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FIELD TRIP:

ELKHART, IN
Pages 9-11

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REGIONAL NEWS

Edwardsburg to host art fair

Edwardsburg's will host an Art Fair on August 7 at the Edwardsburg American Legion, 25980 US HWY 12 from 9 am to 3 pm. The Fair will feature over 30 vendors displaying arts and crafts, and paintings, jewelry, candles and more will be up for sale. Food and beverage will be available for purchase.

Outdoor Adventures Nature Camps

St. Joseph County (IN) Parks is still taking registrations for "Outdoor Adventures" summer nature camps at St. Patrick's County Park. The following weekday camp has openings:

July 26-30: Mud Monsters (Kindergarten – 1st grade; ages 5-6)

"We offer campers a variety of activities," says Amal Farrough, Interpretive Services Manager. "Depending upon the age group activities may include fishing, archery, hiking trails, and creek stomp-ing and other outdoor fun! We are making adjustments due to Covid and will plan our activities to include sanitation and safety practices to protect our day campers and staff."

For more information, or to request registration materials, please call

574/654-3155, or visit www.sjcparks.org.

MC Regatta set at Diamond Lake

Diamond Lake Yacht Club will host the Michiana Inter Lake MC Regatta on July 24. The regatta will feature the top MC sailors from five lakes in Michiana: Birch, Corey, Eagle, Indian and Diamond Lake. This event is dedicated to Reid Francis - a long time Michiana resident and sailor. In April 2020 Reid lost his battle with cancer, and this invitational race will be held in his memory.

The Inter Lake Regatta was established in the early 1980's and has featured a competition of the area's top sail-ors. This year- it will be a day-long event consisting of three (3) races on Saturday, July 24. The first race begins at 10 am, followed by the second and third races and ending with the awards immediately after on the DLYC shoreline. Diamond Lake Yacht Club is located at 21269 Shore Acres Rd, Cassopolis. Spectators are welcome to watch the races by boat on the edges of the course or on land near the yacht club.

For More Information on the details of the event please contact Bruce Cassidy at cassady@cpind.com, Jim

Ward at jrwardcolumbus@aol.com, or DLYC Commodore John Seidl at seidlj@gmail.com

To reserve space on a boat or box lunch at DLYC please contact: Jackie Comeau jcmgm@aol.com

Rain date will be Sunday July 25.

Cass County Historical Society

On July 13, the Cass County Historical Society will hold its meeting at the historic Newton House, 20685 Marcellus Highway. The Newton House will be open at 6: pm for tours with the business meeting at 6:30 pm. At 7 pm there will be a program "LAND OFFICE @ WHITE PIGEON" by Curator, Poly Stephenson. This office is located in a his-toric building where original land trans-actions were made between the U.S. Government and the early pioneers set- tling in Southwestern Michigan..

BRING A FOLDING CHAIR, we will be meeting on the lawn, weather permit- ting. The public is invited to all events by the society.

August 17 is the next schedule meeting with the speaker being a descen- dant from Jonathon Gard, an early pio- neer in Volinia Township. A prairie and

a road are named after him.

For more information, contact Allen F. Butchbaker, 279-244-8479 or allen-butchbaker@gmail.com

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^{††} As rated by Kawasaki, horsepower tested in accordance with SAE J1995 and rated in accordance with SAE J2723 and certified by SAE International.

EXCEPTIONAL FINANCING OFFERS AVAILABLE!

REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

July 13 - Cass County Historical Society meeting, Newton House, Marcellus, 6:30 pm, 279-244-8479

July 16 - Dowagiac Summer in the City Festival, 10 am - 5 pm

July 17 - Diamond Lake Triathlon, Diamond Lake Marina, 7:30 am

July 24 - Inter Lake MC Regatta, Diamond Lake, jrwardcolumbus@aol.com, seidlj@ymail.com, jcmgm@aol.com

July 26 - 30 - Mud Monsters, St. Patrick's County Park, South Bend, 574-654-3155

August 1 - 7 - Cass County Fair

August 7 - Edwardsburg Art Fair, American Legion, US 12

August 17 - Cass County Historical Society meeting, tba, 6:30 pm, 279-244-8479

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.



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CASS LIBRARY EVENTS

July 2021 Programs - Cass District Library Programs

All program information can be found on Facebook and at www.cassdistrictlibrary.org. Program guides and calendars are available at all branch locations.

All Month, all branches - "Tails and Tales" Story-Walks®: Enjoy the outdoors and participate in a StoryWalk®! Four different StoryWalks® rotated and featured at each branch location throughout the summer; **MiLibrary-Quest: Summer Edition** is an opportunity for teens to learn about unique animals and Michigan libraries! Teens will find descriptions of a variety of animals spread across the websites of participating libraries which they will enter into their digital field journal for an opportunity to win a prize!

Main Branch

July 6 - 3 pm - Stuffed Animal Workshop: Bring a stuffed animal to life! Each participant will receive a bag with their animal, stuffing, rainbow star and birth certificate. \$5 per person due before the program. Registration is required. Call McKinzie at (574) 314-6454 ext. 113 to register.

July 7 - Big Truck Day: Local big trucks and construction vehicles will be in the Main Branch parking lot all day to check out up close and personal!

July 7 - 1 pm - MEC Electrical Safety Demonstration: The MEC electrical safety demonstration teaches electricity safety and shows the power – and dangers – of live current. It features a trailer with poles and power lines that carry 7,200 volts of electricity!

July 7 - 3 pm - Poppin' Wednesdays: Pop on in and join us for teen gaming with throwback Wii games and a popcorn snack. This fun teen gaming club meets every Wednesday afternoon.

July 13 - 3 pm - Cookies and Canvas: Bring a blanket and meet us outdoors for a sweet treat while you paint. Paint, brushes and canvas provided. Participants can be inspired

to recreate an image or create their own masterpiece. Program space is limited. Registration is required. Call McKinzie at (574) 314-6454 ext. 113 to register.

July 14 - 1 pm - Adult Craft Club: Join us for a monthly craft club! Space is limited and registration required. Supplies provided. Contact Stephanie at 749-1384 ext. 106 for information and to register.

July 14 - 3 pm - Poppin' Wednesdays: Pop on in and join us for teen gaming with throwback Wii games and a popcorn snack.

Week of July 19 - DIY Pinback Buttons: Customize your pinback button! Use our machine to create unique button design. Paper, art supplies and button tools provided.

July 19 - 6 pm - Pizza and Pages: Join us for a fun teen book club and free pizza once a month. Contact Stephanie at 749-1384 ext. 106 for information.

July 21 - 9 am - The Breakfast Club: Join us once a month for breakfast and book club! Breakfast food provided. This is intended for adults. Contact Stephanie at 749-1384 ext. 106 for information.

July 21 - 3 pm - Poppin' Wednesdays: Pop on in and join us for teen gaming with throwback Wii games and a popcorn snack.

July 28 - 5 pm - End of Summer Reading Program Celebration: Join us to celebrate and wrap up "Tails and Tales" with refreshments, games, activities and more!

Edwardsburg Branch

All Month - **More Than A Book Club:** 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 leisure and keep track of your thoughts to share when we meet again. Bundles include suggestions, read-alikes,

activities, and more. Contact Cindy at 467-0649 ext. 303 for more information; **Book Bundles:** Stop by to grab a Book Bundle for Early Learners - 5th grade. Themed bundles include books, activities and reading lists to keep kids entertained and prevent summer slide..

Fridays at 8 am - Roaming Readers: Reading CAN do a body good, especially if you exercise at the same time. Join us on Friday mornings. Participants will walk and listen to an audiobook then have a discussion after. Stop by any location for assistance setting up your phone or tablet to use Hoopla service prior to the first meeting. Call Cindy at (269) 487-9215 ext. 303 with questions.

Week of July 5 - Budget Bites for Teens: Missing those wonderful school lunches and their delicious meals? You can be a master chef too! Try these leveled up Ramen Noodle recipes to make this cheap snack into a fantastic and filling meal. Kits are available while supplies last.

July 8 - 3 pm - Stuffed Animal Workshop: Bring a stuffed animal to life! Each participant will receive a bag with their animal, stuffing, rainbow star and birth certificate. The cost is \$5 per person due before the program. Registration required. Call McKinzie at (574) 314-6454 ext. 113.

Week of July 12 - Lego Stop Motion Kits: STEM-ulation for Teens: Pick up a Stop Motion Lego kit to create your own Lego Movie. Stage, instructions and a lego figure included. Participants need their own devices to download app and record the movie.

July 15 - 3 pm - Cookies and Canvas: Bring a blanket and meet us outdoors for a sweet treat while you paint. Paint, brushes and canvas provided. Participants can be inspired to recreate an image or create their own masterpiece. Program space is limited. Registration required. Call McKinzie at (574) 314-6454 ext. 113 to register

July 20 - 4 - 6 pm - Barnyard on the Go: Join us and some

of the animals from Hidden Acres! Learn all about their "tails and tales" and meet some new furry friends.

Week of July 26 - Animal Masks: STEM-ulation for Teens: Impress your friends with your very own "Tails and Tales" animal mask. Assembly is required! Stop by the Edwardsburg Branch to pick up a kit while supplies last.

Howard Branch

July 8 - 1 pm - Stuffed Animal Workshop: Bring a stuffed animal to life! Each participant will receive a bag with their animal, stuffing, rainbow star and birth certificate. \$5 per person due before the program. Registration is required. Call McKinzie at (574) 314-6454 ext. 113 to register.

Week of July 12 - DIY Pinback Buttons: Customize your own pinback button! Use our machine to create your own unique button design. Paper, art supplies and button tools will be provided.

July 15 - 1 pm - Cookies and Canvas: Bring a blanket and meet us outdoors for a sweet treat while you paint. Paint, brushes and canvas will be provided. Participants can be inspired to recreate an image from a picture or create their own masterpiece. Program space is limited. Registration is required. Call McKinzie at (574) 314-6454 ext. 113 to register.

July 22 - 1 - 3 pm - Barnyard on the Go: Join us and some of the animals from Hidden Acres for Barnyard on the Go! Learn all about their "tails and tales" and meet some new furry friends.

Mason/Union Branch

July 6 - 1 pm - Stuffed Animal Workshop: Bring a stuffed animal to life! Each participant will receive a bag with their animal, stuffing, rainbow star and birth certificate. The cost is \$5 per person due before the program. Registration is required. Call McKinzie at (574) 314-6454 ext. 113 to register.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

What do you know about the Baby Boomer generation?

By **Kristen Goodwin**
Kemner, Iott, Benz Agency

What is a baby? • Baby boomers were born between 1946, the end of World War II and 1964, the largest generation of Americans born in history.

- This generation has remained the single largest group of people at every stage of their lives.
- Baby boomers were the first generation with television allowing world events into their living rooms. Notable world events are the assassinations of President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Martin Luther King. They watched as Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon. The Vietnam War, Civil Rights Movement, Watergate, and the Cold War occurred. Rock and Roll was born – Elvis Presley, the Beatles, and the Rolling Stones.
- The baby boomers were responsible for the youth movement of the ‘60’s, the culture of excess in the ‘70’s, and the “Yuppies” of the corporate world in the ‘80s.
- This generation is shifting from the largest working generation to the largest retired generation. This being the case, they are changing from the

largest group of people putting money into Social Security and Medicare to the largest group taking it out.

Baby boomers moving into their senior years will face the challenge of managing their assets to last as long as they do. If you are a member of this generation, don’t forget to review your insurance needs.

Auto

- o Let your agent know when you retire. By changing the usage of your vehicle from commuting daily to pleasure, you may qualify for a lower rate. Some companies offer a discount if your annual mileage is 5,000 miles or less.
- o Many companies offer a discount for senior drivers who have completed a safe driver course.
- o Review your coverages. Is your liability limit enough to protect your assets should you be involved in a lawsuit? A higher deductible will lower your premium; however, can you afford the higher deductible should your vehicle be damaged in an accident?

Home

- o Did you pay off your mortgage – let your agent know so they can remove them from your homeowners policy. Some companies offer a mortgage free

discount.

- o If your home is deeded to your trust, have your agent add the trust to your policy.
- o Review your coverages – do you have adequate coverage on your home and belongings? Can you afford your deductible? Is your personal liability enough to protect your assets?
- o Has the use of your home changed? Do you rent it during the winter months when you are in a warmer place? Do you have a part-time business at home? Call your agent if the use of your home has changed.

Personal Umbrella

- o What if the liability limits on your auto and home policies are not enough to protect your assets? A personal umbrella policy adds another layer of protection above what is provided by these policies.
- o Already have a personal umbrella? Is the current limit enough?

Health

- o Before you make the decision to retire, you will want to research health insurance. Will you be able to afford the cost?
- o Most people age 65 and older are eligible for Medicare through the federal government. Medicare has two

parts: Part A – Hospital Insurance which helps pay hospital bills and Part B – Medical Insurance which helps pay doctor bills. Medicare will not pay all your health insurance costs, so you will want to purchase a supplement to fill in the gaps.

- o If you are under 65 and not eligible for Medicare, the cost of health care may be the determining factor in making the decision to retire. Before making the final decision, see your insurance agent. He will be able to show you what options are available. Or would Cobra through your employer be a better choice for you?
- o If you are retiring, you will have a limited time called a special election period to sign up for your health coverage. If you miss this period, you will have to wait until Open Enrollment which begins on October 15 with coverage effective January 1.

Do you need to make a change in your life insurance? Did you know that Medicare does not pay for long-term care? As you can see, talking to your insurance agent is important in making the decision to retire. Proper insurance coverage will help protect what you have worked for all your life so you can enjoy your “Golden Years.”

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LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

Hey neighbors, happy July!

by **Jane Boudreau**

Hey Neighbors! Happy July! Summer just keeps better and better! Just being out and among people again — I don't think we take too much for granted anymore. So in keeping with the endless summer vibe I'm still planting pots of flowers. Every time I look at a drab space that needs a face lift, I'm back at the nursery or one of the big box stores. Then I end up with more flowers than I need so I'm sticking them anywhere and everywhere. And this was the summer I said I was going to be a minimalist. Yup.

I like decorating for Memorial Day and saving my little stash for the 4th of July. If you want to get a lot of bang for your buck, hit the dollar stores. I so love a bargain and I save my decorations each year. If you don't have time to fuss, get the kids to do it. Crepe paper wrapped around outdoor porches and trees; red, white and blue ribbons and bows wherever you can add them. You can make your own banners with construction paper and jute string. But seriously, the little dollar stores have everything you could want.



Try to group your decorations in one area. Scattering bits and pieces of red, white, and blue all over your backyard, patio, or deck isn't going to have any impact. Try to make a patriotic display on your buffet table, perhaps on a tray or placemat to pull it together. Jazz up the kitchen if that's where you tend to gather. I like the little flags on a stick to point down into potted plants. I group a few of my pots together but just one or two of them are fine. Carnations are one of the cheapest flowers you can buy, and since they can be dyed, pick up a bunch in patriotic colors for one spectacular display or several small vases.

My favorite decoration are those using daisies that I grow in a large garden bed. We planted them along the shed and never knew they would give us such an abundance of flowers every year. I like to fill a few glass vases with water tinted with blue food coloring. Then I add red carnations and a few of my cut daisies. I've also done white flowers with red and blue ribbon tied around the vase or jar.



Celebrating the 4th on Diamond Lake has always been a great, fun filled holiday since the day we bought our home. Taking a boat ride over to the

sandbar where everyone gets in on the fun dancing to the music, from teens to the young at heart. Parents toting babies or playing Frisbee with Rover ... all in waist high water. I took this picture a few years ago. It was an overcast day but you can see, it didn't have much of an effect on the festive mood. The fireworks display is what everyone looks forward to come dusk. Going out with your boat, anchoring, and watching a spectacular light show that echoes far and wide is what memories are made of.

We've hosted 4th of July parties with over twenty-five guests at times. Teens don't mind crashing on the sofas or inflatable mattresses, and we have several. Overflow guests book rooms in Elkhart, and their kiddos get to have a nice swim in the pool before they arrive back at our place with coffee and donuts.



Now of course I have to throw in some entertaining tips. And they are probably the same tips I gave you last year or even last month. So let's freshen our memories. Here are a few tried and sometimes true guest-friendly summer-time tips and bossy ideas:

~~~ Help to keep everyone hydrated by serving fruit, especially melon. It beats salty snacks that just cause more thirst. Beware of flies and gnats that love the sweet stuff. Keep your bowls covered with plastic wrap and when it looks like no one is devouring it, pop it back in the fridge to bring out later.

~~~Another great tip for keeping the little rascals happy is to buy individual mini bags of chips and cookies and keep them in a large basket. That way you don't have several large bags or bowls of chips open with dirty little hands going in and out of it.

~~~Speaking of pesky insects, place a few trash cans around where the crowds tend to gather. For us it's the patio and beach, at night—the fire pit. Do a quick clean up before everyone turned in for the night. Keeping a roll of paper towels and a bottle of cleaner near will make it easy peasy to give your main tables (and chairs) a quick wipe down. We love to have breakfast outdoors and this way everything is clean and there are no pesky flies or bees hanging around. To me, everything is sticky in the summer. I keep a container of wet wipes on the patio table for everyone to grab. If you have someone who likes to pitch in, ask them to hose down the patio or deck early in the morning after a late night party. This will get rid of any spills or crumbs that could attract more insects.

~~~Bottled water is overused at get-togethers and we really need to cut back on it drastically for environmental reasons. My heart breaks when I walk around picking up bottles that look like someone took three sips and walked away. I do try to recycle by using it in the dog's water bowls or a pot of flowers. Last summer I set out a few plastic pitchers of ice water with some orange and lemon slices, along with paper cups. I

think it worked pretty well. Some of the moms wrote their kid's names on them to help reduce the trash. See if it works for you.

This month I have some light recipes for you because that's the best way to enjoy warm evenings ... just lingering over something flavorful and healthy with a nice glass of wine. Outdoors would be the icing on the cake.



So starting with salads, I'm really loving greens with a nice little handful of fruit, nuts, and cheese ... the combinations are endless! Recently I had blueberries and walnuts on hand and a bit of feta cheese. I knew I could come up with something and I did. The best thing is that you can swap the main ingredients for something different just about every time you make it.

BLUEBERRY SPINACH SALAD WITH FETA CHEESE

Ingredients:

- 5 oz. fresh baby spinach
- 3 oz. fresh blueberries
- 3 oz. feta cheese crumbles
- 1/2 c red onion, thinly sliced.
- 1 c walnuts, roughly chopped
- 2 T olive oil
- 1 half to 1 T balsamic vinegar
- 1 t. honey
- 1 t Dijon mustard
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- S&P to taste

Directions:

Make the dressing first so the flavors meld. Assemble the salad. Just before serving toss the dressing with the salad and serve.



I find that we end up eating a lot of fatty foods in the summer when you consider all the meats we grill, and carbs from the side dishes. Its great that so many of us are now grilling vegetables, not only for our health, but for the convenience of having everything on the grill at once. That said, I thought I'd share some healthy fish recipes that can be prepared indoors and baked in the oven, or on your grill while you enjoy the warm weather. I would suggest that you check around for a grill pan that is made specifically for tender foods that might stick or fall apart on the grill.



Blackened Fish Tacos with Avocado-Cilantro Sauce

We are starting to see fish tacos pop up on restaurant menus more and more these days. I had my first in San Diego where the fish is fresh and the flavor is beyond any type of fish prepared any sort of way. This is a somewhat spicy dish, but the heat is mellowed out by the slaw and creamy avocado dressing.

Ingredients:

- 1.5 lbs. tilapia or cod fillets
- 1 1/2 t smoked paprika
- 1 t garlic powder
- 1 t dried oregano
- 1 t onion powder
- 1/2 t cumin
- 1/2 t salt
- 1/2 t brown sugar
- 1/4 t cayenne pepper
- 2 T veggie oil
- 12 corn tortillas

***For the slaw:

- 1/2 red cabbage, sliced thin
- 1/4 green cabbage, sliced thin
- 1/2 medium sweet onion
- 1/2 c chopped cilantro
- Juice of 1 lime

***For the avocado-cilantro sauce:

- 1/2 c sour cream
- 1 ripe avocado, peeled and pitted
- 1/4 c cilantro
- 1 jalapeno, seeded and chopped
- Salt to taste

Directions:

In a small bowl mix together all of the spices and gently pat into both sides of the fish

Combine all of the avocado-cilantro sauce in a food processor or blender until well combined.

Prepare the cabbage slaw.

Use the veggie oil to lightly coat your grill or grill pan. Cook the fillets over high but not direct heat, 4 minute per side. This can also be done in a heavy skillet on your stove. Remove the fish from the heat and if desired, warm the tortillas for 30 minutes on each side.

Gently break up the tile into large chunks. Stack the tortilla in twos. Distribute the fish evenly between the 6 sets of tortillas and top with the slaw and sauce. Serves 4-6

This recipe is not as busy as it sounds. I make my sauce and slaw the day before and keep it refrigerated. The

Continued on next page. See:

JANE

LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

JANE

Continued from previous page

spice mix can be made ahead, in fact, you might want to double or triple the ingredients as it makes a tasty seasoning for all types of fish and meats.
I also like to make a buffet so guests can make their own tacos.



This recipe is not difficult to follow at all even if it looks lengthy. R=The flavors are out of this world and it would be a big hit with company.

Creamy Spinach Stuffed Salmon

Ingredients:

- 4 skinless salmon fillets
- Salt and pepper to season
- 2 T lemon juice
- 2 T olive oil, divided

1 T butter

***Filling:

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened, at room temperature
- 4 oz. frozen spinach, thawed and squeezed of excess water
- 1/4 c grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 t minced garlic
- S & P to taste

***Optional Garlic Butter

- 1 T softened butter
- 1 T minced garlic
- 1 T lemon juice

Directions:

Season the salmon fillets on both sides with the salt, pepper, 1 tablespoon of olive oil and lemon juice. Cut a slit or pocket 3/4 of the way down the long side of the fillet creating a pocket.

In a medium bowl mix together the filling ingredients. Fill the pockets with 1-2 tablespoons of the spinach mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and keep refrigerated no less than 1/2 hour.

Prepare grill, using a sheet of non stick foil on which to place the fish. Lightly coat with a tablespoon of olive oil. I also suggest using a grill pan instead. Close grill and cook over medium heat about 4-5 minutes, flipping over halfway, until fish is cooked through. Transfer to a warm plate and make the garlic butter if so desired. Place a dab on each fillet before serving. Serves 4

*Tips

Flipping the salmon is easiest if you use a spatula on the bottom to lift, and a wooden spoon on top, I've rarely had a

problem with the salmon falling apart as it's a nice firm fish.

I suggest chilling the filling before stuffing the salmon as it will be easier to work with. Use the back of a teaspoon to evenly spread the mixture flat, and try to keep it a little bit back from the opening so it doesn't spill out. This recipe can also be made on your stove top.

I hope you all are enjoying your summer thus far. The weather has been gorgeous and we have been spending loads of time with family and friends. Have a great and safe Independence Day, and even more days lying in the 'ol hammock

with a good book and iced tea and let your worries drift away. Isn't that what summer is about?

I'll see you in August!

~Jane

Jane Boudreau is a writer, Chicago newspaper columnist, and blogger. She splits up her time between Chicago, Michigan, and a home in the mountains of North Carolina. You can contact her at blndy9@yahoo.com. All photos are her own and cannot be used without permission.



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OUR CHILDREN

Attitude is contagious!

by **SANDY FLEMING**

Mid-summer is a wonderful time to take stock of how last school year whet for your students and how you want to improve things in the coming school year. And with the disruption of this past year’s school routine, many kids need adult support now more than ever. Think of July as a reset time, a time to rethink your routines and strategies, and most of all, your attitude. Let’s look at a few areas to examine and make some “resolutions” together!

Examining the Value of Education

This one is fundamental. Countless studies have shown that the value placed on education by the adults in a household has a direct impact on the students’ attitudes as well. One example is a 2015 student from Finland called, “Family related variables effect on later educational outcome: a further geospatial analysis on TIMSS 2015 Finland.” This study outlines parental attitudes that affect educational outcomes, and high on the list was the value parents placed on educational attainment.

Now what does that mean, exactly? It means that children pick up on their parents’ and other respected adults’ attitudes about education. If the adults around them consistently show how important education is to life success, the kids will believe it and act on it, too. If the adults feel like education, particularly high school and post high school learning, is a waste of time and money, kids pick up on that, too.

Remember that it is easy to “talk the talk but not walk the walk.” You can tell your kids that you think education is an important goal all you want, but if, in the next breath, you ridicule someone who’s staying in school, or say that school is a waste of time or a burden, or tell the students that it’s ok “just this once” to do less than their best on a project or assignment, you will dramatically undermine your message. Kids are remarkably talented at picking up on your REAL thoughts and attitudes by putting together all the things you say and do over time.

So how can you make your actions match your goal of teaching kids to value education? There are some simple steps. First, when you talk about your educational history, do not be ashamed of your attainment, but do be honest about how that has matched up with your goals in life. Did you wish you could’ve been a doctor or a lawyer? Talk honestly about what stopped you. Would you advance farther in your current job if you had a certification of some sort? What is stopping you from pursuing it right now? There are lots of valid reasons, mostly having to do with time and money. Let your children and teens know that these years (before they start their families) are far and away the best time to pursue those goals.

Teach Goal Setting Habits

Help your children to set goals, too. Kids don’t always do this automatically. They need models and guidance. Show them that you have goals (educational or otherwise) that you work on every day. Help them to set realistic goals, too.

One way to start this process is to dream a little bit together. Make a timeline about where you each see yourselves in a year, five years, ten years, and twenty years. Now, what will it take right now to put you on the path to reaching your one year goal? How about your five year goal? Those are the two most important ones, usually, because they are the most achievable. Remember that goals are the overall destinations. Help children and teens learn that every goal needs objectives, or it will not happen by magic. Objectives are the detailed, step-by-step directions to get to the goal. For example, if your fifteen year old has a goal of getting a driver’s license in a year, what steps need to happen right now to get that started? Maybe it’s take practice exams and study for the driver’s test, find out when he or she becomes eligible for taking driver’s training, making a plan for paying for driver’s training, and so forth. Think of it as laying the groundwork for success. The same is true for every single goal in your student’s list. There are always ways to become a little more prepared for success, but sometimes kids need help breaking them apart into manageable and age-appropriate bites.

Another good exercise is to talk regularly about career goals. Young children should dream a little. Middle schoolers need to be finding out what it takes to get into jobs that interest them. Middle school is also a great time for a reality check. Does the dream job pay enough to live on comfortably? Is there enough demand for it that someone will pay you to do it? Try a few experiments with money, too. Share some of your budget with kids and give them an “allowance” or a fake paycheck for a few weeks. Help them learn to budget the money to cover expenses. Help them make a list of adult expenses to keep in mind, like housing, food, repairs, insurance, and so forth. The last thing you want is a young adult child heading out into the world with no idea of what his or her financial needs will be like.

By the time they hit high school, they need to make real plans. How will they get trained for this career? How much will that cost? Are they willing to put in the required effort? Does their grade point average and other academic work measure up to the demands they will need to face? These are all important considerations.

Making the Daily Habits Match the Goals

Here’s where the rubber meets the road. These are the actions your children and teens will pick up on when they form their overall opinion about the importance of education. These are things you can do right now and all through the coming school year to show your commitment to education.

• **Get Involved:** Make a point of building a relationship with your children’s teachers. Go to the parent teacher conferences, the open houses, and the programs as much as possible. Send emails and make phone calls. Ask how you can support your student. And most importantly, let your child see you doing these things. When they see you make the effort to become informed, they will inhale your valuation of education. If

mom and/or dad and/or both spend this much time and energy on it, it must be important.

• **Check Up on Them:** Nearly all schools have automated grade books and grade reports. Find out how to access the ones for your child. Check their progress every few days. Be particularly sharp about noticing missing work, or work with consistently low scores. Rather than getting angry about these situations, though, take time to get to the bottom of them. Does your child understand the assignments? Does he or she have the needed skills? Is there something interfering? Sometimes kids misunderstand things- I have worked with countless children and teens who did not know that missed work from absences is supposed to be made up! They assumed that if the teacher did not say something to them about it directly or hand them the missed worksheet, it wasn’t important and they did not need to do it.

• **Teach Solid Study Skills:** Many students assume that if they do the homework, the grades will magically follow. However, that is not always the case. Homework is mostly to help them practice, and for some students, it’s not enough. Extra study and practice is needed, particularly if grades are low. One partial cure is to insist on a minimum amount of academic study time each weekday. Experts recommend 10 minutes per grade level as a starting point. Each day, whether there is “homework” or not, kids need to spend that much time out of school on academic pursuits. If there’s no homework or if kids “forgot” to bring the assignments, it’s a simple matter to grab some similar practice worksheets off the internet, purchase a grade level comprehensive practice book, or have them read, writing, and do math that you give them. And don’t forget about studying in those content areas. Have kids take notes and create their own study guides for subjects like social studies and science. Have them write a paragraph about what went on in each class in middle school and high school. There are countless ways to go over important information, and they will help boost grades if grades are low.

• **Tie Additional Work to Grade Performance:** You can make all of these extra activities provisional, based on grade attainment. Set a goal that you believe to be realistic, such as B’s in all classes. If grades fall below those levels,

start enforcing additional study time and additional practice.

• **Make School Attendance a Priority:** In some families, kids miss school for countless reasons, ranging from doctor’s appointments to taking time off for their birthdays and family outings. However, each time you allow your students to miss school, except when they truly are ill, undermines your goal of showing that you value education. So even if it is “only a half-day” or even if it would be more convenient to pull them out for that last hour, resist the temptation. Of course, emergencies happen, but teach the kids what is truly an emergency and keep them in school the rest of the time.

• **Watch What You Say:** Be careful what comes out of your mouth in your children’s presence. Save any disparaging opinions or snide comments for adult ears only. Your kids should hear nothing but support of the school. And if you can’t do that, keep quiet. It doesn’t take too many instances of “That history teacher was a real pain when I had her” or “I always knew this school district was not very well-run” for kids to diminish their own opinions of the classes, teachers, and institutions.

If you need additional evidence of the value of education from a financial perspective, check out <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2018/data-on-display/education-pays.htm#:~:text=Median%20weekly%20earnings%20in%202017,weekly%20earnings%20for%20all%20workers>. They have a handy chart that graphically displays the differences in earnings between the different levels of educational attainment. For example, persons who do not earn a high school diploma earn an average of \$520 weekly. An individual with a bachelor’s degree, on the other hand, earns more than twice as much on average (\$1173) each week. Not that money is the only measure of success, but it certainly helps! In addition, people with more education are more informed citizens, they usually report being happier in general, and they have longer life expectancies. Teach your kids to value education- it’s one of the best gifts you can give them.

Sandy Fleming is a private tutor and writer living in Edwardsburg. Visit her website at <http://learningnook.com> for some fun ideas to keep the brains moving this summer!

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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.arcadia-publishing.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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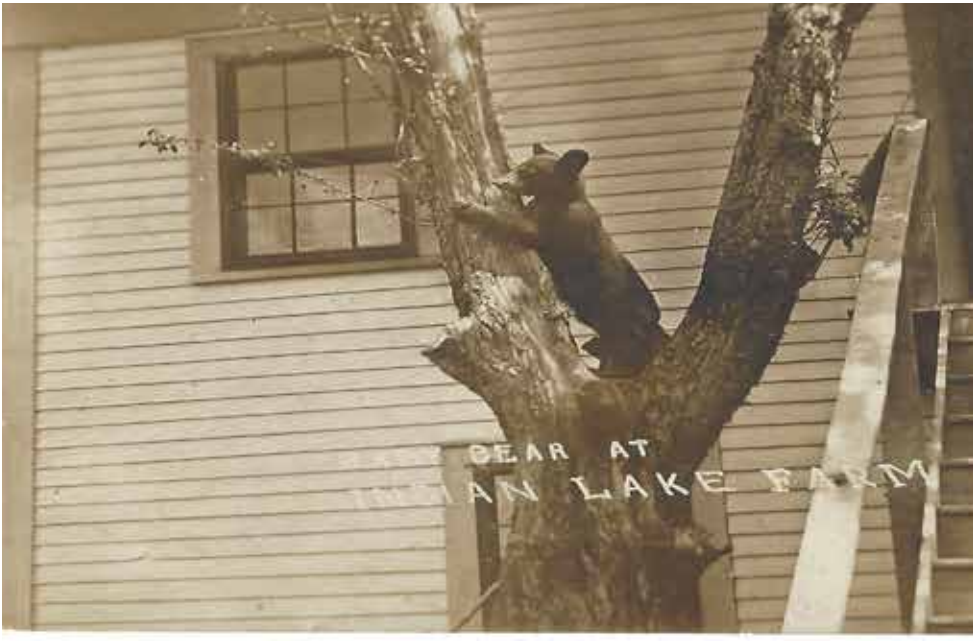
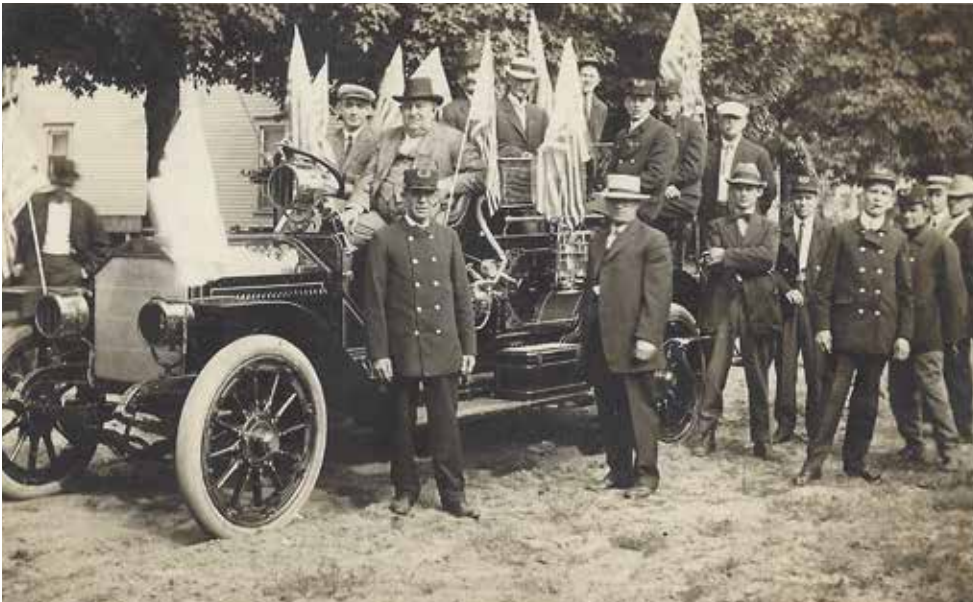






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NATURE NOTES

More nature sightings

*Provided by Cass District Library
Local History Branch*

Brad Anderson came across a pileated woodpecker nest at Love Creek County Park in Berrien Township in late May, and photographed two young woodpeckers peeking out of the nest hole awaiting their next meal. Both of the young birds appear to be males as told by their red "mustache" feathers located along each side of their bills, a feature lacking on females. Male pileated woodpeckers also have red foreheads, present on these two individuals.

Nests of pileated woodpeckers are very difficult to find because the adults become very secretive once the nesting process begins. In southern Michigan, the nest hole may be excavated by the adults as early as April. Eggs appear in May, four being the average number in a clutch. Young usually fledge by June but stay with the parents until the autumn or early winter before they venture out to find mates and territory of their own. Pileated woodpeckers raise only one brood per year.

Pileated woodpeckers pair bond for life and will often reuse the same nest site whenever possible. Adults will stay within the same general area, usually just a few square miles, most of their lives, unless there is habitat destruction or if one adult dies.

The species is a permanent resident throughout its range and does not migrate. It inhabits large forest tracts such as those found in Warren Woods, Warren Dunes, and Grand Mere State Parks. It has also adapted to live in smaller forest corridors along rivers and streams such as those found locally along the St. Joseph, Dowagiac and Paw Paw Rivers and Hickory Creek.

Anderson reports that he saw just two young pileated woodpeckers at the Love Creek site nest, which is below the average of three to four young. It's quite possible that one or more eggs were damaged, or that one or more hatchlings perished soon after hatching.








A trait common to all species of woodpeckers is that both parents take part in nest construction, egg incubation, and feeding of the young. Studies show that in most cases, the adult male pileated woodpecker incubates the eggs during the night.

The pileated woodpecker ranges over the entire eastern US from the eastern edge of the Great Plains, east to the Atlantic Coast, south to the Gulf of Mexico. It also is found over much of eastern, central and western Canada, and the Pacific Northwestern US.

When Europeans came and settled portions of North America, the pileated woodpecker declined in numbers wherever old growth forests were cut down, and human settlement took hold.

The species became absent from many areas of the Northeast, Great Lakes, including Southwest Michigan from the late 1800s until the mid-20th Century.

The pileated woodpecker has made a remarkable comeback over much of the eastern United States, beginning in the last half of the 20th Century. This is because many of the forests that had been cut over have rejuvenated as second growth forests, on which pileated woodpeckers depend on for survival. But in



Top left: d) Eastern screech-owl on May 11, 2021 in St. Joseph, May 11, 2021, taken by Beth Wolf.

Top right: Two young pileated woodpeckers at the entrance to a nest hole, awaiting the parents to bring their next meal. They were nearly ready to fledge the nest site when these photos were taken in late May 2021, at Love Creek County Park in Berrien Township by Brad Anderson.

Center left: Newborn fawn white-tailed deer, May 22, 2021, St. Joseph. Jim Brooks.

Center right: Eastern box turtle on May 16, 2021, near

the corner of Cleveland Avenue and Glenlord Road in Lincoln Township. Photo by Jim Way of St. Joseph.

Bottom left: Cerulean warbler, May 16, 2021. Lakeside Road near the Kesling Preserve, Three Oaks Township. Brad Anderson.

Bottom center: Pine siskin, May 16, 2021. Bridgman, Brad Anderson.

Bottom right: Mute swan adults and cygnets, May 18, 2021, Ox Creek Benton Harbor. Photo by Abigail Brotzki of St. Joseph.

addition, the pileated woodpecker has increased in certain regions because of its adaptability to human development.

In Berrien County, the pileated woodpecker was absent for decades, from around 1900 up until 1972 when individuals were seen on April 6 at Grand Mere by Walter Booth; April 16 at St. Joseph by Roy Smith and Harry Krueger, and April 19 by Jim and Jane Day. Four more years passed until the next county

sighting in 1976, when a single pileated woodpecker took up residence at Warren Woods State Park, and the species has been recorded annually in the county ever since.

However from the middle to late 1970s until the 1990s, the pileated woodpecker was found only at a couple of locations within Berrien County. It wasn't until the middle to late 1990s and early 2000s that the species became more

widespread locally. This summary is backed up by Christmas Bird Count and Breeding Bird Survey Route data.

Jim Way of St. Joseph found an eastern box turtle on May 16 near the corner of Cleveland Avenue and Glenlord Road

Continued on next page. See:
NATURE

NATURE NOTES

NATURE

Continued from previous page

in Lincoln Twp.

The eastern box turtle is still found over much of Southwest Michigan, but its numbers have declined as its habitat of open hardwood forests has given way to more suburban landscapes. The box turtle gets its name from the fact it can conceal its head and four legs inside its dome-shaped shell, like a box.

Box turtles do not reproduce until they reach the age of five to six years of age, but many do not reproduce until the age of ten. The average lifespan of an eastern box turtle in our area is about 45 years.

Beth Wolf of St. Joseph photographed an eastern screech-owl in her backyard back on May 11. The eastern screech-owl is the most common owl in Southwest Michigan, found in areas of small woodlots interspersed with open areas as well as suburban yards with older trees.

The eastern screech-owl and the much larger great horned owl prefer similar habitats and will often coexist in the same neighborhood. However, the great horned owl will eat the smaller screech-owl if the opportunity presents itself.

May and June are the peak months during which young white-tailed deer are born. Newborn of the year are called fawns, and over the last few weeks I have received several reports, including some with photos, in the St. Joseph area.

On May 22, Jim Brooks of St. Joseph photographed a white-tailed deer in his neighbor's yard. Five days later Phil and Kathy Manni of St. Joseph Township awoke to find a newborn fawn in their yard, along with its mother. They called their friends Pat and Bob Conrad, who came over and took some photos that appear in this week's column.

Newborn fawns can stand shortly after birth, but will often lay motionless in order to conserve energy and hide from predators while their mother is out foraging for herself. The mother (doe) deer nearly always leaves her newborn temporarily in order to go find food for herself, but she is always nearby and keeps a watchful eye on the young!

While it is human nature to want to help young animals feared orphaned, the best thing to do is to leave the young animal alone, and 99 times out of 100 they will soon be reunited with their parents. If you think a baby animal is truly orphaned, call a licensed animal rehabber from the list at the following website: <https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/dlr/>

Never try and take a baby animal from the wild before talking to a licensed rehabber first.

On May 16, Brad Anderson found a male cerulean warbler at the Lakeside Road bridge over the Galien River, on the township line of New Buffalo and Three Oaks Townships.

The cerulean warbler is an uncommon species, and has been declining in numbers across its range for the last twenty to thirty years. The Galien River basin is perhaps the most reliable place in Michigan to find this species, and singing males have been observed at the Lakeside Road bridge for at least the last 25 years! The location is clearly a stronghold for the species.

Cerulean warblers nest high up in large deciduous trees, especially among flood-plain forests, such as found along the Galien River in southern Berrien County. They are generally present in Michigan from May through early August, then suddenly depart. They winter in South America.

Anderson also photographed a pine siskin, which is a close relative of our American goldfinch, on May 16 as it perched on a coniferous tree in yard. Pine siskins are a northern species that irrupt into southern Michigan each fall and winter depending on food supply in

Canada and northern Michigan. On rare occasions they can be found nesting south of their normal summer range, in large stands of coniferous trees. Anderson's pine siskin is likely just a case of a late spring migrant.

Abigail Brotzki of St. Joseph photographed a family unit of mute swans on May 18 along Ox Creek in Benton Harbor. In her photo you can see the two adult mute swans as told by their orange beaks, and at least five young cygnets.

Mute swans are native to Europe and were introduced to North America in the first decades of the 20th Century. In Michigan, the first pairs were liberated on the east arm of Grand Traverse Bay around 1918, where they became established.

The first breeding population of mute swans in Berrien County occurred in the 1970s. The species is now established throughout the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It has also established itself in northern Indiana, Illinois, and portions of Wisconsin and Ohio.

The mute swan competes with our native, reintroduced trumpeter swan. Efforts to control the mute swan population in Michigan by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has been moderately successful.

LOCAL HISTORY

Joseph S. Harper, 88 year Cassopolis public servant

Provided by **Jon Wuepper**,
Branch Manager of the Cass District Library
jwuepper@cass.lib.mi.us

Joseph S. Harper led a full and colorful 88 year life, and a great portion of it was spent in public office or serving the public in Cassopolis, Cass County.



He was born December 19, 1805 in Washington County, Pennsylvania, where his grandparents had settled soon after the Revolutionary War, coming from Ireland. Joseph was the sixth of ten children, born to Robert and Tamar Harper.

Joseph grew to adulthood on his home farm and then went to Pittsburgh where he lived for two years before moving to the small village of Washington, PA but for a short time.

Soon after he started for Chicago, but only made it as far as Cassopolis, Michigan where he arrived on February 3, 1835. He was employed in the carpenter's trade in the young village where he built the first courthouse in 1835, as well as the second Greek revival style courthouse in 1841 which was used until 1898.

Harper was one of the first justices of the peace elected for LaGrange Township in 1836. In 1838 he was elected to the register of deeds, re-elected in 1840.



Above: Portion of Company A of the 12th Michigan Infantry, Captain Joseph S. Harper of Cassopolis, Michigan front and center. Taken sometime between October 1861 – May 1862. Location unknown. Courtesy Keith Harrison.

Right (enlarged): Captain Joseph S. Harper (enlarged), taken between October 1861 and May 1862, in uniform while Captain of Company A of the 12th Michigan Infantry. Courtesy Keith Harrison.

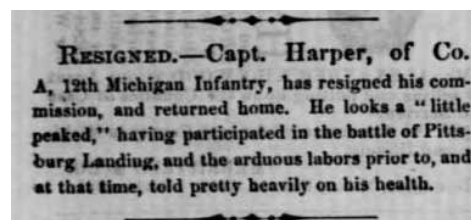
Left: Portrait of Joseph Harper later in life, circa 1880s. Courtesy Keith Harrison.

In 1850 he went to California to search for gold and remained there for four years. He returned to Michigan in time to be one of the delegates to the first Republican convention "Under the Oaks" in Jackson in 1854. That same year he was elected Cass County Sheriff, serving 1855-1856.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Joseph Harper organized Company A, which consisted of men from Cass County, which was part of the 12th Michigan Infantry organized out of Niles, Michigan.

The 12th Michigan Infantry left the state on March 18, 1862, and with no actual field experience, headed south to the front in Tennessee. On April 6-7, 1862 Union forces including the 12th Michigan engaged Confederate forces in the Battle of Pittsburg Landing, also known as the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

Although Union forces ultimately



prevailed, losses were heavy on both sides, totaling 23,000 dead and wounded. At the time, it was the bloodiest battle in American history, a distinction that would be surpassed several times before the war was over.

Captain Harper resigned his commission on May 7, 1862. The Cass County Republican, published at Dowagiac, reported in its May 22, 1862 edition:

In 1864 Joseph Harper along with other prominent Cassopolis men went by wagon train to the gold fields of Montana Territory. Harper stayed three years.

Other public positions of trust held



by Harper included Postmaster of Cassopolis from 1869 - 1872; school officer; President of the Village of Cassopolis, and President of the Cass County Pioneer Society.

On October 25, 1836 he married Caroline Guilford, and to this union were born four daughters: Melissa C. Graham, Maryette Glover, Janette Morton, and Emily S Chapman.

Joseph Harper, age 88 years, died on August 28, 1894 at his home on North Broadway Street, Cassopolis and is buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery.

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THE LAST WORD

by Phil Vitale
aka sailorphil

I think it's a sign that we need more peace!

About 20 years ago, just shortly after I moved to the house I live in, during the early fall of the year, I was feeling a bit festive and decided I would like to do something special as a holiday decoration.

I thought about it for a while, then, as my beloved spouse went about the annual process of bringing in her gajillion boxes of santas, snowmen, ornaments, twinkle lights, garland and assorted other implements of mass decoration, I stumbled on a large metal frame of what was once a jumbo wreath.

Apparently the greenery had died and gone to decoration heaven, and as such, the frame was of no interest to our decorator in chief, so she told me to find a way to get rid of it.

I'll admit, being a natural born humbug, my first instinct was to take a Sawzall to it, chop into fine pieces and dump it into the trash for the recycle fairies to nab and turn into fake snow or something equally useless.

Then I had an idea.

I'd make my new ornament of it; not something schmaltzy like sad, rheumy-eyed kids or ruby-nosed reindeers. I'd make something I could relate to ... but to get the spousal approval to display it, my decoration would still have to portray the impression of holiday cheer, peace, love and all that ... which gob-smacked me in the middle of my santa gland.

I'd make a peace sign out of it using Christmas tree lights.

So, while she was decking the halls

inside, I took a road trip to the nearest grown-guy toy store (a hardware store) and bought rope lights, twist ties, a pair of wire cutters and some duct tape and WD40 (didn't really plan to use the lube or the tape in my design but you can never have too much of either, and when nothing else works, duct tape and WD 40 won't let you down).

For days I worked out in my man-cave garage on my masterpiece, the idea changing and growing with each twist of a tie, each snip and splice of an electric connection.

My wife never asked what I was doing, after all the years we've been married she was just happy I wasn't indoors complaining about all the festive Santa droppings she was dribbling all over the floors and tables and shelves.

After a week, I got out the big ladder, hoisted my four-foot masterpiece up into the peak of the roof over the garage door, ran a 30-foot outdoor, UL approved, heavy duty extension cord to the nearest electric outlet, added a timer for good measure, and went inside to await the first lighting ceremony.

At dinner that evening I let her know I had finished my project and that we could go see it when it was dark ... and since darkness falls that time of year somewhere shortly after 2 in the afternoon, we were able to go take a look as soon as we were done eating. As we rounded the corner of the garage, the soft glow of the lights danced like a bunch of drunken elves finally freed from the Santa jail holiday work-release program.

My wife looked up and fairly gaped at the magnificence of my artwork. The



peace symbol itself was a beautiful pale blue, and behind it I had crafted the outline of the continental United States out of another seven or eight hundred holiday lights. Although my wife reserved judgment (but not comment, I think she said, "peace on the earth?" making a pun, no doubt) but the electric company loved it (at billing time), and I'm pretty sure that's where the Griswold Christmas movie got started in the first place.

For a week or two I went out into the road every day just after dark when the timer would illuminate my masterpiece so I could enjoy the fruits of my labor.

But then something awful happened. Some dirty, rotten, cowardly, slimeball of a sneak thief came by one night while we were sleeping, probably jumped into the back of a monster pickup truck, and tore the decoration down and made off with it in the night. Talk about someone missing the point.

"Well, peace on him, huh?" my wife said with a smirk that looked a little like the smirk Ralphie's mom had when the leg lamp broke in a Christmas Story.

Fast forward 20 years.

Last summer our lake association bought and distributed several "Slow down" signs with green turtles on them to try to slow down the traffic. Not much of a monochrome guy, I painted the white spaces on the turtle's shell with a nice, pastel pink, to make my sign unique.

Too unique, I guess.

On June 16 at 5:26 pm (according to the logs on my security camera looking out from the peak of my garage roof, about where the peace sign used to be before it was stolen), three dirtbags in a POS, dirty, rusted-out, ugly red Chevy pulled up across the street, and one of the slimeballs jumped out and grabbed my painted turtle sign, tossed it into the back of the car and they sped off. Unfortunately the camera didn't get the license plate, and the quality wasn't good enough to identify the thieves or I'd have pressed tortoise-theft charges.

Alas, my turtle art is gone.

And I'm trying not to harbor ...

But if you see a sign that looks like the photo on this page, one with the white spaces painted pink, be aware that whoever has it is in possession of stolen property ... and might just be the scumbag, dirtball, lowlife thief who stole that sign, and maybe even my peace sign.

And if I find out where it is, I'll see if I can sic the Ninja turtles on them.

But, as the God-fearing, forgiving soul I am, I guess the right thing to do is just let it go; to forget it and forgive the lowlife, slimeball, scumbag thieves who stole either or both of my signs.

So with that in mind, I finish by simply wishing ... "peace on them."

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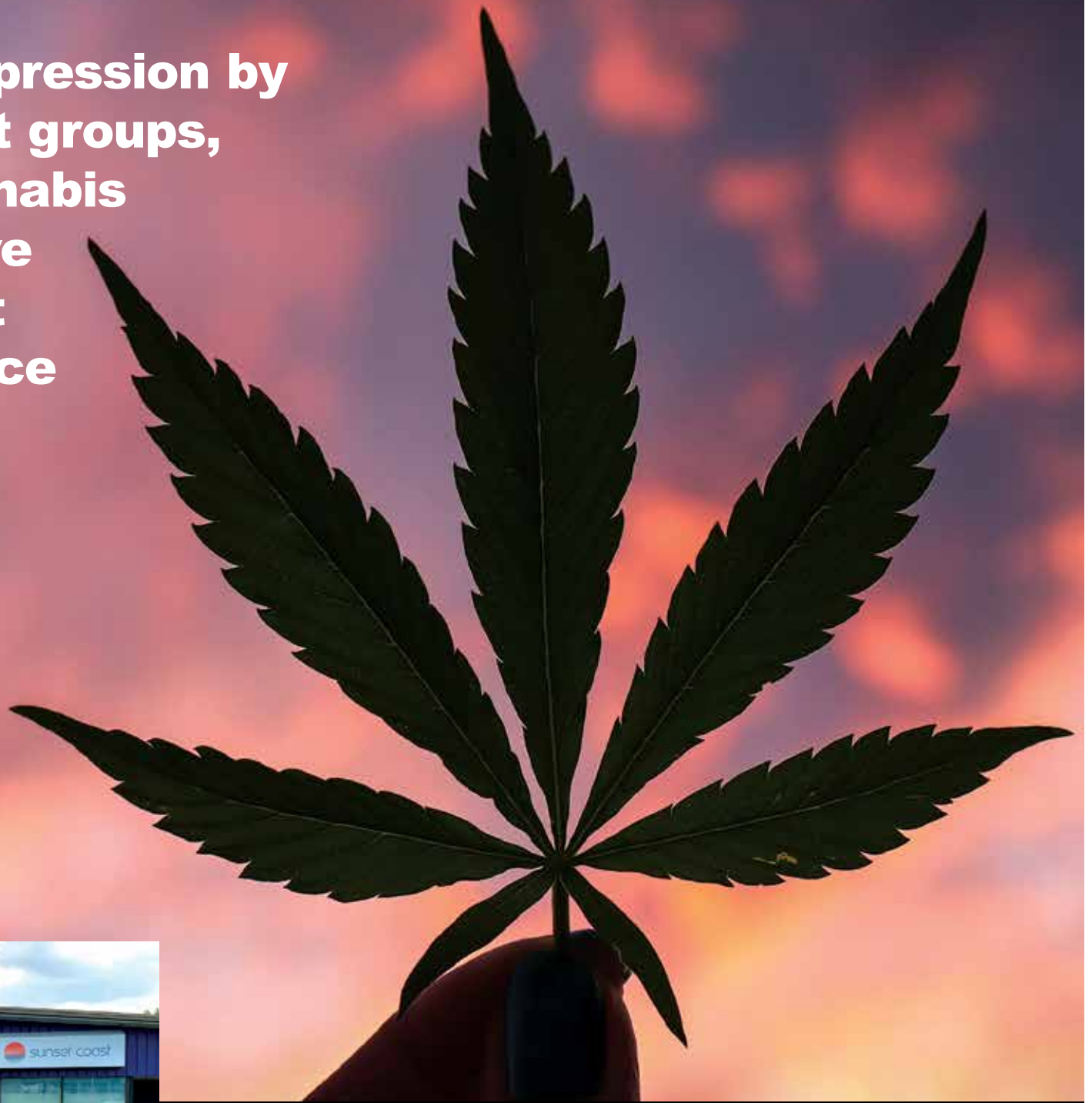
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