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(269) 228-1080
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REGIONAL NEWS

Pleasant Lake Poker Run

Pleasant Lake in Edwardsburg is sponsoring a Poker Run on September 1, (Labor Day Sunday), from 1 - 5 pm to raise money for weed control and the 2020 fireworks display. Advance tickets will be sold at Starboard Choice Marine, at 68502 Dailey Road-Edwardsburg, August 1-30, for \$10 per poker hand during normal business hours 8 am - 5 pm M-F, and Saturday 9 am - 1 pm. Ticket sales close at 4 pm day of Poker Run so that winners can be announced at 5 pm.

Celebrating 36 years of antique engine and tractor shows

SOUTH HAVEN - Giant steam traction engines, old antique tractors, parades, entertainment and more are all on tap for the Michigan Flywheelers Museum's 36th annual Antique Tractor and Engine Show that starts Thursday, Sept. 5

Touted as one of the largest shows of its kind in the state, the four day event, which runs through Sunday, Sept. 8, features displays of antique farm equipment, demonstrations at the sawmill, shingle mill and blacksmith shop, a large outdoor flea market, consignment auction, kids' activities, tractor pulls and plenty more.

Along with the displays of old farm machinery, there are daily parades, valve cover races, consignment auction and one of the more popular activities - eating sweet corn cooked in a 1923 Nichols and Shepard steam traction engine made in Battle Creek.

This year's entertainment includes



Hundreds of antique engine and tractor collectors are expected to attend the 36th annual Antique Engine and Tractor Show Thursday, Sept. 5 through Sunday, Sept. 8 at the Michigan Flywheelers Museum in South Haven.

folk singer Joe Foster, the Casco Band, Ken and Judy Moore's Jam Session, Silver Songs, Kickstart, Hymn Sings and singer Quentin Flagg. The Silver Songs show will take place on Thursday at 8:30 pm, and is a benefit concert for Senior Services of Van Buren County.

Saturday is considered "Kid's Day" at the show. Activities start with a Kiddies

Pedal Pull at noon, a sawdust pile treasure hunt at 3:30 pm, and the John Dudley Magic Show at 7 pm. Tractor games will be held for those children who have access to riding lawn tractors, and returning again this year is the "Kids Night Time Lawn Tractor Cruise" on Friday and Saturday.

One of the popular activities for

young and old is the "South Haven Tractor Cruise." Scheduled for 4 p.m. Thursday, participants drive tractors of all makes and models into South Haven, cruise along the South Beach, and then stop downtown for an evening of dining and shopping.

Gates open at 8 am, rain or shine. Admission is \$7. Children 12 and under are free with a paid adult admission. Thursday is Senior's Day and admission is \$3 for those 62 and over. This is a pet-free event for those paying admission.

Rustic camping sites are available on a first-come basis. Cost is \$15 per night plus daily admission per person. Pets are allowed with exhibitors, campers and vendors only and must stay at camp site at all times. Personal transportation vehicles, such as golf carts, require a \$15 registration fee. ATVs, dirt bikes and firearms are not permitted.

For more information, contact 639-2010, michiganflywheelers@yahoo.com, or Facebook. A complete show schedule is available on Facebook or www.michiganflywheelers.org.

The Michigan Flywheelers Museum is located at 06285 68th Street, two miles east of South Haven.

Barnswallow schedules plays School-Age Musical - Freaky Friday

Barnswallow Theater has announced that performances of Freaky Friday will be August 15 (Thu), August 16 (Fri), and August 17 (Sat) at 7:30 pm and August 18 (Sun) at 2 pm

When an overworked mother and her teenage daughter magically swap bodies, they have just one day to put things right

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REGIONAL NEWS

again. Freaky Friday, a new musical based on the celebrated novel by Mary Rodgers and the hit Disney films, is a heartfelt, comedic, and unexpectedly emotional update on an American classic. By spending a day in each other's shoes, Katherine and Ellie come to appreciate one another's struggles, learn self-acceptance, and realize the immeasurable love and mutual respect that bond a mother and daughter.

For reservations call 269.228.6672 -or Email tickets@barnswallowtheatre.com

Tickets are: Adults - \$15; Seniors 60+ - \$12; Students (13 to 18 - \$12, and Children (12 & Under) - \$6.

To Burn a Witch

Auditions for To Burn a Witch will be August 22 (Thu) at 6:30 pm and August 24 (Sat) at 10 am.

Performances will be at 7:30 pm on October 17 (Thu), 18 (Fri), and 19, and at 2 pm on October 20th (Sun)

Two girls wait in the bare cell room for the questioning to resume. Accused of witchcraft, they are terrified. The Salem community in which they live burns to death those convicted of being "Brides of Satan." Mary refuses to lie - even to save herself - but Ruth, desperately frightened, "confesses." The questioners then turn to Mary, but she cannot bring herself to swear to this lie. Since the two girls have always been so close, the questioners are dissatisfied with the conflicting stories. To save herself, Ruth feigns a seizure in which she deeply implicates her friend Mary. Only one hope remains for Mary now, and in a scene of dramatic power she makes her final choice.

Run 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 August 17. Registration begins at 8am; 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 St. Joseph County Parks Foundation 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 t-shirts available for order with pre-registration. Food and beverages will be available after the race, including gourmet egg bakes from Victorian Pantry.

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 \$11 each. Register and order by August 11 to be guaranteed a t-shirt.

For more information and to register please go to www.sjcparks.org. To volunteer to help with the event please call 574-674-9770.

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

US12 Garage Sale August 9 -11

If you love shopping and searching for hidden treasures, this journey is for you! The US 12 Heritage Trail Garage Sale is called, "Michigan's Longest Garage Sale!" Every year individuals clean out their attics and stake out their front yards along the US-12 corridor stretching over 180 miles from New Buffalo to Detroit.

You will find everything from antiques, collectibles, furniture, dish-ware, fresh garden produce, homemade jams and jellies, live entertainment and much more. The sales can be found along the highway at homes, farms, businesses, parking lots and fields. Some areas will have large numbers of vendors while others may be scattered. Perhaps even more interesting than the "treasures" are the people you will meet along the way. As you drive the country roads on your quest, you will be privy to incredible stories related to the individuals and the items they sell and see a plethora of items that only your grandmother could love. Most importantly most come to see the unusual and socialize.

Preparations are underway in many homes, organizations and businesses across US 12 for Michigan's Longest Garage Sale that will take place on August 9 - 11 2019 (Friday-Sunday). US-12, the nation's second oldest highway, is an old Native American trail from Detroit to New Buffalo on the state's southwest coast. It is one of 16 Michigan State Scenic Byways, designated by the State Legislature to preserve the state's historic highways. Since the sale started in 2003, it has taken place during the

second weekend of every August.

Anyone who is interested in hosting a garage sale is encouraged to register his or her sale for free on the new US 12 Heritage Trail website www.us12heritagetrail.org by August 6. If you register, your sale online it will be a part of the list of sales that will be included in the online map and a page listing all the sales, which can be viewed and printed prior to the sale. Items of all shapes and sizes are sold along the route. There is no cost to register your sale on the map so register today!

Need a place to set up? There are also rentable locations available throughout the US 12 Corridor Sale route. Visit the website to contact folks who offer spaces for rent. Another way to find a spot is to keep an eye out for signs advertising vendor spaces while you are driving along the route. If you want to list your location as a space to rent a garage sale, register for free on the website today!

There are several big events that are taking place along US 12 such as the Saline Summerfest features the traditional family-oriented food, music, and fun of Saline's annual "Picnic in the Park." This event will take place August 9-10, 2019 visit www.salinesummerfest.org to learn more about their juried craft and art show, a trolley tour of Saline's most intriguing historical sights, street machines, and other special treats. There is also the 34th Annual New Buffalo Ship & Shore Festival August 9-11. Check out the US 12 events page for more information! There are also several community wide garage sales that will take place in communities along US



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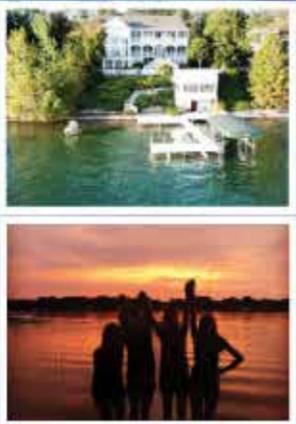


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REGIONAL NEWS

12 that same weekend.

We would like to remind everyone to please drive safely and to slow down while traveling US-12. Please pay special attention to pedestrians while driving, when parking, exiting your vehicle, and visiting the sales during the weekend. For more information about Michigan's Longest Garage Sale and other attractions visit the US 12 Heritage Trail website at www.us12heritagetrail.org and like us on Facebook @ US 12 Heritage Trail.

Pioneer Log Cabin Day Festival

The Log Cabin Museum at 1700 M-60/M62 in Cassopolis is open through Labor Day on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 12:30 to 4:30 pm.

Lubeznik Arts Festival Aug 17, 18

MICHIGAN CITY, IN - Summer in Michigan City means the return of the popular Lubeznik Arts Festival (LAF), currently in its 38th year. The 2019 festival will take place on Saturday, August 17 and Sunday, August 18 from 10 am to 5 pm.

LAF is held on the grounds of Lubeznik Center for the Arts (LCA), 101 W. 2nd St., at the lakefront in Michigan City, Indiana. Admission is free year-round. Gallery weekday hours are from 10 am to 5 pm. Weekend hours are from 11 am to 4 pm. This family-friendly event features fine arts and crafts by artists from the Midwest and beyond.

Festivalgoers can browse jewelry, photography, paintings, drawings and more, plus enjoy delicious food and family art-making activities. Inside the center, the

The Chicago Imagists: Before and After exhibition will be on view during the festival.

Following a juried application process, 75 exhibitors have been accepted and confirmed in 6 different categories: 2-Dimensional Art, Fine Craft, Jewelry, Photography, Sculptural Objects and Wearable Art. LCA will be offering previews of festival participants over the next month.

Admission to LAF costs just \$5 per person. Entry is FREE for LCA members, all children ages 16 and under, veterans and active duty military personnel. Free and convenient off-site parking and shuttle service will be available. All proceeds from this event are used to support LCA programs and exhibitions, helping to ensure the center is able to remain free and open to all, seven days a week.

For more information please visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or call 219-874-4900.

Cass Historical Society programs

The Cass Historical Society has released the following list of upcoming events and programs for 2019. All events will be at the Cass District Library, 319 M62 N., Cassopolis, 7 pm, unless noted: August 20 - Annual Picnic, Russ Forest Pavilion East, 6 pm; September 17 - Bonine House and Carriage House, Cathy LaPointe, at Bonine House, Vandalia, 7 pm; October 6 - Fall Festival at Newton House, 1-4:30 pm; October 15 - Review of the year, 6:30 pm.

The historic Newton House has open houses from 1-4:30 pm on the first

Sunday of each month from now until September.

Art Barn workshop series set

The Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. 400 East, Valparaiso, IN has announced another season of painting workshops for artists. The 2019 series will be offered over several consecutive days. Workshops are 9 am to 4 pm, with a lunch break from noon to 1 pm. Lunch is included with the cost. Workshops are geared for ages 18 and over. All students must register 30 days in advance with payment to secure their participation. Register on-line at www.artbarnschool.org or call (219) 462-9009. Sessions include:

Basics of Watercolor with Lian Zhen, Sept 6-8, 3-day session, \$200

Zhen teaches basic techniques such as compositions and coloring. The sessions include 4 to 6 demos each day with student practices between, so participants can absorb and assimilate the lessons. Supply list provided prior to workshop. Register by Aug. 6

Creative Color - Loose and Vibrant with Ken Hosmer (Oil & Acrylic), Sept 10-13, 4-day session, \$330

Students of all levels will learn to creatively interpret subjects with color freedom; learn to lead the eye through your painting with light and dark pathways; learn to simplify subjects to create dynamic compositions. Daily painting demonstrations focus on landscape type subjects with animals, figures, buildings or water. Painting demonstrations will be in traditional oil, however students may work in either oil or acrylic.

Register by Aug. 9. For more infor-

mation or to register, email adavis@artbarnschool.org or call (219) 462-9009.

Edwardsburg Museum

The Edwardsburg Area Museum's 2019 season, continues with Roy Smothermon, the administrator of the Edwardsburg Area Chamber of Commerce, will address the state of current businesses in the area at 7 pm, July 18.

The next exhibit of the season will be "Tools Around the House," which will open on Aug. 15. The display will feature a vintage collection of tools from the museum's inventory, with two speakers on the agenda. Ann Sakaguchi Silverman, is Edwardsburg High School's retired home economics teacher. Her topic will be women's tools used in the kitchen, the garden, and for cleaning. She will speak at 7 pm, Aug. 15. At 7 pm on Sept. 19, John Sindelar, will share his knowledge about tools around the house based on his experience of collecting items dating to 150,000 BC.

The final speaker of the season will be Edwardsburg native Lee Montgomery, who will entertain guests with stories of his growing up years. The interview with him will be at 7 pm on Oct. 17.

The season will end with the Christmas display, "All Dolled Up," which opens on Nov. 6 and will showcase dolls from the museum's collection and from area residents.

The museum will close for the season on Dec. 14.

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Cass COA Adult Day Services (ADS) provides a supportive environment for older adults who benefit from extra care, activities and social stimulation. Social opportunities may include exercise, arts and crafts, cooking, games, music, celebrations and more.

ADS is the hub of activity for Cass County Seniors affected with cognitive issues, or those that are medically frail. Most of our participants come to ADS a few days each week and are transported to and from the COA. For more information, or to set up a trial visit, call the COA at (269) 445-8110.

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REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

August 7 - Animal X-Files (Live Animals), Howard Branch 10 am and Mason/Union 1 pm - Join with the Outdoor Discovery Center's special agent naturalists as we investigate the unexplained and mind-bending animals of Michigan. Howard Branch: 487-9214 Mason/Union Branch: 357-7821

August 8 - Starlab Planetarium, Main Library 10, 10:30, 11 and 11:30 am - Explore the wonders of the night sky from the comfort and security of your library. There is a 30 person limit in each show! Tickets will be passed out on a first come first served basis on the day of the program. Main Library: 357-7822

August 9-11 US 12 Heritage Trail Garage Sale, www.us12heritagetrail.org to register

August 9 - 11 24th annual New Buffalo MI Ship & Shore Festival

August 12-31 Math Scoops! Ice Cream Math Club, All Locations - Math Scoops, an ice cream math club, to practice math lessons and activities to get you ready for the new school year. Earn ice cream as a reward for completing your math packet! (Preschool - 6th Grade)

August 14 -17 - Star Wars Scavengers Challenge Escape Room, Main Library - In a galaxy far, far away... young scavengers desperately need your help. Reserve your spot for the Scavengers Challenge Escape Room Experience today! Call Stephanie Knepple to make a reservation at 749-1384. Enjoy this family-friendly adventure together for \$1 per person.

August 15 - Edwardsburg Area Museum program on the tools around the house, 7 pm

August 15-18 - Freaky Friday, school age musical, Barnswallow Theater, 7:30 pm (except Sunday, 2 pm), 228-6672, \$15 adults; \$12 seniors & students 13-18; \$6 children 12 and under

August 17 - Rod & Roll Classic Auto Show, 7 am - 4 pm, Dowagiac, 782.8212

August 17 - Fund-d raising run and family walk at St. Patrick's County Park, South Bend, registration 8 a, walk at 9 am, info and register at www.sjcparks.org; to volunteer call 574-674-9970

August 19 -24 - Star Wars Scavengers Challenge Escape Room, Main Library - In a galaxy far, far away... young scavengers desperately need your help. Reserve your spot for the Scavengers Challenge Escape Room Experience today! Call Stephanie Knepple to make a reservation at 749-1384. Enjoy this family-friendly adventure together for \$1 per person.

August 20 - April 16 - Cass Historical Society annual picnic, Russ Forest pavilion, 6 pm

August 22, 24 - Auditions for To Burn a Witch at Barnswallow Theater, 6:30 pm Thursday, 10 am Saturday.

August 27 - 5 pm, National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting of the year at the Super Buffet, Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families welcome. Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

August 31 - Kee-Boon-Mein-Kaa Pow Wow, 9 am, http://PokagonPowWow.com, 782.8998

September 1 - Pleasant Lake Poker Run, 1-5 pm, Info and tickets at Starboard Choice Marine, 68502 Dailey Rd., Edwardsburg,

September 5-8 - Antique Engine & Tractor Show, Thursday - Saturday 8 am to 8 pm, Sunday 8 am to 4 pm, Michigan Flywheelers Museum, 06285 68th St, South Haven, http://www.michiganflywheelers.org.

September 17 - Cass Historical Society program Bonine House and Carriage House, Bonine House, Vandalia, - 7 pm

September 19 - Edwardsburg Area Museum program on the tools around the house, 7 pm

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

October 6 - April 16 - Cass Historical Society Fall Festival at Newton House, 1-4:30 pm

October 12 - Under the Harvest Moon Festival, 10 am - 4 pm, Dowagiac, 782.8212.

October 15 - Cass Historical Society review of year, Cass District Library - Main Branch, 7 pm

October 17-20 - To Burn a Witch at Barnswallow Theater, 7:30 pm (except Sunday at 2 pm), 228-6672

October 17 - Edwardsburg Area Museum program

on Lee Montgomery stories, 7 pm

October 22 - 5 pm, National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting of the year at the Super Buffet, Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families welcome. Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe7@comcast.net

October 27 - Trunk 'n Treat, 6 - 7 pm, Dowagiac, 782-0000

November 6 - Edwardsburg Area Museum Christmas program, 7 pm

November 15, 16 - Christmas Open House Weekend, 10 am - 5 pm, Dowagiac, 782.8212.

November 30 - Small Business Saturday, 10 am - 11 pm, Dowagiac, 782-8212

December 3 - 1:30 pm The National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 will hold their annual holiday dinner at Coach's Bar & Grill, Stevensville. All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families welcome, no RSVP needed. No business meeting, new officers will be sworn in. Next meeting is March 24, 2020. For information call Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

December 6 - Candlelight Christmas Parade, 7 - 9 pm, Dowagiac, 782.8212

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LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

We know how to do crazy weather!

by Jane Boudreau

Happy August Neighbors! Are we having fun yet? It's been a rough summer so far; rain, rain, rain, along with some violent storms and flooding. Heat, humidity, and erratic temps. But we'll survive, we always do. It's the Midwest, and we know how to do crazy weather.

I've actually been enjoying more time on our beach. We bought some small umbrellas that you can stick in the sand, so when I start to feel too hot I just tilt it to cover me and my chair. And nothing is cooler than having your feet in the water.

To keep cool we have done a few innovative things. One day we were sitting on the covered patio out of the sun but still sweating bullets. I had a brainstorm and decided to put the baby pool under the table and filled it with cold, cold water from the hose. We sat around with icy cold beverages and our feet in the pool (now that's good family). Worked like a charm. We also have a ceiling fan above the patio and it helps a lot. Air movement also helps keep bugs away as most do not like air movement.

As far as bug goes, we've been doing pretty well over here. Over the years we have had the summer of the bees, the flies, the mayflies, and always, mosquitoes. If you didn't know, you should light your citronella candles a few hours before you plan to sit outside in the early evening. It really has to get in the air to work. I'm also loving the tiki torches available now with citronella candles instead of oil (messy and super hot). I light those on the beach so we can sit there near the water in the evening without getting chewed to bits. I'm not keen on chemicals, especially on my skin as it's so sensitive. I try to keep a beach towel



over my feet as that seems to be where they want to eat me alive. I also found a natural insect repellent made by Baby Organics. It's deet free and has essential oils. It feels and smells super good, and you don't feel like you have to shower off before bed. You can find it by the baby products or the bug spray aisle just about anywhere.

This summer I'm focusing more on the perennial garden beds as my flower pots just aren't making it very well. If I go back to Chicago for a few days, I try to group my pots together in a place that will get rain but not a lot of sun that dries them out. Some of my plants didn't seem happy about that and died. I'm wondering if-- and I'll let you know if it works, I can use the good 'ol baby pool filled with water to place the plants in so they bottom water. If you have any suggestions, email me. I've also noticed the

zillions of "million bells" or small petunia hanging baskets being sold at the nurseries this year. Mine always seem to dry out quickly and die. This year I took the plant out of the hanging planter, shook off as much of the potting soil as possible, and planted it in fresh soil. I think the roots just get compacted. Still, where are all those pretty geraniums and fuchsias? Impatiens? Hmmmmmm ... I do like my ferns and I've found that I prefer them anywhere but hanging. In an urn or tall pot, or as in this picture, in a plant stand. I'm not tall and they really need to be watered well, even if we have rain as the soil has to be soaked. Just rain or a hose watering tends to just roll off the leaves, so having them just off the ground is perfect.

I'm having better luck with the perennial blooms. I think the rain helped



so full we won't have any weeds. During one of the many wicked and windy storms, a whole section of my daisy garden was damaged. I was going to just cut them for vases, but then I noticed the roots were intact so I dug them up and moved them to another area. I really hope this is the end of those storms.

I just don't have the time or patience to fuss with my patio table lately but I do like to have it look pretty as most people come around back rather than the front door. Last week I threw this old tablecloth on it and I think it really brightens up the whole area. And the nice thing is, instead of having to wipe down the whole sticky, messy table everyday, I just throw this in with a load of laundry and pop it back on. And back to the bug thing, they know food on the table better than old Uncle Buck, so at night I always clean up dishes, cans, and bottles so the bugs aren't hanging out to have breakfast with



and I feed them twice per summer. I still get a little creeping Charlie in the bed and I pluck it out as soon as I can since it spreads like crazy. Soon this bed will be

Continued on next page. See:

JANE

LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

JANE

Continued from previous page

us in the morning.

And now I have to brag a little. My baby girl got married last weekend in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. If you've ever ventured over to that side of Lake Michigan, it's really pretty. It was a three day event at a resort right on the lake. I've been to a few weddings right here on Diamond Lake, so this picture of the bride and groom by the harbor is proof positive that a nautical wedding is right up there with the current farm/barn craze. Abby was six months old when we moved to Diamond Lake. She used to lay at the end of the dock and spit into the water. Then she would catch blue gills with her bare hands. Somehow I knew she would get married near the water. Best wishes to the happy couple; they only dated ten years before finally getting hitched!



On to some recipes to celebrate August:

A few years ago I was in Vancouver and I took notice of so many items on the menus in restaurants served as "bowls". Since then you see them everywhere. I even like some of the frozen bowl-style healthy meals. So I dug this out of my recipe archives and although its not technically a bowl-it's on a plate, we have the same idea. This was a delicious combo, and you can increase the amounts of ingredients to have more servings, and you can also substitute rice, cous cous, or a small pasta for the quinoa. Replace any of the veggies if you so desire. One thing I can say is this dish is healthy, satisfying, and delicious.

Chicken, Quinoa & Vegetable Salad Bowl

Ingredients:

- 1) 2 c cooked and shredded chicken breast



- 2 cups of mixed lettuce or baby greens
- 1 T white wine vinaigrette*
- 2) 1 1/2 c cooked quinoa
- 1 t olive oil
- 1 t melted butter
- 3) 1 T olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 T capers
- 1/4 c almond slivers
- 1/4 c roughly chopped red pepper
- 1 c English cucumbers, sliced
- 1/2 c feta cheese

Directions:

Place the vinaigrette in a large bowl and top with lettuce. Do not toss until ready to serve. In a small skillet, gently heat up the olive oil and add the garlic cloves, capers, almonds and peppers until barely softened. Remove from heat.

Toss salad and arrange 1/2 the lettuce mixture on a portion of a plate, then top with 1/2 of the chicken. Sprinkle almond topping over and garnish plate with cucumber and feta. Add a pinch of S & P.



Spicy Marinated Shrimp

Ingredients:

- 1/2 to 1 lb jumbo shrimp
- 1/3 c packed cilantro, roughly chopped

- 1/4 c fresh lime juice (2-3 limes)
- 1/4 c olive oil
- 1 T honey
- 1/2 t chili powder
- Canola oil for cooking
- S & P

Directions:

Blend all of the ingredients except the shrimp in a food processor. Place the shrimp in a large zip lock bag and pour the marinade over. Place in refrigerator for no longer than 10 minutes or the shrimp will actually 'cook' in the acidic ingredients.

Heat 1 T canola oil in a skillet or grill pan. You can also do this on an outdoor grill. Place each piece on a wooden skewer and grill 1 minute on each side until lightly charred.

As I've said, you can serve this in so many ways. I am looking forward to having this as an appetizer for company over a bed of lettuce, it's great at room temp. Something cool to counteract the spiciness would be a yogurt dip with cucumber slices or tortillas and a salsa Verde. Here I served it as a main dish over Thai rice noodles, but fettuccine is fine also.

This comes together very fast if you peel and devein the shrimp ahead of time. I do this unpleasant task because I save big \$\$\$\$. In any case ~~~you will love it and get great rave reviews if you serve it to company. :-D

This is a recipe that is beyond delicious, perfect for summer, and so easy it's disgusting. Let me ramble. I buy a Mango Salsa at our Fancy Nancy grocery store at \$6.99 for 6 oz. I stumbled on a recipe that made me much happier and brought it to a Mother's day event. It's now a summer staple. Please try.

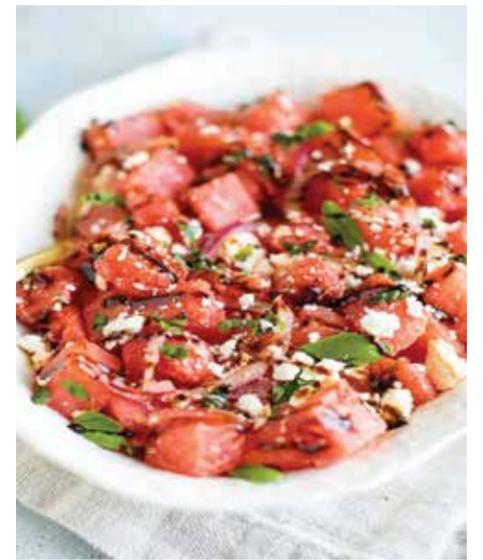
Watermelon Salsa

Ingredients:

- 1 small seedless watermelon, diced small
- 1 red pepper, diced small
- 1 yellow, diced small
- 1/2 red onion, diced small
- 1 jalapeno, seeded, diced small
- 1 handful cilantro, chopped
- 1 lime, juiced
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Chop, chop, chop away. Depending on the size of your watermelon you may not need all of it. Look for about 6 cups in ratio to the rest of the ingredients. Mix everything well and refrigerate for about an hour before serving so flavors meld. Serve with tortilla chips or pita crackers.



Watermelon Feta Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. cubed watermelon pieces
- 1/2 c crumbled feta cheese
- 1/2 c red or yellow onion, thinly sliced
- 1/4 c chopped fresh basil
- 1 T olive oil
- 2 T red wine vinegar
- 1/4 c balsamic glaze*

Directions:

Combine the watermelon, feta, onion and basil on a large bowl. Mix together the olive oil and red wine vinegar. Pour over and toss gently. Just before serving, cold or room temp, drizzle the balsamic glaze over. Reserve a bit of feta for a garnish.

**Balsamic glaze is simply balsamic vinegar heated and cooked until most of the vinegar has dissipated. You then have a nice, rich syrup of sorts. You can now buy balsamic glaze and it's a great shortcut and has a ton of other uses. Trader Joe carries it and I recently found it at a Martin's store under the brand name De Nigris.

Here's wishing you all a great August with comfortable weather and good eats!

~Jane

Jane Boudreau is a blogger, writer and columnist who splits her time between Diamond Lake, Chicago, and North Carolina. All photos are her own and should not be used without permission. You can contact Jane at blndy9@yahoo.com

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Gary Peters, U.S. Senator

202-224-6221, www.peters.senate.gov

Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Senator

202-224-4822, www.stabenow.senate.gov

Fred Upton, U.S. Representative

202-225-3761, www.upton.house.gov

Kim LaSata, Michigan Senator 21st District

517-373-6960, www.statesenatorkimlasata.com

Aaron Miller, U.S. Representative

517-373-0832, aaronmiller@house.mi.gov

Dave Pagel, Michigan State Rep.

517-373-1796, davepagel@house.mi.gov

Readers can find out how their legislators voted on congress.org for Peters, Stabenow and Upton; and at michiganvotes.org for Miller and Pagel.

PASTA ITALIA CON CHEF DONATO

Spaghetti puttanesca with a twist

by Chef Dennis Bamber

I don't know what's more enjoyable, making and eating this dish, or telling my guests the story behind it.

Puttanesca comes from the Italian word "puttana," which means a women of ill repute, or more commonly, a prostitute. . The story goes that these "working women" in the Naples / Pompeii area, created a spicy sauce of tomato, anchovy, garlic and capers to fortify them between shifts. It is quick and simple to make and it does create a "kick," so maybe the women were right.

Most recipes call for canned tomatoes, but with the fresh tomatoes in season, I used fresh tomatoes, and added a splash of lemon to make the sauce dazzle even more.

Puttanesca Sauce

Ingredients:

1/4 cup olive oil
6 cloves thinly sliced garlic.
6-8 fresh, ripe tomatoes, seeded, cored



and chopped into small pieces, salt and drain for 20' in a colander shaking to remove some of the liquid
1 cup tightly packed, pitted, and sliced in half Kalamata olives
2-3 tablespoons drained capers.
1 tin of anchovy fillets
1/2-1 tablespoon of crushed red pepper seeds



1 lemon, the zest and juice
1 cup finely chopped Italian or regular parsley

1 lb of spaghetti

Directions:

1. Add the oil, anchovy with its oil and

pepper seeds into a deep skillet. Cook for 3-4 minutes until the anchovies dissolve at medium to medium high heat.

2. Add the capers and olives, cook for another 2 minutes

3. Add the tomatoes and cook until the tomatoes start to break down, and then add the parsley, the zest from 1 lemon and the juice from the lemon

4. Meanwhile bring a large pot of water to a boil, add 3-4 tablespoons of salt and add the spaghetti and cook until 2 minutes less than al dente. Drain the pasta, add back into the pot, add some of the sauce and finish cooking until al dente.

Put into bowls, add more sauce on top, and serve with grated Romano or Parmesan cheese.

~Buon 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.



BUSINESS & FINANCE

The Housing Market in Cass County & SW Michigan

Overall home sales in June dropped 7 percent from what sold in June 2018 (71 vs. 76). Sales of waterfront houses decreased 30 percent (16 vs. 23). Non-waterfront home sales were up by 2 houses (55 vs. 53).

At the end of the second quarter of the year, overall housing sales in June 2019 trailed by 28 houses when compared to June 2018 (285 vs. 313) for a 9 percent decrease. Waterfront home sales were down by the biggest share with 21 of the overall 28 houses. This put waterfront home sales 25 percent behind in sales from June 2018 (62 vs. 83). Non-waterfront housing sales were down by seven houses (223 vs. 230).

For the first half of the year, the overall average and median selling prices peaked in May at \$271,616 and \$197,500 respectively. In June 2019, the overall average selling price dropped 18 percent from May to \$222,374. The overall median selling price fell 21 percent from May to \$154,000.

Comparing to a year ago in June, the overall average selling price was up 4 percent to \$222,374 from \$214,781 in June 2018. The overall median selling price in June was down just \$500 from June 2018 (\$154,000 vs. \$154,500).

The average selling price for waterfront homes increased 5 percent to \$404,906 from \$386,238 in June 2018. The median selling price fell 8 percent to \$322,500 from \$349,900 in June 2018.

The average selling price for non-waterfront homes in June soared 21 percent to \$169,274 from \$140,375 in June 2018. The median selling price rose 15 percent to \$138,038 from \$119,900 in June 2018.



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, 7 houses were bank-owned or foreclosed houses as a part of all closed transactions in June for 10 percent of total houses sold. The highest percentage in June previously was 16 percent in 2014.

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 dropped to 4 percent from 6 percent in May. For the year, the percentage has been below double digits with the highest at 9 percent in January. The previous lowest percentage in June was also 5 percent in 2017. The highest percentage in June was 36 percent in 2009.

The housing market across our area in June had the exact same number of houses, 367, sold in June 2019 as in June 2018. In the previous two months, (April and May), sales of homes were increasing by over 20 percent each month. June sales only increased 2 percent or 6 houses over sales in May. Houses sold in June 2019 had an average selling price of 14 percent higher than those sold in June 2018.

At the end of the second quarter, the number of houses sold year-to-date increased 5 percent in June 2019 over the previous year (1669 vs. 1595).

The increased average selling prices in June 2019 raised the total dollar volume 14 percent (\$96,566,516 vs. \$84,780,334). Year-to-date, the total dollar volume was up 8 percent (\$389,389,518 vs. \$359,747,465). The

monthly and year-to-date total dollar volumes set new records in the year-over-year comparison since 2006.

The average selling price and the median selling price in June and year-to-date also set new records in the year-over-year comparison.

The average selling price in June 2019 increased to \$263,124 from \$231,009 in June 2018 for a 14 percent increase. Year-to-date, the average selling price increased 3 percent (\$233,307 vs. \$225,547).

The median selling price jumped 8 percent to \$186,001 in June 2019 from \$172,000 in June 2018. Year-to-date, the median selling price at \$169,000 was up 7 percent from June 2018 (\$158,000).

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

The inventory of houses for sale dropped 4 percent below that in June 2018 (1721 vs. 1798). At 1721 houses, the market had a 6.7-months supply of homes for sale. In June 2010, the market had 16.9-month's supply.

Overall in SWMI, the mortgage rate decreased to 4.026 from 4.255 in May. Last year in June, the rate was 4.73. Nationally, the Freddie Mac mortgage rate in June dropped to 3.73 from 3.99 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®.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Preparing a home inventory

By **Charlie Retherford**
Kemner, Iott, Benz Agency

In the event of a total loss covered by your Homeowners Insurance or Renters Insurance Policy, a complete inventory of all the belongings in your home is your best asset in helping you and your Insurance Agent prepare your claim.

If all of your belongings are lost, a detailed home inventory can help ensure their replacement, verify losses for the police and insurance adjuster, substantiate a tax credit, and help you get your life back to normal as quickly as possible.

Don't think your belongings are worth enough to insure? Even the tiniest studio apartment can hold thousands of dollars worth of personal property. Completing a home inventory can help you determine the overall of your belongings and assist you in assessing their insurable value.

Investing time in your assets

Taking the time now to document your belongings can save you time and worry later, and ensure proper reimbursement for all your losses. The more area you occupy and personal property you have, the longer it will take to complete an inventory. The most effective inventory combines a detailed written list with one of the following:

1. Videotape with audio narration
2. Photographs of valuables or unique items



3. Audiotape with photographs of valuable or unique items

There are also good inventory software packages available to help you organize, store and keep your listed updated.

No madness is this method

No matter what method(s) you choose, make sure to approach this project systematically so you don't miss anything. Keep a copy of your completed inventory off premises in a safety deposit box or with a relative or friend.

- Begin in one room and cover its contents thoroughly before moving on.
- Remember hallways, attic, basement, garage, porch, pool, patio and garden.
- Open closets and drawers.
- Group like-items together when possible.

For example, clothing can be grouped by category, quantity and overall cost. Note anything of special value.

- Document unique information about valuable items, such as model, age, where purchased, unusual qualities, etc.
- Record serial numbers of major appliances and electronic equipment.
- Attach sales receipts and/or appraisals to the inventory list.
- Photocopy important documents and attach to the inventory list. Keep originals in a safety deposit box.
- Photograph valuable items against a plain background, next to a ruler. Turn items over to show any hallmark, manufacturer or pattern information.
- Keep your inventory list updated by documenting any new items acquired.
- Complete separate inventories for any other home, boat or recreational

vehicle you own.

- Collections and/or specialty items, such as jewelry and art should be professionally appraised to establish their value. Attach appraisals to the inventory list.

Actually replacing value

A good home inventory that is part of a homeowners, renters or condominium owners insurance plan is designed to restore your lifestyle to normal quickly and with minimal additional cost. There are two types of policies designed for this purpose: actual cash value and replacement cost.

Actual cash value policies pay the cost to replace an item after depreciation. Your 10 year old bedroom set might still look good, but it's unlikely you could replace it today for what you paid a decade ago. With an actual cash value policy, you will have to make up the difference.

A replacement cost policy takes into consideration what it would cost to replace the bedroom set at today's prices. You can expect to pay a slightly higher premium for replacement cost coverage.

Read your policy carefully because most homeowners policies have strict limits on certain valuable items, such as jewelry, furs, silver, art, antiques, electronics, guns and other collectibles. You may need to purchase additional insurance, called a rider or floater, to make sure those items are covered properly.

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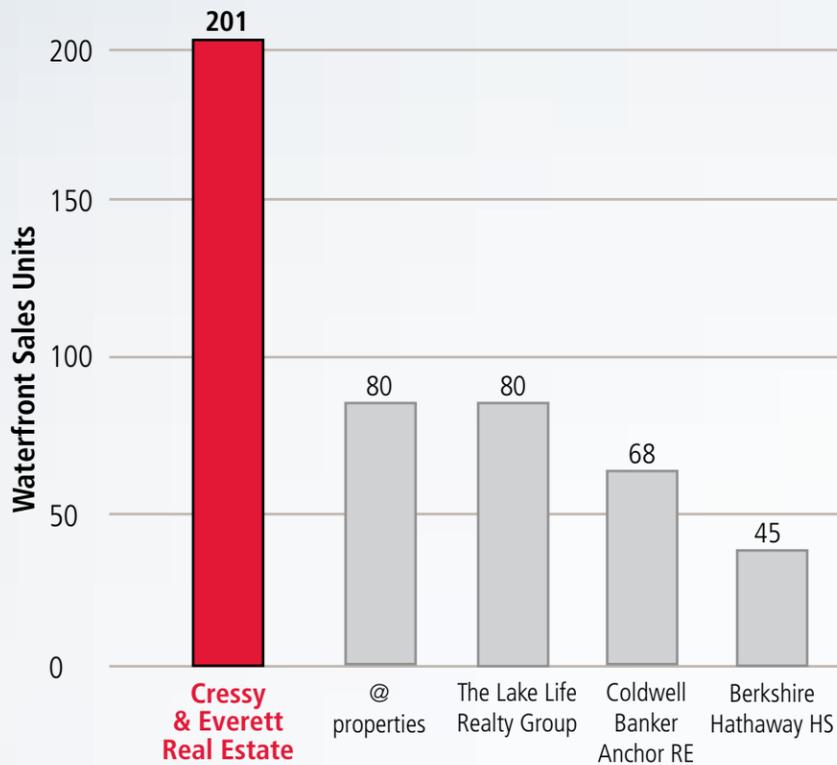
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269-683-5355

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269-424-5500

St. Joseph
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Lakeshore Dr.
St. Joseph, MI
269-429-6666

St. Joseph
Downtown
517 Pleasant St.
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Three Rivers
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Ave. Ste 2
Three Rivers, MI
269-273-8431

Harbor Country
13768 Red Arrow
Hwy.
Harbert, MI
269-469-1256

OUR CHILDREN

Sliding into the school year

by **SANDY FLEMING**

Summer is winding down, and it's time to start thinking about getting back into the groove for school. We only have a few more weeks left, and these are likely to be filled with last attempts to squeeze as much fun out of the summer as possible. However, it's also important to get off on the right foot for the upcoming school year, too. Those first few weeks in September set the stage for the success of the entire year, so help your child make sure that they are good ones. Here are a few suggestions to help the whole family along the way:

Setting Up a Healthy Routine

One of the biggest changes for most families when school begins is the change to the family schedule. Hopefully, you were able to keep things running pretty much the same as last year in regards to your children's eating and sleeping habits. If you are like most, though, there has been some "slippage" from the rigor of the school year.

NOW is the time to get back into the swing of healthy eating and sleeping habits that are conducive to the daily school schedule. It takes our bodies several weeks to adjust to changes in waking and sleeping times, and the farther off your child is from the school schedule, the earlier you should start moving back in that direction. Everyone will function better if changes to bedtime and rise and shine time are made gradually.

Calculate how much difference there is between the current schedule and the routine needed for school. Divide the number of minutes by the number of weekdays remaining before school and you'll be able to calculate how much the schedule needs to shift each day to make a gradual change. In fact, it's a great idea to be done with the schedule change at least a week before school actually starts. This will help your child get in the habit of waking and sleeping at the right time before that first bell rings.

You should also give thought to mealtimes. Many children get in the habit of "grazing" during the summer months. They grab little snacks regularly throughout the day. However, many schools do not have built-in snacking times. Some lunch periods are at unusual times, as well, starting as early as 10:30. If you can, find out when your child's class will be eating this year. Reduce the access to snacks during school hours gradually, and adjust your family's lunch time to accommodate the school schedule. Dinner time may need to be adjusted as well. As with sleep, gradual changes will work best to pull your child's stomach clock into compliance with the new routines that begin in September.

And it goes without saying that whatever they are snacking on should be healthy. Sometimes we let that slip in the summer months, but most schools won't allow large consumption of caffeinated soda or energy drinks during the school day, and they frown on consuming large bags of chips each day. If your child is leaning in this direction, the time to make the switch back to healthier foods



is right now. Not only will it make the school day a bit easier for your child if they aren't heavily reliant on caffeine or sugar, but they will be healthier overall, as well.

A Habit of Organization

For most students, the school year will bring increased demands on personal organization. Now, in the weeks before class starts, is a great time to lay groundwork for your children (and you) to be at the top of your game in this regard. Set up a system that allows you to see the things coming home from school each day and deal with the need for signatures or payments or other business. Make sure you have a way to know what assignments your child has so you can enforce their completion. Choose a spot to gather all the things needed to go to school the next day to eliminate the frantic search for missing books or sports equipment before leaving. Efficiency is the name of the game in most households, and you can do a lot with setting high expectations right at the beginning of school and by having systems in place to take care of these needs.

Examine the morning routine, too. Should your child be learning to manage his or her own alarm? The likely answer is yes, especially if he or she is in middle or high school. Start teaching that skill now. How much time does your student need to get ready in the morning? It's a life skill to learn to estimate this amount of time and plan the wake up time to accommodate it. Your young student will be an adult with a job that requires a consistent schedule before you know it, and the sooner you teach these skills, the better off everyone will be.

Do you have a family message center? This is usually a spot in the house

that everyone can see, where calendars show family appointments and schedule, reminder notes can be posted, and so forth. It's a great place for chore lists, for announcements, and more. If you are just starting to use a system like this, get it up and running well before the craziness of the new school year hits, with its demanding load of practices, assignments, and meetings in the afterschool hours.

Step Up the Academic Game

Hopefully you did not allow the "Summer Slide" where children's academic skills take a step backward for every two steps they made forward during the school year! Hopefully, you demanded they keep their brains a little bit busy with age-appropriate intellectual challenges and did not allow them to totally be pickled by screen time.

But in any case, these last few weeks of summer are a great time to step up the game, or to get the brain back in gear after a long summer break. Gradually increase the amount of time your child is focused on reviewing and maintaining age-appropriate skills in August. There's lots to do! Everyone should be reading and responding to books. Everyone should be writing daily, whether it's a journal, a story, a report, an essay, or even just a few paragraphs. And everyone should be sharpening math skills each day. Summer workbooks from your local bookstore are a great source of appropriate practice, or you can use any of a number of free digital programs like Khan Academy. It's very reasonable to ask everyone to read between 30 and 90 minutes daily, and to "assign" other work in academic areas that will take 60-120 minutes daily.

How were the grades last year? If

they weren't stellar, this is a great time to figure out where the weak areas are and provide some extra practice. In reading, make sure your child can read grade level material out loud with fewer than five errors per full page of print. Make sure he or she can relate the events of the story or the main ideas of nonfiction. Try having him or her make inferences or draw conclusions.

Children of all ages should be learning to express themselves in writing, as well. Kids in early elementary school should be learning to write sentences with initial capitals, legible handwriting, and ending punctuation. Their spelling should be at least approximately right—not too many missing letters, and the letters that are written should be sensible representations of the sounds in the words. As kids progress through grades 3-5, they should be able to write paragraphs and include conversation in their stories. In grades 5-8, they should be able to craft essays that support their main points with sound evidence and arguments and their pieces should be 3-5 paragraphs long. The writing should be nearing adult complexity in high school and it should be nearly perfect in the spelling, grammar and proofreading department.

Nearly all kids can stand to brush up on basic math facts. Once they pass about grade 4, they should be able to answer all 100 facts in all four operations in 5 minutes. Be sure they have basic understanding of fractions, decimals, and more complex computation like long division. And check out how they handle word problems. These application exercises trip up a lot of students, and that's actually what's important in math—how we are able to use it.

If you find holes or weak areas, focus on them in the next few weeks. The internet has a wealth of free resources you can use to improve skills. Or, if you feel like the gaps are worrisome, reach out to a teacher or a tutor for advice. It's much easier to solve these problems early on. They tend to compound over the years and can end up interfering with students reaching their career goals if they are left to fester.

Examine Your Own Routines

This is also the year for you as a parent to improve your relationship with your child's teacher and school. Make a commitment to attend parent-teacher conferences, to go to the Back to School event, and to keep a close eye on your child's performance. Kids take their cues from the adults in their lives about the importance of education. They will be a lot more cooperative and motivated if they see your commitment as well. We all want the same thing—to raise decent, independent human beings. Nurture the school-home partnership this year!

Sandy Fleming is an educational consultant and private tutor in Edwardsburg. Visit her website at <http://sandyflemingonline.com> for more tips and information.

FIELD TRIP

New Buffalo, Michigan



New Buffalo is a Lake Michigan beach town less than an hour drive from most of Cass County. Anchored by one of the region's largest beaches and recreational harbors, New Buffalo is home to two waterfront hotels, landmark restaurants, beautiful parks and preserves and unique shopping. For more information visit the website: <https://www.michigan.org/city/new-buffalo>.

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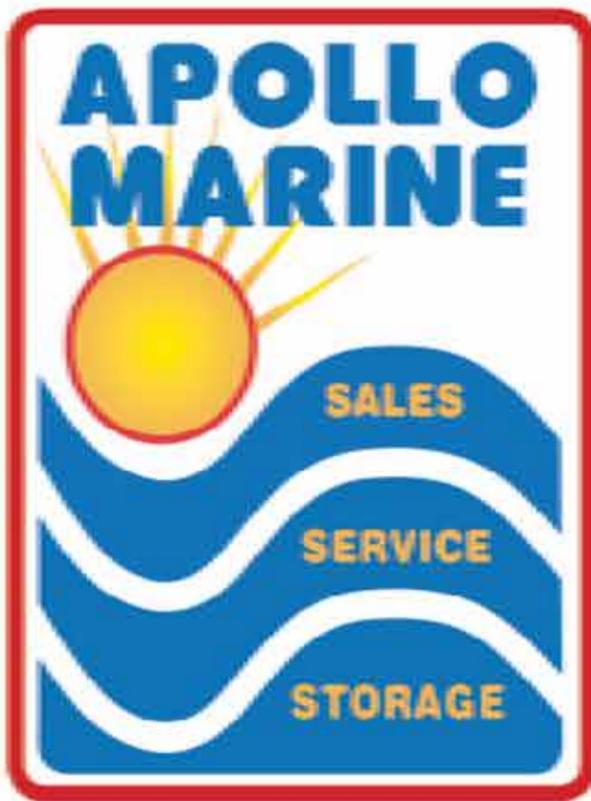
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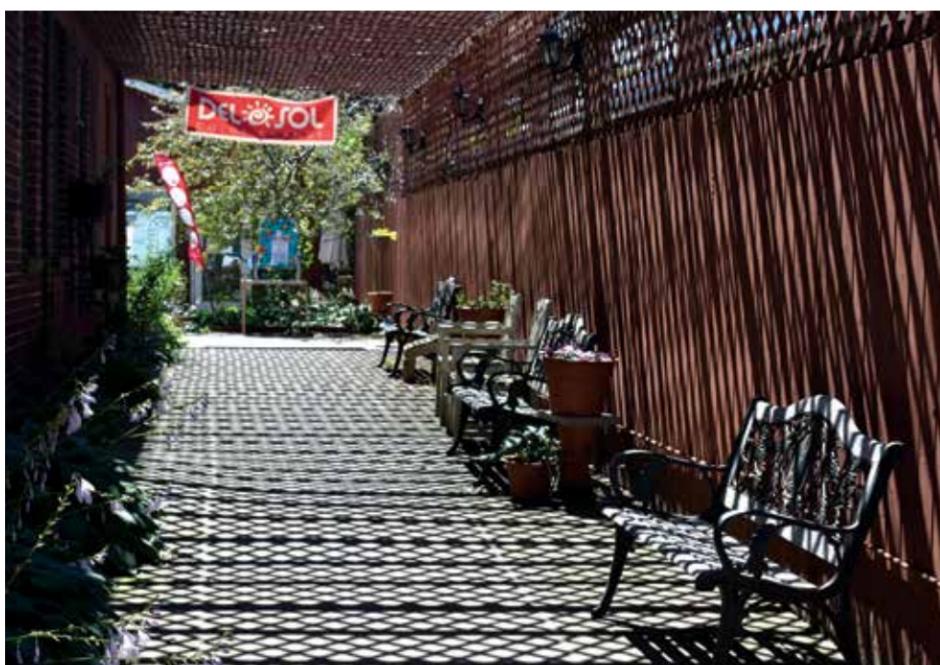
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HISTORIC POSTCARDS

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

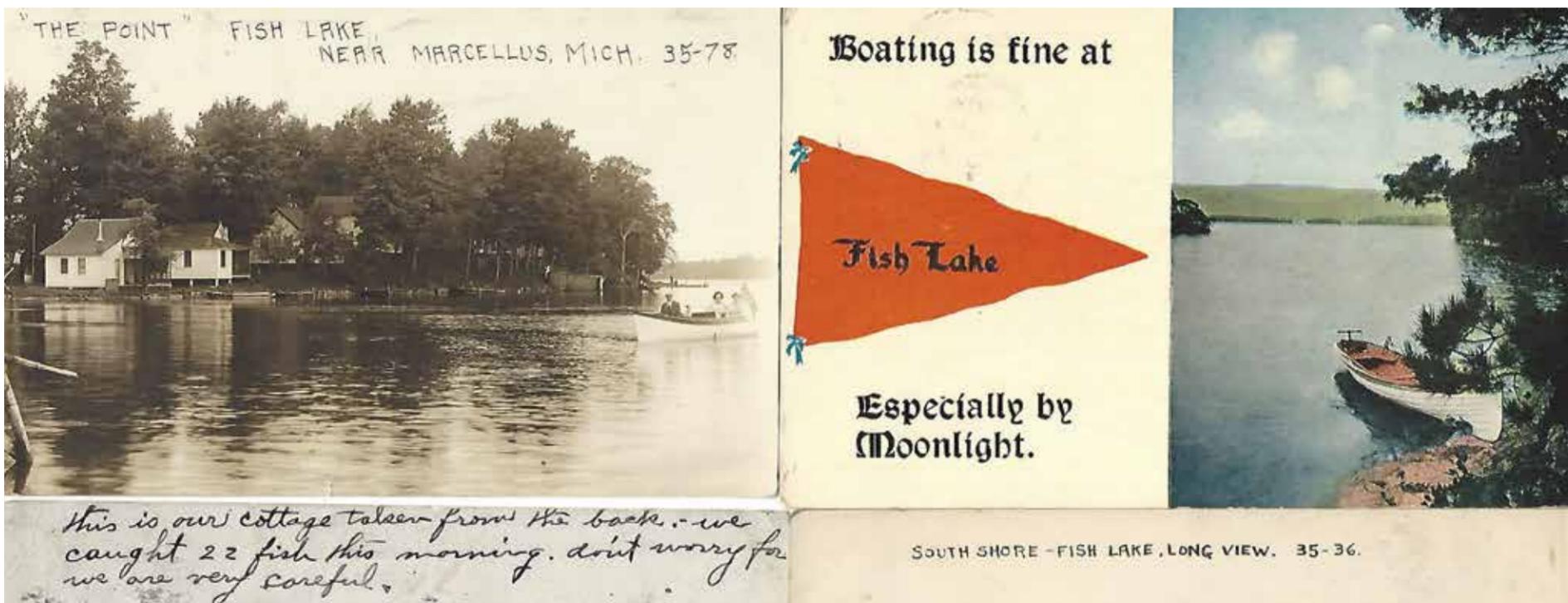
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Among other places, the book may be purchased at the Jerdon Real Estate office on M-62 West, and at Whistlestop Gifts, which is operated by the Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce.

For more information or to get a copy of Jerdon's book, visit the website: www.arcadiapublishing.com

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In this edition of Neighbors we have selected postcards showing images of Fish Lake 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, lakes and countryside.



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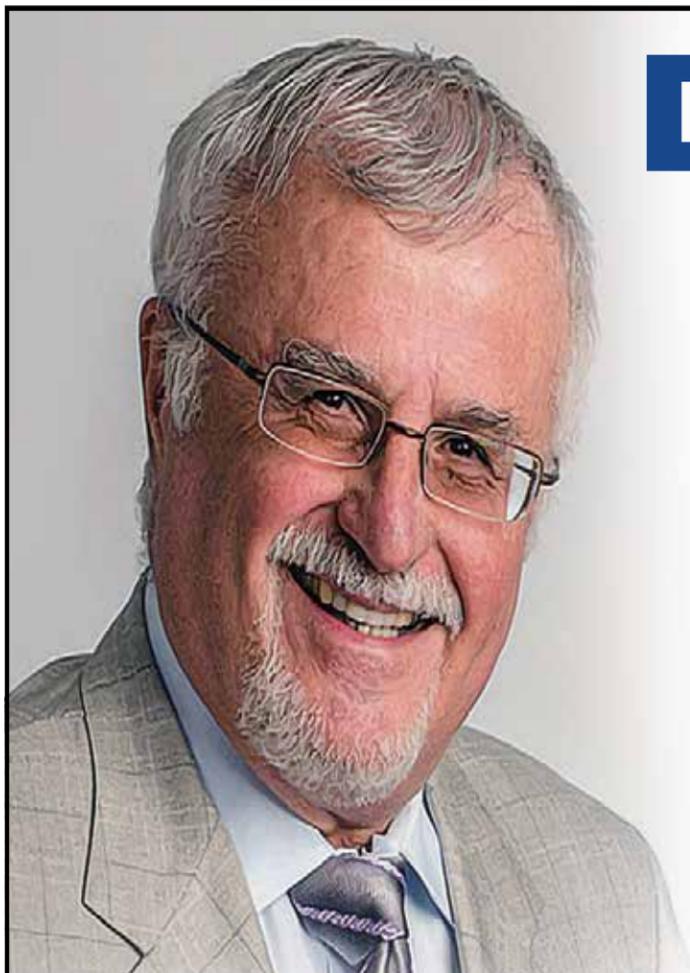
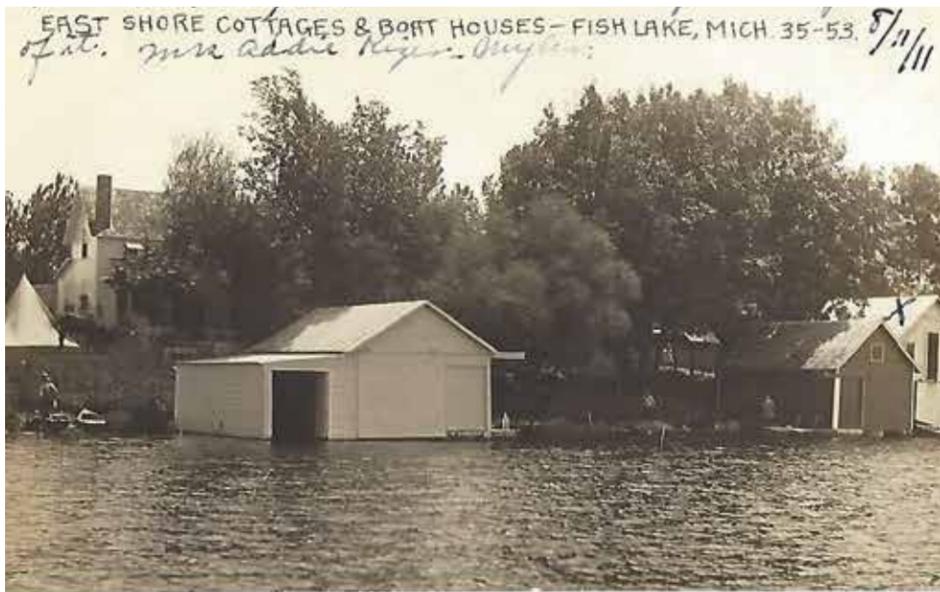
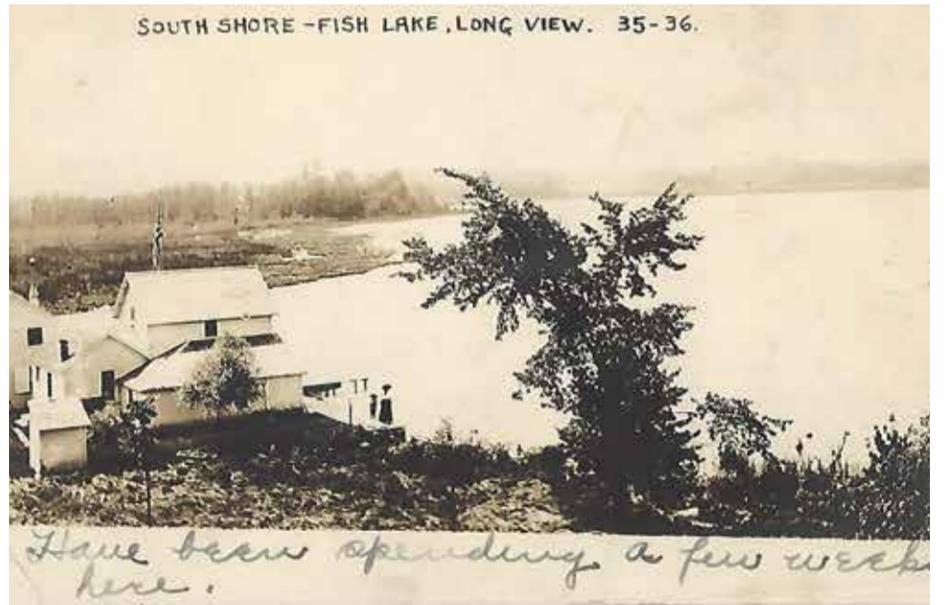
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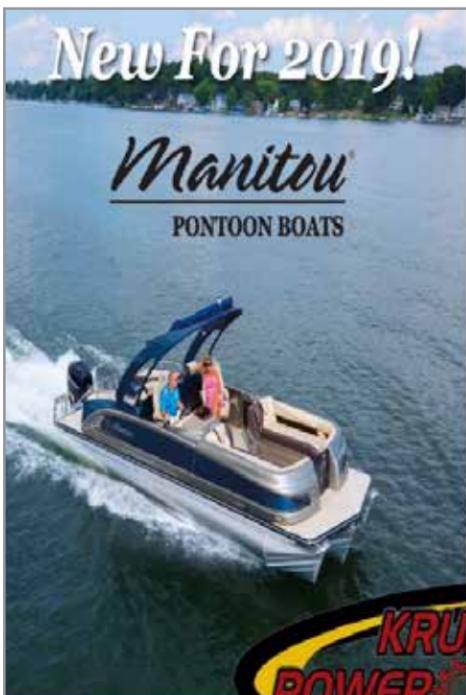


HISTORIC POSTCARDS



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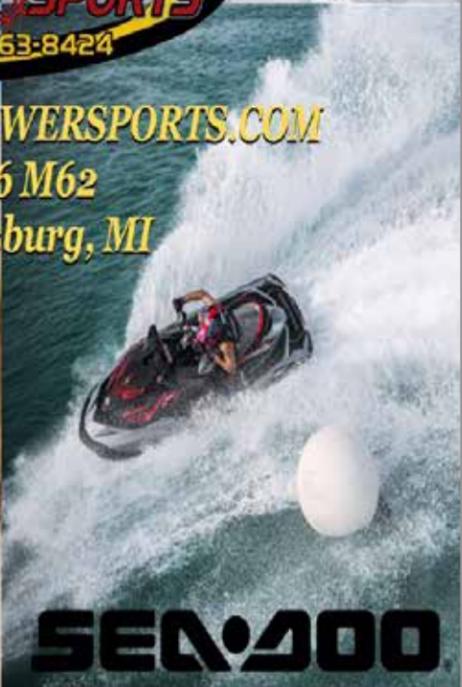
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LOCAL HISTORY



Provided by Cass District Library Local History Branch

This month we feature a photo of the Goodwin Hotel, showing the building in the background and a horse-drawn wagon in foreground. The wagon is loaded with barrels, of which one contains crackers. The man standing on the back of the wagon has his right hand on a barrel, which is labeled "Lake Bakery Crackers".

The date of the photo is unknown, but was likely taken during the 1890s or early 1900s after the Goodwin Hotel was built.

If you look carefully to the right of

the hotel, you can see the Cassopolis Fire Station which still stands today.

The Goodwin Hotel was built sometime between 1884 and 1892 by Dr. Fairfield Goodwin, who was a prominent Cassopolis citizen for forty-four years.

Dr. Goodwin was born in Madison County, New York on May 12, 1833. The Goodwin's moved to Oakland County in 1836 and settled near Pontiac.

Fairfield Goodwin began to study medicine in Pontiac until the Civil War broke out, when he enlisted in Company I of the First Illinois Infantry. He was with the First Illinois at the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862, when he was wounded in one arm and hip.

He returned to Oakland County, Michigan in August of 1862 and recruited Company C of the 8th Michigan Cavalry. Goodwin was on crutches when he was mustered in as Captain of that company on May 2, 1863, and took part in many battles in Kentucky and Tennessee physical disability forced him to resign in 1864.

Fairfield Goodwin returned to the study of medicine after his discharge, graduating in 1874 from the University of Michigan Medical School.

It was that year that he moved to Cassopolis, Michigan and began medical practice. Dr. Goodwin built his first hotel in the 1870s on the west side of

Broadway, south of Sate Street, across from Hayden's Hardware.

Between the years 1884-1892 he built a new Hotel Goodwin north of State Street just south of the fire department. This structure was a local landmark for 60 years. Dr. Goodwin passed away in the hotel on October 17, 1918 at age 85.

Goodwin's daughter, Mrs. Carrie Ellis, owned the hotel after her father before it changed hands again during the 1940s. The Goodwin Hotel operated as a hotel until the 1950s.

The Goodwin Hotel was demolished sometime between 1957-1970, exact year unknown.

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NATURE NOTES

Warblers and wrens and osprey, oh my

Provided by Cass District Library
Local History Branch

Brad Anderson of Bridgman has been hiking in Warren Dunes State Park in recent weeks and has photographed the prairie warbler, which is a small songbird currently on the state endangered species list.

The prairie warbler is a misnamed species, in that it does not inhabit prairies, but rather overgrown fields containing scattered shrubs and small trees. In Southwest Michigan the prairie warbler can be found nesting in the remote areas of Warren Dunes and Grand Mere State Parks, where the soil is poor, sandy and well-drained. The dune areas that harbor prairie warblers are generally open with an abundance of shrubby vegetation. Orchards, especially overgrown orchards, are attractive to the prairie warbler.

The species was more widespread and reported nearly every nesting season in Berrien and Cass Counties up until the early 1960s, after which populations started to decline. The population decline was likely due to several factors that led to habitat reduction, mainly the loss of orchards to row crops.

Prairie warblers depart their breeding territories in Southwest Michigan during August. Few migrants are seen locally as our region is on the northern edge of the summer range. However a handful of southbound migrants have been reported over the years, usually during August and early September. There is one winter record of prairie warbler in Michigan, from December 1971.

Bob Conrad of St. Joseph checked on our resident osprey family in Buchanan Township on July 1, and sent photos of at least one adult still feeding three young at the nest site along Madron Lake Road.

For several years osprey have nested along Madron Lake Road atop utility poles. The three young osprey present at this nest site will leave the nest site during July and stay near their parents until late August or September. Late summer is the time ospreys depart Michigan for their wintering grounds in southern US.

Some species of shorebirds typically begin fall migration just after the summer solstice, when hours of daylight begin to decrease. Southbound



Above: Adult osprey (middle) with three young, Madron Lake Road, Buchanan Township, July 1, 2019. By Bob Conrad, St. Joseph.



Far left: Seven house wren eggs in nest inside a bluebird nesting box of Jerry Biggart of Coloma Township, July 2019.

Left: Hatchling house wrens inside bluebird nesting box, July 2019. Jerry Biggart of Coloma Township.

willetts, dunlin, least sandpipers, and other shorebirds were reported during the first few days in July along Berrien County's beaches.

The house wren is a common songbird in Southwest Michigan, utilizing a wide variety of semi-open habitat such as suburban yards, parks, orchards, edges of woodlots, and gardens. House wrens avoid large tracts of forests and thus are most common over the southern half of Michigan's Lower Peninsula where these habitats are most common.

The house wren is small but feisty, and loud. The male sings loudly near his nest area often beginning just before dawn and continuing through the daytime.

The species nests in cavities. Usually holes in posts, trees, or house wren boxes built especially for that purpose. House wrens also will use bluebird houses.

Jim Biggart of Coloma has been keeping watch over a family of house wrens in his backyard. He recently found seven eggs, pinkish in color in

the nest inside a bluebird house and monitored the nest, reporting the eggs had hatched this past week. A photo is included of the seven hatchlings, waiting for their parents to bring them food.

House wrens eat insects and other small invertebrates, such as spiders. In the Lower Peninsula of Michigan the species may produce two, occasionally

Continued on next page. See:
NATURE

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NATURE NOTES

NATURE

Continued from previous page

three broods. The young house wrens found by Biggart are most likely the second brood of the season. The young house wrens will likely fledge the nest in about 1 to 18 days.

The house wren is known for destroying the eggs of other birds nests, in close proximity to their own. The usual victims of the house wren are the introduced and unwelcome house sparrow and European starling.

Robert Hoffman, Jr. of Coloma Township found a Blanding's turtle in his yard on June 27. Hoffman was able to send in a photo of this species of special concern in Michigan, which is a step below State Threatened.

In Michigan, Blanding's Turtle occurs throughout the Lower Peninsula and the central and eastern part of the Upper Peninsula. Although Blanding's turtle populations have declined in Michigan in recent decades,

Blanding's turtles are easily identified by their bright yellow throats.

They prefer shallow wetlands such as pond and lake edges with reeds and grasses. On cool, sunny days they can be seen basking in the sun on logs.

From late October or early November through April they hibernate under water of ponds.



Top right: Blandings turtle can be identified by its yellow throat. Taken by Robert Hoffman, Jr, Coloma Twp, June 27, 2019.

Bottom right: Prairie warbler on June 26, 2019 at Warren Dunes State Park by Brad Anderson.



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THE LAST WORD

Doing the 'weed thing' with brother Chris

So, when my younger brother Chris sent me an email and invited me to join him for the day doing the "weed thing," I wasn't sure exactly what I might be getting into if I agreed.

Considering that we were both teenagers in the 1960s, and considering that we have now lived long enough to see the legalization of recreational pot, his terse text could have easily be construed in a lot of different ways.

But the last time I visited him at the lake house where he lives (the same lake house that was hand-built by my maternal grandfather, and the house where I spent many summer days in my youth learning to fish and how to row a boat, and learning how to while away summer vacation in a beautiful and peaceful setting safely away from the noise and the mischief and what my parents called the hoodlums and hooligans that I ran around with at home) ... the last time I visited his home, a quick glance had reminded me that there were a lot of weeds in the shallow lake, and since the lake doesn't allow motors (not even electric fishing motors), there is nothing to move them around, so the weeds get thick enough in places that you can't even row through them.

I also remembered that there was what looked like an antique mechanical weed harvester parked at his next door neighbor's pier, so it might just be innocent, I reasoned, and I blew off the work I had planned for the next day and drove the hour-long trip for a visit.

When I got there and walked out



onto the lake bank, I was surprised by how small the lake had become ... or maybe I was just thinking it was bigger because in my memories of the lake, I was a lot smaller ... it's kind of like when you walk into your old elementary school as an adult and can't believe that the lockers are only chin high, when you remember having to step up into the locker and stretch your arms all the way out to get your books onto that top shelf, where you'd often lose your homework or your lunch if it got pushed back too far, and you weren't tall enough to retrieve them until you got into 6th grade and hit that adolescent growth spurt.

The other thing that caught my attention that morning was the Game of Thrones-sized, dragon-noisy, shockingly bright-orange monster clawing its way through the weeds along the east side of the bay his house is on.

Perched atop the driver's platform about mid-monster, my brother was waving his arms in my direction and impotently shouting to try to be heard over the beast's roar. I snapped a few photos as the worm inched towards me, eating it's way through the milfoil and curly leaf



pondweed and stuffing it deep in it's gut. Chris reined the beast to a halt, shut down the diesel and pulled off the heavy duty ear protection.

"Brother," he exclaimed with a grin. "Glad you could make it. You'll want to leave your car keys and wallet and anything else that could come loose ... and then climb aboard! I figured that with all the sailing you do, you could handle tacking the spinnaker for me."

I stowed my essentials and hopped up, perching precariously over the metal conveyor, about five feet behind the furiously chomping teeth that made up the business end of the munching monster.

I put on a thick pair of ear-drum protecting headphones that made the diesel engine sound like it was in the next county, and settled in for a ride. Chris loosened the dragon reins and kicked it in the side and off we went.

I quickly realized that between the dull roar of the engine and the thoroughness of the ear muffs, we weren't going to be talking much ... and for the next couple hours we chomped weeds all over the lake in an eerily quiet state.

Very rapidly I was back to my child-

hood, floating on a boat on my grandparents' lake (It wasn't really theirs, but that's what I called it), smelling the smells and watching the turtles and the herons and the fish and the muskrats and letting my mind wander to places I hadn't visited in a long, long time.

Four times that day Chris backed the monster to shore and offloaded the weed(s) we'd harvested onto a pile. He'd shut down the engine so we could talk briefly, then we'd head back out to gather more weeds. Finally he nosed the machine up to a pier, and shut it down for the day. We secured it, hosed it off, and jumped into his car to go into town to grab a quick beer and a burger.

Before I left to drive home I hugged him and thanked him for letting me ride along ... and for letting me be a kid again, and we made vague plans to get together again soon to do the weed thing ... but knowing Chris, I'm guessing the next "weed thing" will take place here in Michigan where we can make a quick run to the burgeoning burg of Bucanabis to check out the weeds there ...

Only time will tell.





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