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July 2019

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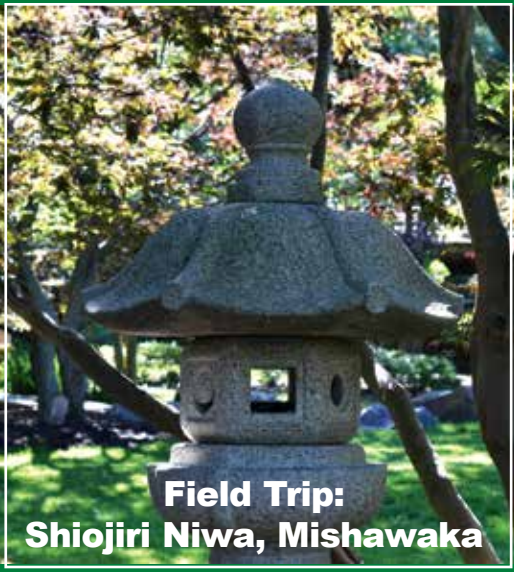


photo by Bob King, Birch Lake

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March through December.

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(269) 228-1080
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REGIONAL NEWS

nary to extraordinary. Lunch will be provided each day of the workshop. Register by June 12

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 information or to register, email adavis@art-barnschool.org or call (219) 462-9009.

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, fea-

tures 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.

"We offer a wide variety of things to do and see," said museum president Patrick Ingalls. "That's what makes the show so interesting."

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.

"We get a lot of people that tell us they wait all year to eat the steamed sweet corn," added Ingalls.

This year's entertainment includes 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



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.

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.



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REGIONAL NEWS

Beckwith to present Heroes

The Beckwith Theatre Co. of Dowagiac will present "Heroes," a comedy by Gerald Sibleyras, translated by Tom Stoppard on July 11-16 (except July 14) at 7:30 pm, and July 14 at 2 pm. The Beckwith Theatre is located at 100 New York Ave in Dowagiac. Tickets are \$15 (call 782-7653 for reservations).

Backpack program

While Cassopolis Sam Adams Elementary students enjoy their summer vacation, organizers of the Food Backpack Program are taking a break before beginning the fourth year of providing six meals plus snacks, free of charge, each weekend to needy children throughout the school year. The program, which began in January of 2017, was initially sponsored by four local churches: the United Presbyterians, United Methodists, Penn Friends and St. Ann Catholic Church. Helping Hands and Christ's Temple joined the program in year two. Beginning this September we welcome two new churches to our effort: Word of Life Worship Center and Diamond Cove Missionary Church. These seven organizations will be providing food throughout the 2019-2020 school year. The program provided meals for 20 students in year one. That number grew to 44 in year two and increased to 55 students as of June of this year. The cost per meal is less than \$1, or under \$6 per student per weekend. The number of meals provided through the end of this school year is 23,623! There is no financial cost to sponsoring organizations as

food costs are covered by donations. The financial costs of the program are covered through donations from the community as well as grants from corporations. Sponsoring organizations shop, pack and deliver six meals and snacks per student every weekend for their assigned month. Food packs are delivered to the school on Friday mornings where teachers disperse them to the children before they head home. There has been sufficient funding to provide food during school holidays. Christmas and spring breaks were handled by providing food vouchers to each family unit allowing them to get staples – bread, eggs, cereal, and milk and a roast or turkey at Harding's Supermarket, the cost of which was reimbursed by the Backpack program. For more information on the Sam Adams Backpack Program, or to become a sponsor of volunteer, contact Barb Strlekar at 501-3402 or at bstrlekar@hotmail.com. Donations may be made to the Michigan Gateway Foundation, 111 Days Avenue, Buchanan, MI, 49107, attn.: Backpack program.

Public input sought

The Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study has developed its four-year program of transportation projects. This is a list of the road and transit projects that are being planned by local road agencies and transit agencies for fiscal years 2020-2023. The road projects were competitively selected for funding by a project selection committee of NATS representatives. For more information

on the Transportation Improvement Program development process, please see the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission website at <https://www.swmpc.org/natstip.asp> The attached pdf contains a list of 2020-2023 road projects. Public comments are a vital part of the planning process. The formal comment period began on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 and ends on June 25, 2019. Comments can be submitted by mail, email, or phone call using the contact information above.

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.

Be a "Habitat Detective" at park

Kids entering first or second grade, (ages 6-7) can be an "Habitat Detectives" during St. Joseph County Parks Outdoor Adventures Summer Nature Day Camp, July 15-19 at St. Patrick's County Park in South Bend. From 9 am-2:30 pm campers will search for creatures which live in the fields, forest and ponds. Look for tadpoles and insects in the pond, hike the trails in search of birds and other animals' signs and stomp in the creek. Pre-registration and payment are required by July 8. Fee to attend this week-long camp is \$90/camper. St. Patrick's County Park is located on Laurel Road, north of Auten Road and west of 933 in South Bend. For more information or to register for any of the camps, call 574/654-3155.



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REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

- July 1 - 18 - DLYC swimming program, www.dlyc-mi.org

July 1 - Aug 22 - DLYC sailing program, www.dlyc-mi.org

July 6 - FIREWORKS at Diamond Lake, Birch Lake.

July 9 – DIY Art: Starry Night, 1 pm, Create your own version of the famous masterpiece! A variety of art materials will be provided to fuel your creativity. Cass District Library- Howard Branch, 487-9214

July 10 – DIY Art: Starry Night, 1 pm, Create your own version of the famous masterpiece! A variety of art materials will be provided to fuel your creativity. Cass District Library- Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

July 11, 18, and 25 – Lunch Bunch Story Time, Thursdays at noon, Bring your own picnic lunch and enjoy hearing stories while you eat. Cass District Library- Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

July 11-16 - Heroes, a comedy, Beckwith Theatre, Dowagiac, 7:30 all days except July 14, 2 pm, 782-7653

July 12 - Seven Stops to Freedom, Ross-Beatty High School, Cassopolis, 7 pm, www.urscc.org

July 12 – Sensory Fun Friday: Moon Sand, 11am, Call 487-9214 to register. The program is free and is designed for kids ages 2-8. Cass District Library- Howard Branch, 487-9214

July 13 – Llamas and Craft, 11am, Visit with real llamas and make a llama inspired craft to take home! Cass District Library- Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

July 13 – Llamas and Craft, 1 pm, Visit with real llamas and make a llama inspired craft to take home! Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

July 15 – Cooking Up a Comet, 11am, Learn about comets and help build a model! Presented by Richard Bell from the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society. Cass District Library- Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

July 15 – Cooking Up a Comet, 1 pm, Learn about comets and help build a model! Presented by Richard Bell from the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society. Cass District Library- Howard Branch, 487-9214

July 16 - Cass Historical Society program Down the Sauk Trail, Cass District Library - Main Branch, 7 pm

July 17 – Big Trucks and Craft, 9 am-5 pm, Check
- out construction vehicles up close and personal. A craft will be in the children's department. Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

July 17 – Movie: Dumbo (2019), 1 pm, Popcorn and water provided at the movie! Cass District Library- Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

July 18 - Edwardsburg Area Museum program on the current state of area business, 7 pm

June 18 – Galaxy T-shirts, 1 pm, Bring your own black t-shirt to create your unique design! Other materials provided for free. Cass District Library - Howard Branch, 487-9214

June 18 – Galaxy T-shirts, 3 pm, Bring your own black t-shirt to create your unique design! Other materials provided for free. Cass District Library - Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

June 19 – Movie: Treasure Planet, 1 pm, Join us for this family friendly movie! Popcorn also provided. Cass District Library - Howard Branch, 487-9214

July 19 – Sensory Fun Friday: Starry Night Squish Bag, 11am, Call 487-9214 to register. The program is free and is designed for kids ages 2-8. Cass District Library- Howard Branch, 487-9214

July 20 – Galaxy T-shirts, 1 pm, Bring your own black t-shirt to create your unique design! Other materials provided for free. Cass District Library - Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

July 19, 20 - Summer in the City Festival, 10 am - 5 pm, Dowagiac, 782.8212, VPhillipson@Dowagiac.org

June 20 – Galaxy T-shirts, 3 pm, Bring your own black t-shirt to create your unique design! Other materials provided for free. Cass District Library - Main Library, 357-7822

July 20 - Cass Area Artists' ART SHOW, 10 am - 4 pm at COA, Cassopolis, 228-8047

July 20 - 2019 Diamond Lake Triathlon, 7:30 - 10:30 am, Diamond Lake Marina; dlacassopolis@gmail.com, www.dlacassopolis.org, <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Cassopolis/DiamondLakeTriathlon>

July 22 – Sky Pictures: Finding the Constellations, 11am, Learn about the stars and constellations visible during different seasons and make your own star map! Presented by Richard Bell from the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society. Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

July 22 – Sky Pictures: Finding the Constellations, 1 pm, Learn about the stars and constellations visible during different seasons and make your own
- star map! Presented by Richard Bell from the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society. Cass District Library- Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

July 23 – DIY Art: Starry Night, 1 pm, Create your own version of the famous masterpiece! A variety of art materials will be provided to fuel your creativity. Cass District Library- Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

July 23 - 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 , jeanrowe70@comcast.net

July 24 – Solar System Necklace, 1 pm, Make a solar system necklace at this fun craft afternoon! Cass District Library- Howard Branch, 487-9214

July 25 - Ed's Open Header, "Cruise for the Cause" 5:30 - 8:30 pm, Dowagiac, proceeds will be given to the Cass County Cancer Service, 782-8212

July 26 – Sensory Fun Friday: Stardust Playdoh, 11am, Call 487-9214 to register. The program is free and is designed for kids ages 2-8. Cass District Library- Howard Branch, 487-9214

July 27 - Steve's Run, 9 am - 1 pm, Southwestern Michigan College, 782.1000, <http://StevesRun.SWMich.edu/>

July 28-August 3 Cass County Fair <http://MyCassCountyFair.com>, 445.8265

July 31-August 2 – Book Sale, 9 am-5 pm, Don't miss the book sale! Friday, August 2 is fill-a-bag for \$1 day!

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

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

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

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 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, Cass District Library - Main Branch, 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 - 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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REGIONAL EVENTS

Cass County Fair announces schedule of events for 168th fair

The 168th Cass County Fair will be held July 28 – August 3. This year's theme is "T'was the Night Before Fair, and All Through the Barns ..." This year's fair will feature Super Kickers rodeo, SJO Motocross, NTPA tractor and truck pulls, Monster Trucks, Demolition Derby and new this year is the Bump-N-Run Off-Road Demo Derby!

Keep up-to-date on all the fun by liking the fair's Facebook page at www.mycasscountyfair.com. You can also keep up with event information by following mycasscountyfair on Instagram.

The Cass County Fair is once again offering online ticket purchases for grandstand events. Go to www.mycasscountyfair.com and click on "featured events." You can then purchase tickets for the show of your choice. Gate admission is \$7 for adults, \$2 for children 6-12 years, five and under are free.

The fun starts with the 4-H dog show and light horse driving classes on Friday, July 26th. On Saturday, July 27th Open Class/Home Arts/Fine Arts exhibits will be entered, and 4-H/youth non-livestock exhibit judging will take place. The Cass County Fair royalty court will be crowned upon completion of the king & queen/prince & princess pageant which begins at 7 pm. in the grandstand.

The official opening of the Cass County Fair is scheduled for Sunday, July 28, with free gate admission all day. The 4-H and youth livestock will arrive earlier in the day. The youth still exhibit auction will be held at 2:30 pm in the Community Building. Grand Opening

ceremony and parade begins at 5 pm. in the grandstand. Honored this year as the Grand Marshals are Gail and Mary Lou Peterson. Gail Peterson has been a long-time director on the Cass County Fair board and it is our very great pleasure to honor him, his wife and family with this distinction. After the parade, the grandstand will be cleared for the Street Legal Pickup Truck & Semi-Tractor Pull at 7 pm.; seats for this event are only \$5.

Monday, July 29 – Veteran's Day – free admission with ID. The Cass County Fair is proud to honor our service men and women by offering them free admission to the grounds for Veteran's Day. The featured event in the grandstand will be the Super Kickers rodeo starting at 7 pm. The carnival will open at 5 pm. mega passes for the week will be available in the office or online. If you would like to purchase mega passes online go to <http://elliottsamusements.com>. The 4-H livestock shows scheduled for Monday include Dairy, Horse & Pony, Sheep and Dairy Feeder Steers. Draft horse pulls will again be held in the Draft Horse Ring at 7 pm.

Tuesday, July 30 – Kiddie's Day – children 6-12 admitted free. The Farm Tractor & Antique Tractor Pull begin at 9 am in the grandstand. Livestock shows scheduled for the day include Horse & Pony, Swine and Youth Draft Horse Cart & Team classes. The main event in the grandstand will be the NTPA Regional National Tractor & Truck Pulls beginning at 7 pm. The carnival will open at 2

pm.

Wednesday, July 31 – Law Enforcement Day – officers admitted free with ID. The rides go on with the carnival opening again at 2 pm! Youth livestock classes start off with the Beef and Rabbit shows, followed by the Draft Horse halter classes, the Goat show and Draft Horse showmanship. The Demolition Derby presented by TNT Demolition Derby is scheduled to begin at 7 pm in the grandstand.

Thursday, August 1 – Senior Citizen's Day – seniors 60+ admitted free. Our new featured event for this day is the TNT Demolition Derby Bump-N-Run, come on out to get in on all the action! Youth livestock shows scheduled for this day are Horse & Pony, Cats, Poultry and Draft Horse Utility & Obstacle classes. The Youth Market Livestock Auction begins at 10 am in the show arena, beginning with Swine followed by Sheep, Dairy Feeder Steers, the Gallon of Milk, a Draft Horse auction item and ending with Beef. The carnival will be open at 2 pm. The Cass County Fair will host it's second annual Handi-Capable Day, an event tailored to fairgoers with special needs. Participants have exclusive access to the carnival area and receive a meal. For more details about this special event or to register, please contact the fair office at 445-8265 or at casscountyfair@gmail.com.

Friday, August 2 – Home Maker's Day – free admission for homemakers until 9:30 am. The SJO Motocross will be the main event scheduled in the

grandstand on Friday. The homemaker's day program is scheduled for 9 am in the Community Building. The carnival will open at 2 pm. Livestock shows on this day include Horse & Pony, Goat Costume class, and both small and large animal sweepstakes. Don't forget the Pedal Pull, Ag Olympics and the Youth Livestock Judging Contest! Fireworks will be held at dusk (weather permitting; rain date Saturday).

Saturday, August 3 – Family Day - \$1 admission from 8am to 2 pm. (please note the time change for the \$1 admission!) The final youth Horse & Pony classes will be held Saturday morning. The Youth Small Animal Auction begins at 9 am, starting with Goats, Rabbits, Eggs and then Poultry. The Adult Alumni Horse Showmanship (horse ring) and Dairy Feeder Steer Showmanship (show arena) competitions will be held. Carnival opens at noon. The festivities for the week will conclude with the Ultimate Mega Monster Truck Championships in the grandstand at 7 pm.

Free daily grounds entertainment shows include Granpa Cratchet, The Barnyard Adventure Show and The Fearless Flores Thrill Show. Don't miss out on all the fun, come and enjoy the food and fun! Vendors will be available every day from 11 am to 10 pm. For additional information about the Cass County Fair, visit www.mycasscountyfair.com.

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PASTA ITALIA CON CHEF DONATO

Slow roasted salmon, three ways

by Chef Dennis Bamber

Fresh, wild-caught salmon is plentiful and readily available this time of the year. Delicious and healthy, here are 3 ways to prepare the salmon that are easy, and add a unique flavor that complements the fish.

With all of these recipes you can roast in a pan in the oven, or place the salmon and ingredients on foil, wrap completely and seal, and cook on the grill.

Regardless of oven or grill, you want your temperature to be no higher than 300. The cooking time, depending on the thickness of the salmon, will be about 30-35 minutes.

1. Salmon with Fennel, Dill, Orange and Lemon

INGREDIENTS:
1 orange sliced about 1/4" thick



roast until done.

Blender Pesto-6 servings

INGREDIENTS:
2 Cups fresh basil, stem removed and torn into shreds
1/2 cup of olive oil
2 table spoons of pine nuts
2 cloves of peeled garlic
1/2 teaspoon of salt
1/2 cup of freshly grated parmesan cheese-please do not use Kraft's. you can add more oil if you think too thick
3 tablespoons of softened butter(optional)

DIRECTIONS:
Put garlic pine and salt in processor and grind until smooth. Then add the basil and olive oil and blend, but do not make too smooth, the basil should have some texture. then add the cheese, blend just a little bit, and you're done.

3. Salmon with White Truffle Oil
This version is so simple but one I do often.



1 lemon sliced about 1/4" thick
1 fennel bulb with the fronds sliced the same- Fennel is a licorice flavored vegetable that is popular in Italian cooking and can be bought in most stores now. If you do not find fennel, substitute an onion. Several sprigs of fresh dill, if not fresh, substitute dried
Olive oil
Sea Salt

DIRECTIONS:
Lay the sliced lemon, orange, sliced fennel bulb,several dill springs on bottom of pan or foil. Lay salmon on top, drizzle with olive oil, add seal salt, and lay sprigs of the fennel frond and dill on top. Seal, or cover with foil and put on grill or in oven until done.

2. Salmon with pesto

We all know pesto is great on pasta, but it is equally delicious on salmon or chicken . You can use a jar pesto with good results, but below is a great recipe for making your own pesto.

Lightly salt the salmon, spread the pesto on top of the fish, seal or cover and

INGREDIENTS:
Seal Salt
White Truffle Oil

DIRECTIONS:
Salt the salmon, I like to use coarse sea salt, drizzle with truffle oil, seal if putting on grill or cover if using oven. cook the described amount of time. The aroma of the truffle oil will brighten your senses.

~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.



LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

When will the rain ever end?

by **Jane Boudreau**

Hey Neighbors! I hope when you read this you are settled into a comfy outdoor chair under a tree with an ice cold beverage and the sun is shining. Our weather has been so gloomy and rainy. June has to go on record as one of the coolest-low seventies almost every day. When my kids were little and complained of rain on a summer day, I would say, "But it's good for the garden!" I guess you can have too much of a good thing.



I planted a ton of pots and window boxes, mixing herbs right in made them lush. I hung flower baskets on my front porch and before I could even sit and enjoy them, a miserable storm blew in and knocked them right to the ground. They were waxed begonias and the thick stems broke off. I didn't give up though. I pruned them back and put them in another spot. I then hung red geraniums on the same porch and very smartly, I might add, used wire to twist the plant hanger to the hook on the porch. Nothing is going to knock those babies over. The geranium stems are long and thin and not prone to snap off. They just sway in the wind and I pretend I'm in Mayberry.

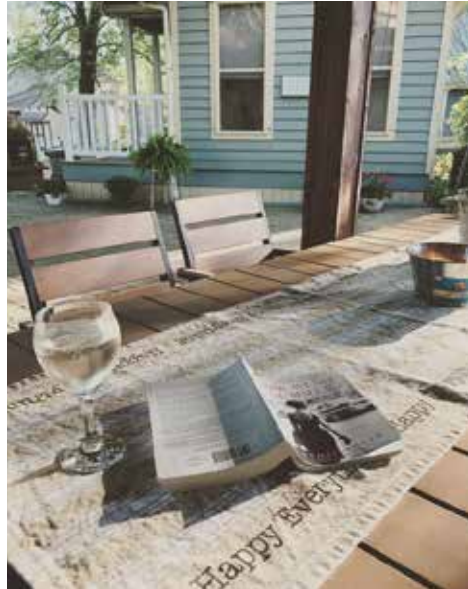


It's been like something out of National Geographic over here on the bay where I live. Huge turtles sunning themselves on partly submerged docks, ducks paddling by with their little ducklings, families of swans, and we had herons nesting in a nearby tree. I have videos of all the critters doing their thing. The swans have always hung out here, and they can be very dominating and sometimes aggressive to people. Watch out when you're on a kayak or paddle board. Their wing span can be as wide as seven

feet. But fear not, this year Father Swan has been going after a family of geese. I couldn't believe that this big white thug was going head to head with Father Goose. The poor little ones were pacing on the shore. My neighbor told me the swans want to drive the geese out of the bay completely. I remember when the ducks used to fight with the geese. It was like watching the Sharks and the Jets!



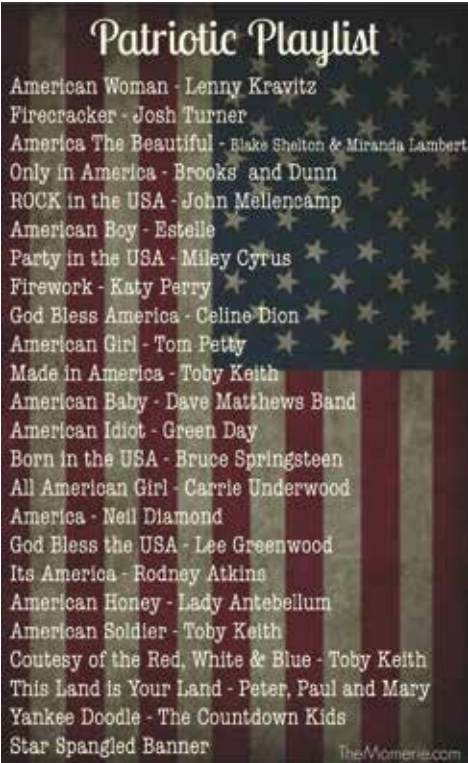
This baby blue heron was skulking along my shore one afternoon. It was so fun to watch. I always feel there should be background music to the effect of a suspenseful comedy. Long slow steps, pause... and then he plunges his beak into the water and usually comes up with seaweed. Bummer.



The Golden Hour, as photographers call it, is that hazy time of day when the sun sinks lower and dusk is on its way. That's when I like to spend time on my patio with a good book and cool drink. The thing is, I never get any reading done. Just the sound of the birds in their nests or darting from tree to tree has me so in the moment. I'm jumping up every few minutes to pull a handful of weeds or straighten something. I like to walk Layla at this time, too. She's a little lonely without Milo, she sticks close to me. So we go for walks and make new friends, some furry, some human. I like to look at the street side of homes with so many great ideas in landscaping and architecture. And when you are on foot, you might actually chat with the people that live in a particular house you have been loving for a long while.

Preparation for the 4th of July starts very early on in lake life. We have family from far and wide visit. Some have rented homes or gotten hotel rooms to spend the holiday weekend with us.

I've written a lot over the years about decking the halls with the red, white and blue, and how to entertain and put up



(with) guests. So rather than drone on about the same old, let me help you with some new recipes and ideas, at least new to me. And for quick tips on decorating inside and out, I have only one: hit your local dollar store. You can really do a bang up job for a dime there. I supply tape and thumbtacks and let the younger group go wild outside with stars, flags and banners. A lot of stuff I save from year to year. Michael's or your favorite craft stores has tons of holiday decor and they have it on sale before the 4th to have an edge on competitors. You've got time! Check it out! *****

I'm going to get on very quickly to recipes, I know you are waiting with bated breath. I also think you're going to be pleased to know that most of my recipes here are no bake/cooking. And, you can have the little ones or teens help or take over. Most can be made ahead of time, and nothing is difficult.



American Flag Fruit Platter
Ingredients:
1 pint blueberries, rinsed and drained
1 quart strawberries, hulled and rinsed
1 box yogurt covered pretzel twists

Directions:
Line a baking sheet or pretty tray with waxed paper. Put your blueberries in a bowl, preferably white or clear. Cut the strawberries in half and start making your flag alternating strawberries with the pretzels. I suggest serving the following fruit dip on the side. You can add some decorative picks for spearing.

Brown Sugar Sour Cream Fruit Dip
Ingredients:
1 c sour cream
2 T brown sugar
1/2 t vanilla extract
Directions:
Mix together. Serve at room temp or chilled.



This is super simple and fun and the little kiddo's will love making off with a bundle of candy. I found this on the Internet and can't take credit for the photo. If you are going to have a few thieves that may have tummy aches later, you can cut these in half.

Firecracker Twizzlers
Ingredients:
I large package of Twizzlers
Store bought patriotic scrap paper
Directions:



This picture explains it all. You can find scrap booking paper at any craft store. Cut it to wrap around three or more Twizzlers and secure with a dot of glue or double sided tape.

A no bake dessert. It doesn't get any better than that. I use clear plastic drink cups. Jazz it up with small items from the craft store. I like to top my trifle with whipped cream, but that's just me and the vast majority of people who grew up squirting the canned stuff directly into their mouths.

Raspberry Blueberry Mini Trifles
Ingredients:
1 8 oz. package cream cheese
1 7 oz jar Jet Puffed Marshmallow Cream
1 loaf store-bought or bakery pound cake (one lb.), cut into cubes
1 1/2 lb. raspberries and blueberries
Directions:
Beat together the cream cheese and marshmallow cream until smooth. Layer the cake, cream and berries in a clear container. Add a plastic spoon and arrange on a tray for guests to help themselves.

Patriotic Berry Kabobs
Okay, we are bordering on berry overkill here. These are so fun to make with kids though. Just follow these directions to create an edible version of our flag.

On five wooden skewers thread 4 blueberries, 2 mini marshmallows, and 2 raspberries each. On seven skewers thread 4 raspberries and 3 mini marshmallows each. And now you have another flag dessert. God bless America.

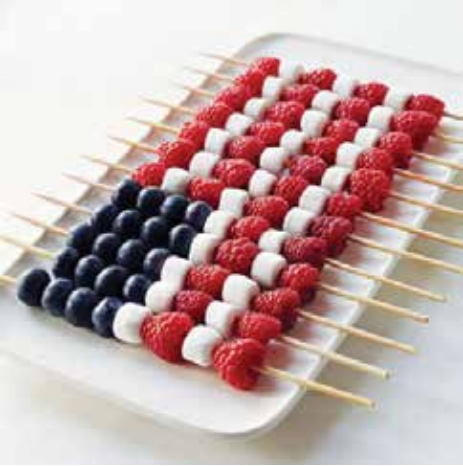
This is a great summer recipe to make as you can be outdoors with the gang instead of stuck in a kitchen. You can even prep outside if you want. If you

Continued on next page. See:
JANE

LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

JANE

Continued from previous page



have never tried grilling fruit and tasting that perfect caramelizing of the sugars, you haven't seen anything yet!



Grilled Peach and Prosciutto Pizza

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. store bought pizza dough
- olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 1-2 cups fresh mozzarella, thinly sliced
- 1-2 peaches cut in slices around pit
- 12 thin slices of prosciutto
- 1/3 cups fresh basic, roughly torn
- 1/4 c reduced balsamic vinegar

Directions:

Flatten the dough into a disc on a well floured surface. Slice in half and form each half into a flat shape. It doesn't have to be perfect.

Set your grill at medium heat and arrange the peach slices on the uppermost rack. Brush one side of each pizza dough disc with olive oil. Lay that side down on grill. Grill 2 minutes with lid closed.

With tongs, flip the pizzas, they should be golden brown with grill marks. Brush this side with olive oil and check on those peaches which should be gently sizzling but not burning, and flip if they

are lightly browned but not charred on the bottom. Grill another 2 minutes with lid closed. Remove the pizzas to a wood cutting board and the peaches to a small plate. Then top each pizza with an equal amount of peaches, garlic, prosciutto, mozzarella and basil. Drizzle balsamic vinegar over. You can buy pure balsamic at your grocery store. I prefer to reduce the vinegar to a thickened state myself. Simply simmer it over low heat in a saucepan until it thickens. You can do this in advance and it keeps well in a jar in your fridge. Finally, add salt and pepper to your homemade pizza and cut into pieces. Wait for the oohs and ahhs! Absolutely double or triple the recipe for a larger group. I love using pineapple slices in place of the peaches as well.



Now for some salads or side dishes for our summer days. You know we can't live on berries and marshmallows alone. This is simple, easy and so delicious. You'll feel healthier even if you dive in for seconds. With fresh color, it's very pretty as well. I happen to love to chop food. It's almost therapeutic for me. On Memorial Day I left one salad to be made the Day Of, if you know what I mean. I escaped to the quiet coolness of my kitchen and chopped my little heart out while everyone outdoors ran willy nilly around the yard and beach. Ahhhhhh...serenity.

Chickpea, Cucumber and Tomato Salad

Ingredients:

- 2 1/4 c cucumbers, diced (I like English cukes as they are seedless)
- 1 c seeded tomatoes, diced
- 1/4 c red onion, diced
- 2 T fresh lemon juice

- 1 T fresh flat leaf parsley, minced
- 1 T olive oil
- 15 oz. can chickpeas, rinsed and drained.
- S & P, to taste

Directions:Chop, mix, taste, serve. This has a Mediterranean vibe so feel free substitute or add: cherry tomatoes, feta cheese, fresh mozzarella, Kalamata olives, cilantro or oregano. Enjoy the chopping!



This is a different potato salad from we Americans are accustomed to as definitely a salad and it has potatoes in it. It's healthier, creamier and doesn't have the usual mayo as what we are used to for our summer side dish. And that's great because you don't have to worry about it sitting out and going bad. The creaminess comes from boiled cashews and they are very simple to make (I may have lost you here but believe me, it works). The herbs are fresh and delightful. I can't take credit for this beautiful photo. It comes from a cookbook I have, Half Baked Harvest by Tieghan Gerard. If you have a chance, look up her book on Amazon. If you love to try a few off-the-beaten-track recipes, she will inspire you and of course, her photography is awesome. If you make this, let me know. I love it!

Herbed Potato Salad

Ingredients:

- 2 lb mixed baby new potatoes or fingerling
- 3 large cloves of garlic, whole
- 1/2 c raw cashews, soaked in hot water for 30 minutes and drained
- 1 T Dijon mustard
- 1/3 c olive oil
- 1 c fresh basil, chopped

- 1/4 c fresh dill, chopped
- 1 T chives, chopped
- Sea salt to taste
- Pinch of red pepper flakes
- Juice of 1 lemon

Directions:

Place the cleaned potatoes in a large pot with the garlic cloves and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 10-15 minutes until fork tender. Drain and remove garlic cloves to set aside. Return the potatoes to the pot, cover and let steam an additional 15 minutes.

Combine cooked garlic, cashews, mustard, and olive oil in food processor. Blend until smooth. Add a bit of warm water if too thick.

Cut potatoes in half once cooled. Add cashew mixture, basil, dill, salt and pepper, lemon juice, and a pinch of red pepper flakes. Toss gently and chill. You can serve this hot or at room temp. I like it at room temperature, it's really a new taste treat of a salad.

I'm going to sign off here because I know you have a lot of plans for July and need to keep moving. We know... time goes by so fast. If I can say anything about lake or country living, you have awesome experiences with family and friends. You meet new friends. You can go from celebrations and entertaining to sitting peacefully all alone on a warm summer night. Be present in all of those moments. Sit in the Golden Hour with a good book, breathing in the fresh air, or escape the laughing crazy experiences of your loved ones feeling the gifts you have right outside your window every day. Head to your kitchen to chop or just have a quiet one on one chat with your bestie. It's all good. It's living in the moment and if you don't, that's how time flies. And who wants that?

On a final note and perhaps it's personal. I wrote last month about losing a good friend, an exceptional person all around, Barb Keck. On behalf of her family, I want to share that there will be a Celebration of Life in her honor on July 13 at 1 pm at one of her favorite places, Camp Eberhard. Afterward there will be a reception of food and drink at her house. Please keep the Reising family in your prayers and thoughts. We miss you sweet lady.

~Jane

Jane Boudreau is a longtime writer, blogger and newspaper columnist. She resides on Diamond Lake and in her hometown of Chicago. A mountain home in North Carolina has been calling her name lately. You can contact her at blndy9@yahoo.com. All photos are taken by and property of Jane. Please do not use without permission.



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Is your home-based business properly protected?

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

If you're one of the millions of Americans operating a full or part-time business out of your home, or you are considering doing so, don't forget to adequately protect your investment.

Whether you derive your main source of income from your home-based business or you consider it 'a hobby' you need to safeguard it against the risks associated with any business endeavor. You also need to be aware that your homeowners insurance policy offers limited or no protection for your home-based business.

So, what do you need to do to make sure your home-based business is adequately covered in the event of a loss? Start by reading the following tips:

Separate your home and your home-based business

Your Homeowners Insurance policy is not intended to cover business exposures, which means that coverage for the equipment (i.e. computers, fax machines, filing cabinets, tools and inventory) related to your in-home business is extremely limited under most such policies and no business liability insurance is included. Therefore, you need to look at a separate policy to keep your home-based business protected.

Understand the business coverage you may need

Since every business is unique, you should talk to your insurance representative about the specific coverage your type of in-home operation requires. However, business insurance generally includes property coverage and liability coverage.

Property coverage protects structures and possessions against loss or damage caused by certain covered risks such as fire and theft. Liability coverage provides

a predetermined dollar amount to you should you become legally obligated to pay money to another person for bodily injury or property damage caused by your business. This kind of coverage includes the costs of defending your business in any legal activities related to a liability claim. The liability coverage may also cover medical payments for injured parties, for which you may be held responsible.

Know your in-home business policy options

Some of the more common types of insurance available for in-home businesses include:

- 1) Incidental Business Endorsement may be attached to your existing homeowners policy, depending on the type of business you are operating. This type of coverage will cover structures or equipment on your premises that are used for business purposes. This endorsement can also be tailored to include your business liability.
- 2) A Business Owners Package Policy, or BOP, is the next step if your in-home business does not qualify for coverage under the incidental business endorsement. A BOP provides property and liability coverage.
- 3) An In-Home Business Owners Policy combines homeowners and business owner's coverage into a single policy, designed specifically for in-home businesses. This type of policy provides both business coverage, such as business liability and replacement of lost income, with homeowners coverage including fire, theft and personal liability. These policies eliminate gaps and duplications in coverage, and the rates reflect the in-home status of your business.

Don't forget to determine your business-related vehicle coverage

If you have a personal vehicle that you use for business or if your in-home business is the owner of one or

more vehicles, be sure to check with your insurance representative to see if you should purchase a Personal or Commercial Auto Insurance Policy.

Remember to protect yourself!

If your in-home business is your full-time occupation, you may need to be responsible for your own employee-benefits such as health insurance, life insurance and a retirement plan. In this case, you may want to consider:

- 1) Life Insurance where an insurance company pays a stated amount of money upon your death to the person(s) named as beneficiaries by you.
- 2) Disability Insurance in case you cannot work because of sickness, disease or bodily injury.
- 3) A Health Plan to cover doctor visits, hospital services, medical tests and other costs incurred in medical care.
- 4) An annuity that pays out income and can be used as part of a retirement strategy. With an annuity, you make an investment and the annuity then makes payments to you on a future date or series of dates. The income you receive from an annuity can be paid monthly, quarterly, annually or even in a lump sum payment.
- 5) Workers Compensation Insurance is necessary if your in-home business has any employees. Workers compensation insurance offers a schedule of benefits, without regard to liability, if an employee should become injured as a result of a job-related accident or suffers an illness attributable to a workplace cause.

Operating a business from home has many advantages, but it also carries similar risks and responsibilities as any business located in a commercial venue. To make sure you mitigate the potential losses and liability associated with your in-home business, talk with your insurance representative about your needs and the best insurance options to ensure your company — and livelihood — are properly protected.





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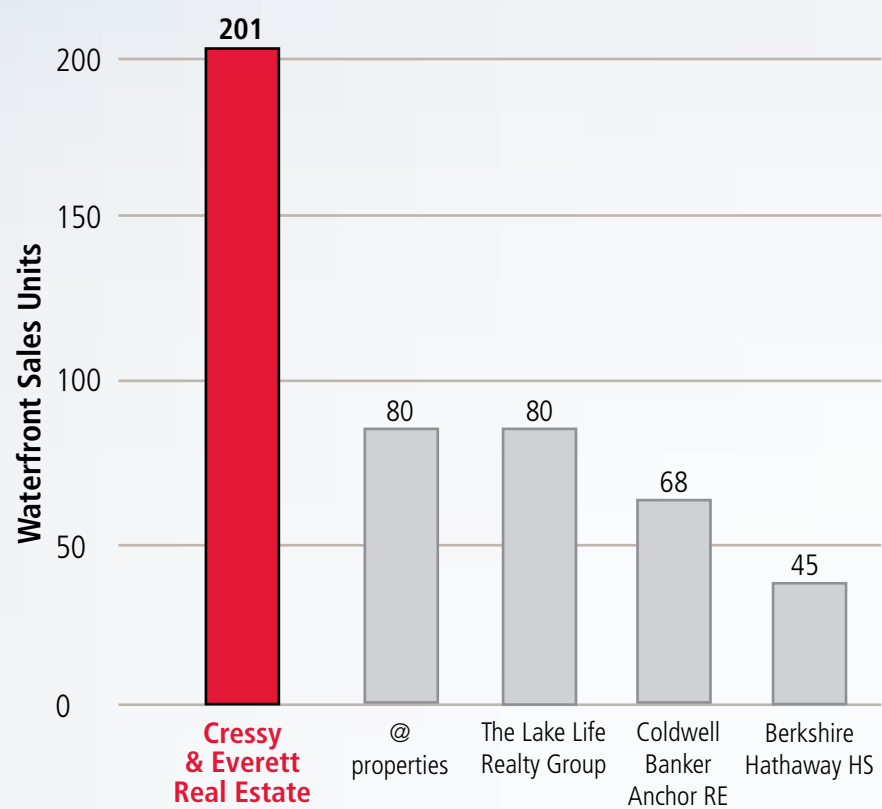
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OUR CHILDREN

Curing the summer boredom blues

by **SANDY FLEMING**

School's been out for a few weeks now, and chances are very good that one of two things are going on at your house with your school-aged children. Have you been hearing consistent cries of "I'm bored! There's nothing to do around here"? Or are you concerned that the kids are spending way too much time playing video games, watching videos, or socializing online?

One cure is to make sure the kids have something else to work on. Take advantage of the present educational trend towards project-based learning, and give them a project that will take anywhere from a few days to several weeks.

Projects are nice because they pull together all of the learning that kids have been working on in school and provide an outlet for creativity as well. They can be individual projects or they can be group affairs, and you can make sure that they are effective for children of nearly any school age (and sometimes younger!).

What makes a good project? There are a few guidelines. First of all, the kids need to either think it up or get excited when you suggest it. Secondly, it should be something that needs effort to do it right. It's great if the finished project leads to some sort of tangible product that can be shown off, used, or displayed. And finally, it should engage lots of different kinds of skills. Ask the kids what they would enjoy, or float some of these ideas by them.

Write an ABC Book

ABC books make great projects to share with younger siblings, cousins, neighbors, or even the local child care business. They also are wonderful tools to engage older kids in research, writing, illustrating, and all around creativity. Choose a broad subject or category, such as animals, a country, or a profession. Have the writers plan out what they could use for each letter of the alphabet that is related to the topic. For example, a book about India might start with A is for Art, and go on to explain and give examples of Indian artwork. B might be for Britain, since Britain controlled India for many years as a colony, and British influence survives to this day. C might be for cricket- a popular game in India. You get the idea. For each entry/letter, the authors should plan out what sentences they will write to explain their term and why they chose it. How does it relate to the main topic?

Once the planning phase is completed, it's time to create pages. These will need to be printed or lettered with the words and sentences and also illustrated. Don't forget to do front and back matter pages before and after the main alphabet pages, like a table of contents, an introduction, and an index or glossary at the end. Make front and back covers from heavier paper with amazing illustrations. Finally, choose a method of binding the book. This can be as simple as punching holes and tying the pages together with yarn, or you can investigate more elaborate methods. Many copy shops can also bind books for a small fee, using coil or other types of bindings.

When it is completed, share the book! Have kids read it to younger children, or share it with a daycare.



One cure is to make sure the kids have something else to work on. Take advantage of the present educational trend towards project-based learning, and give them a project that will take anywhere from a few days to several weeks.

Create a New Game

Games are always fun, and you can easily adapt this project to nearly any age level. Creating a game requires that kids think things through logically, experiment and try ideas out, be creative, and understand skills and social interactions of the target age group of players. It also requires that kids write, illustrate, and frequently do various kinds of math. You'll need a few materials that are likely already around the house, or can be found inexpensively at variety stores, like cardboard, paper, markers, scissors, index cards, rulers and the like.

The easiest way to make a new game is to model it after a favorite game. Games come in several basic types: board games, strategy games, card games, action games, role-playing games, and so forth. Have the game designers consider what type of game they'd like to create, and then plan out what they need to make in order to play. They will need to think of things needed to play, like boards, cards, dice, or equipment. They will need to map out what should happen on each player's turn, and what the final goal is or how to win. Setting up rules is of course also important. All of these details needs to be planned out in fine detail. You can even have the game designers write up a proposal describing their game, how it's played and the rules before you agree to purchase or acquire

any of the supplies they need to make a prototype.

Once they have their ideas on paper, it's time to create or borrow the things needed to play and try the game out. They'll need to have critical eyes, and perhaps get some feedback from players who did not help design the game. Of course, adjustments are nearly always needed. They may find that turns don't end when they are supposed to, or there's not enough randomness in the game play so that a certain player always is likely to win. Have them amend their proposal!

Once the game works the way that they intend, it's time to make it for real. Help them by supplying their requested materials. Make sure they write down the rules in a way that is clear enough for others to understand. Remind them to be precise when they construct things, like cutting out cards or creating game boards. If it's worth doing, it's worth doing right!

If you want to keep the project going, challenge them to design an advertising campaign with print ads, commercials, and a website. Who knows, they just might have a winner on their hands!

Set Up a Museum

What child doesn't have a collection? No matter whether your group collects rocks or trading cards or buttons, kids can turn their favorite collection into a museum with a bit of planning and

effort. Set aside an area of the house where their work can reside for a few days or weeks. A tabletop, a corner, or even a bulletin board or a wall can work. Have them design a way to display items in their collection, write up explanations about each item, including when and where it was acquired, what it is, and why it is important enough to deserve a place in the museum. Some research might be in order to discover new facts about each item.

But that's only the beginning. Once the museum is "built," kids can design brochures, create audio recordings for a guided tour, and make advertising campaigns. Museums also need funding, so writing a proposal to convince donors to support the museum's continued operation is another subproject. Use your imagination! The sky's the limit. Set a pretend admission price and roll dice or grab random numbers in some other fashion to calculate the profits each day. Pay out pretend salaries to docents and gift shop workers. Set up playing cards that have realistic expenditures and unexpected money support and "run" the museum for a few days to see if it can make a profit.

What other ideas can your family dream up? How about designing a country, running a pretend store, or planning a dream vacation? You can even challenge older kids to run a few weeks of "adult life" where they use advertisements and the internet to find property, jobs, a car, and take care of the other business of living. Nearly any project that requires planning and implementation will do. Be sure to add in elements that require reading, research, writing, and calculating, and you will be keeping the kids' minds active all summer long.

Sandy Fleming is an educational consultant, writer and tutor from Edwardsburg. Visit her website at <http://sandyflemingonline.com> for more fun summer learning ideas.

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Historic postcards depict rich scenes of our area's past

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

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

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

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

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

In this edition of Neighbors we have selected postcards showing images of Indian 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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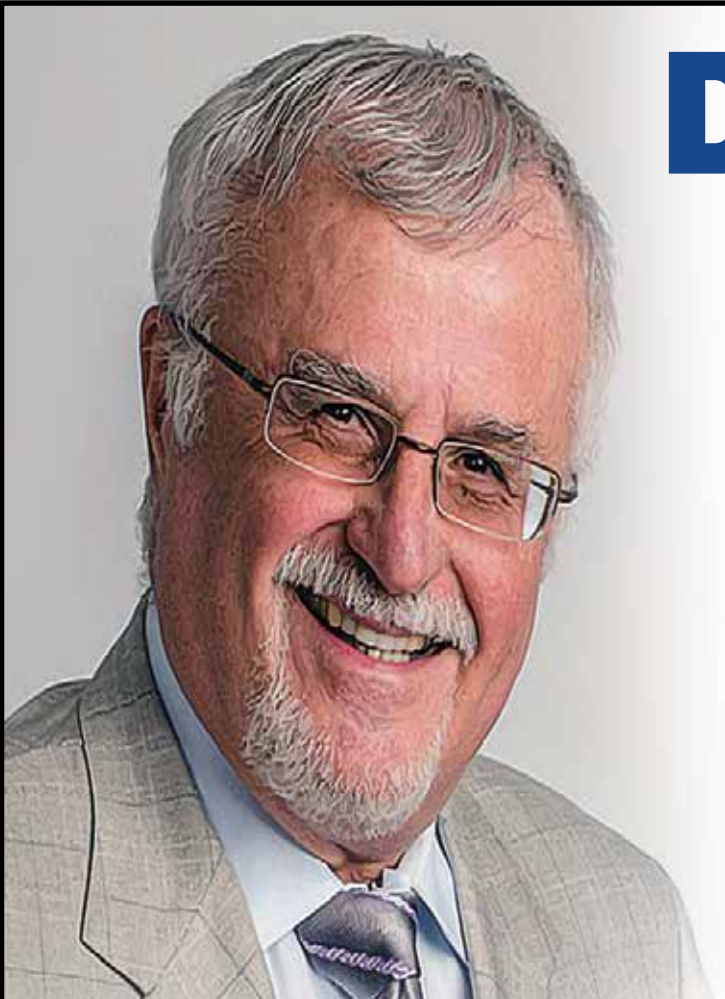
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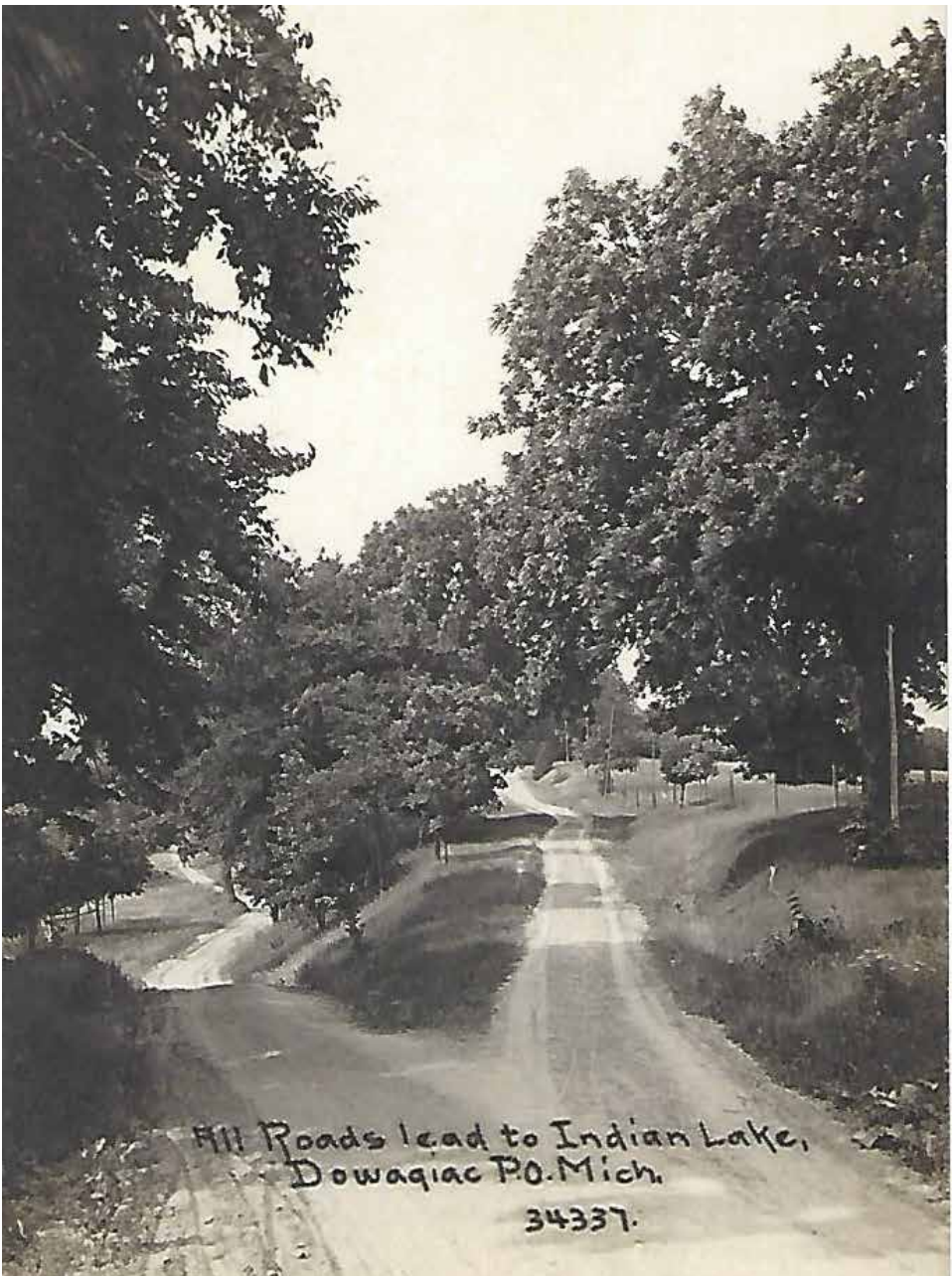
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LOCAL HISTORY



1868 Dowagiac, Michigan View of Beeson Street


Provided by Cass District Library
Local History Branch

One of the oldest known photographs taken outside of a studio in Cass County is the famous "wheat day" photo from Dowagiac dating from around 1860. The subject of the photo is teams of horses and farmers delivering their wheat to the Michigan Central Railroad freight house. The shot also captures a view of the park, including young trees that were planted in

1860. The majority of the horses are located along Beeson Street, on the left of the photograph. The brick building on the far left was owned by Joel H. Smith and rented to Fred H. Ross who used it as a hardware store as early as 1861. To the right of the brick building we see Hervey Bigelow's furniture store. If you look closely you can see large letters on the store front reading "BIGELOW'S CABINET & CHAIR WAREHOUSES". The park in the foreground is gone, as several buildings are located on the land.

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Ramptown Cabin Entertainment

Youth Center Presentations

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3 pm "Cass County in the Civil War" -- Keith Harrison (MI and Cass Co) 3 pm
-- Geoff Blair (102nd USCT) 4 pm

Sunday, July 14 (11am - 5 pm)

11 am -- Community Church Service

All Day --
Kentucky Raid Tours
Civil War Encampment
Visit Bonine House, Carriage House, Bogue House
Period Craft Demonstrations
Soul Food Dinner
Arts & Craft Booths
Family Events
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Youth Center Presentations

1 pm "The Illustrated and Dramatized Kentucky Slave Raid of 1847" -- Cindy Yawkey
3 pm Sally Jo Connor introduces her new documentary about Vandalia's Paradise Lake Resort

Saturday, 5:30 pm -- Vandalia Village Green
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NATURE NOTES

Wildlife abounds in the early summer

Provided by Cass District Library
Local History Branch

Mary Sweet of Bainbridge Township sent a photo of a flock of wild turkeys displaying in her backyard on the morning of June 12. Most wild turkey hens in Michigan are currently tending to nests or young birds. However, as we can see from Sweets photo, the Tom turkeys continue displaying for the females long after the initial part of the breeding season.

Last week, David Lawrence of Berrien Springs ventured down to Weesaw Township where he photographed a dickcissel, which was defending its nesting territory among large hayfields. Although the Dickcissel occurs annually in Southwest Michigan, they are rather hard to find, much less photograph.

The dickcissel is a bird of extensive grasslands. Local numbers vary year to year, resulting in part by fluctuating habitat availability at other parts of their summer range. Dickcissels are more common to our west, and during years of drought on the Great Plains, we usually see an influx of dickcissels on our local open grasslands. The summer of 1989 yielded higher than average dickcissels in the Great lakes area, and so did the summers of 2006 and 2007. In 2006 over 400 pairs of dickcissels were found in Michigan alone.

This year the species is restricted in Berrien County to extensive grasslands along Mill Road in Weesaw Township, between Kruegar Road to the south and Elm Valley Road to the north.

The dickcissel appears roughly the size of our common house sparrow, and the male looks like a miniature meadowlark with its black bib and yellow chest. The female appears similar but lacks the black bib.

Dickcissels arrive in southern Michigan from South America around May 20, and are one of the last spring migrants to appear each year. Nesting begins immediately upon arrival. Many nests are destroyed in hayfields when hay is harvested in June or early July. Areas with tallgrass prairies such as Sarett and Fernwood Nature Centers have best nesting success.

The species stops singing in mid-July and can be difficult to detect after they stop singing. As a result, local departure dates are difficult to determine. However it is thought that most are gone by late August, on their way back to South America.

Peter Plikaitus of St. Joseph found a gray tree frog last week, that had climbed onto a black walnut tree. Eventually the frog made its way to the ground where it was photographed.

Gray tree frogs are common in our region and are known for their ability to



Photo credits:

Wild turkeys on display at home of Mary Sweet, Bainbridge Township, Berrien County on morning of June 12, 2019.

Dickcissel by David Lawrence of Berrien Springs. June 2019 along Mill Road, Weesaw Township.

Yellow-breasted chat, Jill Henemyer of Grand Rapids, at Sarett Nature Center. Red fox mother and her three pups, by Kevin Conklin.

Sora rail, along a ditch, Lincoln Township, Bob Conrad of St. Joseph.

A fawn white-tailed deer, running towards its mother, Royalton Township, Kristi Bradford.

Osprey bringing fish to hatchlings in nest, Madron Lake Road, Buchanan Twp. By Bob Conrad of St Joseph.

Eight mallard ducklings at Galien River County Park, New Buffalo Township, Brad Anderson.

climb trees and buildings, as they have suction cups located on their toes. The tree frog also has the ability to change its color, usually from gray to green, depending on the substrate on which they are sitting.

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

A mother red fox with three kits have been seen around the home of Kevin Conklin in Fairplain this month. Conklin was able to snap a few photos of the animals, as the young romp around his yard under mother's watchful eye.

These young fox pups are likely about 45-60 days old, when they begin to leave the den and begin to eat small mammals and birds. Shrews, mice and

voles are the staple of their diet, in addition to squirrels and the occasional songbird. The father will bring the kit fox food, while mother watches the youngsters.

Red fox are not known to commonly attack domestic dogs but if hungry enough, they will go after house cats.

The young kits will remain with the parents until October or November, when they will set out on their own.

An average of five kits are born in the early spring in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, but three or four young are the average number born in the Upper Peninsula. The species prefers open or semi-open country, and avoids unbroken large forests.

Red fox are found throughout most

of the United States, except for the arid southwest, and Canada, and is found in all of Michigan's 83 counties including the larger islands in Lake Michigan such as Beaver and the Manitou Islands, and on Isle Royale in Lake Superior.

Natural enemies of the red fox in Southwest Michigan include larger hawks and owls, which may be able to carry off a young kit, and the coyote. In northern Michigan the bobcat and gray wolf prey on red fox.

Kristi Bradford of Royalton Township found a fawn white-tailed deer

Continued on next page. See:
NATURE

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NATURE NOTES

NATURE

Continued from previous page

next to her home on May 17th. Bradford was able to capture some photos as it huddled between the tiger lilies, until it heard its mother's call and trotted off.

On May 13, Bob Wagner noticed a male American redstart, which is a wood-warbler, that was stunned after apparently striking a window at Edgewater Automation in St. Joseph. Wagner says he picked up the bird, placed it on a window ledge and soon it flew off.

Bob Conrad photographed a sora rail, in Lincoln Township on May 4. Rails are birds of the cattail marshes, related to coots and gallinules, and are heard more often than seen.

The sora in Conrads photo ventured out from the thick vegetation in which is usually hides, probably in search of food. This bird was migrating from its southern wintering grounds of the Southeastern US, to Michigan or Canada where it nests. The most reliable place locally to find sora rails are the marshes of Sarett Nature Center and the Brown Sanctuary northeast of Benton Harbor.

By June, spring migration is over and the nesting season reaches its zenith. For several years a pair of osprey have nested on a platform made especially for that purpose, off Madron Lake Road in Buchanan Township.

Bob and Pat Conrad of St. Joseph paid a visit to the ospreys on May 30, when Bob captured the accompanying photo of an adult osprey in flight with a fish in its talons.

Osprey feed primarily on live fish, by diving into shallow water and catching them near the waters surface with their powerful feet.

The young ospreys will leave the nest late in June or in July, and by September the young will be on their own. The bulk of the osprey population depart Michigan during August and September, and lingering birds depart by October. They winter primarily in the southern US, although a few great blue herons over-winter as far north as southern Michigan.

Brad Anderson photographed eight mallard ducklings at Galien River County Park, New Buffalo Township on May 25. The mother remained close to her young, but kept out of the camera's eye. Seven to ten mallard eggs per nest are average in Michigan. The eight mallard ducklings at Galien River County Park will remain with their mother for several more weeks before they go out on their own.

The mallard is the most common

duck in North America, and breeding success increases during years of above average rainfall. Thus, there is truth to the statement "Nice weather, for ducks!" during rainstorms!

A nice image of a great blue heron in flight was sent in by Bob Conrad this week. The photo was taken on May 4 at a pond near the corner of Hollywood and Glenlord Roads.

Great blue herons are sometimes confused with sandhill cranes. One way to tell the difference is that a great blue heron in flight will always have its neck coiled inward, while a sandhill cranes neck will be straight.

Great blue herons are currently in the process of caring for young. Nests are located in colonies called


rookeries and are located near lakes, streams or other wetlands. Sometimes heron rookeries are located in isolated woodlots away from water.


A great blue heron rookery was discovered in recent years at Sarett Nature Center, Hagar Township. A larger rookery is located on private land in Pipestone Township.

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THE LAST WORD

Giant yellow worms are eating this year's flag crop ...

A

lright, whoever planted all the flag seeds beside the road, in fact, in *every* yard down the east side of the road that I live on, they've come up, and they're ready to harvest!

And we sure hope you havest them soon, we're not really sure they're welcome in our neighborhood ... they're attracting some unwanted attention from some pretty nasty looking vermin!

Ok, so here's the story ...

Over the last few months, whenever the rain stopped long enough for us to take a walk, my wife, dog and I have been doing some road walking, in an ongoing attempt to shed last winter's excess without having to take up Zumba dancing or submit to that new barbaric, bariatric belly-amputation process.

So recently, between rains (did I mention it's rained most of the last 40 days and 40 nights around here?), we started to notice a variety of brightly colored flags sprouting alongside the roadways at the county. At first we thought they were growing wild ... lots of flowers and weeds spring up along the backroads where we walk ... but then we began to notice strange markings on the dirt and grass by the flags, usually in the same color of the flag ... like someone had actually marked out the places to plant the seeds and grow these silly-looking things.

Well, we watched for a couple weeks but although we never actually saw anyone planting or tending their scattered flag crop, the darn things were doing great ... and it sure looked to us like they must have been reseeding themselves,



because more and more started showing up every day ... I guess the rain must be really good for the crop, because before we knew it, there were so many of them they outnumbered the sickly looking wet corn stalks sticking out the flooded fields just across the roads.

I guess you could say we were surprised that someone would have the gall to plant these things in our yards, but despite all that, we weren't really concerned, the flags looked harmless enough, and as long as the harvesting process didn't knock down the mailboxes or something weird like that, we agreed we'd just let it go.

But then about a week ago these big holes started to appear everywhere, and then large brown spots starting showing up ... where it looked like a hole had been filled in, and all of the flags in the brown areas were either gone or dead, left crumpled and lifeless beside the road to be run over or rot in the fields.

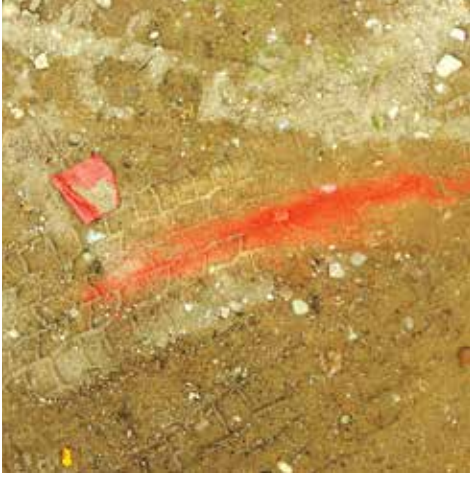
We were stunned. We immediately

contacted the Extension Office and the state Department of Environmental Quality to see if they had any info on this massive crop die-off, but they were as clueless as we were ... said they'd come out and have a look and let us know if they found out anything, but we never heard from them.

And as if that weren't all bad enough, this week a new horror has arisen, and this one is scaring the dickens out of us and all the neighbors!

Overnight these giant, slow-moving yellow worms of some sort have started sticking their heads up right out of the ground in the areas where the flag seeds were planted ... and it sure looks like they're stalking the flags and gobbling them down whole!

We shot some pictures of a couple of these horrible things hoping we could show them to the authorities and they'd come out and do something, but when we went back the next day, they were gone and one of those dead brown spots was all that was left. It was like they'd eaten their fill of flags and then went back into the ground to move down the road to the next row.



Now we're not sure what to do next ... this could be some kind of new invasive species from Asia or somewhere that has somehow gotten into the soil ... or maybe it's an invasion of alien zombie, flag-eating worms here to take over our roadsides.

Whatever it is I hope that whoever planted all those flag seeds realizes that their crop is being decimated ... and if they don't come get what's left soon, there'll be nothing left for the harvest!



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