhol exhibit, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN , 219-874-4900, lubeznikcenter.org

October 14 - Antique & Vintage Flea Market, Centerville, 715-526-9769, www.zurkopromotions

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

October 18, 19 - Lubeznik Art Festival, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN , \$5/day, 219-874-4900, lubeznikcenter.org

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



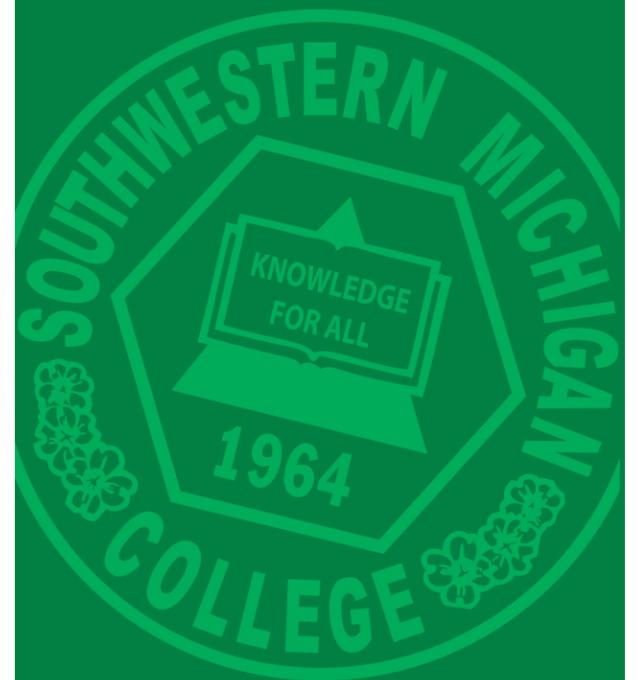
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LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

Happy August everyone!

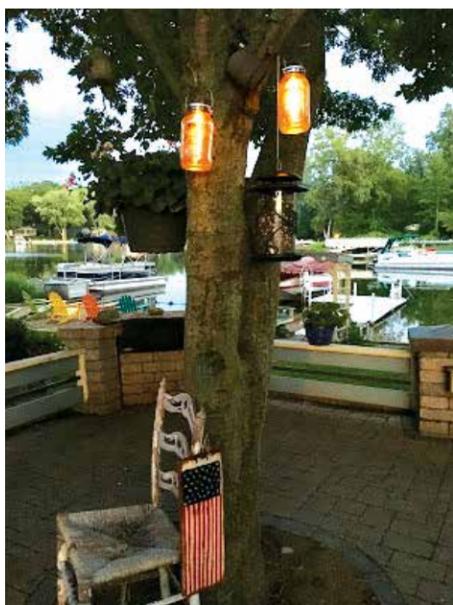
by **Jane Boudreau**

Hello Neighbors, and Happy August! Are you 'summered' out yet? 'Peopled' out? Ha! I sure am. I feel like it's my genuine right to sit back now, feet up, and read a good book or watch Netflix. Sometimes I'm really grateful when we have a rainy day, as I feel no guilt by not being out in the garden or taking the dogs for a walk. Between the heat and humidity, I just can't seem to catch the perfect day. Then again, I'm an ace at excuses.

I've weathered Memorial Day, the 4th of July, and we only have Labor Day to worry about. I say worry, because if you are the one with the lakehouse and beach, chances are everyone in your family wants to come to your place. And for that, my friends, you have to be on your toes.

I'm starting to feel that it's really not a necessity to have a spotless house for company. Once they come in and drop all 957 pieces of their belongings (one of my daughters even has a small duffel bag for her dog), your house will look like you have squatters living in it. I say just have clean bathrooms and lots of towels. Those basics will suffice and you can't be blamed for anything.

Both of my daughters used to visit, immediately spot a spider, fly or any type of insect, and start criticizing me and the state of my house. As if I personally laid my own spider eggs in my messy little web. Oh, How talented I am. For the love of God, we are in the country, next to the woods and on a body of water. Bugs are a fact of life. I will say gnats are another thing. You've really dropped the ball if you have a little swarm of gnats. Check for overripe fruit or something rotting in the trash can. You can and will be targeted for their existence.



The new concern is how clean the beds and linens should be. My routine is to wash all the bedding, bath towels, beach towels, kitchen towels, dishcloths, and throw rugs after everyone has left. Since my house can sleep fourteen, not counting anyone who crashes on the sofas, that's laundry that can take you right into the Christmas holidays. But I do it and then I'm ready when more guests visit.

The new thing with my fussy daughters is coming here and taking apart the made beds and rewashing the sheets and pillow cases. The first time my jaw just dropped.

"Everything is cleeeeeean!" I'd wail. Nope. Everything was washed 4 weeks prior and therefore everything had dust and who knows how many creepy crawl-



ers in between the sheets. When I complained to my husband, he laughed. Believe me, he said, they'll get tired of doing laundry in a New York minute. I wish I had a choice. One advantage at our house is that I can drop everything off the balcony down to the Great room and kick it into the laundry room. My own version of a laundry chute.



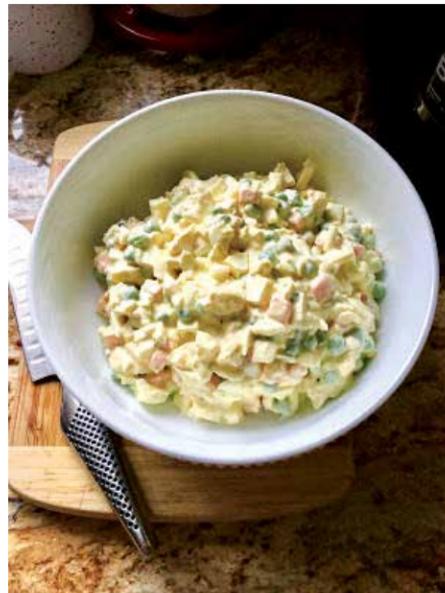
On some holidays we would have more company than we could deal with. Awhile back, my husband would take groups of kids and adults out on the boat for a spin around the lake. He'd come back and pick up the next group. He got really tired of being Captain On Call, and I didn't really enjoy being the cook, waitress, and maid on dry land. We started to accumulate water toys, and I wish I could say they were miniature sort that the kiddies get to play in the bathtub with. No, wave runners, kayaks, paddle boats, water boards--it was insane. It took the help of an engineer to create a plan for our garage to contain all of this stuff.

A few summers ago, hubby started picking up inflatables here and there. Some were as simple as an inner tube. And then you can get fancy with these huge inflatable monsters that can hold eighteen people, a refrigerator and private butler. Well knock me over with a feather, these toys were da bomb! We just sit back now and watch everyone laughing and thrashing in the water. And we don't have to spring for gas.

Okay, on to some recipes. I chose a few of my favorites that were simple, familiar, and perfect for this time of year. So get your scissors ready and start snipping.



years, I've changed things up many times. I always seem to be fighting the effects of excess liquid from either the veggies or dairy. It can leave a puddle in the bottom of your pie plate, or a soggy crust if you go that route. The last time I shared a quiche recipe with you, I recommended using a scant 1/4 cup of bread crumbs on the bottom of the pie plate to absorb the liquid. Another tip I have from trying over and over to get a light and fluffy custard, less, not more eggs will help you achieve that. I use no more than 4 or 5 eggs per 1 1/2 cup liquid (milk, half and half, or cream). After that I mix things up, but I would recommend at least 1 1/2 cup of cheeses. Following is the recipe I used for the quiche I made last week.



Jane's Gourmet Egg Salad

As much as I love using fresh veggies, and 99 percent of the time do, having a frozen bag of peas and carrots is a staple for me. You can throw them in anything and they are so colorful and bright, they make me smile. I think you'll like this variation of Egg Salad. I want you to know I don't add mustard as some do, so feel free to include that if you like.

Ingredients:

4 large eggs, boiled and peeled
1/2 c mayonnaise
2 celery stalks, finely chopped
1/4 c sweet onion, chopped
1 c frozen peas and carrots
1 t dried dill weed
S & P to taste.
4 large lettuce leaves

Directions:

Bring a small pot of water to a boil. Add the peas and carrots and cook for about 3 minutes until barely tender. Drain and set aside. Chop up the eggs, celery and onion. Add the peas and carrots to the mix in a large bowl. Gently fold in the mayo, adding the dill and seasoning as you mix it up. Adjust the mayo if necessary as well as the seasoning.

Arrange the lettuce leaves on 4 salad plates. Top each with the egg mixture in an even fashion. Serves 4.

Simple Crustless Quiche

I've shared quiche recipes a few times before, I simply love how you can switch around and use up bits of cheese and veggies that you have on hand. In this case I had leftover ham (of course, no ham bone to be seen), and veggies from a plate of crudities. In making quiche over the

Baked Ham & Veggie Quiche (crust less)

Ingredients:

4-6 eggs, beaten well
1 1/2 c half and half
Pinch of salt and nutmeg
1 T butter
1/2 onion, peeled and thinly sliced
1 small zucchini, cut in half lengthwise and sliced thin
2 c diced ham
1 1/2 to 2 c cheese, finely grated
1/2 c dried bread crumbs (optional)

Directions:

Whisk together the eggs and cream, salt and nutmeg, and set aside. Melt the butter in a small skillet and add the onion and zucchini. Sauté until the onion becomes slightly transparent, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat.

In a 9 inch pie dish, sprinkle the bread crumbs evenly on the bottom. Add the cooked veggies and ham. Top with the cheese. I used a variety; Muenster, Parmesan, and Swiss. Give the egg mixture another good whisk and pour over the cheese and veggies. A nice sprinkle of Parmesan over the surface makes it brown well and gives a nice crunch. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes. Let rest for 5 minutes before cutting. Serves 4.

I like making quiche as it is very economical, can be served as breakfast, lunch or dinner, and can be served hot or at room temp. You might want to double the recipe, slice it up into small squares, and serve as an appetizer.

Continued on next page. See:

JANE

JANE

Continued from previous page

Jane's Fish & Chips

I made fish and chips for dinner the other night. I love fish and know that it's healthy. Fried food is not so healthy but I figure the good-for-you fish might cancel out the bad grease. Sort of like ordering a diet pop with french fries. People laugh at that but I think it's a great balance. A win-win.

So ... save it for one of those days when you want something greasy and salty. Be prepared to spend about an hour cleaning up your stove top afterward. ;-D

Ingredients:

1 to 1 1/2 lb. fresh cod
1 egg swished around with a whisk or fork
1 1/2 t baking soda
2 c flour
2 t salt and pepper
1 to 1 1/2 c canola oil
2 T malt vinegar (optional)

Directions:

Cut pieces of cod into 4 pieces. Mix together flour mixture while you heat up the oil and vinegar in a deep pan over medium to high heat. Dip the fish in the egg and dredge in the flour mixture. Fry approximately 2 minutes on each side. Do not let them over-brown. Keep the thinner pieces of cod toward the sides of the pan. Remove to a plate and cover with foil until ready to serve.

My simple tartar sauce is a mixture of mayo, pickle relish and a teaspoon of fresh lemon juice. Play and taste...so fun.

For the chips I cut 4 medium size Idaho potatoes (after washing them) into 1/4 inch slices. Line a sheet pan with



parchment paper and brush the potatoes with a bit of canola oil...Sprinkle with a teaspoon of salt (add a bit more after cooking). Bake at 425 for approximately 20 minutes until tender, but watch closely.

Recipe serves 4. Enjoy!!!!

Bacon Wrapped Pineapple Kabobs

I made these for a Hawaiian luau party we went to last weekend. I liked that it could be served at room temp, and it traveled well with a tent of foil over it. Best of all, its just 4 ingredients!

Ingredients:

1.5 lbs. thick cut bacon, cut in half width-wise
1 fresh pineapple, peeled and cut into chunks

1 cup light brown sugar
Bottled Hawaiian BBQ sauce

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.

Since the pineapple is slippery, and the bacon is slimy, it will take a little practice to make these little nuggets, but fear not. You can do it. Hold a pineapple chunk in one hand and use the other to wrap the bacon slice around, pulling it tightly. Secure with a toothpick (soak the toothpicks in water for ten minutes so they don't burn in the oven). Press each piece down into the sugar to lightly coat and place on baking sheet. Continue with the rest of the pineapple chunks. Bake approximately 1/2 hour or until bacon is done. Serve with the BBQ sauce. Feel free to make your own but

store bought is so simple and tasty.

A gal at the party walked around with my tray and offered them to the guests. I was so happy to see everyone try them. I've never made anything like this before, but a blogger friend in Canada said they are a classic.

I'm going to wrap it up here, my column, not pineapple! ;-D I've been having a ball here at the lake since mid June with no end in sight. We've had a lot of company on weekends, and then I have peace and quiet on weekdays to sit on the beach and read while the dogs doze in the sun. I hope all of you are having a great summer. Try to keep the momentum going, you'll be sorry in the dead of winter! Hit some of those farmer's markets and eat watermelon and corn on the cob outside. Take long slow walks after dinner. Make a bonfire and count the stars. Turn off the TV and read a book. Stop texting on your phone and instead call an old friend. Most of all, cherish each day. These long ones are the best!



Jane Boudreau is a writer, blogger, and newspaper columnist in Chicago. She splits her time between there, Diamond Lake, and a little place in the mountains of North Carolina. You can contact her at blndy9@yahoo.com.



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* Information provided by the Southwest Michigan Association of Realtors (MLS). Sales of inland lake properties in Cass County, Michigan, from 1.1.12 to 12.31.17.

PASTA ITALIA CON CHEF DONATO

Salsa Verde with salmon or pork chops



by Chef Dennis Bamber

Salsa Verde is a piquant green sauce that I had for the first time in an Italian restaurant in Germany. The special that night was Bollo Misto, boiled meats with this sauce.

Once I tasted it, I knew I had to learn to make it.

This sauce is particularly good with pork, either chops, roast or tenderloin. It is also excellent with Flank steak or any type of beef. Whether the meat is grilled, boiled broiled, or roasted, this is a great sauce to serve with the meat.

Ingredients

5 tablespoons or more of finely chopped parsley
4 tablespoons of finely chopped capers
2 tablespoons of anchovy paste, or 8-10 anchovy fillets mashed

1 teaspoon of very finely chopped garlic
1 teaspoon of Dijon mustard.

1 teaspoon of red wine vinegar- (if using this for salmon or fish, substitute 2 tablespoons of lemon juice for the vinegar)

1 cup of olive oil

Directions

Add all the ingredients into a food processor and puree until smooth. Taste for tartness, if you want it more tart add small amounts of vinegar or lemon juice to taste. If too tart, or too runny, add a bit more parsley.

Serve on the side with your choice of meat.

Salmon with Salsa Verde

Remember to substitute the vinegar with lemon juice for fish.

You can grill or broil, bake the salmon and serve this on the side, or follow below what I did.

Directions

1. Put the salmon fillets on a large piece of foil.

2. Spread a small layer of the sauce on top of the salmon

3. close the foil and make sure it is completely sealed.

4 cook for 15 -20 minutes at 350 in the oven, or put on the grill, close the lid and cook for 15 minutes without turning.

5. Remove the fish from the oven or grill, wait a couple of minutes, open the foil, you can serve this in the foil or remove and put it on a plate.

6. Serve with extra salsa verde on the side.

~*Boun Appetito*



TO YOUR HEALTH!

When to save an infected tooth

As a practicing dentist, one of the most common responses I get from patients when I ask why we haven't seen them on a regular basis is, "Well, nothing was hurting, so I thought everything was ok." But, did you know that teeth don't necessarily have to be causing you pain to be in bad shape? Often times there is pain associated with deep cavities or fractured teeth and the pain is what brings our patients back in to see us, but there doesn't have to be. Teeth can be completely pain free and have major issues.

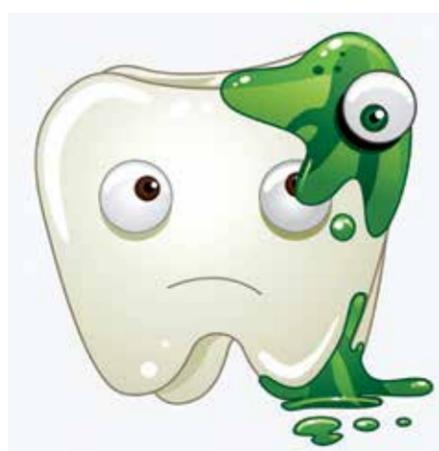
So, what does that mean for you, the patient? If you head in to your local dentist and during the examination process they tell you that you have a deep cavity that has affected the nerve you are left with two choices; one being a root canal and the other being an extraction. Under the right conditions one choice is to treat the badly damaged tooth and attempt to save it. This process involves removing the nerve of the tooth and it is called a root canal.

Most patients have heard of a root

canal, and almost everyone has heard a horror story or two about them. But, in the hands of an experienced dentist or specialist, a root canal procedure should not be any more painful than getting a filling done. The tooth is numbed and the cavity and nerve are removed, the internal aspect is disinfected, and the tooth is sealed and filled back in.

Afterward, it isn't uncommon for some soreness or tenderness in the area as the body heals and rebuilds where the infection was affecting the tooth and bone, but that is not always the case. When cared for properly root canal treated teeth have a very favorable long-term prognosis and the treatment is typically less costly than replacing the missing tooth if it is extracted.

Now there are circumstances where the outcome of a root canal would not be favorable due to lack of tooth structure, extensive cavities throughout the mouth, or an inability to properly care for the tooth after treatment. In those situations an extraction may be indicated to relieve pain in the area of the infected tooth. The



tooth or area around the tooth is numbed and the tooth is loosened and removed. It is not uncommon during this procedure to feel pressure and hear noises, but it should not be painful similarly to the root canal procedure.

Removing the infected tooth will relieve the symptoms and treat the problem, but it will result in a missing tooth that will affect the surrounding teeth over the course of your life. Spaces from

missing teeth will cause the teeth around them to shift or move vertically to fill in the gaps, which can lead to loss of the surrounding teeth over time. Therefore, when extracting teeth is it important to only do so with a plan of action prepared. Options include replacing the missing teeth with an implant, a bridge, or a partial denture/flipper to fill in the space, or to plan on extracting teeth until it is time for a complete denture.

As a general rule of thumb being proactive is less costly than being reactive. So, please visit your local dentist prior to having pain and see them for regular check-ups so that cavities can be caught early enough for traditional fillings and major work can be avoided. However, if you are in pain or need more extensive work we would be happy to help you and treat your dental needs.

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

BUSINESS & FINANCE

When it rains, sometimes it pours!

By Charlie Retherford
Kemner-Iott Benz Agency
of Cass County

Everybody enjoys a rainy day, occasionally. Don't they? Not my beautiful Cocker Spaniel, Clyde! He thinks I should carry an umbrella for him if there is the slightest chance that a rain drop might fall within a foot of him; of course, the same does not apply with snowflakes! Speaking of rainy days and umbrellas ... we all need to plan for those future "rainy days" and keep an "umbrella" handy...just in case we need it.

Just like the umbrella that protects you from the elements, an umbrella insurance policy can shield your personal assets from large liability claims.

What is an UMBRELLA policy? It is liability insurance that comes into play after the liability limits on your home or auto policy have been exhausted OR in cases where you need broader coverage than your home and auto policy offer. It may offer coverage for legal expenses even if you are not found to be liable.

You may be wondering how to know if you even need an umbrella. Do you have assets? Do you do anything that has the potential for causing physical or emotional damage to someone else or their property? Do you plan

on having a future income? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you need a personal umbrella!

1.) Figure the value of all your assets: cars, house, investments, retirement accounts, checking and saving accounts. Everything you own is subject to being lost if you are found to be negligent and the amount of damages exceed the limits on your insurance policies.

2.) You are not a risky person, so you will likely never do anything to cause damage or harm to others ... let's think about this ... There are obvious risks like swimming pools and trampolines (do the neighbor kids come over and jump on the trampoline when you are not home?). Do you serve on any community boards or organizations? (Just because you are a volunteer and generally do not have to speak in public does not mean you are insulated from the consequences of decisions made by the Board or events sponsored by the organization.) Do you have any pets? Are you a landlord? Do you drive an automobile? What happens if you or a family member is involved in a catastrophic accident? Do you own or use a boat, 4-wheeler, golf cart or any other type of recreational vehicle? Do you invite all your friends over to have a house painting party in exchange for pizza and beverages? The possible liability exposures are endless in today's

world.

3.) You may think you don't really have that many assets; at least not enough to exceed the liability limits on your base policies. But did you know that settlement amounts can actually include your future earnings as well as your current assets? Let me say that again. Lawsuits can target money you haven't even made yet!

So, as you can see, anyone can benefit from the coverage offered by an UMBRELLA policy. And after reading about the personal side of Umbrella

coverage, I'm sure you can understand why business owners with much larger risk exposures should add Commercial Umbrella coverage to their insurance package.

Connect with us today to determine your specific risk factors and learn more about how you can protect your current and future assets with an Umbrella Policy. We would be happy to help!

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REAL ESTATE

The housing market in Cass County

June non-waterfront home sales increased 51 percent and pushed the overall home sales in Cass County up 31 percent (76 vs. 58) when compared to sales in June 2017. This was true for overall sales year-to-date with a 10 percent increase in home sales (313 vs. 285).

Waterfront home sales in June 2018 were the same as in June 2017 at 23. At the end of the first half of the year, there was only 1 more house sold (83 vs. 82).

The overall average selling price dropped 3 percent in June 2018 even with waterfront prices increasing 5 percent and non-waterfront prices increasing 12 percent (\$214,781 vs. \$221,799). The median selling price for all homes in June was the same both years at \$154,500.

The average selling price for waterfront homes increased to \$386,238 from \$368,692 in June 2017. The median selling price for waterfront homes rose 21 percent (\$349,900 vs. \$290,000).

The average selling price for non-waterfront homes in May jumped 12 percent to \$140,375 from \$125,269 in June 2017. The median selling price was up 33 percent to \$119,900 from \$90,000 in June 2017.

The median price is the price at which 50% of the homes sold were above that price and 50% were below.

In Cass County, the number of bank-owned or foreclosed homes as a



part of all closed transactions in June decreased to 5 percent from 12 percent in May. The highest percentage in the month of June previously was 16 percent in 2014. Year-to-date the highest percentage was 16 percent in February.

For comparison the number of bank-owned or foreclosed homes as a percentage of all transactions in Berrien, Cass and the westerly 2/3 of Van Buren Counties reached a new low percentage of 6 percent. In February

we were at 16 percent. Back in June 2009 the percentage was 36 percent. Across the area at the halfway point of the year, the number of houses sold dropped 6 percent from a year ago (1595 vs.1694). The inventory of houses

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DISTRICT 2

- Louie is a long time resident of Cass County and owner of MAEAP certified Diamond Lake Orchard.
- After a successful career in private business, served as Cass County Administrator and head of Road Commissions in Cass and Berrien Counties.

"STOP KICKING THE CAN DOWN THE ROAD"

- In the last 14 years Cass County's unfunded pension obligation has increased from 1.7 million to over 9 million dollars.
- After more then 15 years we are still without a realistic plan for the Old Courthouse.
- Elect a successful businessman with a proven ability of taking on and solving these and other tough issues.

Primary Election, Tuesday August 7th

REAL ESTATE

for sale continued to fall behind each month when compared to the same month in 2017. At the end of June, the inventory was down 9 percent. We had 1,798 houses for sale for buyers in Berrien, Cass and the westerly 2/3 of Van Buren counties. At this level there was 5.9-months supply of houses for sale. At the end of May there was 1704 houses for sale. In 2010, the inventory was 16.9-months supply or 3679 houses.

The year-to-date average selling price increased 8 percent (\$225,547 vs. \$209,735). The year-to-date median selling price climbed 5 percent (\$158,000 vs. \$150,000).

Increased selling prices kept the year-to-date total dollar volume up 1 percent over 2017 (\$359,747,465 vs \$355,292,735).

Comparing house sales in June 2018 sales were down 5 percent from June 2017 (367 vs. 388). The average selling price at \$231,009 was 3 percent higher than the June 2017 average selling price of \$225,091. The median selling price rose 4 percent (\$172,000 vs. \$165,250). The total dollar volume dropped 3 percent (\$84,780,334 vs. \$87,335,485).

June average and median selling prices and the year-to-date average and median selling prices were the highest

prices in our year-over-year comparison back to 2006. The year-to-date total dollar volume also was the highest in the comparison.

Overall in SWMI, the mortgage decreased to 4.73 from 4.75 in May. Last year in June, the rate was 4.03. Nationally, the Freddie Mac mortgage rate in June was 4.55 down slightly from 4.56 in May for a 30-year conventional mortgage.

This data reflects home sales across Berrien, Cass and the westerly 2/3 of Van Buren counties and should not be used to determine the market value of any individual property. If you want to know the market value of your property, please contact your local REALTOR®.

expiration date to put pressure on the buyer to make a decision. The most important thing at this stage of selling your home is to avoid making emotional decisions.

When Buying a Home...

You found it! Your dream home! Now you want to make an offer. Take a deep breath and consult with your Realtor. You can trust your Realtor's advice on price, contingencies, and other terms of the deal. But ultimately, it's you who decides what the offer will be — and you who knows what your financial and lifestyle limits are. Buying a home means mixing strong emotions with business savvy, so focus on your limits and needs. Determine your top offer price based on what you can afford and have been approved by a lender. Don't be surprised if the seller makes a counteroffer. It is just part of the process that can go back and forth until all parties are satisfied with the deal.

To view properties that are for sale in your local area go to www.michric.org and click on "Property Search". The Southwestern Michigan Association of REALTORS®, Inc. is a professional trade association for real estate professionals who are members of the National Association of REALTORS®, and ancillary service providers for the real estate industry in Van Buren, Berrien and Cass Counties. The Association can be contacted at 269-983-6375 or through their website at www.swmar.com.

When Selling a Home...

When you receive an offer, you can accept it as-is, reject it outright, or make a counteroffer — a move that opens negotiations with the buyer. Unless you're being offered an amount equal to or above the full listing price, many buyers expect you to make a counteroffer — which is why a lot of people make an initial offer that's lower than the asking price. It is not to insult you but a starting point in negotiation. This is when you should sit down with your Realtor and family to prioritize what is important. Is it money, a longer closing date, fewer contingencies, etc. Once you have determined your strategy, your Realtor will have a baseline to prepare the counteroffer. Your counteroffer should have an



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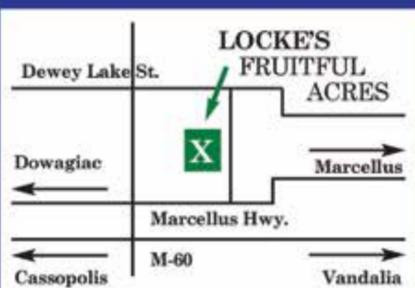
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OUR CHILDREN

Ready for a new School Year?

by **SANDY FLEMING**

Wow, summer has just flown by, hasn't it? In just a few short weeks, the buses will be back out on the roads and kids will be hitting the books once again. Hopefully your child will be ready for success in a new grade level by the end of August. There are lots of things you can do right now to help the process along, though.

Attitude is Everything

Kids take their cues from parents when it comes to attitudes about education. Take a good long look at your own attitudes about learning because chances are very good that you will see your own feelings being reflected back at you. Sometimes it's almost as good as a mirror.

In order to be successful at school, kids need to have a few core beliefs and attitudes built in almost from the beginning. If your child's attitudes are not what you'd like them to be, there's no time like the present to work on improving them. Here are a few keys to look for:

- **Confidence:** Does your child believe that he or she can learn and be successful? Belief is half of the battle! If confidence is lacking, children (and people in general) often adopt defeatist habits. They think, "Of course I can't do this because I (am) ____." Nip those in the bud! If you need to, encourage your youngster to say positive affirmations aloud each day. It sounds corny but it really does help. Look right in the mirror and say things like "I can do this!" "I have skills!" "I can learn!" "Today I choose to ____."

- **Priority:** Is learning a priority at your house? How do you show this to your child? Ideally, school work comes first. If the grades are low, the extra curriculars are put on hold until they stabilize. Help the kids learn to make time for homework and for reading, writing and math outside of class assignments.

- **Effort:** Anything worth doing is worth putting effort into. Think of how much time and effort many kids put into sports. Hours and hours of practice each week, and games that are never missed unless the kid is sick or injured, right? Can you say the same thing about effort put into school work? Many kids would be sitting the bench for lack of conditioning and skill development if they played sports in the same way that they trained their minds. What can you do to help your kids step up their game this fall?

Practical Help for Common Issues

Even with the best attitudes, though, school can be challenging for many. Here are some suggestions to get the school year off right even before it begins.

Start by adjusting the household routine BEFORE the first week of September. Most families fall into a relaxed schedule with later bedtimes and lazy mornings during the summer. An abrupt change will be hard on everyone. Instead, try starting a few weeks early and gradually moving the morning wake up call and the bedtime by fifteen minutes every few days.

Shrink the screen time. More and more studies are coming to light that implicate too much screen time (videos, social media, games, television, etc.) in academic struggles. You're the parent. You've probably taught them all kinds of basic self-care skills already, like brushing their teeth and using seatbelts. It's time to teach moderation with the video games and computers as well. One way to do this is to make screen time a reward for other kinds of activity. In other words, when kids complete chores, practice math facts, write, read, or do other healthy things, they can EARN small amounts of screen time. It doesn't take much effort on your part (just take the devices away if you need to, or take away the charge cords!), and the benefits are huge.

Organize for success. Develop a workable system for your kids to be as independent as possible with things like choosing outfits for school and keeping track of backpacks and homework. You can completely eliminate the morning chaos with a bit of pre-



planning.

Teach independence. Even the very young can learn to set an alarm clock to get up on their own. This is definitely not a skill to wait to teach during the senior year of high school, when college or work will force kids to fall into adult expectations. They will do so much better if you get them started now. It's never too early! Even simple things like packing their own lunches (the night before if necessary), and fixing simple breakfast foods can help.

Use a planner. Help your student get into the habit of writing down the details of assignments and commitments in some organized tool, such as a planner or a calendar. This is another life skill that kids will quickly grow into needing, and you can't start too early! For long assignments and test studying, make sure they break the task down into manageable chunks instead of leaving everything until the last minute.

Building Blocks for Academic Success

Finally, you can get the school show off to a good start by checking and maintaining important academic skills. Every kid should go into the new school year confident that his or her basic skills learned in the previous grades are intact and ready to be used and refined. And it's not too hard to do a basic assessment of core school skills.

To find out about math from elementary through grade 7, visit Math Mammoth's website (https://www.mathmammoth.com/complete/placement_tests.php) for comprehensive year-end math tests. See if your child can complete the one for the grade just finished last spring. If you find holes, be sure to review or reteach the concepts before they head back to class.

Reading is easy to quickly assess, as well. Find a book that is at the level of the grade your child just completed (your librarian can help, or check a comprehensive site like Accelerated Reader's Book Finder (<http://www.arbookfind.com/default.aspx>) for reading

grade levels for many familiar books. Now, choose one your child has not yet read. Have him or her read aloud from a page with lots of print in the middle of the book. Keep a count of the words that he or she misses, stumbles on, or hesitates over. If there are more than five on the page, you should consider seeing a professional for more detailed assessment to nip a reading problem in the bud.

Writing is not too tough to assess, either. Just have your child write! By way of general expectations, Children who have completed first grade should be able to write a sentence or two with approximated spelling. By the end of second grade, kids should be able to write a few sentences on one topic, with ending punctuations, capital letters, and relatively accurate spelling. Third through fifth graders should produce paragraphs (5 or more sentences, on topic, good topic sentence, good grammar and punctuation, closing sentence). The middle school crowd should be able to write 3 paragraphs on a topic, with good grammar, good spelling, and varied sentence structure. High schoolers should have the mechanics of writing down pat, plus the piece should be five or more paragraphs, and organized appropriately to the genre they are writing.

If you see gaps that seem too large, consider talking to a teacher or a tutor for some additional advice, or look around online for a program designed for homeschooled children and get them some extra practice.

In any case, you will have gone a long way towards making education a priority and showing the kids that it's important. Keep monitoring and encouraging, and helping out when needed, and your child will quickly go to the head of the class!

Sandy Fleming is a writer and tutor living in Edwardsburg. Visit her website at <https://sandyflemingonline.com>, and get information about activities and programs to help your child succeed in school!

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John Proos, Michigan Senator
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and at
michiganvotes.org
for Miller and Pagel.

Fred Upton, U.S. Representative
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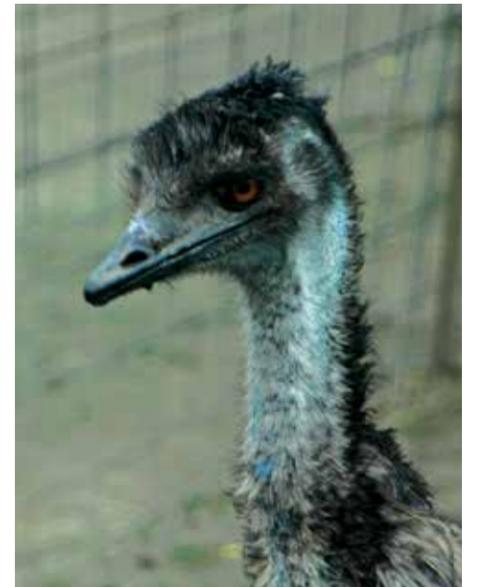
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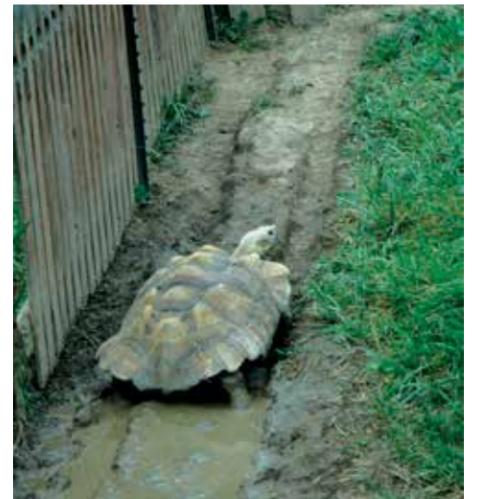
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For the Record

Black Pine Animal Sanctuary is located at 1426 W. 300 N., just west of Albion, IN, about an hour southeast of Cass County. Professional Animal Retirement Center (PARC), Inc., known locally as "Black Pine Animal Sanctuary" provides refuge to nearly 100 displaced, captive-raised exotic animals for the rest of their lives. Residents include big cats, bears, monkeys, reptiles, parrots, and more. Tours and other educational programs are offered year-round. The park is closed to the public on Wednesdays (for veterinarian checks). Entry costs vary based on programs, but generally run from \$4 to \$10 per person. Parking is free. For programs, directions and more information see <https://www.bpsanctuary.org/>



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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.

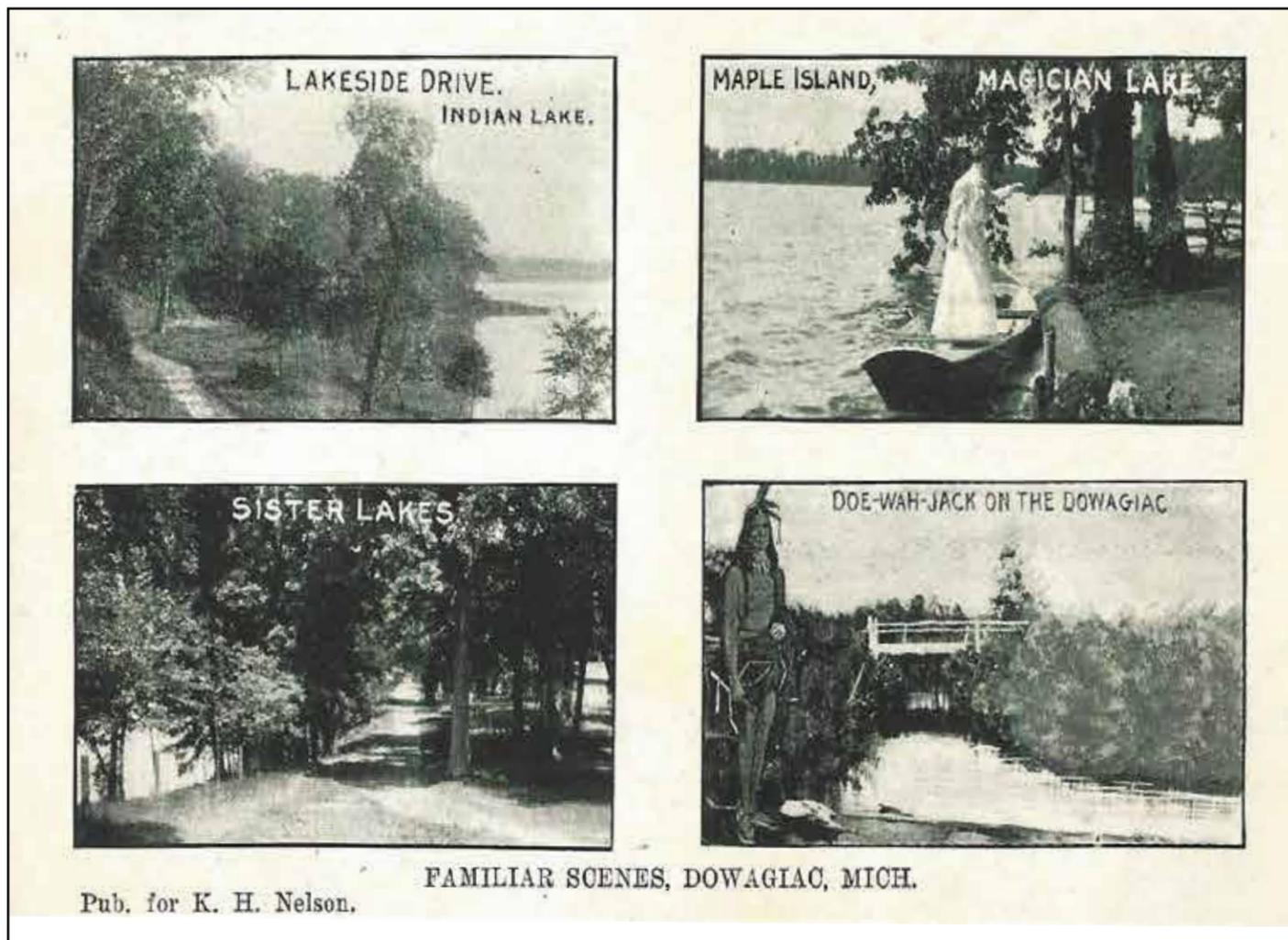
Floyd and his wife Donna started collecting post cards more than 20 years ago, and since Jerdon Real Estate specializes in marketing lake property, it was a natural fit that Floyd's interest be directed to the lake cards. The collection now numbers many thousands.

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.arcadiapublishing.com

In this edition of Neighbors we have selected postcards showing



images of Dowagiac, 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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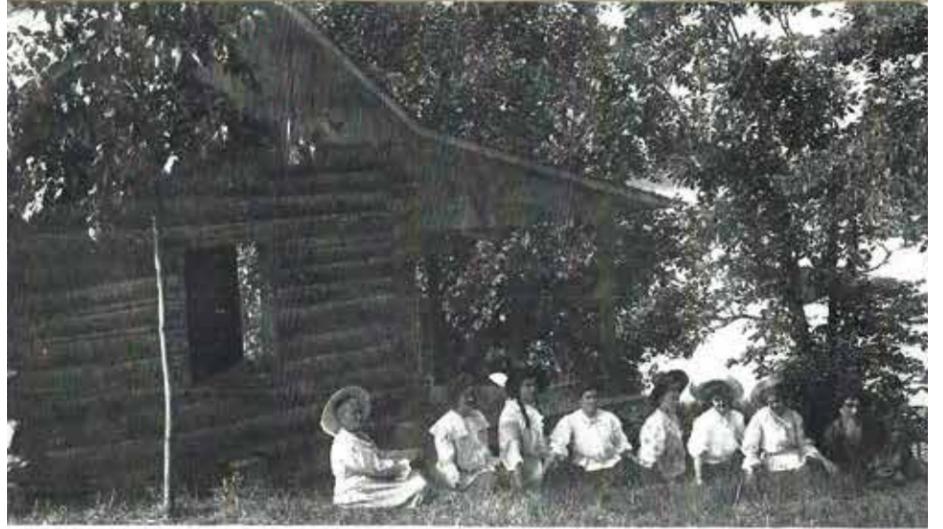
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HISTORIC POSTCARDS

More Dowagiac images next month!

Next month's edition of Neighbors will feature more postcards showing historical images of Dowagiac and the nearby area. Be sure to check out the September edition of Neighbors!

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NATURE NOTES

Green herons, king birds and warblers

Provided by Cass District Library
Local History Branch

Four green herons have fledged their nest this week, located in an evergreen tree in the backyard of Bob and Pat Conrad in St. Joseph.

The accompanying photos were taken by Bob Conrad, who said: "We kept looking around and all at once we saw that in the darkness of the tree there were wings flying every which way. We believed that there had to be a nest inside this tree and it was well camouflaged."

In our region, green herons nest in trees being ten to twenty feet high, and near water. Evergreen trees are preferred because such trees offer excellent cover for the nest and young. If trees are absent, such as on the Great Plains, green herons will nest in emergent vegetation of marshes, such as cattails.

Green herons are typically about one and a half feet in length with a wing span of about two feet. Their larger relatives are the great blue heron, great egret, and American bittern.

The species nests commonly over Michigan's Lower Peninsula, and data shows they are most abundant in the southwestern portion of the state. The first green heron nest in Michigan's Upper Peninsula was found in 1975 and is currently considered an uncommon but annual breeding species.

Unlike the great blue heron which solely nests in colonies, called heron rookeries, pairs of green herons may nest either solitary or in small colonies.

Three eggs are an average number for a green heron clutch. Both adults take part in the feeding of the young, for approximately a month after they leave the nest.

Green herons will feed both day and night on fish, invertebrates such as crayfish, and on insects usually in or near shallow water.

The best places to find green herons in Cass County are river banks of Dowagiac Creek, along North Shore Road near Juno Lake, and Lake LaGrange.

In Cass County green herons depart between Labor Day and September 20, though some individuals can be found sparingly through October.

The species winters along our Gulf Coast, south through Mexico, Central America to northern South America.

The first spring migrants appear locally by April 20 with the majority of Green Herons arriving during May.

Kingbirds, warblers

The eastern kingbird is a common summer resident in Southwest Michigan, preferring relatively open areas to live rather than forested areas. Look for the kingbird in old fields, edges of lakes and marshes, roadsides and other open spaces.



Green heron fledglings in St. Joseph at the home of Bob and Pat Conrad, July 2018.

Eastern kingbird is a species of flycatcher and depends almost entirely on insects for its diet, although occasionally will eat fruit. Thus, the kingbird migrates to Columbia to northern Chile for our cold months.

Kingbirds return to Cass County by the last few days of April, with northbound migrants peaking in middle of May.

Nesting begins as soon as the adults

around Labor Day and are seen during migration through the middle of the month. Occasionally seen into early October.

Anderson was out at Chickaming Township preserve and found a pair of chestnut-sided warblers which are apparently nesting at the park, located off Warren Woods Road.

Chestnut-sided warblers are common spring and fall migrants in our region, but as a nesting species they can be difficult to find, at least in our neck of the woods.

This small songbird lives up to its name by having chestnut colored streaks on its side, along with a distinctive yellow crown. Both the male and female look similar in appearance, although the females plumage is a bit duller compared to the male.

The species prefers old fields and meadows which have young trees scattered about. The pair at Chickaming Township Preserve likely have a nest concealed in a small tree or bush about three or four feet above the ground.

One of the factors contributing to low numbers of breeding chestnut-sided warblers in Southwest Michigan is the lack of old, overgrown fields. Most open space is converted to row crops or manicured lawns. The best places to find the chestnut-sided warbler locally during the nesting season are Sarett and Love Creek Nature Centers, and Chickaming Township Preserve. They all maintain old fields and meadows necessary for not only the chestnut-sided warbler but also many other species of birds and animals.



Left: Eastern kingbird at Tower Hill, Warren Dunes State Park, Brad Anderson.

Above: Male chestnut-sided warbler on nesting territory at Chickaming Township Preserve

arrive back on nesting territory, usually in May. The nest is constructed out of grasses and other plant material and often lined with feathers or hair. Three or four eggs are typical for an eastern kingbird clutch, and only one brood per year.

Kingbirds begin to depart Michigan

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LOCAL HISTORY

The hardships of pioneer life in Cass County

Provided by Cass District Library
Local History Branch

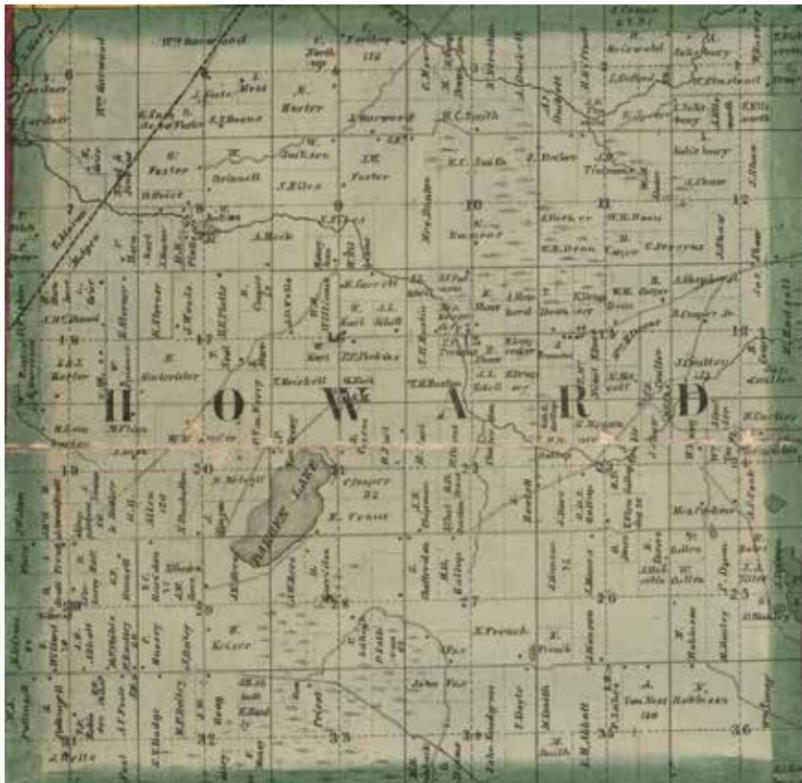
Hardships and Incidents of a Pioneer Life in Howard Township, as told by John F. Coulter, who lived most of his life in the area. Provided by Cass District Library's Local History Branch.

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.

It was in the year 1844 when the citizens of the vicinity of my father's concluded it was about time to erect a schoolhouse, as they had by that time quite an interesting progeny around them that would appear better and make better citizens if they received knowledge of books.

The project culminated in the building of a log schoolhouse on my father's farm. Father gave the logs, for timber was not much of an object at that time, as everybody had "log to burn." He also gave the site and the neighbors turned out, for no one was lazy, and put up the house. The logs were hewn on one side. It was covered with shingles. Some in building their houses covered them with "shakes", but not the kind of "shakes" they had with the chills.

The schoolhouse was not built very high and that made it handy for the scholars to look out and see everybody that passed. There was a great big fireplace in one end of it, with a stick chimney daubed over with clay



Howard Township 1860
Courtesy Library of Congress.

mud, so it would not burn out as soon as the back logs did.

The lowness of the house was handy, too, for the teacher, for when the scholars turned him out at Christmas time in order to make him treat, all he had to do was to climb upon the house and cover up the chimney and smoke them all out. They very soon capitulated.

For seats, we had to slabs with the side up, or heavy planks two or three inches thick and about 8 or ten inches wide, and as long as the moral law with two big auger holes in each end in which legs were inserted. Back of the seats were long desks to write upon and keep our books.

The desks were generally made of polar woods, and were soft enough to pass a jack knife. If caught at it the teacher claimed to right to carry the knife for a while, much to the poor boy's discomfort. We had no cushions for the seats, so it was very much like resting upon a rail fence. It gave us a very good appetite to play outdoors.

This schoolhouse was the third temple of learning erected in Howard Township, the one on Yankee Street being the first. That was a frame structure and painted red. One at first might think they were more aristocratic than we were but that wasn't so. I think they used boards because they didn't have the logs to spare, and painted it red, because they could get that kind of paint cheap.

The second schoolhouse was built close by Uncle Joe Harter's, Samuel Thompson now owns the farm. That house wasn't a very pretentious looking structure so we called it "Slab City;" but then some very nice fellows received most of their education there and went out into the world and made No. 1 citizens.

The one at Coulter's answered its purpose well for 10 years, when in 1854 it gave way to a very good brick one, which was built by Solomon and David Hartsell. It has since been torn down and superseded by a good frame one.

To be continued...



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 Dixie Ann File..... 20.....n/a
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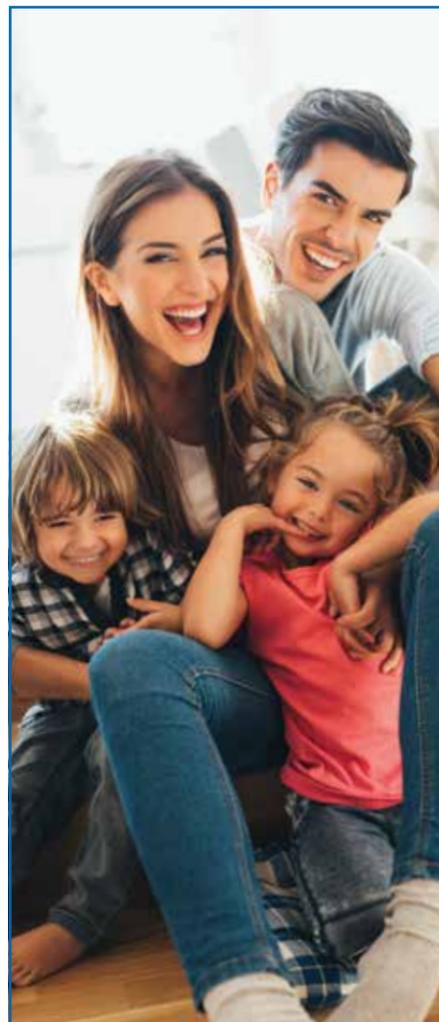
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THE LAST WORD

Pretty smart for a 9 year old ... good thing she's cute, too

As cute as a nine-year-old can be, my granddaughter Aley looked me straight in the eye and offered a bit of a patronizing correction.

"There are only eight planets, Pop Pop," she said. "Pluto's too small ... they decided it can't be a planet any more."

It was the Saturday after the Fourth of July holiday, and Aley and I, along with several others involved in the annual 'FFF' ... forced family fun ... of holidays at the lake, were sitting on the deck at my house, waiting for the fireworks after the sun went down.

As we all waited and chatted, Aley noticed a bright "star" in the west sky, directly in front of us.

"Is that Mars?" she asked, innocently. "It's pretty bright, and Mars *IS* our closest neighbor," she told me in no uncertain terms.

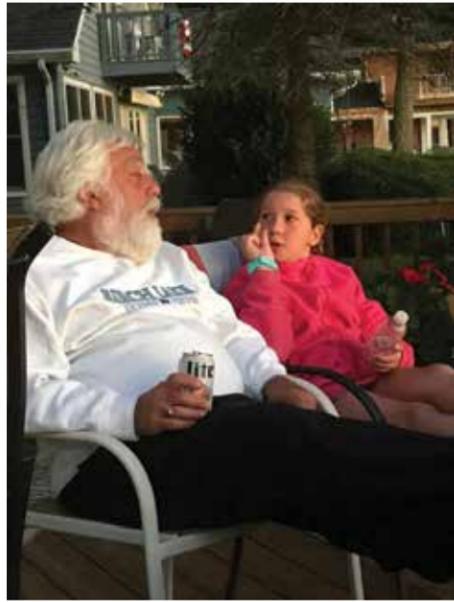
"You're pretty smart for a nine year old," I told her. "Do you know what the other planets are in our solar system?"

A grandfather question, admittedly, but birds gotta fly, fish gotta swim ...

Aley scrunched up her nose, thought for a minute and named them in order from the sun.

"Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Mercury."

Ok, you'd think that after having bright grandchildren for nearly 18 years (grandchildren are so much smarter than their parents were at their age, and so much more fun!), I should be used to one of them reeling off the answer to a question that I certainly wouldn't have known at age nine and probably would struggle to try to answer now.



"You're pretty smart for a nine year old," I told her again. "But didn't you forget Pluto?"

Aley's eyebrows flew up in a combination of amazement and the realization that she'd found a "gotcha" moment.

"Didn't you know?" she asked in a rush. "They kicked Pluto out of the solar system. It was too small!"

She giggled and gave me one of those granddaughter smiles ... the kind of smile that subtly says "I'm a lot smarter than you think ... and I'm darned cute, too."

Ok, I was impressed. I vaguely remember hearing some nonsense about Pluto being de-planetized by whoever in the world has the authority to de-planetize a planet ... but I had no idea that my nine year old granddaughter (the one who's mostly upside down due to her obsession with gymnastics) would be so

into space science.

I smiled a "Pop Pop" smile and asked innocently, "How in the world can you remember the order of the planets?"

Aley gave me that smile again. "My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nachos," she smirked.

I blinked. Two or three times.

"Whaaaaat?" I asked, not sure I caught all that.

She repeated the mnemonic, obviously very pleased with herself.

I blinked again. "If there were nine it would have been My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nine Potatoes," she smirked.

Who is this kid, I wondered?

"That would have worked with 'New' potatoes," I tried lamely to stay up with her.

"It works better with Nine," she said dismissively. "That way you can remember that there are only eight since Pluto's not a planet any more."

I blinked again, wondering why the fireworks hadn't started yet.

"Don't you feel sorry for poor Pluto?" I asked. "If I lived on Pluto and it got de-planetized, I'd be pretty upset."

She raised that eyebrow again ... I'm pretty sure that ice cream in the freezer and hopes of what might be coming next Christmas were the only thing keeping her from blurting that my question ranked among the five most inane questions anyone ever asked.

"No one lives on Pluto," she informed me with the kind of certainty that only a smart kid can have. "It's only a large rock ... it's too small to be inhabited, and it's so far from the sun to get any warmth. Anyone living there would

freeze to death in seconds."

I blinked a couple more times. It was my "ok, you got me kid" blink.

"Didn't they teach you about the planets in the old days, when you were young?" she asked without a trace of sarcasm in her young voice.

"You're pretty smart for a nine year old," I told her.

She beamed. I could almost read in her eyes what she was thinking ... Pop Pop, I could teach you a lot about the planets and all kinds of other new stuff.

Out over the lake the first of the fireworks exploded in the air, dashing the forbidden images of my hand bopping the side of her head flashing through my mind.

"OOOOHHHH," we all chanted. "AAAAHHHH," came the chorus.

Out of the corner of my eye I noticed Aley was splitting here attention between the display and my checking my reaction.

Gotta admit, she's pretty smart for a nine year old.

Good thing she's cute, too.

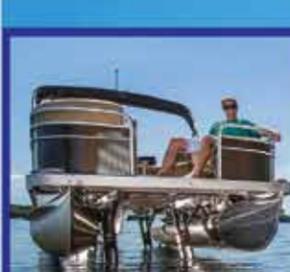




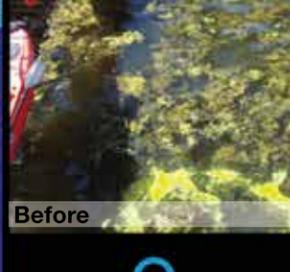
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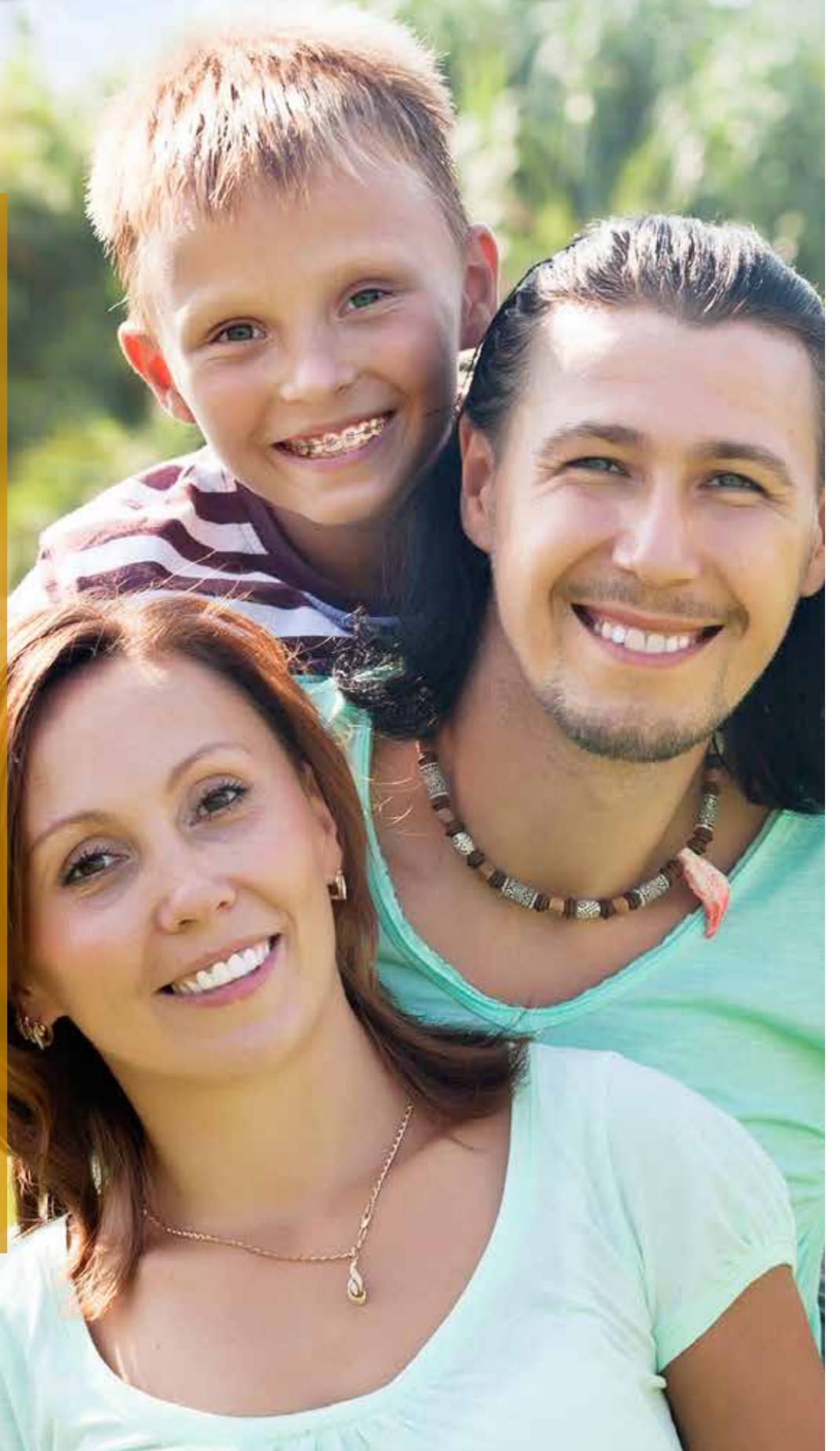


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