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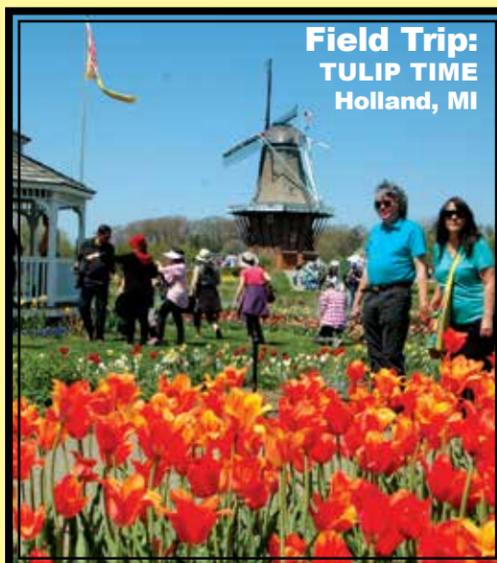
A regional newspaper freely distributed in Dowagiac, Cassopolis, Edwardsburg, Vandalia, Jones, Marcellus, Decatur, Union, Sister Lakes, Three Rivers, Elkhart and Mishawaka, with home delivery at Diamond, Eagle, Birch, Corey, Donnell, Indian, Magician, Shavehead, Baldwin, Long, Dewey, Cable, Juno, Christiana, Painter, Paradise, Stone, Buck, Lewis, Big & Little Twin and Bair lakes



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Neighbors is published monthly from March through December.

To contact Neighbors
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(269) 476-1680

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REGIONAL NEWS

Salad Luncheon

On Wednesday, June 20, from 11 am to 1 pm, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Edwardsburg will host its annual salad luncheon.

Cost is \$8 for all you can eat (children under 10 free); desserts included and take out is available.

Our Lady is located at 23832 U.S. 12 East, Edwardsburg. For more information contact Nancy Krempec, Secretary at 699-5339.

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.

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.

Beckwith to present Gin Game

The Beckwith Theatre will present the dramatic comedy, *The Gin Game*, by D.L. Coburn on June 15-17 & June 29-July 1. Friday & Saturday performances will begin at 7:30 pm, Sunday matinees will begin at 2 pm. Tickets are \$15.

In the Pulitzer Prize-winning and Tony Award-nominated dramatic comedy *The Gin Game*, Weller Martin and Fonsia Dorsey strike up an acquaintance and begin to play gin rummy. As the game progresses, intimate secrets of their lives are revealed as they search for each other's weaknesses in both the game and life itself.

Underground Railroad Days set for July 13-15

The Village of Vandalia and The Underground Railroad Society of Cass County, MI (URSCC) will partner for the 9th Annual Underground Railroad Days the second weekend in July.

Friday, July 13, at 7 pm "Opening Night" at Ross Beatty High School in Cassopolis will feature local filmmaker Sally Jo Connor's documentary about the infamous 1847 Kentucky Slave Raid that made its debut at last year's festival.

Saturday and Sunday, July 14 and 15, from 11 am to 5 pm in Vandalia will feature guided tours of Kentucky Raid sites, Underground Railroad (UGRR) related presentations and displays, Civil War 102nd Colored Troops Living History Encampment, and period music and crafts in Milo Barnes Park. A soul food dinner (\$10) will be served all day in the Vandalia Village Hall. Family events and craft booths will be situated on the Vandalia Village Green.

The Bonine House, Victorian home of UGRR stationmasters James E. and Sarah Bogue Bonine, will be open for tours, as will their Carriage House across the street where fugitive slaves (called freedom seekers) were sheltered.

URSCC plans to open the Bogue House during Underground Railroad Days, July 14 and 15. Visitors can go into the attic where freedom seekers were hidden, and learn how the house figured in the 1847 Kentucky Slave Raid. The house will remain open through September, along with the James E. Bonine House and the Bonine Carriage House, just down the street. Bogue's daughter, Sarah, married



James E. Bonine in 1844 and they too were stationmasters on the UGRR.

The Bogue House was the home of the most famous Underground Railroad (UGRR) stationmaster in Cass County, Quaker Stephen Bogue. He arrived here in 1830 and started Friends Anti-Slavery Society in 1843. His home at Crooked Creek and M-60 in Cassopolis sheltered many fugitive slaves, now called freedom seekers, on their journey to safety in Canada. The Underground Railroad Society of Cass County (URSCC) is pleased to announce that the Stephen and Hannah Bogue home has been donated to the organization by the Pleasant View Church of Christ, on whose property it sets.

Pleasant View Pastor Jeff Oliver said "It's our pleasure to donate the Bogue house to URSCC. The Pleasant View Church of Christ first purchased the house and property from Sidney and Leta Ritter on September 6th, 1969 so the church could relocate from Vandalia where the congregation was first established in 1839. They would build their

first building as the Vandalia Church of Christ in 1854. That original structure still stands. The congregation erected and dedicated its current building in November, 1972, and changed its name to Pleasant View Church of Christ. The Bogue house has been used as a parsonage from that time until now. The Church no longer needs the parsonage and is excited and proud to donate it to URSCC to be restored to an 1830's historic home to carry on the story of the Underground Railroad in Cass County."

Stephen Bogue became a prominent citizen, very well regarded by the community. He donated land and platted the Village of Vandalia in 1851. His descendants still live nearby and are pleased to see their ancestor honored in this way.

More about the Underground Railroad in Cass County, URSCC, and a complete schedule of events can be found on the URSCC website www.urscc.org. Admission, parking and all events are free, donations are appreciated.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Gin Game runs for two non-consecutive weekends. Call 269-782-7653 to reserve seats; tickets are purchased at the box office at the time of the performance.

This event is sponsored by Indian Lake Hills Golf Course, Indian Lake Pub, Olympia Books & Deck the Halls; opening night wine reception sponsored by Domaine Berrien Cellars; Second Friday beer tasting sponsored by Final Gravity Brewing Company. THE GIN GAME is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Wax Museum presentations

The Victorian Bonine House at Penn Rd and M-60 in Vandalia, Mi, home of Underground Railroad (UGRR) stationmasters James E. and Sarah Bogue Bonine, will host two annual

Underground Railroad Wax Museums on June 6 and June 13.

Students from Portage and Cassopolis research and adopt characters from the Underground Railroad and act them out for visitors. It is a unique and charming way to learn the local and regional history of the UGRR.

Stacey Bonine's 4th grade students from Lakeview Elementary in Portage MI will present their program "The Underground Railroad--Cass County and Beyond" on Wednesday, June 6 from 10:15-11:30 a.m. Students will be stationed around the Bonine House and visitors can go room to room, press the 'button' on each character and hear his or her story. Be sure to get there in time to hear every student.

Cassopolis students from Sam Adams and Ross Beatty schools, coached

by Felomina Patton and Cindy Yawkey, will present their program on Wednesday, June 13 from 10:30-noon. This group elected to do something a little different this year. They will present the story of the 1847 Kentucky Slave Raid through the characters that played a part in that infamous event. Visitors will gather in the living room of the Bonine House for performances on the half hour. Those who arrive after the performance has started can tour the Bonine House until the next one.

All are invited to both of these events, admission and parking are free. More about the UGRR in Cass County MI can be found on www.urscc.org

Edwardsburg museum programs

The Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum's 2018 season continues on

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REGIONAL NEWS

Thurs., 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 an open house at 3:30 pm on Sunday, Aug. 19. During that event, Barton, will sign copies of her books. 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

Flywheelers plan swap meet and flea market

SOUTH HAVEN - Have a passion for second-hand shopping and bargain hunting?

You will find plenty of that during the Michigan Flywheelers Museum's Swap Meet & Flea Market where over 160 sellers will be offering everything from antiques to tractors.

The event will be held Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9, rain or shine.

Some of the items that will be for sale include produce, baked goods, jewelry, furniture, tools, toys, clothing and more.

"It's a huge outdoor yard sale," explains Patrick Ingalls, museum president. "You can find just about everything imaginable."

This year marks the 22nd anniversary for the event which is a fundraiser for the non-profit.

"We started this event as a way to raise money to support the museum," explains Ingalls. "The money raised from this helps with restoration projects, operation costs and exhibit development."

Because there is no pre-registration, Ingalls said that they never know what people will be bringing in to sell. Although it started as an event for vintage tractor and engine collectors to



buy, sell and trade parts, it has evolved into one of the largest annual outdoor flea markets in the area, he said.

Held rain or shine, hours are 8 am to 4 pm both days. Admission is \$2 per person. Children 12 and under are free with an adult. Please note this is a pet-free event.

For those interested in selling, cost is \$15 per vendor for both days. Pre-registration is not required. Set-up for vendors starts on Thursday, June 7 at 8 a.m.

Camping is available during the Swap Meet. Cost is \$10 per night per

camping unit plus daily admission per person. Electrical hook-up is \$10 extra. There is a \$15 registration fee for anyone bringing in personal transportation vehicles, such as golf carts. For more information: 269-639-2010, michigan-flywheelers@yahoo.com or Facebook.

Michigan Flywheelers is also 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.

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

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REGIONAL NEWS

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.

The Cassopolis Class of '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.

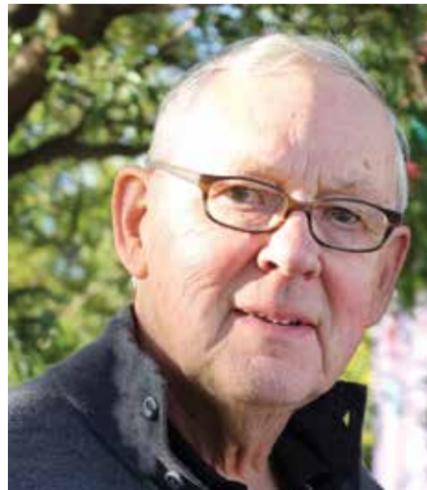
Saturday night will be at the COA, on Decatur Road and M-60. Renewing of old friendships will begin at 4 pm. A gourmet dinner will be served at 6 pm. Alumni from other classes are welcome. For information on reservations or questions, contact Greg McCully, 580 0434 or gmccully@comcast.net.

Life Care Ambulance honors Anderson, DeVries

Larry Anderson and Robert DeVries were honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards from LifeCare Ambulance on April 20. Both Anderson and DeVries were key contributors in the establishment of Cereal City Emergency Medical Service (EMS) in 1983, which would later become LifeCare Ambulance.

DeVries was a founding board member of LifeCare Ambulance and also served as the Board Chair from 2005 to 2008. As a program director of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Mr. DeVries used his national and international expertise in healthcare administration to benefit the local community while helping to establish LifeCare Ambulance. His vision of ensuring that the community had a financially stable, high-quality ambulance service that is a collaborative partner in the local community allowed LifeCare to become a premier EMS provider.

LifeCare Ambulance is the second ambulance service that Anderson played a crucial role in creating. Anderson was instrumental in the formation of Huron Valley Ambulance (HVA) while serving as the vice presi-



dent for St Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. Two years later when Anderson became the Chief Operating Officer for Leila Hospital in Battle Creek, he once again saw the need to create a stable local ambulance service for the community. His vision and dedication to local EMS helped to create two robust ambulance services that continue to serve their communities today.

"Both Bob & Larry have had a

major influence on the level of quality that our community receives from its ambulance service. Their leadership and commitment to collaboration with our community stakeholders created a culture of excellence and safety throughout our organization," stated LifeCare Ambulance CEO Ron Slagell.

LifeCare Ambulance is grateful for their outstanding contributions to our community and EMS.

Free Fishing Weekend

The 2018 Summer Free Fishing Weekend will be held Saturday, June 9 and Sunday, June 10. As part of these weekends, all fishing license fees are waived for two days with residents and

out-of-state visitors invited to enjoy fishing on both inland and Great Lakes' waters for all species of fish during their respective open seasons. Please note all other regulations still apply during that time.

To encourage involvement in Free Fishing Weekends, activities are often offered in communities across the state. If you would like to plan an event, check out Michigan.gov/freefishing for information and resources to help.

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REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

June 4 - Summer Story Time Begins, Mondays at 10 am, Fun filled story time for ages 3-5, Mondays in June, Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

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

June 6, 13 - Underground Railroad Wax Museum, Bonine House, Penn Rd and M-60, Vandalia; June 6 from 10:15-11:30 am; June 13 from 10:30-noon

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 - Summer Library Club Begins, All Cass District Library locations, Register for the summer program beginning today at your local CDL branch! Cass District Library- 1-866-808-7323

June 9 - Super Fun Color Run, Run/Walk begins at 9 am at the COA Outdoor Track, Registration opens at 8:15 am, forms are available online and at your local branch, Questions? Call Stephanie at Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

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

June 9, 10 - Summer Free Fishing Weekend, Michigan.gov/freefishing

June 13 - Movie: Sherlock Gnomes, 1 pm, Free popcorn and water provided too, Cass District Library- Howard Branch, 487-9214

June 15-17 & June 29-July 1 - The Gin Game, Beckwith Theatre, Friday & Saturday performances at 7:30 pm, Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$15, Dowagiac, 782-7653

June 17 - MI Notable Author Heather Shumaker, 1 pm at Main Library, Don't miss Heather Shumaker, author of Saving Arcadia, speak and sign book, at this afternoon of first-rate storytelling! Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

June 18 - Computer Coding for Kids (Class 1 of 8), 10 am at Howard Branch, Call the library to register for this Kids Coding Class, limited space, 8 week class meets on Monday mornings for ages 9-14, Cass District Library- Howard Branch, 487-9214

June 19 - Marble Magnets Craft, 1 pm at Howard, Drop in to the library to make a craft between 1-2 pm, free and open to the public. Cass District Library- Howard Branch, 487-9214

June 19 - Marble Magnets Craft, 3 pm at Edwardsburg, Drop in to the library to make a craft between 3-4 pm, free and open to the public. Cass District Library- Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

June 20 - Our Lady of the Lake annual salad luncheon, 11 am to 1 pm, \$8 23832 US 12 E., Edwardsburg, 699-5339

June 20 - Marble Magnets Craft, 1 pm at Mason/Union, Drop in to the library to make a craft between 1-2 pm, free and open to the public. Cass District Library- Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

June 20 - Marble Magnets Craft, 3 pm at Main Library, Drop in to the library to make a craft between 3-4 pm, free and open to the public. Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

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

June 28 - Silent Art Auction Round Oak Revisited, 5:30-7:30

June 28 - Wildlife Safari, 10 am at Main Library, Don't miss this live animal show! Always amazing, free and open to the public! Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

June 28 - Wildlife Safari, 1 pm at Mason/Union Branch, Don't miss this live animal show! Always amazing, free and open to the public! Cass District Library- Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

June 28-July 1 - Peter Pan, Barn Swallow Theatre, 22334 US-12, Edwardsburg, 7:30 pm Th, F, Sat, 2 pm Sun, \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, 12 & under \$5

June 29 - Wildlife Safari, 10 am at Edwardsburg Branch, Don't miss this live animal show! Always amazing, free and open to the public! Cass District Library- Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

June 29 - Wildlife Safari, 1 pm at Howard Branch, Don't miss this live animal show! Always amazing, free and open to the public! Cass District Library- Howard Branch, 487-9214

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

July 7 - Birch Lake Fireworks; dark

July 13 - Underground Railroad Days opening night, Ross Beatty High School, 7 pm.

July 14, 15 - Underground Railroad Days, guided tours of Kentucky Raid sites, Civil War Colored Troops Encampment, Milo Barnes Park, Vandalia, 11 am - 5 pm. Soul Food dinner all day, Vandalia Village Hall, \$10, Bogue Home open for Tours, www.urscc.org

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

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

July 24 - 5 pm - The National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting, Super Buffet, Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families welcome. For information, call Jean Rowe at 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

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

August 25 - Blues, Brews & BBQ, Cass County COA,

\$50, 445-8110

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

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

Risotto with asparagus

by Chef Dennis Bamber

Risotto is a unique Italian way of cooking rice. Risotto can be made with almost any ingredient, shellfish, vegetables, herbs, cheese. Here in Michigan, with asparagus season, is one of many ways to make risotto.

Here are a few pointers for making risotto.

1. Plan on about 30 minutes to make a good risotto, and serve it immediately.

2. The broth should be lively, simmering but not boiling, the pot with the risotto should be about a medium heat. Too hot and the rice will be soft outside and chalky inside; Too low of a heat, and it will become mushy.

3. As you add the broth a ladle at a time, continue stirring from the bottom, when the rice dries out, add another ladle.

4. After 20 minutes, add less broth at a time and taste for doneness.

Italian risotto is like pasta, cook it until tender but al dente, firm to the bite

This serves 4 as a main course or 6 as a side

Ingredients

1 pound fresh asparagus,
2 cups of uncooked Arborio Rice
6 cups of broth- use 2-3 cups of chicken broth and 3 cups of the water you briefly cooked the asparagus in
1 small finely chopped onion or shallots
3 tablespoons of olive oil
6 tablespoons of butter
1/2 cup of dry white wine
1/2 cup of grated Parmesan cheese

Directions

1. Trim the heavy bottom part of the asparagus and toss.

2. Bring 4 cups of water 2 tablespoons of salt to a high heat in a pot and add the asparagus for a short time. You want the asparagus to still be chewy. It will finish cooking in the



risotto. Taste it after a few minutes. You do not want it to be mushy.

3. drain but save the asparagus water, add to a sauce pan with the 3 cups of chicken broth

4. bring the broth to a simmer and cut the asparagus after it has cooled into 1/2 inch pieces

5. In a heavy casserole type of pot, add half the butter and the oil and saute the onion until soft. The heat should be medium to medium high

6. Add the risotto and stir for 2 minutes to coat the risotto

7. Add the wine and cook and stir until the wine evaporates

8. Now beginning adding a ladle of the broth at a time while constantly stirring.

When the rice starts to dry out, add another ladle of the broth, barely covering the rice.

Keep stirring because the rice will release its starch and form a creamy base.

9. After about 20 minutes, add the

almost cooked asparagus and continue cooking, stirring and adding more broth

10. Add the cheese and the rest of the butter, stir and taste for doneness and if you need to, add salt.

11. The risotto is done when it is tender but still has some chew to it, al dente.

12. Serve immediately in bowls and pass extra Parmesan if desired.

~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!

What can you do about sensitive teeth?

There it sits; a delicious bowl of ice cream from your favorite ice cream parlor, but the thought of indulging fills your mind with dread and shivers down your spine. No, it's not from the calories, but just the thought of something cold touching your teeth.

If this sounds familiar, you might be one of the over 40 million Americans that suffer from tooth sensitivity. This sensitivity can be caused by a number of reasons, including, but not limited to: cavities, cracked or fractured teeth, gum disease, worn teeth, or exposed root structure due to gum recession.

In a normal, healthy tooth, there are a number of layers. You've probably heard of the enamel, the protective outer layer of the tooth. It is also the part of the tooth that lies above the gum line. Under the gums, another protective layer is present covering the roots called cementum. This layer not only helps protect the root but also is deeply involved in the repair of our teeth.

Underneath both enamel and cementum is the dentin layer. The dentin is comprised of small tubules which allow hot, cold, or acidic stimuli from foods to travel to the center of the tooth where the nerve resides. When the dentin layer loses the protection of either the enamel



or cementum, that is when hypersensitivity can occur.

There are several ways to help combat hypersensitivity. For milder sensitivity, simple techniques like changing your

brushing technique and routine can have a positive impact. Hard bristle toothbrushes and aggressive brushing techniques can cause an increase in tooth wear.

The toothpaste we use can also have an effect on sensitivity. We all want a brighter, whiter smile, but sometimes whitening toothpaste can actually make our teeth more sensitive. There are desensitizing toothpastes available that can help prevent an irritating stimulus, like hot or cold, to reach the nerve of the tooth. It may take several uses for this type of toothpaste to be effective.

For hypersensitivity beyond mild discomfort, your dentist can provide a number of treatment options that can help provide relief. These can include applying fluoride gel, placing a crown or protective filling, and in some cases of extreme sensitivity a root canal may be necessary.

Every tooth is different and only your dentist can best decide the necessary treatment for your hypersensitivity. Don't live with tooth sensitivity and having to avoid certain things. If tooth sensitivity is causing you problems, visit your dentist today to find the best solution for you so you can go back to enjoying your favorite foods, like mint chocolate chip ice cream!

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

LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

June: the perfect month of summer!

by **Jane Boudreau**

Hey Neighbors! If you are reading this then June is here! Yay! I've always thought it was the perfect month of summer. Mild temperatures, clear blue skies, the vibrant colors of flowers popping up everywhere and the lush green grass, trees and plants. After June has come and gone we can feel entitled to stay inside with the air conditioning running, the sprinklers on outside, drinking ice tea and watching game shows. Our dear and gentle friend, June, has headed out and its up to us to sail on into the dreaded dogs days of summer. But for now we are having fun and I love a good time!



Do you have a lot of planting going on or are you one who has perennial plants that come back every year to reward you with their faithfulness? I've gotten in the groove of planting them over the past ten years or so and I could kick myself for not having done this sooner. I never realized how planting them would free up my time for years to come and that they would multiply and spread over time. I've learned how to dig up these plants and divide them to fill in other garden spaces. How economical is that? Don't forget free flowers for your vases indoors!

Of course you may want pops of color here and there other than garden beds and that's when we have beautiful annuals to rely on. The petunias you see in this picture are a variety that really spreads out, you can barely see the pot. My husband loves his boxwood hedges and I love pots of flowers wherever I can sneak them in. Pretty colors on your patio and deck can transport you right into the middle of a gorgeous garden without the work and weeding. We have a very large patio at our lakehouse and these are some of the things I've learned over the years about planting flowers in pots:

1) Buy good potting soil. Yes, spend a few extra dollars because you can reuse it from year to year. In the fall remove the spent flowers and the soil around its roots. You can then store the pot with the remaining soil and the following spring add a bit more, mixing up well. If storage space is a premium, empty the soil into a large plastic container, maybe a large storage bin with a lid from a Dollar Store and just keep it next to your shed or in the garage until spring. Then you can stack your pots to save space.

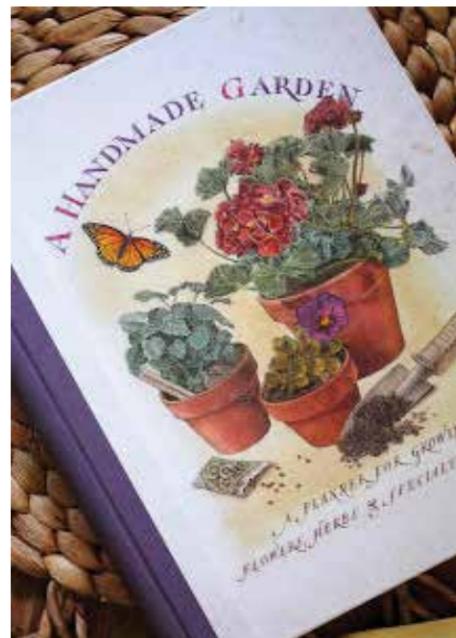
2) Pots. I love simple clay or ceramic pots but they dry out very fast and that mean more time and money watering. If you are a traditionalist, find a smaller plastic pot that will fit into the clay pot snugly. Voila! Your plants stay moist and no one will see the plastic as the flowers spill out.

3) Arrange your pots in groups, one here and there just won't have the same impact. This not only applies to the surface of your space, but on tables as well. Odd numbers work well, I'm not sure why, but they do. As far as the

effect you want to achieve, you can arrange them by coordinating the colors of the flowers or by the shape and size of the pots. Use your imagination.

4) Height is everything when using planters near your seating area(s). Unless you are an elf you aren't going to see your pretty blooms sitting on the ground even when sitting. Metal plant stands can be found just about anywhere and very inexpensively, so elevate a few pots. I am really loving urns now as well. For the longest time I thought they were too expensive (not true, try Amazon.com) and that they would require about 40 pounds of potting soil. No, no, Nanette! Stick something, anything down into the pot to take up space; a large rubber ball or a few small ones. I've used small plastic flower pots and even empty plastic coffee containers, upside down of course. Anything to take up room so you don't waste soil. Plastic is your best bet, you don't want anything that will mold or leach out any chemicals (I plant a lot of veggies in large containers).

5) Buy a bag of hardwood mulch and scatter some on the soil in your pots soon after planting. You'll keep moisture from evaporating and therefore save time and money.



At this time of year I'm really at the mercy of my planner. You can find these books anywhere but if you want a wide choice to suit your purpose and style, again, check out Amazon. I didn't have any interest in gardening until I was married and had kids. I figured if they were going to be outside playing all day so was I. :-D My mother didn't garden nor my grandmothers. But I found I thoroughly enjoyed getting my hands and knees dirty. The seed catalogs that arrived in the winter had me making lists and diagrams. I went to the library and read up on everything from simply throwing a handful of seeds into the ground, to making compost. And I learned to push myself. I have allergies but I took a little pill to hold them off while I enjoyed my time outdoors. I have a bad back but I've learned to use a cart for heavier items and to take breaks for stretching. Once you learn the right ways to use your body you can actually strengthen your core muscles, and by doing that my back has improved. Just be easy on yourself.

I'm rambling. I like a planner because I'm not all that great with identifying perennials that pop up just by recognizing the leaves (or my waning memory). Now I have a record of my plantings. If something doesn't work well, I make a note of it. The other way around, too. I

take pictures, print them at Walgreen's for 4 cents a piece and tape them in so I can be reminded how well they did. If you can get a book with folders that's a plus, too. You may want to keep the picks with instructions or empty seed packs.

I'm very much a garden enthusiast as you can see. I like to gather information, and I love a pretty setting. But ... I can be veeeeeeery lazy so I keep my work quite simple and I think you'll know what works for you. Next month I'll talk garden beds. That a whole other story.



There's nothing I like better than spending a summer afternoon driving down the old dirt or gravel back roads to wherever they take me. Look at this perfect Michigan sky and the corn ... must be after the 4th of July as it's definitely knee high. It reminds me of growing up on the prairies of Illinois with wheat fields as far as you could see. But I have a hidden agenda. I look for yards sales, barn sales, junk at the end of a driveway if I really must confess! I love old and dusty, vintage and battered. I really enjoy finding new purposes for pieces of furniture or odds and ends and I like bringing something from way back when back to life with some fresh paint and then a little distressing with sand paper to keep that 'old' feeling. It's all out there waiting for you in the country. I'll share more as time goes on.



One day while taking a drive in the country I spotted what looked to be like birdhouses hanging on a wood post fence. I pulled into the driveway and there was a man sitting there strumming his guitar. He wasn't old by any means but he had the longest darn beard I've ever seen. And just as much as I like to take what's around and give it a new breath of life, he was the same. He made birdhouses with scraps of wood, tree branches a nice touch of leather. Most of the leather was from old horse reins so it was really cool to have this sort of history.

Anyway I bought this birdhouse. We hung it up in late fall so the earliest birds come spring could spot it and sign the lease. Well, long story short, we didn't take much notice of the birdhouse until that May. I was looking at how intricate and stable that nest was, how it fit so compact and perfect above the ... what? The crazy birds built their nest on top of the house! When we were not scratching our heads in disbelief, we were laughing hysterically. Some friends and neighbors offered possible reasons for this clear refusal to respect our hospitality. The

birds were the 'outdoor' type. They loved to sleep under the stars. They were actually house guests and there was a family living inside (there wasn't). We never got a look at the birds but we wager it was a species that was too large for the opening. I am keeping an eye on who decides to rent it out next. And whether they choose to share the rooftop.

There's a lot more to think of when we begin to spend more time outside. This is about prevention of sun damage and also a little pampering. Men, you may find some of this helpful. :) And yes, that's yours truly above after a recent cut that I badly needed.

First, protection. I know you know the scoop. Sunscreen. I've been pretty good about it over the years but one thing I could never get used to is wearing sunglasses. I'm paying the price for some extra lines around my eyes that I don't see my sun glass wearing friends having. But it's never too late. Wear them.

I've always hated putting goop on my skin after using my favorite body wash in the shower and a spray of perfume before heading out on a summery day. We can now get sunscreen in a spray formula and I'm loving it. In particular, Coppertone Sport, a long time respected product that you can find in your local drugstore. With an SPF of 100, I really can't imagine anyone being harmed by the rays. Redheads take note! Another fave is Acure Organic which is a brand offered by the people who make products such as Method and Mrs. Meyer. Finally, The Honest Company provides a safe and gentle sunscreen spray that's great for kids as well. Ditch the cream. You can cover lot more area with a spray and keep your hands clean, too.

When it comes to keeping my face moisturized and safe from the sun's rays I am loving Cera Ve products which are pretty new and tops with my dermatologist who treats me for eczema and atopic dermatitis. Their facial lotion has a sunscreen in it and they have other skin-friendly products like shower gel and my favorite, make up remover cloths. Quick, quick quick. Find all of these at your local drugstore as well.

Finally, I love a good hair mask. I know, we're out having fun in the sun and you're acting like you are at a spa. But the heat from the sun makes a hair mask work overtime. I use Macadamia Natural Oil Deep Repair. You can find it at Drugstore.com. It smells heavenly. Don't be shy ... comb it through your hair and you'll look like you just jumped out of the shower, lake or pool. Or ... you can tell your friends or neighbors that you love deep conditioning your hair. Maybe they'll want to try it! Most of all, I hope I'm making YOU want to try this! :-D

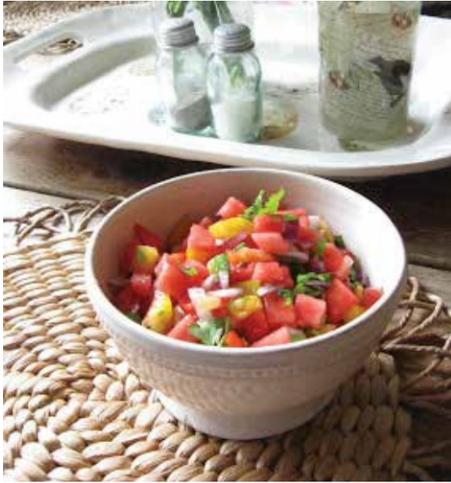
I love having a recipe for you, one that celebrates the season and fits into your menu plans and entertaining. You are going to love this Watermelon Salsa. I have a fancy grocery store nearby that sells eight ounces of mango salsa for \$6.99. My recipe is going to give you more than you need. Just refrigerate it and come up with other uses (tacos, topping for chicken or pork, mixed in with rice or served in a salad, just to name a few). I really hope you tear this out of your paper. Stick it on your fridge to remind you to pick up the ingredients. I brought it to a Mother's Day event and it was devoured. Here you go:

Continued on next page. See:

JANE

JANE

Continued from previous page



Watermelon Salsa

1/2 seedless watermelon, cubed small (about six cups)

1 yellow pepper, seeded and diced
1 red pepper, seeded and diced
1 jalapeño, seeded and diced
1/2 red onion, chopped small
1 large palmful (about 1 cup) chopped cilantro, stems removed
1 lime, halved and juiced
1/2 teaspoon of salt & pepper each

Toss the fruit and vegetables together in a large bowl along with the cilantro. Squeeze the lime over, add the salt and pepper and stir well. Chill for at least 2 hours. Serve with tortilla chips.

Serves a mammoth crowd.

I think this makes for a nice spring salad, light for lunch, or doable for dinner. I had a loaf of good artisan bread, and we used globs of butter instead of the traditional Italian olive oil and Parmesan mixture for dipping. A contrast of the two recipes.

This is a really nice salad or main dish that can be served hot or at room

temperature. It's a lot easier than it looks. I changed the recipe tremendously based on what I thought would yield much more flavor, and to eliminate some unnecessary steps. This is my version.



Pan Seared Scallops with Bacon and Spinach

2 slices of bacon, cooked and crumbled.

1 T reserved bacon drippings
2 large shallots, diced small
2 cloves garlic, diced small
1/2 lb. fresh scallops, coarsely chopped
1 12 oz. package of fresh baby spinach
Juice of 1 lemon half
1 T olive oil combined with 1/4 t balsamic vinegar

In a large skillet heat the reserved bacon drippings. Sauté the shallots for about 2 minutes over low heat. Do not cook until they are wilted, you want a little crunch. Add the garlic and cook an additional minute. Add the scallops and stir until cooked through, about 2 minutes. Remove mixture from pan and keep covered and warm. Add 1/2 of the spinach to the pan and add the lemon juice. Toss until barely wilted. Add the remaining spinach and the balsamic mix-

ture. Toss gently until heated through but not wilted--again you want a slight crunch. Remove the spinach to 4 salad plates. Top with the warm bacon bits, shallots, and scallops. Garnish with a lemon wedge if desired.

Serves 4

I think this makes for a nice spring salad, light for lunch, or doable for dinner. I had a loaf of good artisan bread, and we used globs of butter instead of the traditional Italian olive oil and Parmesan mixture for dipping. A contrast of the two recipes.



Chicken, Sweet Sausage and Veggies

A quick recipe and then I'll wind things up. Sometimes chicken breasts can be so unappealing. I know there are a thousand ways to make them but I think I only know of three, especially if I want the chicken to be moist and have a lot of flavor to liven it up. So I made this up the other night and I'm just going to sum it up quick for you as I don't think you need to measure much. Let's call it

Chicken with Sausage and Peppers.

I started by browning four boneless, skinless chicken breasts in an ovenproof skillet which has a tight fitting lid to be used later. Do this with about two tablespoons of olive oil. I then layered red onion, green peppers and about three chopped garlic cloves. Seasoned this with a nice palmful of dried Italian herbs (basil, oregano, rosemary, or a mix ... Emeril has a great one). I also added some red pepper flakes for kick. Top the whole mess with ground Italian sausage just scattered over, about a half pound. Cover and bake at 350 for about 30 to 40 minutes. Serves 4.

This was such a great combo of flavors and the juices from the sausage guarantee a very moist chicken. You can have a side of pasta and salad as a side dish. We loved this. Keep the recipe on hand!

I'm getting ready to come up to the lake, hopefully straight through until late fall. It used to be weekends in the summer, now it has evolved to more time here than Chicago, and I'm happy with that. I do miss family and friends, but it's so great to be in the country, enjoying the fresh air. I just had back surgery, so I'm sort of creeping around trying not to trip on anything. I'm just about three weeks out of it and trying hard not to bend doctor's orders, but if there is a will, there is a way!

Happy Summer to all! If you happen to drive by and see me, Milo and Layla, give us a wave! Until next time ...

~Jane

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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.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Renters insurance for college students

By Charlie Retherford
Kemner-Iott Benz Agency
of Cass County

It seems like only yesterday your son or daughter was in first grade, playing T-Ball, getting their driver's license, going to prom, and meeting their friends at the local ice cream shop (without you) after school. Now, suddenly, it's time send them off to college.

Now comes the fun part, shopping for clothing and furnishings for the dorm, not to mention all the necessities like a laptop and a phone. How do you protect all those items, so you don't have to pay for them again if something unfortunate happens? Will your homeowner's insurance provide protection to all their possessions while they're away at school?

The short answer is, "It depends."

If your son or daughter is a student, under 26 years old, and staying in campus housing, their personal property will be covered by your homeowner's policy up to 10% of your personal property coverage, subject to your policy's deductible. Coverage will only apply to damage from covered causes of loss which are specified in your policy language.

The same coverage limits that apply to all the personal property at your residence premises, will apply to property while at the dorm. Some examples would be the limit for cash, checks, tickets, trading cards, cell phones, etc. and the theft of items like jewelry. For a comprehensive list of limit amounts, you will need to review your homeowner's insurance policy.

Listing specific items, also known as, scheduling of personal property on your homeowner's policy would give an item like a laptop "all-risk" coverage. How do you schedule an item under your homeowner's policy? To schedule an item provide your agent with the specific description, replacement value, and deductible if any that you would like for this piece. Once this item is scheduled you have the protection needed unless the policy specifically excludes. There will be an additional charge for this extra coverage. This type of coverage is great for laptops, expensive jewelry, game systems, cameras, or similar items that have a high value and can easily be damaged, lost or stolen.

If your child is going to be living off campus, renting space in a house or apartment, your home policy will no

longer cover their personal property. This best option is to get renter's insurance policy to provide proper coverage for their possessions. All the coverage descriptions above should apply, but the named insured will be your son or daughter instead of you.

When discussing renter's insurance, keep in mind you will want to have the following coverages on the policy:

1. Liability. This coverage may

help prevent your child from paying out-of-pocket for injuries or property damage that they may be found legally responsible.

2. Additional Living Expense. This coverage will pay for temporary housing for your child if they are displaced from their rental due to a storm, fire, etc.

As always, please consult with your agent for answers to specific questions or concerns about your policy.

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REAL ESTATE

The April housing market in Cass County

Overall home sales in Cass County were boosted by the increased sales of non-waterfront houses in April. There were 3 more homes sold overall in April 2018 when compared to April 2017 (63 vs. 60). Year-to-date, the housing market differs from April 2017 by 1 house (171 vs. 172).

The number of waterfront homes sold in April dropped by 4 houses from April 2017 (16 vs. 20). Non-waterfront home sales increased by 7 houses in April 2018 (47 vs. 40).

In April, the average selling price in Cass County for all homes fell 18 percent to \$180,161 from \$221,069 in April 2017. The median selling price for all homes in April declined 22 percent to \$148,900 from \$190,500 in April 2017.

The average selling price for waterfront homes increased slightly by 3 percent in April to \$324,891 from \$316,204 in April 2017. The median selling price for waterfront homes rose 15 percent (\$321,000 vs. \$280,000).

The average selling price for non-waterfront homes in April dropped 25 percent to \$130,891 from \$173,502 in April 2017. The median selling price decreased 10 percent to \$117,500 from \$130,450 in April 2017.

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



In Cass County, the number of bank-owned or foreclosed homes as a part of all closed transactions in April increased to 8 percent from 4 percent in March. The highest percentage in the month of April previously was 21 percent in 2015.

was 10 percent in 2017. The highest percentage in April was 54 percent in 2009.

Throughout the area, the inventory of houses for sale in Berrien, Cass and the westerly 2/3 of Van Buren counties at the end of April was historically low at 1501 houses for sale. That inventory level was down 16 percent from April 2017 (1794). Couple the shrinking inventory with the prolonged winter temperatures during April, buyers had fewer choices and perhaps less enthusiasm for purchasing homes.

The market had 4.9-months supply of houses for buyers at the end of April. That was a small increase from March when there was a 4.5-months supply. In April 2010, there were 3452 houses for sale which was 15.6-months supply.

The number of houses sold in April 2018 was down 4 percent from April 2017 (278 vs. 290). Year-to-date, home sales were down 7 percent (900 vs. 965).

Following two months of double digit increases in selling prices, the average selling price in April was nearly even with April 2017 (\$213,923 vs. \$214,125) and the median selling price was down 8 percent (\$154,950 vs. \$169,000).

Year-to-date, the average selling price was up 7 percent (\$211,879 vs. \$198,455) and the median selling price

For comparison the number of bank-owned or foreclosed homes as a percentage of all transactions in Berrien, 2.3 of Van Buren and Cass Counties increased in April to 8 percent from 7 percent in March. The previous lowest percentage in April

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was up 10 percent (\$149,950 vs. \$135,900). Looking back in April in the year-over-year comparison, April 2018 had the highest average and median selling prices.

With fewer houses sold and the lower selling prices, the total dollar volume in April 2018 was down 4 percent from April 2017 (\$59,470,755 vs. \$62,096,508). Higher selling prices in February and March helped to keep the year-to-date total dollar volume almost even (\$190,691,273 vs. \$191,510,020).

Overall in SWMI, the mortgage increased to 4.602 from 4.577 percent in March. Last year in April, the rate was 4.243. Nationally, the Freddie Mac mortgage rate in April was 4.58 up from 4.44 in April 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®.

When Selling a Home...

Your Realtor and you are a team when it comes to listing your home at the right selling price. Your part is to let your Realtor know your needs, be upfront about what you think the price should be and to itemize any issues with your house or your financial position. Your Realtor will use MLS resources and personal knowledge of the local market to develop a market comparison – “Comps”. He or she first looks for sold houses that are similar in age, location, square footage and number of bedrooms and baths. The listing prices and selling prices are reviewed. Then your Realtor will look at listing prices for houses currently on the market – the competition. The pricing strategy also will include the state of the local market. Is it a seller’s or buyer’s market? Both can really make an impact on the listing price. Your Realtor evaluates all of these factors to arrive at a suggestion listing price. If you don’t agree with

the suggested listing price, keep the discussion ongoing. Keep in mind that you are a team with your Realtor and both want the same result – to sell your house.

When Buying a Home...

The most exciting parts of the home-buying experience is walking through homes during private showings or open houses. However, don’t leap ahead before you have completed these basic steps. Find a Realtor and discuss your needs and wants so he or she can help target your search. Do online research to determine your likes and dislikes in housing styles, neighborhoods, schools, etc. Establish a relationship with a lender to get pre-approved for a loan. Now you will be the type of savvy buyer every seller will appreciate. Working with your Realtor, you can narrow down the number of houses that are attractive and begin the evaluation phase. While there are lots of questions about price and the seller’s motivation, here are some questions you need to ask

that may impact your happiness with your dream home after closing - What are the average utility costs? - Are there any issues? - Have there been any renovations or recent repairs made to the home? Your Realtor can give you experienced advice to help you select the right house to be your new home.

To view properties that are for sale in your local area go to www.michic.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.

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OUR CHILDREN

In (or close to) your own back yard

by **SANDY FLEMING**

Summer is stretching out as far as the eye can see, and the kids are out of school or will be very soon. After the first week or two, parents will be responding to complaints of boredom. What can kids and families do for fun in the summer in this area? There are lots of free and inexpensive ideas, so let's take a look.

Activities to Brighten Long Afternoons

Turn off the electronics and head outside to enjoy these diversions! Everything is either free or wonderfully inexpensive, using things most families have around the house.

- **Set up a Treasure Trail.** Older kids can do this for younger kids, or parents/caregivers can do it for everyone. Write a series of clues that send players from one spot to another, such as "Look behind the big tree" or "Check the west side of the house." Make the clues easy to read for young players, and put a little mystery into it for older players, such as "Home, home on the range" could send someone to the kitchen stove. Set the clues around the house and yard so that you can give the first clue to the player(s), and they can follow the trail to the end. Make it worth their while by having a treat at the end of the line for everyone who plays.

- **Try Close-Up Clues.** Ahead of time, take a number of pictures with your phone's camera, except take them as extreme close ups so the texture and color can be seen, but not much else. You can also take pictures of portions of items, like corners or sides. Have the kids head out for a treasure hunt to figure out which items are pictured.

- **Challenge the kids to create an obstacle course,** then see who can run the fastest time through it. Want to put a different spin on the activity? Pair the kids up, and give them a piece of uncooked spaghetti. Have the teams complete the obstacle course as quickly as possible while both partners hold ends of the same strand of spaghetti without breaking it. It takes real teamwork and communication!

- **Dig into the recycling bin and try some recycled crafts.** Have the kids come up with ways to use the old containers to make decorations or toys. There are tons of ideas online, or you can simply let their imaginations run wild.

- **Put a large loop of string or yarn on the grass in the yard.** Have the kids take time to study what is in the small world within their circle. Arm them with a magnifying glass and a notebook, and have them describe and make sketches of each type of plant and creature they find there. Whose loop has the most living things?

- **Young children will have a blast on a hot day if you give them a bucket of water and an inexpensive foam paint brush.** Let them "paint" the sidewalk, the trees, the walls, and anything else within reach.

- **Kids of all ages love sidewalk chalk.** They can create some amazing artwork on surprisingly small patches of pavement. And no worries about mess-it will all wash away with the next rain. Head Out to the Local Park

Every community in our area has access to parks, and most people can get to



them with little effort. A trip to the park makes a nice change of scene, and many are free or have just a small admission fee. Try these ideas on your next trip to the park!

- **Have your child (or children) plan and prepare a family picnic.** It takes planning and coordination, but they can do it. Depending on their age, you can give more or less guidance, but let them have the satisfaction of doing it themselves.

- **Go to a park with an age-appropriate playground.** Have the kids develop an exercise routine using the equipment in various ways. Make sure they write down the instructions. Can you keep up with them?

- **Go on a color hike.** Give each person a crayon or two from a big set, and see who can find something in nature that is exactly the color of their crayon. Make it easy by using colors normally found in nature, and make it challenging by giving brighter colors that will be more difficult to find.

- **Take paper and crayons to the park and do rubbings of downed leaves, tree bark, and any other textures that are available.** Kids can gather these into a scrapbook to create an inexpensive memory book of their travels. Just remember not to damage or disturb any living plants or animals.

- **Set out on a scavenger hunt.** Make a list of items that can be found in nature that do not damage living things if taken. Give each player a bag, and set out to find kinds of leaves, acorns, rocks of special colors or shapes, and so forth.

- **Make connections.** As you explore the park's trails, have the kids tell you about things they've learned in science class that they see on their walk. Look for examples of erosion, find special kinds of rocks, examine habitats, estimate populations, look for examples of decay, and find different kinds of plants and animals. Seeing these things

from school classes will make science all the more memorable when the school year starts up again.

- **Try a sound hike.** Everyone must be completely silent as you walk. Stop as often as you wish, and just listen. Kids could write down what they hear at each stop. Chances are very good that they will notice bird songs, but how about the sound of wind in the leaves, the footsteps of small animals, the gurgling of a stream, or the creak of branches rubbing against one another? The woods is alive with sounds; we just need to be silent long enough to notice them.

- **Try a photo scavenger hunt.** Make a list of items to try to snap, such as a tree that is smaller than ten feet tall, a gray rock, water, or a leaf with serrated edges. See who can find the most items on the list and take their pictures.

Look for Local Attractions

Every community has festivals, parades, and celebrations of some sort in the summer time. These can be loads of fun on weekends or evenings. Also, watch for outdoor concerts, movies, and other community activities. These are often sponsored by the library, community business groups, or parks, so keep an eye on their websites and look for posters around town. Local libraries usually sponsor some sort of reading-related activities in the summer time, and you might even be able to join a reading club at your local bookstore. Sometimes these groups give away free books for meeting reading goals.

Look around your area for little museums, too. Many towns and counties have them, and the admission prices are quite reasonable. Local historical societies are great places to begin your search. Many community and local branch colleges have small museums, as well, so check there.

There are lots of hobby groups that

meet locally, too, and have shows or workshops in our area. There are gem and mineral groups, bird watching groups, bee keepers, and many others. Contact your local branches and see if they have events coming up that would be in line with your children's interests.

Local churches often offer vacation Bible school events of many sorts, and these are usually free. If you don't have a church home and are looking for one, it's a great opportunity to meet the people who work with the kids in the church.

Lots of local organizations offer children's programming throughout the summer, too, including meetings and summer camps. Most national organizations have financial aid available for everything from registration dues to camp fees, so you can easily find out if your family qualifies for such assistance. Check out Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, Campfire, and Boys and Girls Clubs of America, to name just a few. All have exemplary programming that helps kids stave off boredom while they build skills and make friends.

And here's a project for older kids: How about designing a local attraction guide? Find all of the places that offer family-friendly activities and describe them. Keep the list handy for next summer, or you may even explore "publishing" your list for the local library, community Chamber of Commerce, or realtors to put into a "welcome" packet for new residents. What a great way to provide community service!

Sandy Fleming is a private tutor and educational consultant living in Edwardsburg. For more great summer fun ideas, check out her websites at <http://sandyflemingonline.com> and <http://virtuallsummer-schoolonline.com>.

FIELD TRIP



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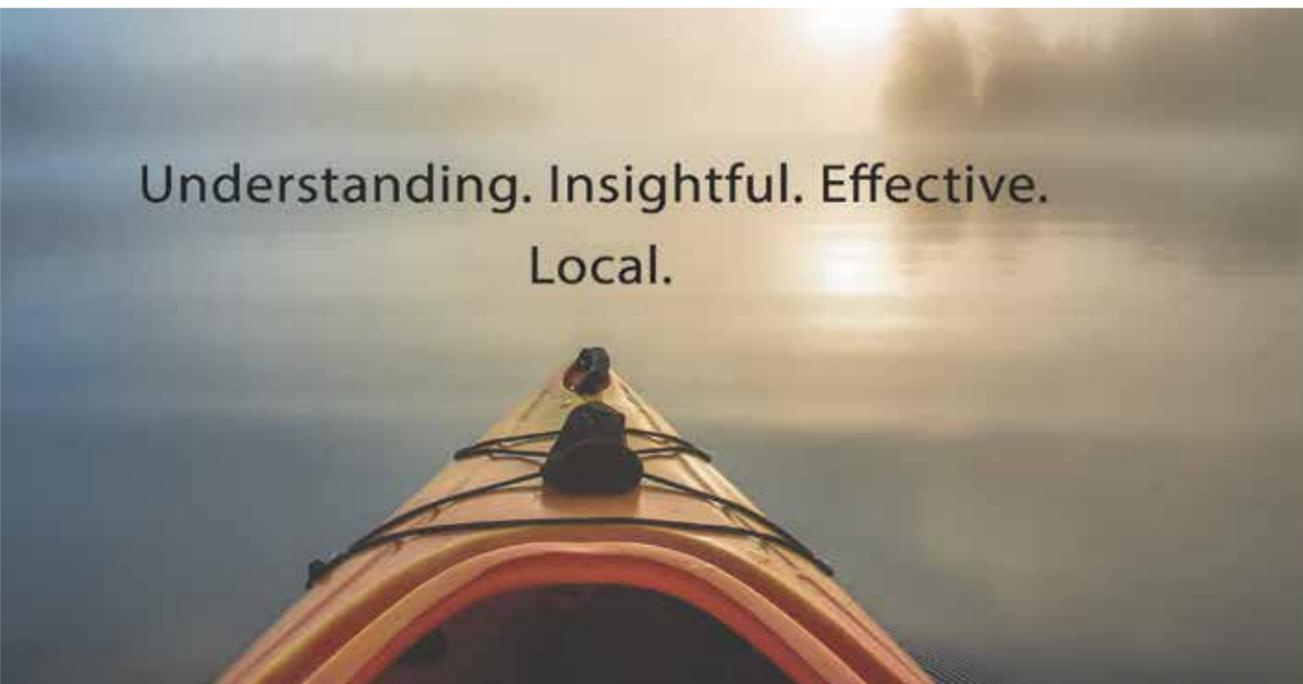
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FIELD TRIP



For the Record

The Holland (MI) Tulip Festival takes place every May in the west-Michigan city on the lake about an hour northwest of Cass County.

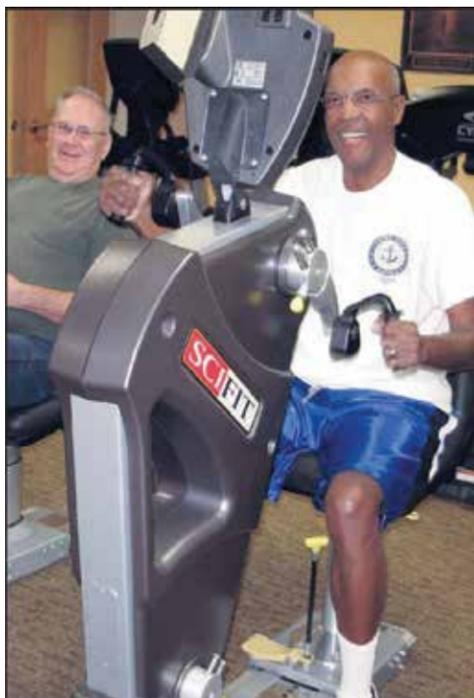
While many of the attractions take place on Windmill Island, the entire city is festooned with thousands of spectacular tulips in parks, along residential streets and outside of public buildings.

There are attractions, unique craft items for

sale and cultural and historic displays, reenactments and events for all ages.

If you're a tulip fan, a visit to the Tulip Festival is a must!

The only disappointment on our trip was that we planned a stop at a restaurant we saw on the way there just because we liked the name ... but the place was closed and we had to move on to the next city ...



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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 Sister Lakes, 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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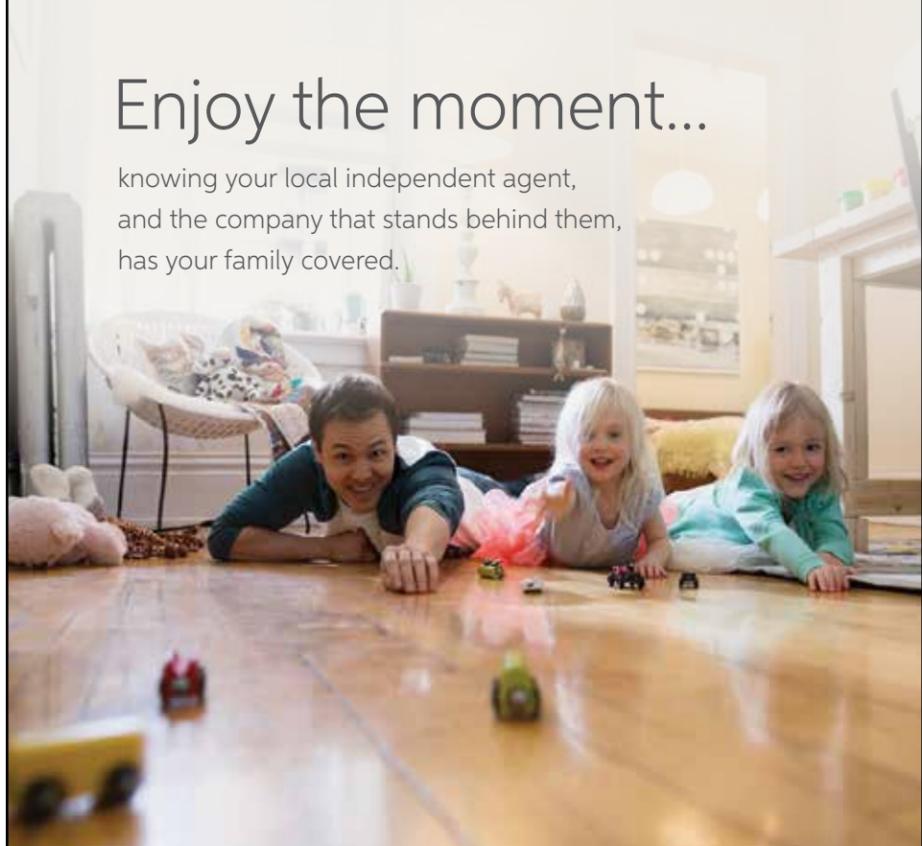
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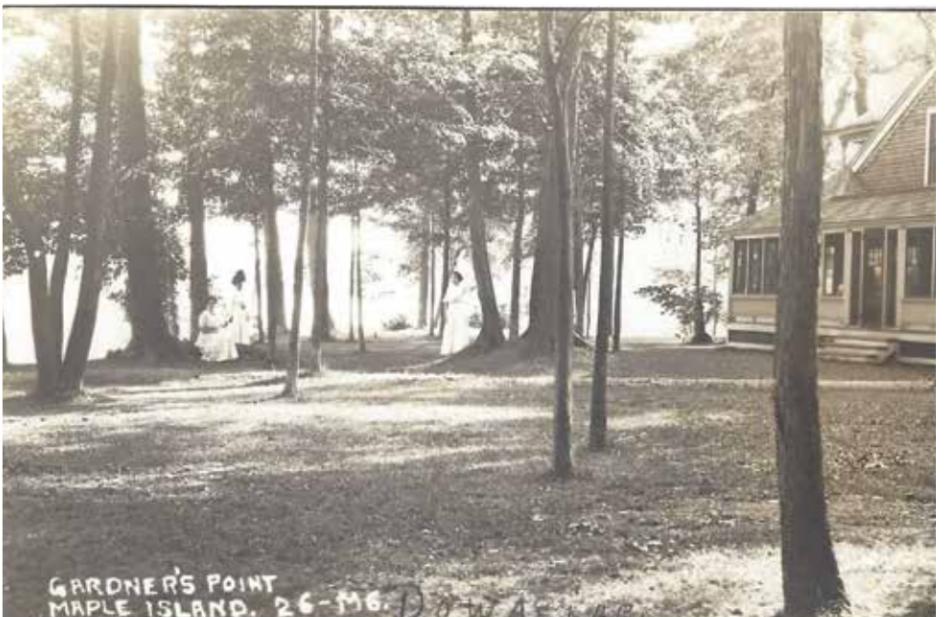
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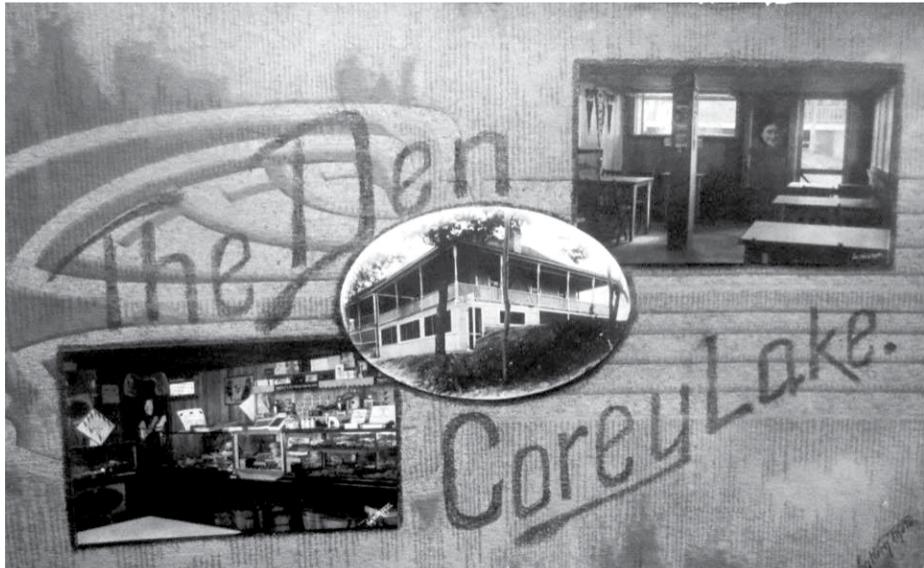






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HISTORIC POSTCARDS



Seeking info on old post card

I found this historic post card sent by Ned Poe the other day and wondered if your newspaper had any information about this business on Corey Lake. Type of business, it's location on the lake, proprietors, etc. I reached out to the St. Joseph County historical society and they could not find any info. I thought I would ask your newspaper since you publish old post cards regularly.

The post card was sent to Miss Ella Strome in Constantine post marked October 1911

The message: Corey Lake Oct 7-11. I leave Sat morning for a 2000 mile trip on the old Mississippi river. Start from Chicago

Ned Poe

If you have any information contact Mr. Yustick at robert.yustick@yahoo.com.

Thank you in advance, Robert Yustick

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NATURE NOTES

Spring bird migration is at its peak

Provided by Cass District Library
Local History Branch

Without a doubt, the month of May is the most exciting month of the year for novice and seasoned birdwatchers. Spring migration is at its peak, with millions of birds heading north to breeding territory.

One noteworthy photo submitted this week came from Joy Bancroft of Stevensville. In just one photo, six orioles can be seen! Four brightly colored male Baltimore orioles and two male orchard orioles. A female scarlet tanager appears on the left side of the photo.



At Dick Schinkel's residence in Oronoko Township, a male indigo bunting was photographed this past week, the species returned to our area in late April, having migrated back from its wintering grounds of Mexico, Central America and Caribbean. The female aside from being the same shape and size, looks nothing like the male, sporting a brown plumage with no other coloration.

Uncommon at any time of year is summer tanager, which nests mainly to our south. However a few pairs show up each year, particularly in May. A female summer tanager was photographed by Schinkel on May 4 at a backyard feeder. Another individual was reported in Berrien Springs by Sherry Mansion. Male and female summer tanager were reported May 9, back on territory in a remote area of Warren Dunes State Park by Brad Anderson.

American white pelicans migrate through Southwest Michigan annually, albeit in small numbers, on their journey from wintering grounds along the southeastern coast, to the Great Plains. On May 3 one American white pelican was seen standing in a flooded field at the end of Jasper Dairy Road in Royalton Township by Rhoda Johnson of Berrien Springs. On May 6, two more were seen in a pond next to the landfill Watervliet Township by Elizabeth Gravitt of Sodus.

On Wednesday morning, May 2, I heard a male scarlet tanager and a great-crested flycatcher vocalizing in rural Cass County. The latter had been reported in Berrien County since April 30.

Baltimore orioles, orchard orioles,



At left, Joy Bancroft of Stevensville photographed a total of six orioles at her feeder, May 3, 2018. appearing in just one photograph are two male orchard orioles, and four male Baltimore oriole. Above, top left, Male Baltimore Oriole at feeder of Randy Schrubba, St. Joseph Twp., May 4, 2018. At top right, A very late snowy owl April 26, 2018, in Cass County at intersection of Pea Vine and Dailey, Dowagiac by Cynthia Stacey. Center row, left, male yellow-headed blackbird at feeders of Stanley Masters, Vine Street in St. Joseph, April 29, 2018. Center row, right, male orchard oriole, at jelly feeder of Claudia Figlia, Eau Claire, May 1, 2018. Bottom row, left, male indigo bunting at home feeder of Dick Schinkel of Oronoko Township, May 8, 2018. Bottom row, right, female summer tanager at feeder of Dick and Pat Schinkel, Oronoko Township, May 24, 2018.

and rose-breasted grosbeaks will visit feeders for seed or sugar water, replenishing valuable calories burned up during the northward flight. After regaining their strength from the trip, such birds switch over to a diet of mostly insects, supplementing their diets at feeders.

Stanley Masters photographed a male yellow-headed blackbird on April 29, at his home in St. Joseph. Yellow-headed blackbirds are common to our west, in Wisconsin and northern Illinois, westward. But in Southwest Michigan they are quite uncommon,

being reported about a half-dozen times or less annually. The male has black body and yellow hood and stands out among mixed flocks of blackbirds.

A small breeding population of yellow-headed blackbirds occur within Michigan, primarily in marshy areas along the Saginaw Bay shoreline, being disjunctive of the main population west of our state.

Although we are thinking about migrant birds arriving back from the tropics, there was a very late snowy owl photographed on April 26 at the corner of Pea Vine Street and Dailey

Road near Dowagiac in rural Cass County by Cynthia Stacy.

Most snowy owls depart our region for the arctic by early April sometimes lingering into the middle of the month, rarely later. In Berrien County, a snowy owl was found on May 2, 2012 in Sodus Township. In July 1979, a Michigan DNR conservation officer found an emaciated snowy owl along Red Arrow Highway, on the bridge crossing the Galien River in New Buffalo Township.

LOCAL HISTORY

The hardships of pioneer life

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.

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.

"Nathan McCoy left Howard in an early day and went to Iowa to live and after some time, finally came back and located again in Cass County and died here. He was a good, honest old fellow, a Virginian or Ohioan by birth, with a good deal of the humorous about him, and had a great aversion to codfish--couldn't bear to have it in his house; and father was a great lover of it, and bought them whole--everything but the head and the insides. That was the way they were sold.

One day Nathan came to our house, and as soon as he came in he smelled the codfish and immediately inquired who was dead.

Another quaint genius was a man by the name of Golden, who resided in a little shanty close to Pine Lake. He was one of those kind of fellows that no one cares much about and he cared very little for others. He did but little evil or good in this world--chiefly lived by fishing or hunting, and I don't know as he owned a foot of land; so when he got ready to migrate he was already



In the early settlement of the country it was fairly overrun with wolves; what was called the prairie wolf Coyote (*Canis latrans*) being the principal variety. It was nothing more than our common western coyote. The word coyote was another word that had not yet been patented. There was a bounty on wolves, which would serve as an inducement to capture them. My father had a regular wolf trap and succeeded in trapping 10 - mostly of the prairie variety; once in a while an old gray one would get into the trap. The gray wolf doesn't stay long in a community but keeps moving along, while a little prairie one will stay for some time in the same neighborhood and visit all of the hen roosts.

There was one big black wolf that father tried his best to catch, but never succeeded.

One of the years of the latter part of the '40s [1848] was a regular freak year, as a large number of black bears infested the woods, much to the discomfiture of the small boy who wanted to play around without being scared almost to death. The first one I saw I well remember. I had seen pictures of bears in the geography, and had fully come to the conclusion they were not the kind of kittens I wanted to meet; besides I had heard of the Bible narrative wherein a lot of naughty children had mocked a very prominent man because he didn't have enough hair on his head and were destroyed by some bears. So I, as young as I was, had a dread of them.

At the time in question, father was chopping in the woods close by where the present Coulter's Chapel now stands, while brother and myself were playing around gathering moss. We noticed a barking of dogs in the distance, and saw father gazing intently in the direction of the dogs. Pretty soon he remarked, There is a bear coming."

To be continued...

for a start, as same as the birds.

At an early day there were a good many deer in the country and they had a good "run" around Pine Lake, extending down across the farm now owned by David Moore and perhaps down past the Crystal Springs Campground. It was quite common to see five or six together on a tramp, foraging in the shocks of corn at night.

At one time there was a huge buck that roamed with the rest, which was called Old Golden, from the fact that Golden tried very hard to kill him but was unsuccessful. Billy Young used to follow him a great deal but to no purpose. I never saw the deer, but he used to roam through our fields. We could always tell him by his immense track. He was entirely too cunning for Golden and Young and yet they were good hunters too.



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THE LAST WORD

Waiting for the Children of Godot's Cornfield

As I sat down at my computer to write this column, something about the rain this morning teleported me across the space-time continuum to second grade, or maybe it was third, or even fourth. After all these years, the engrams of memory run together across the surface of what's left of my rapidly decaying biological memory board.

So, anyway, it was raining and gray and damp-cold, and I was bored to death, when, just for a second, I was staring out of these huge real-glass lead casement windows with these big black twist latches, you know, the kind every Midwestern school had before safety glass and was mandated and lead was outlawed.

Anyway, Mrs. Flack (or it might have been Miss Parker or Miss Lambert or it might have been someone else whose name I've completely forgotten) was standing straight-backed in front of the class, dressed in a dark blue skirt and jacket and with a white blouse and wickered, high-topped, uncomfortable-looking shoes and droning on and on about James Whitcomb Riley or the Louisiana Purchase or how to differentiate an oak leaf from an elm leaf or some other completely forgettable thing that I was pretty much certain was not going to be important in the rest of my life.

Except for Jay Bob Anderson, the class suck-up, everyone in the room had their heads propped on a fist at the end of a bent arm, and was far more interested in watching the drizzle and the wet trees swaying in the wind and waiting for the big clock with the huge ancient numbers to click to 3:15 so the bell would

sound and we could escape the frighteningly real captivity of pre-adolescent mediocrity.

The room smelled from the huge pile of cheap, wet writing paper in the corner, the light brown paper with big green and blue lines that were spaced about an inch and a half from top to bottom so you could scrawl your badly written, incorrect and about-to-be-redlined answers to the test du jour with an enormous #2 pencil that would almost jump off the page when the 1/4-inch lead hit a chunk of wood that hadn't gotten ground up in the paper-making process.

My left foot was cold, there was a hole in the bottom of my Red Ball Jets and at recess I didn't have a plastic lunch bag to put over my foot so my sock had gotten soaked. The cold made my foot itch, but I knew better than to scratch it ... if I took off my shoe Mrs. Flack would grab me by the ear and drag me into the hall to stand with my nose against the locker for disrupting the class (again) with such nonsense ... so I let it itch as a psalm of vile, unrhymed curses ran through my mind.

The seconds dragged by.

Mrs. Flack kept talking.

The rain kept falling.

The second-hand slowly climbed over the big numbers to the XII, and clock ticked another minute closer to freedom.

With all this rain, my bike seat was going to be all wet and I'd taken the mud flaps off both wheels last weekend when we went trail riding at the park, so my pants were going to be soaked when I got home.

Mom wasn't going to be happy.

She'd probably make me change my

pants, and since it was raining I wouldn't be able to go find the guys and play some baseball before dinner.

She'd probably make me do some homework, or worse yet, clean my room, which would be kinda ok because I could shut the door and grab a quick nap and mom wouldn't bother me until dinner was ready (at least mom had the good sense not to bother my brothers and I when the bedroom door was closed ... we were at an age when privacy was very important to our development).

The seconds dragged by.

Mrs. Flack was still talking.

The rain kept falling.

I was so bored I thought my brain had turned to stone.

The second-hand inched up to the XII again and the big clock ticked off another minute.

Out in the living room my wife's cell phone started making a weird noise and I was jerked out of my nightmare memories, wrenched from the eerie cross-genre story where Stephen King was about to meet Samuel Becket and they collaboratively were going to write *Waiting for the Children of Godot's Cornfield*.

Outside the window the rain was still falling. Inside the screen on my computer was still blank. I hadn't typed a single letter; hadn't played a single note of this month's symphony of words.

My wife walked past.

"Got your column all done?" she asked innocently.

I grunted incoherently.

"Don't bother me when I'm writing," I growled.

Off in the distance thunder rolled.

The wind picked up and drove the rain in

sheets, rolling across the lake and cruelly whipping the fragile new leaves at the ends of the branches.

I looked at the clock on my desk. It was 2:30. School always ended at 3:15, I remembered again. But I've been out of school for a long time. I realized I was bored. Not just bored, but second-grade bored. Cold, itchy foot bored.

Snap out of it, I told myself, chiding myself for wallowing. Just start writing ... something will work. It always does.

The rain tapped at the window again, and my brain stepped out into the yard for a quick shower.

I looked at the clock again.

2:37.

Still nothing written.

Writer's block. No ideas.

I wondered to myself if Mrs. Flack was still alive ... it seemed impossible, she was near retirement when I was in second grade. She'd have to be a million years old by now. I wondered if she ever got rid of those horrible shoes or if she ever got more modern clothes or if she ever wrote anything on a computer instead of using that horrible red-ink pen she used to use to doodle her snide comments all over my essays.

Outside the rain was still falling and the trees were still swaying in the wind. Inside, my computer smelled like wet paper, and my foot was itching.

I looked at the clock.

3:15. Finally.

With relief, I shut down the computer and moved the mouse back away from the edge of the desk.

Maybe I'll just wait and write tomorrow. Something will come to me. It always does.

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