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NEIGHBORS

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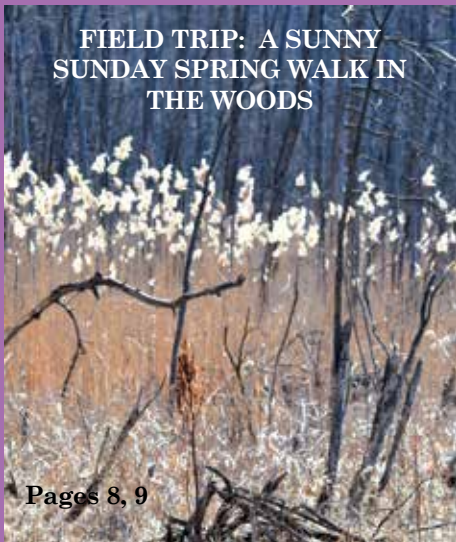
A regional newspaper widely distributed in Dowagiac, Cassopolis, Edwardsburg, Vandalia, Jones, Marcellus, Decatur, Union, Sister Lakes, Three Rivers, Elkhart and Mishawaka, with home delivery at Diamond, Eagle, Birch, Corey, Donnell, Indian, Magician, Shavehead, Baldwin, Long, Dewey, Cable, Juno, Christiana,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



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REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

April 6 - Fandom Fest, Dowagiac District Library library sponsored comic-con, 11 am - 7 pm the Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College

April 21 - Henry Winkler at The Mendel Center, Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, 7:30 pm, <https://www.themendelcenter.com/events/>

detail.html?calendarid=11Admission: \$50 - , \$80 + applicable fees, 269-927-8700

May 15 - 9 am - noon, Cass County Hazardous Waste Collection, Cass County Road Commission, Cassopolis, 445-4420

May 21 - Dowagiac Memorial Day Parade, 10:30 am - Noon

June 2 - Dowagiac Farm & Artisan Market, 9am - 2 pm
July 16 - Dowagiac Summer in the City Festival, 10 am - 5 pm

August 1 - 7 - Cass County Fair

August 21 - Dowagiac Rod & Roll Classic Auto Show, 7 am - 4 pm

October 9 - Dowagiac Under the Harvest Moon Festival, 10 am - 4 pm

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to the pandemic all events are subject to change or cancellation. Please check with event organizers prior to attending any events.

April 2021 Programs - Cass District Library Programs

All Month - More Than a Book Club (Edwardsburg Branch): Do you miss in-person book discussions? Do you want suggestions on great books to read? Then stop by the Edwardsburg Branch to pick up a monthly book bundle. There will be a featured title each month but this "no pressure" book club allows you to read at your own leisure and keep track of your thoughts to share when we can meet. Bundles include suggestions, read-alikes, activities, and more. Contact Cindy at (269) 467-0649 ext. 303 for information.

April 5-10 - Animal Planter Grow Kit Take and Make (All Locations): Start spring off with an Animal Planter Grow Kit! These kits are available at any branch location while supplies last and include the ceramic animal planter, mint seeds and soil. Just add water!

April 10 - 17 - \$mart Money Michigan

Kids Read (All Locations): Stop by any branch to grab a money book, activity packets and a ceramic piggy bank to paint and decorate!

April 12 - 16 - Butterfly Paint Craft Take and Make Kit (Edwardsburg Branch): Spring is here! Stop by the Edwardsburg Branch to grab a Butterfly Paint Craft while supplies last. Kits include wood butterfly, paint and paintbrush.

April 14 - 1 pm - Craft Club (Main Branch): Join us at the Main Branch for a monthly craft club! Space is limited, and registration is required. Supplies will be provided. Contact Stephanie at (269) 749-1384 ext. 106 for more information and to register.

Outdoor Spring Story Time - Bring your favorite blanket and join us for out-

door stories, songs, games, crafts and other activities! Outdoor Story Time is being offered at Main, Edwardsburg and Mason/Union branches. Story time is designed for children ages 3-5 years old and their caregiver. If weather conditions are poor, this program will be moved indoors.

- Mason/Union Branch: Wednesday **April 14, 21 and 28** - 10 am
- Main Branch: Thursday **April 15, 22 and 29** - 10 am
- Edwardsburg Branch: Friday **April 16, 23 and 30** - 10 am

April 26 - Soft Pretzel Take and Make Kit (All Locations): Celebrate National Pretzel Day with a Soft Pretzel Take and Make Kit! These kits include flour, sugar, salt, yeast and full baking instructions. Just add water, an egg and baking soda. Kits are available at all branch locations while supplies last.

NEIGHBORS

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LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

Hang up the shovel and grab a rake!

by **Jane Boudreau**

Hey Neighbors! Are we getting further away from our little holiday/terrible weather/hibernation break? We have to be getting close to hanging up the good 'ol shovel and grabbing a rake. If you like to get out into the yard and get your hands dirty, you're probably as ready as I am to start digging. The seed catalogs are getting a little worn from my constant thumbing through them, and I continue to toy with the idea of growing vegetables this year. I promised myself last summer that I was going to downsize my gardens and potted flowers. But now I've forgotten all of the hard and relentless work — similar to the labor in having a baby — I just remember how pretty everything looked.

My daughter loves her flower pots as much as I do. They make for a portable garden. When we have days with scorching sun and little rain, we can move them to the shade. The same if I leave for a few days. They don't dry out so bad. If the watering routine gets you a little crazy, plant your flowers in the ground in semi shade, and you'll reduce the watering. Anyway, what my daughter does to save time and make a good impression, is to buy ready-made flower pots from her nursery or a Big Box store and stick them in one of her own decorative planters. I thought this was a little too expensive to do, and then I took a look at my method. I'd buy flats of flowers and potting soil. It would take me a good afternoon to get my pots planted, watered, and put where I wanted them. Keeping the height and width of flowers in mind when planting isn't always easy, and, I usually end up with leftover plants. I feel sorry for them, make more pots, and end up with a multitude of flowers to care for. I'm going to think about her method this spring.



Which way do you go about it?

When I'm longing for color, I snip some fragrant branches from my forsythia bush. It blooms just after my tulips and daffodils. They last a good long time indoors with water.

At the end of last summer I began a little project of enlarging a border along a fence filled willy~nilly with flowers and bulbs. All I really did was dig out further in a curved line to add some interest. I wish I'd had time to buy more plants but I was lucky to get some scraggly phlox and a half dead hydrangea. I created a border with some leftover cobblestone from a long ago project. I'm actually glad I didn't have time to do more before the



weather changed; I now have time to properly make a plan and shop for plants in their healthiest form.

I'm always big on spring cleaning, or at least good intentions. Did we talk about this last month? Have you ever noticed that in January, every bit of media is touting some sort of miraculous way to clean, sort, and organize your home in five easy steps, no doubt?? I guess they play on our senses, and perhaps guilt~ that we must be so darn bored in January, that we'll even pull out a broom and dust pan to keep ourselves amused.

I don't worry too much about my house not being clean — it's just my husband and I (although he can sometimes be like 5 kids rolled into one). I think it's more about clutter and dust from things not moving around so much. I'm truly convinced that I'll be that little old lady with drawers and cubbies filled with rubber bands and string.

Last year I went on a good riddance binge and gave away more than half of my cookbooks. I had well over a hundred, and as much as I love to cook, I often judged a book by its pretty cover. What a way to start a huge collection. With smaller publishing houses now, and even ways to self-publish books, the compulsion to buy is as easy as typing in Amazon. And if you are a fan of Pinterest like me, you need go no further than your computer when you are standing in the kitchen holding a frozen chicken and a bag of okra.

The disgusting part was when I removed the books from the shelves. They had a nice high gloss of grease due to their proximity to the stove. Dish soap is the perfect grease cutter, so I poured a hefty amount into a small bucket, and proceeded to clean up the covers of these books. This got me thinking about all the great recipes I had made from these books over the years and nostalgia set in. As much as I use my computer for work and writing, I'm very against losing the power of the written word so I ended up keeping more than half.

Here are a few of the things I have in abundance in just my kitchen alone, as this seems to be the catchall for everything:

- Plastic grocery bags
- Pens
- Pencils (does anyone use pencils anymore?)
- Random scribbles on paper/receipts
- Coupons
- Tupperware lids
- Mail (Junk)
- Vitamin bottles (full but expired)
- Old potholders
- Wine stoppers
- Worn out sponges
- Dog brushes
- Dog hair
- 16 bottles of white wine vinegar

I have a crock of utensils which includes three turkey basters and I've never used one. And we all must have spices past their prime...anyone else have six containers of poultry seasoning? How about pot holders? I look at the drawerful I have and I

can't remember buying any of them. It seems like they just came with the house. Soft and worn with corny sentiments. The old ones usually are the ones I'll reach for, even if I have replenished the drawer recently. The same with sheets and towels. I hit those white sales and keep the new towels in the back so we just use the old stuff first. Never mind throwing anything out, and God forbid I rip them into rags and someone attempts to use one to wash their car or clean up dog vomit, I go crazy, "You think you're going to use my good old rags? Are you



out of your mind???"

I wanted to share our nifty new refrigerator that we splurged on last summer (I hope I haven't written about it before). It looks a wee bit small, doesn't it? We actually got it for our laundry room to hold an overflow of food and leftovers when we have company coming to stay. The rest of the time I hide my yogurt, ice cream, and Diet Pepsi from my hubby. This is the Unique Brand from Home Depot. It has a retro look and comes in several minty colors. You'll wonder how you got along without it.

I've been cooking up a storm lately. The weather is crazy, every day is a variation of rain and cold. By the time you get this, Easter may have come and gone. I'm sharing just an odd assortment of my favorites this month in my recipe section.

Stacked Iceberg Lettuce Salad

I was scratching my head the other day thinking that I couldn't remember the last time I had a salad with crisp iceberg lettuce and tomatoes along with some goopy dressing, at least since we stopped going to restaurants awhile ago. And I always go for the salad rather than soup at restaurants as an exchange for the greasy, calorie loaded entree I plan to order. So anyway, I was pawing through the veggie bin in my fridge and all I had was baby arugula, baby spinach, and baby wilted something or other. The next time I did a shopping I grabbed a nice head of iceberg and then I tried to recreate the salad of my youth before all the "super greens" came along with their fancy balsamic vinaigrette's. Is anyone else sick and tired of balsamic vinegar?

So here you have my latest and greatest salad.

Ingredients:

- 1 head of iceberg lettuce
- 4 stalks of celery, washed and chopped in 1/2 pieces
- 8 radishes, thinly sliced
- 6 oz feta cheese crumbles

- 3 oz chopped pancetta (or bacon)
- 1/2 c mayonnaise
- 1/2 c sour cream
- 1 t Worcestershire sauce
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 2 T fresh lemon juice
- S&P to taste

Directions:

Prepare salad dressing, cover and refrigerate. In a small skillet, sauté pancetta. Drain and set aside.

Assemble salad. Remove any loose outer leaves of lettuce. Slice the lettuce widthwise in 1/2 in pieces. Do this until you have 8 slices. You don't have to be perfect, just try to keep the pieces together.

To assemble, place one stack of lettuce on each of four plates. Top with a small amount of the radishes, celery, and pancetta. Drizzle a bit of the dressing over and a squeeze lemon. Serves 4

*You may want to double the dressing. It will stay fresh in your fridge for about 5 days and is perfect for sandwiches, burgers, or another salad if you are still craving that crisp, watery good stuff! And a final note, I was inspired by a recipe in The Smitten Kitchen cookbook. I love everything Deb creates but I made several modifications here.



Mixed Grill Casserole

This is a sort of queer season for recipes. We are probably sick of soup, stews, and good 'ol comfort foods, but a warm oven keeps the home fires burning. I think casseroles are a nice bridge between winter and spring.

When we cook outside in the summer, I like to make what I call a 'mixed grill'. A few different types of meat and veggies. As long as the meat is cut in relatively the same size, everything will come out at the same time. I took this idea further by making a casserole that has all the flavors of the mixed grill and more. And a little comfort. I have a few notes at the end, as there is a method to my madness. Please read all the way through.

Ingredients:

- 2 T olive oil
- 1 lb. chicken thighs, trimmed of fat, and cubed 1 inch
- 1 lb. sweet Italian sausage, sliced in 1/2 inch rounds
- 1 large onion, peeled and roughly chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped fine
- 1 green pepper, seeded and chopped
- 4 medium size red potatoes, cubed 1 inch
- 8 oz. frozen cut green beans
- S & P to taste
- 1 large jar of marinara sauce, your choice
- 1 cup bread crumbs, divided*
- 1 T butter, melted
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese (Mozzarella works well also)

Directions:

Heat the olive oil in large dutch oven over high heat. Brown the chicken thigh

Continued on next page. See:

JANE

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Understanding different types of homeowner policies

By **Charlie Retheford**
Kemner, lott, Benz Agency

Do you ever ask yourself the question, “What type of homeowners insurance do I need?” It can be confusing to understand all the types of policies out there. The type of policy can change depending on if you own a single-family home, rent, or own a condo or mobile home. Rest assured, we have you covered.

Homeowners Policy

A Homeowners policy is the most common type of home policy. You would want this policy if your house is a stand-alone dwelling, single- or multi-family dwelling, and you are living in the dwelling. When talking to your agent regarding homeowners insurance, you want to make sure to choose "replacement cost" coverage if possible. Most homeowners' policies will pay to rebuild your home if it was destroyed. In addition to the structure, coverage includes the wiring, plumbing, heating, and air conditioning. Policies are issued for the amount it would cost to rebuild your home.

Insurance agents can assist you with determining the correct insurance value as land and unattached buildings are not included in this amount. It is important to note that there are claim payment penalties for homes that are not insured to the correct valuation.

Another coverage you want to make sure your agent includes is Personal Property coverage. Personal Property is all the contents in your home. Covering your contents for replacement cost versus actual cash value is recommended. Like it sounds, replacement cost is what you pay to replace an item; actual cash value is what the item is worth after depreciation. For example: if your sofa is destroyed in a fire, replacement cost on contents coverage would allow the company to reimburse you the cost of a new

sofa. Actual cash value coverage limits the company payment to the amount your old sofa was worth if you were to sell it used.

Homeowners policies include coverage for injury or damage to others if you are sued or determined to be legally liable. Examples include: injury if someone falls on your icy sidewalk, your dog bites a neighbor or damage if your child breaks a friend's expensive Chinese vase. Consider your assets when deciding on a liability limit, for many people \$500,000 is adequate, but other limits are available.

Typically losses covered by a homeowner's policy are for fire, windstorm, hail, lightning, theft or vandalism. Other damage may be covered, but generally these policies do NOT cover flood or earthquakes.

You can choose from a variety of deductible amounts. A deductible is an amount of money that you pay first for any loss.

Renters Policy

Whether you are just moving in, or have rented for a while, Renter's insurance can prevent financial hardship and is very affordable. A renters policy is simply a policy that will cover your personal property or contents and gives you liability coverage if you are sued or determined to be legally liable, as explained above.

Manufactured or Mobile Home Policy

Manufactured or Mobile Home Insurance is unique and provides options for a variety of coverages. There are three areas to consider when insuring your mobile home, the dwelling, your contents, and personal liability.

Depending on the age of your manufactured or mobile home, you may be able to choose coverage for either Replacement Cost or Actual Cash Value.

Replacement Cost coverage will pay to replace/rebuild your home if it was destroyed. In addition to the structure, coverage includes wiring, plumbing, heating and air conditioning. Policies are issued for the amount it would cost to replace your home. This coverage may not be available for older homes. Actual Cash Value policies pay up to the policy limits in the event of loss. These policies are issued for the amount the home is worth/sales value.

Condo Policy

Condo Policies are sort of a hybrid between a renters and homeowners policy. Depending on the agreement between you and your condo association, will determine how much coverage you will need for the structure of your condo. The "structure" may also include wiring and plumbing. It is a good idea to have the agreement with you when you talk to your insurance agent so they can make sure you are fully covered in the event of a total loss.

You will also want to make sure you have personal property coverage and liability coverage on your policy just like the other policies we have already mentioned.

One other thing I'd like to mention, it is a good idea to take an inventory of your personal belongings. This could really be to your advantage if you were to file claim for a total loss. It would be really difficult to remember each and everything you owned after a loss. Having an inventory of all your items, will help you and your insurance company. Here are some tips on creating an inventory:

- Take photos and/or videos of each room and what it contains including closets, cupboards, and drawers. If possible, scan receipts to keep with your home inventory. You would be surprised at how items can add up. Take special note of valuable items.
- Photograph the outside of your house

and include outdoor furniture and decorations.

- Electronics are major purchases. List and photograph model and serial numbers for electronics including televisions, stereos, computers, and mobile devices.
- Lay out a set of dinnerware, silverware or other valuables and photograph. Include a picture to show the brand and pattern. Then count the number you have of each and photograph to show the number of sets you own.
- Take photos of things that cannot be replaced. (family photographs, mementos, heirlooms) Although these items are irreplaceable, make copies so you will have a record of the items. Remember these items may not be assessed at the value you give them. If they are valued as antiques or works of art, be sure they are listed separately with assigned values.
- Inventory the garage and include sports equipment, tools, and power equipment.
- Store the home inventory off premises. E-mail a copy to yourself and use cloud storage to keep copies electronically or save on a flash drive and keep it in a safe deposit box. Don't save the inventory only on a computer drive that could be destroyed. A lot of insurance agents are also able to store this information for you.
- You may need special coverage if you have expensive collections. Some unique items to consider are: musical instruments, guns, sports equipment, electronics, hearing aids, etc.

Understanding the different types of home policies will hopefully make the decisions regarding your policy easier. Contact one of our insurance experts today to discuss the plan that best fits your needs. We Know Insurance. You Know us. Let's Talk!

JANE

Continued from previous page

cubes and sausage for approximately 3 minutes, tossing a bit. Remove to a platter and set aside.

Lower the heat and add the onion. Stir and cook until lightly translucent. Add the garlic and cook 1 additional minute. Add the meat back into the dutch oven, stirring to incorporate. Add the potatoes and green beans and a little salt and pepper. Mix well.

In an 8 X 10 casserole, sprinkle 1 cup of the bread crumbs on the bottom. Spoon over the meat and veggie mixture evenly. Drizzle the beaten eggs over covering as much of the dish as possible. Melt the tablespoon of butter in a small bowl in the microwave. Using a fork, mix in the last cup of bread crumbs, mixture should be somewhat dry. Sprinkle over the casserole evenly and follow with your cheese.

Bake in a 375 degree oven for 30 minutes covered with foil. Remove the foil and bake another 5-7 minutes until cheese is melted and bubbly. Let rest five minutes before serving.

*There is nothing worse to me than a runny casserole, especially when you are spooning it out of the dish, and looking at the liquid on the bottom. This is natural, as all of the ingredients give off water. Using a bit of bread crumbs on the bottom of your dish helps to absorb the liquid, and is also quite flavorful

Cheesy Cornmeal Muffins

I love cornbread, and I love it any way I can get it. I make it in a casserole, loaf pan, or a muffin pan. The best thing about cornbread is that you can add so many different ingredients to take it up a notch. When my kids were young, they would go crazy when I made a batch. They liked it best in an 8 x 10 pan and then cut

into squares. I then fried the squares in butter until lightly browned. They loved this even for breakfast, as well as a side dish at dinner. And believe me, it keeps well in the fridge, as long as no one is stealing it!

Again, you can add all sorts of things to your mix. I like a bit of spicy peppers sometimes. Any sort of veggie that is softened by cooking or blanching is great. I really love to add cheese. Here is my recipe for the quick and easy cornmeal muffins I like to make.



Easy Cheesy and Spicy Cornmeal Muffins

Ingredients:

- 1 cornmeal mix (I like Krusteaves)*
- Vegetable oil spray
- 8 oz. cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 small Poblano pepper, seeded, rinsed, and chopped fine
- 2 T butter, melted

Directions:

Make the cornmeal mixture according to package instructions, and heat oven accordingly. Spray a muffin pan with veggie oil. Add 2 tablespoons of the cornmeal

mixture to each cup. Add a glob of cheese and a pinch of the peppers, then add enough of the cornmeal mixture to fill up to 3/4 from the top.

Bake according to box recipe. Remove from oven and gently brush the tops with butter. Serve after they cool a bit.

*You can definitely make the cornmeal from scratch. I opted for the easy way here. I bet you have a favorite recipe. If you want to share, send the recipe to me at my email address below.

This is a crazy sort of time. Who knows what is to come in April. The Farmer's Almanac predicted a cold and snowy winter, and that has certainly played out so far. It's still coming. We had a great time in January one weekend with the whole family sledding and a lunch after at Swiss Valley. My kids took lessons there ages ago when they were little sprouts. Now young adults, they enjoy going back. My oldest son was explaining to his wife how the snow is artificially made when the real stuff isn't around. On this particular Saturday, we were having a wonderful snowfall. We watched out the windows at it, as well as the skiers flying down the hill. At some point my daughter in law asked, "So, is this the fake snow or what?" We nearly passed out laughing.

In ending, I hope you enjoy the last bits of winter for what its worth. I say — don't bother much with the spring cleaning. Read, crochet, cook, putter, and in my case, nap.

See you next month, my friends!

Jane Boudreau is a writer and blogger, who has lived on Diamond Lake for over 30 years. She also flits between there, Chicago, and a mountain home in North Carolina. You can reach her at blndy9@yahoo.com All photos are taken by Janet. Please ask for permission before using.

OUR CHILDREN

Learning about learning styles

by **SANDY FLEMING**

You may have heard the term, “learning style,” as you’ve spoken to teachers over the years. It refers to the best pathways for an individual to get information into their brains. There are four widely accepted learning styles: visual, auditory, reading/writing, and kinesthetic.

Understanding Learning Styles

The visual style means that students learn information most easily if they can see it. These learners do well with graphic organizers, charts, illustrations, pictures, graphs, photographs, maps, info graphics, and so forth. Information taken in through their eyes is most memorable, and sometimes even most understandable.

The auditory learner focuses on information that can be heard. Recordings, songs, oral reading, discussion, debate and other oral channels will help them digest and recall information most efficiently.

Some learners do very well with written communication. These are the reading/writing learners. Reading a text, digesting an article, writing notes, and using posters help these students the most.

Finally, a few students are kinesthetic learners. These students learn best by doing. Demonstrations, projects, experiments, and hands-on activities are best for them.

Of course, learning styles are not an all-or-none situation. Everyone has a mixture of abilities and preferences. These can vary with age and maturity (two-year-olds are very kinesthetic!), subject matter, physical well-being, and other conditions. Learning style may also vary with the type and complexity of the task. Students may be best equipped to tackle complex topics in one style, but might shift to a different style to master rote memory skills. But everyone has a style or two that is dominant or preferred.

And by the same token, most people teach in their dominant learning style by nature. Teachers often have special training to be conscious of learning styles and try to accommodate them. Curricula, if well-designed, even



includes suggestions to tailor lessons to particular styles. The fact remains, though, that nearly everyone favors their own style when teaching others.

A mismatch between teaching style and learning style does not have to be the end of the world. Plenty of visual or kinesthetic students can be successful in classes taught by auditory teachers. Awareness is key, and knowing the student’s learning style and preferred strategies goes a long way to help. If unaddressed, however, a mismatch can create friction between student and teacher. A parent might hear complaints of “I can’t learn” or “He never teaches us anything.”

The first step to managing and even taking full advantage of learning styles is to find out what learning style you or your student(s) have. Once you think about it, it may seem obvious. Think about habits and patterns you’ve noticed.

Your visual learner likely shows preferences for graphics. He or she can look at a chart or table, take in, and easily remember the information. Visual learners see the world as a

whole, rather than in pieces.

An auditory learner does best when information is presented out loud. Recordings, lectures, text-to-speech, and similar material is easiest for them to learn from. Not all auditory learners are note-takers, though. Some do better without the distraction of writing things down on the spot. Encourage them to think back later to write down what was presented in class.

A reading/writing learner wants information in written form. They like textbooks, articles, study guides, and even note-taking. Some even copy information to learn it. Written communication is where it’s at for these students.

Finally, kinesthetic learners like to move. They engage all of their senses in the process of learning. Interactive experiences, where the learner has a “doing” role rather than a “watching” role help them the most.

If you’d like more information about learning styles or want to try an inventory questionnaire to pinpoint a learning style, please visit <https://sandyflemingonline.com/learning-about-learning-styles/>.

sandyflemingonline.com/learning-about-learning-styles/.

Practical Ways to Help

Here are effective study and learning strategies for each style. Try a few out and see if learning and studying for tests improve.

Visual:

- Make a table of information
- Create a timeline
- Develop a chart
- Make a graph
- Color code information
- Use colored highlighting
- Create infographics
- Use graphic organizers

Auditory:

- Read information out loud
- Use recordings and text to speech
- Participate in discussions
- Take part in debates
- Attend lectures
- Record yourself reading out loud
- Make up songs or chants of information
- Use mnemonic memory tools

Reading/Writing:

- Read text and take notes
- Create infographics
- Use graphic organizers
- Make outlines
- Write out answers
- Describe illustrations and other graphics
- Make vocabulary/glossary lists

Kinesthetic:

- Play games such as Memory
- Make and use flashcards
- Make a video
- Do hands-on projects
- Use a highlighter to mark vocabulary, related facts, statistics, dates, etc.
- Create illustrations or graphic representations
- Fill out a graphic organizer

Once you know more about learning styles, you can do some experiments. Provide your student with an array of study options to try, and keep track of which is most effective. Together you can find the ideal way to master needed learning for success in school and in life!

Sandy Fleming is a tutor and writer living in Edwardsburg. Visit her website at <http://sandyflemingonline.com> for more tips for success in school.





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Participants enrolled in the program will receive phone calls each weekday at a scheduled time as a daily check-in and provide friendly conversation. Any concerns would be referred to the participant’s emergency contact or other local agencies if needed.

If you, a family member, or a friend is interested in the COA’s C.A.R.E. program, please call (269) 445-8110. C.A.R.E. is only a phone call away.



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MANAGEMENT

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LOCAL HISTORY

Essential research tool: Cass County history books

Provided by **Jon Wuepper**,
Branch Manager of the Cass District Library
145 North Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031
jwuepper@cass.lib.mi.us

Anyone doing historical or genealogy research on Cass County, Michigan should consult the following history books as a source, as the authors had access to early pioneers and pioneer era documents.

History of Cass County, Michigan by Howard S. Rogers. Published by W.H. Mansfield, Vigilant Book and Job Print, Cassopolis, Michigan. 1875.

The 1875 volume was the first book of Cass County history written by Volinia resident Howard S. Rogers (1833-1902). Rogers wrote that he was compelled to write the book "upon the urgent and repeated requests of many old settlers."

The Rogers book was reprinted by the Cass County Historical Commission in 1997, which included an expanded index. Copies of this book are still available for purchase at the Local History Branch.

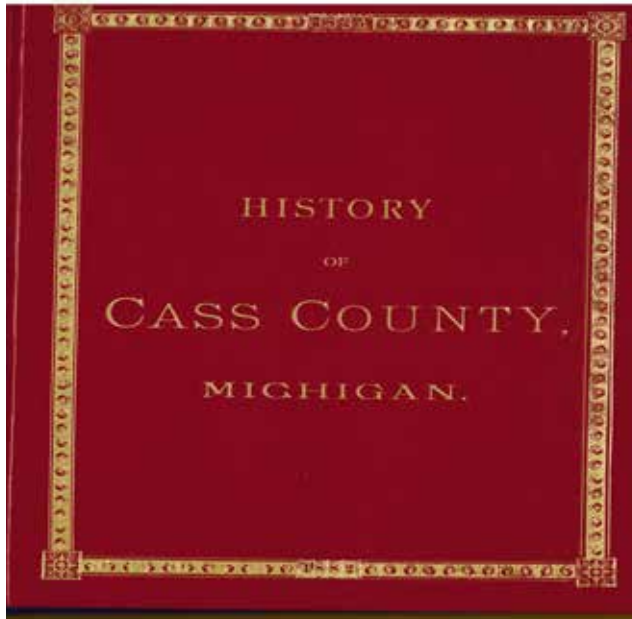
History of Cass County, Michigan by Alfred Matthews. Published by Waterman, Watkins & Co. Chicago, Ill. June 1, 1882.

The Matthews book is considered the best of the Cass History books, as it is the most comprehensive and thorough. This work has been reprinted by the Cass County Historical Commission several times, the first being in 1971, and that version of the book donned a black cover. It was republished again in 1985, 1992 and again in the 2010s with a red cover. Copies are still available for sale through the Commission at the Cass District Library's Local History Branch.

This book is also available in electronic form at the Michigan County Histories and Atlases web page, hosted by the University of Michigan at <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty/>

Portrait and Biographical Record of Berrien and Cass Counties, Michigan. Biographical Publishing Company, Chicago, Ill. 1893.

While this title is the only one of five in this focus



not to be reprinted by the Cass County Historical Commission, it is still an interesting work and contains useful information. The biographical information of prominent Cass and Berrien County families is top notch, as are the hand sketches of local farms are invaluable in their own right.

A Twentieth Century History of Cass County, Michigan by Lowell H. Glover. Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago & New York, 1906.

This history of the county is well researched, written and edited by a historian who resided in Cass County nearly all his life. When the book was published in late November, 1906, the Bristol Banner (Indiana) newspaper wrote in its November 23 issue: "The new Cass County history, issued by the Lewis Publishing Co., of Chicago has been delivered to subscribers. It is ably edited by Lowell H. Glover, of Cassopolis, historian of the pioneer society and for 66 years a resident of the county. His long residence here and special interest in



the events which go to make up history of the settlement and growth of the county qualified him above all others to produce such a work and it will prove valuable to all interested in the men and affairs of earlier days as well as the biographies of those who are now directing the course of local affairs."

Incidentally, Lowell H. Glover lived, during the early 1900s, in the

house at 141 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis, and occupied a law office building next door at 145 North Broadway where he worked compiling the above history book. Today the Local History Branch of the Cass District Library occupies 145 N. Broadway, where reprint copies of Glover's book may be purchased. Cass County A Brief History. Compiled by Mae R. Schoetzow. Published by the Marcellus News, 1935.

Yet another nice history book focusing on Cass County, albeit a somewhat abbreviated one (just 82 pages). It was written by multiple individuals. Clara Bonine wrote the piece on the Underground Railroad and Josephine Hayden wrote the chapter on Cassopolis. This book was reprinted by the Cass County Historical Commission, copies are still available at the Cass District Library's Local History Branch Library in Cassopolis.

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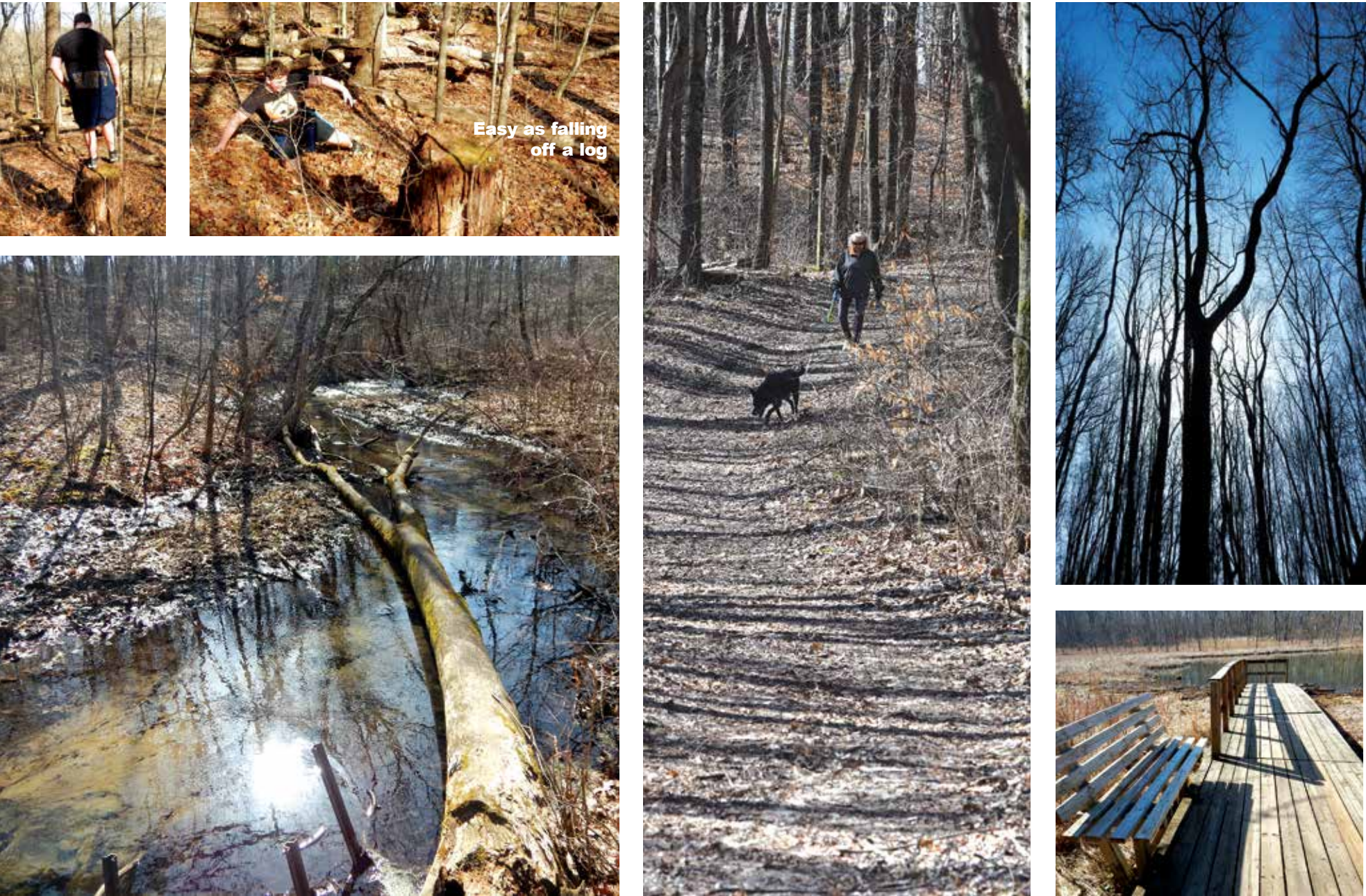
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HISTORIC POSTCARDS

Historic postcards depict rich scenes of 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

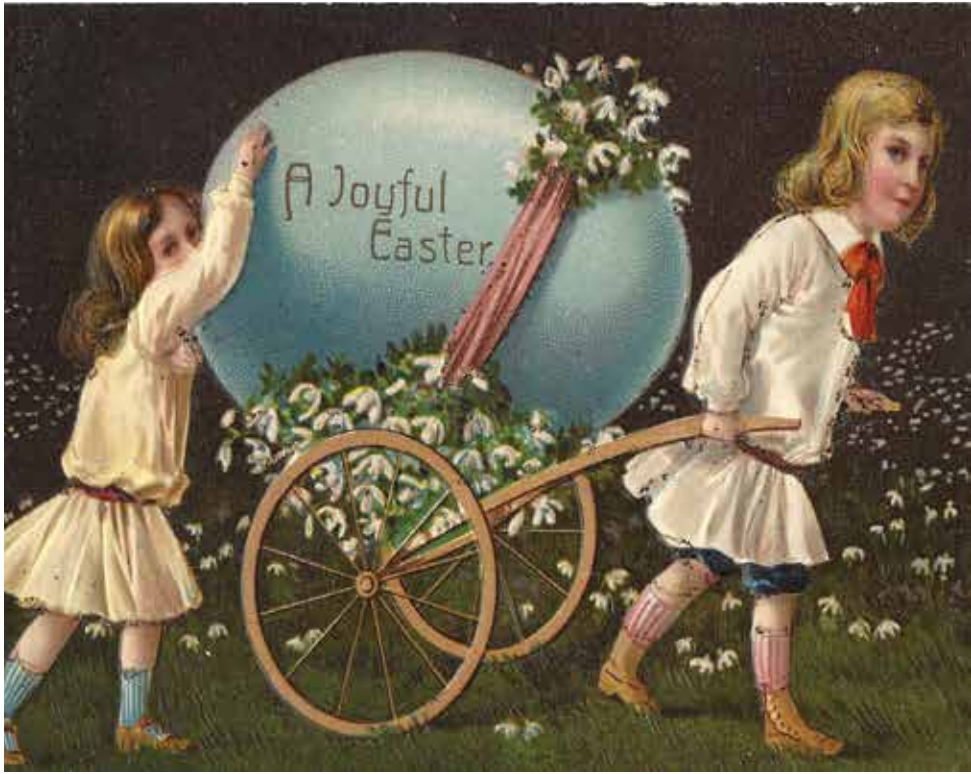
second printing by the publisher, Arcadia Publishing.

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 various places around Cass County. 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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NATURE NOTES

Spring brings wildlife back

Provided by Cass District Library
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The most exciting bird to show up in Southwest Michigan this winter is a king eider duck, initially discovered on February 19 off the north pier at St. Joseph by Tim Baerwald of Bainbridge Township.

The king eider is a large, bulky species of duck that breeds among freshwater pools of water among the Arctic regions of the world, and winters in open waters of the north Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The main wintering area off eastern North America is in the North Atlantic Ocean off the Canadian Maritime Provinces, New England, occasionally south to the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia. King eiders also go up the St. Lawrence River, especially during bad weather and end up in the Great Lakes, more frequently among the eastern Great Lakes of Ontario and Erie, but occasionally on Lakes Huron, Superior, and Michigan.

The bird found by Baerwald is an immature that hatched in a nest in some remote Arctic region in 2020. The immature king eider has orange bills, brownish back and whitish breast. It is unknown to me as to whether this eider is a young male or female.

I learned about the king eider on Saturday, February 20, and made a trip that afternoon out to the north pier to see the bird. When I arrived the king eider was reportedly still being seen directly off the very end of the north pier, which required that I navigate myself over a metal railing, completely encased in ice about 3 and 1/2 feet high and 1 foot and 1/2 feet wide. This I was not prepared to do, so I waited about half way down on the pier with my binoculars and spotting scope in hopes the eider would make an appearance in the open water to the north of the pier.

After about 30 to 45 minutes, the king eider did indeed fly into an area of open water of Lake Michigan north of the pier, and I was afforded some excellent views of the bird. It was a bright, clear afternoon and I could clearly see the bird in contrast with the other sea ducks: black, surf and white-winged scoters. There were also many common golden-eye, redhead, scaup and a few long-tailed ducks in view. This was the first king eider I had ever seen and it was a welcomed addition to my life list of birds.

All of the duck species listed above are divers. The king eider is the second deepest diver among any waterfowl species, often diving up to 200 feet below the surface of the water. Only the long-tailed duck dives deeper.

The bird was reported the next day from an open area of water in the St. Joseph River just west of the CSX Railroad bridge, and could be viewed from the Silver Beach County Park parking lot.

The last king eider to visit Berrien County was one that showed up during the winter of 1997-1998 in Lake Michigan off Union Pier and New Buffalo. Other king eider observations from Berrien County include one found dead on the beach at Union Pier on November 11, 1936 by George Raz; a female on January 4, 1981 at the mouth of the St. Joseph River; and another in December 1987.

Betty Timmreck of Eau Claire submitted a photo of a tufted titmouse, taken at her bird feeding station last month.

The tufted titmouse is the largest



Pictured top left: Immature king eider off the north pier at St. Joseph on February 20, 2021, photographed by Ross Green of Jackson, Michigan. This large, bulky duck has strayed into Berrien County waters for the first time in 23 years. It was initially discovered on February 19 by Tim Baerwald of Bainbridge Township and remained until at least February 21.

Right, second photo: Tufted titmouse, January 2021, Eau Claire by Betty Timmreck. On cold, sunny mornings in middle and late February, males of this species sit atop trees and announce they have claimed nesting territory by singing loudly.

Yellow-bellied sapsucker, which is a species of woodpecker, uncommon in our region during winter, photographed on February 15, 2021 in Alma Township, Van Buren Co, by Lina Kotecki.

Right, third photo: A female pileated woodpecker

excavates frozen larvae from a dead silver maple tree on February 16 in Bridgman, Michigan. Dead trees are an essential habitat component for the survival of our woodpeckers.

Bottom right: Two male surf scoters at St. Joseph, February 2021 by Ross Green of Jackson. Surf scoters occur annually off Berrien County but are rarely photographed. They nest in northern Canada during the warm months, and most of the eastern population winters off the Atlantic seaboard.

Middle left: Merlin in Arlington Township, Van Buren County by Greg Myrkle of Bangor, taken February 2021.

Center and bottom: white-tailed deer sought food and shelter among the backyard of Jeffrey and Beth Wolf of St. Joseph Township during the recent cold snap in February 2021.

member of the chickadee family in Southwest Michigan, and males of this species have already begun to claim their nesting territories by perching high up in trees and singing a loud song, roughly translating to: "peter-peter-peter-peter". The titmouse has large, black eyes against a rather gray body giving it a mouse-like appearance, hence the name

titmouse.

Actual nesting of the tufted titmouse won't occur in southern Michigan until March and April, peaking in May. Tufted titmice are cavity nesters often utilizing bluebird boxes or woodpecker holes as nest sites. Both parents attend the young, usually one brood per year.

After leaving the nest the tufted tit-

mouse family group will stay together and form loose flocks with other small bird species such as black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, brown

Continued on next page. See:
NATURE

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NATURE

Continued from previous page

creeper, and various woodpeckers while searching for food. It is a permanent resident over its entire range and does not migrate.

The tufted titmouse prefers wooded areas both expansive woodlands and smaller woodlots and has also adapted to residential, suburban settings. It is most abundant over the southern half of the lower peninsula of Michigan. It is also present among the northern half of the Lower Peninsula, but more abundant along the western side.

The tufted titmouse continues to expand its range northward but has yet to become established in the Upper Peninsula. Over the last 76 years there have been only six verifiable records of the tufted titmouse from the UP, the most recent being one on December 11, 2020 on Mackinac Island (which is considered ornithologically as part of the Upper Peninsula).

Linda Kotecki of Almena Township, Van Buren County photographed a yellow-bellied sapsucker at her home feeders on February 15, as it ate from a suet cake placed out on her deck.

Yellow-bellied sapsuckers are uncommon winter residents over the southern half on Michigan south to the Gulf coast region in the eastern US. In March, April and May they are common migrants through our region, and by summer they are restricted to their northern haunts of the coniferous forests of Canada and northern US, south to northern Great Lakes, New England, and the Appalachian Mountains.

Brad Anderson of Bridgman photographed a female pileated woodpecker on February 16, in Bridgman as it worked a dead silver maple tree for either frozen

larvae for food, or she was excavating a roost hole for shelter. Given that the bird was photographed just a few feet off the ground, I strongly suspect she was after food.

Long time readers of my column know that this pileated woodpecker is a female because she lacks red on the forehead, and a red "mustache" which are present only on the males.

Ross Green of Jackson, Michigan photographed two male surf scoters last month at St. Joseph, the same day he was in town looking for the previously reported king eider. The surf scoter is an annual visitor off Berrien County but is rarely photographed because it generally stays offshore and away from close view of bird watchers.

The species nests among bogs and shores of ponds in northern Canada. The majority of the population in eastern North America winters along the Atlantic seaboard, but a smaller portion winters in the Great Lakes. In Berrien County, we see an influx of surf scoters pass through on their way north to Canada between March 10 through April 10. Some individuals may be seen locally into mid to late May. Another passage of surf scoters occur here in the fall from Oct 10 through Nov 10, with a portion of the birds in our waters remaining through winter.

Greg Myrkle of Bangor sent me a photo of a merlin taken last month in Arlington Township in Van Buren County. The merlin is the slightly larger cousin of our more common American kestrel. Both species of raptors are falcons. The merlin stands at 10 inches tall with a wing span of two feet across from wing to wing.

Notice the heavy vertical brownish streaking on the chest of the bird. Female merlins appear brownish on the back, including the top and back of the head, which appears to be the case with this

individual. Males appear a dark blue.

While the range of the American kestrel is shrinking, the range of the merlin, at least in the Great Lakes Region, appears to be increasing. Winter observations have increased over the last 20 years in Berrien County, and the species is now seen annually during the winter months, albeit it is still uncommon. There are now confirmed breeding records of the merlin in Kalamazoo County.

Food and water intended to help birds through harsh winter weather also benefits our mammals. Proof of this can be seen in photos sent in by Beth Wolf of St. Joseph Township, who captured photos of two white-tailed deer drinking from a backyard birdbath during the recent cold snap last month.

Wolf said the deer had taken shelter along a bush lined fence in their yard for over a week, and in addition to drinking from the birdbath, the deer also ate from the bird feeders.

No doubt the Wolf's backyard offerings minimized pain and suffering on the deer, birds and other animals during the cold weather.

I thought I would mention some reports of early spring migrant birds this week. The first singing male red-winged blackbird reported in Berrien County this year was one on February 26 at Sarett Nature Center, reported by staff naturalist Mike Mahler. He also reported the first common grackle the same day. The first turkey vulture of the year in the region was reported on February 26 along I-94 in Coloma Township by Katrina Moilanen of Howell, Michigan. An American Woodcock was reported on March 3 in Pokagon Township, Cass County by David Ferris of Coloma.

I saw a mated pair of eastern bluebirds in my yard in Royalton Township in early March, and have seen migrant sandhill cranes migrating northward in the first days of this month.

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THE LAST WORD

by Phil Vitale
aka sailorphil

I'll just have the crab salad that's on special, thanks



k, we all probably can agree that the last year or so has been a very, very, very lousy, weird, uncomfortable, and a bit scary kind of year. The world learned a bunch of new bad words, like COVID, Coronavirus and, pandemic, we faced off in masks, socially distanced from our friends and family, and stayed out of often-closed restaurants and bars. We endured toilet paper (and other product) shortages, ordered our food "to go" and canceled our travel, get-togethers and Zoomed our butts off with our work colleagues in those weird online chats and meetings that replaced the lunchroom and water cooler gossip focal points and transformed our efforts into more focused (even though they are virtual), work-oriented, get-er-done production meetings that have become the preferred (or at least the latest) stop-gap attempt to avert a total economic standstill.

We didn't really get a choice, at least, nobody asked me (but when they did, boy did I let 'em have it).

Nobody liked it, but all grumbling aside, we did it anyway.

We pulled up our masks and trudged on, marching like an on-line of virtual soldiers headed for the front of the war against the virus.

My wife and I started carrying extra masks in our cars (because at our age we scarcely remember what we left the house for let alone remembering to take a mask every time).

For a long time I had a mask hanging from the rear-view mirror in the spot

where fuzzy dice used to hang. Sign of the times, I guess.

As a sign of the resilience of the human spirit, many of us bought or jazzed up our otherwise plain, medical-looking masks with brightly colored, personalized masks.

Some bear corporate logos, sporting team mascots or political messages. Some creative types have added hand-drawn smiles, sneers, fangs, tongues or painted flowers or smiley faces.

Our 12 year-old granddaughter Aley customized our clear plastic face shields, pasting bright orange and red, paisley, flowered duct tape over the strip at the top that used to read "Face Shield."

They've been a big hit.

People who used to say, "cool shirt," or "I like your shoes," now say, "Nice mask." Sign of the times, I guess.

On the Internet the other day I saw an ad for a company stating that if you send a photo of yourself to them, they would print the lower part of your face onto a mask so that when you were wearing it people will know it was you.

Another company was offering to put your image on a tee shirt with your name below it so people would be able to identify you when you go out in public with a mask on.

Of course, aside from making a personal statement, no matter what design or image your mask does or doesn't have on it, the damn thing still obscures your mouth. And even knowing that, most of us still smile (or smirk or sneer) at whomever we might be talking to, as if they can still see our faces.

I admit (as stupid as it sounds) that I have even stuck my tongue out at some-

one and tried to make the raspberry noise while I was wearing a mask. Word of caution ... it is not only completely ineffective, if you do this you'll get a mouth full of very bad tasting lint (or worse) until you get somewhere you can rinse your mouth out.

Dummy.

One of the worst side effects of the ubiquitous masks is that I've lost even more of my ability to hear. Admittedly, I am an old man, and my hearing (like a lot of other things) has been going south for years. I've lived long enough that I'm pretty sure I've earned the all the white hair, wrinkles and sagging muscles, not to mention all those cereal-like noises that snap, pop and crackle from my knees, shoulders and hips whenever I participate in even the most subtle, non-athletic range-of-motion activities.

But my ears have gone downhill fast.

A waitress at one of our favorite restaurants (and the neighbors who were with us at the time) still laugh at me every time I order crab salad there. They laugh not only because the restaurant doesn't offer crab salad, but also because once, back in the pre-mask days when she was telling us what the specials of the day were (and I wasn't looking at her or paying too close attention to what she was saying), I was sure she had mentioned crab salad, when in fact the special that day was bacon-wrapped scallops.

Where did that come from?

The entire wing of the restaurant thought I was having a psychotic episode.

Ok, as an old man, I admit my senses have dulled, and, as confirmed by the guy who sold me my hearing aids, the sense that has dulled most notably is my

hearing (you can also get confirmation from my wife, who has perfected the "irritated-wife glare" that appears every time I say "pardon me" or, even worse, "huh?")

Over the years I had fortunately been getting pretty good at reading lips.

Unfortunately though, in the time of COVID, everyone is now wearing a mask while they talk, which muffles the sound even more and obscures the mouths and lips of the speaker completely, so what I hear (and see) most of the time is even more like what a rock hears.

Jumbled mumbles and so much mumbo jumbo.

I happened to be at a hospital not long ago and the lady at the reception desk was behind a plexiglass shield and wearing a mask. The reception area was a four- or five-story- tall room that in a pinch could have been used as a concert hall for the local symphony or a rock band performance, but the acoustics were something less than ideal for normal conversation voice levels, especially when the conversation dealt with the COVID questions (Have you been tested in the last four weeks? Do you have or have you been around anyone in the last four weeks who has had symptoms if you want a lawyer and cannot afford one, a lawyer will be appointed for you ... no, wait, that's that other thing).

About the 30th time I asked her to repeat herself, she pulled her mask down and looked at me while she spoke. I didn't hear her any better but I could read her lips well enough so we somehow managed to get the insurance mumbo jumbo juggled.

But she didn't even smile when I ordered the crab salad. Spoilsport!



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