

Neighbors

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JUNE 2023

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A regional newspaper serving Cass County, Michigan and the surrounding area, and distributed at homes and businesses in Dowagiac, Cassopolis, Edwardsburg, Vandalia, Jones, Marcellus, Decatur, Union, Sister Lakes, and Three Rivers, with mail delivery at homes on 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

[HTTP://WWW.CASSNEIGHBORS.COM](http://www.cassneighbors.com)

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Neighbors is published monthly from March through November.

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Regional News

Dowagiac area events

The Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce has released information on the following events in 2023:

Dowagiac Home & Garden Tour, June 24, 9 am

Summer in the City Festival, July 14, - July 15, 10 am - 5 pm

Steve's Run, July 14, 6 - 9 pm

Ed's Open Header Cruise, July 27, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Rod & Roll Classic Auto Show, August 19, 7 am - 4 pm

Under the Harvest Moon Festival, October 14, 10 am - 4 pm

Christmas Open House Weekend & Theta Mu Craft Show, November 10, 11, 10 am - 5 pm

Small Business Saturday, November 25, 10 am

Candlelight Christmas Parade, December 1, 7 - 9 pm.

For more information on these events, visit <https://www.dowagiacchamber.com/events/upcoming-events>.

Beckwith Theatre 2023 season

The Beckwith Theatre, 100 New York Ave., Dowagiac, has announced its 2023 season. This year's shows are:

An Inspector Calls on July 21 - 30 by J. B. Priestley - A classic, compelling mystery, which moves us to examine our consciences and remember to look after one another.

The Outgoing Tide on Sept. 8 - 17 by Bruce Graham - In a summer cottage on Chesapeake Bay, Gunner has hatched an unorthodox plan to secure his family's future but meets with resistance from his wife and son, who have plans of their own.

Second Samuel on Oct. 27 - Nov.

5 by Pamela Parker - In the small, Southern town of Second Samuel residents seem to care about each other until the town's shocking secret is revealed and they are driven to examine what caring really means.

Tickets are \$15 per person for all events and are reserved by calling the box office at 269.782.7653. Season tickets are available for \$60.

For more information visit BeckwithTheatre.com, or call 782-7653.

Edwardsburg Historical Museum

The scope of local architectural design, both in homes and other buildings, will be the main focus of the 2023 season at the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum. Cap that with a traditional "I'll Be Home for Christmas" display, and this year's exhibits promise eclectic photographic images and special touches by the museum's volunteers.

"Edwardsburg Architecture Throughout the Years" will include structures from the museum's entire geographic area, and will be captured in two parts. The first, focused on houses, runs through Aug. 20. The second highlight special buildings, including structures on the state and/or National Registry of Historic Places. Dates for that exhibit will be Aug. 22 through Oct. 31.

The third and final exhibit will be compiled by the museum's advisory design committee, headed by Laura Jamrog and Judy Montgomery. "I'll Be Home for Christmas" will include pieces from the museum's collection and loaned items from community residents. It will run from Nov. 3 through Dec. 16.

Local architectural photography by Bonnie Elder and Maureen Barnosky



The Friends of Brownsville School, a committee of the Underground Railroad Society of Cass County, is launching an oral history project. Did you attend an integrated, one-room school in Cass County? If so, the Friends of Brownsville School would like to talk to you! The Underground Railroad Society of Cass County acquired Brownsville School #1, 20559 Osborne Street, Cassopolis, MI. URSCC plans to restore the building and establish Brownsville as a repository of information and artifacts from all of Cass County's one-room, integrated schools. Stepping up to assist URSCC achieve this goal, the Friends of Brownsville School will be conducting interviews with former students of Cass County's integrated, one-room schools. Interviews will be conducted by trained volunteers at a time and in a place convenient and comfortable for you. E-mail Jennifer Ray, Friends of Brownsville School Chair, at info@brownvilleschool.org to learn more about this oral history initiative and to schedule an interview. Interviews will be archived and made accessible to the public, thus preserving and sharing an important piece of Cass County history and celebrating the legacy of the Underground Railroad's operations here.

will capture special features of up to 20 homes in the museum's coverage area in the first exhibit. Included will be both homes that are historic in nature, and homes of more recently constructed. The exhibit will target everything from rural

homes in the 1800s to homes in neighborhoods outside of the Village of Edwardsburg, including lake houses. Emphasis will be on architectural styles and information on the owners and builders, all put into a timeline.







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Regional News

Additional pieces associated with the homes throughout the district will be presented.

The architectural exhibits will be complemented by an evening lecture on June 15 by Edwardsburg Native and Architect Tony Leininger.

The museum is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays from mid-May to mid-December each year.

Edwardsburg Historical Museum Speakers announced

Tony Leininger, 7 pm, June 15

Architecture in rural areas often has been labeled 'vernacular,' meaning that it combined defined architectural styles with what was functional and locally available in terms of materials. That will be the focal point of a June presentation by Tony Leininger, who grew up in Edwardsburg and, because of needed additional space, recently based his business in Niles.

Leininger was reared on Eagle Lake, where he watched the construction of his family's home, and which, he says, instilled in him 'my love for architecture.'

An Edwardsburg High School graduate, he received his bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Cincinnati in 1985.

He founded the CARMi Design Group and has decades of architectural and engineering experience. He has designed and managed the construction of various projects throughout the Midwest. He has received numerous awards for his work.

His lecture will focus on the works

that are on display and encourage those in attendance to be part of the dialogue. Because he says that he 'loves porches,' they will be included in his presentation.

Bill and Julie Stack, 7 pm, Aug. 17

Longtime Resident Bill Stack and his daughter, Julie, will speak about their lives in Edwardsburg when they speak at the museum in August. Bill is past commander of the American Legion, belongs to the Edwardsburg St. Peter's Masonic Lodge, serves on the Mason Township Fire Board, and continues to volunteer for the Edwardsburg Fire Department, on which his son, Bruce, is fire chief and his grandson, Kevin, is a captain.

Julie Stack, who resides with her dad as his caregiver, has been an active member of the Edwardsburg Fire Auxiliary since its creation.

Tom and Marj Rea, 7 pm, Sept. 21

Tom and Marj Rea have been Edwardsburg residents since 1959. And they have a lot of stories to tell about their lives in the community.

He is a retired doctor and she, a retired nurse practitioner.

Dr. Rea practiced with Dr. Hansel Foley in Edwardsburg and then had his own medical office built on Gateway Drive in Edwardsburg in 1963. They lived at Eagle Lake where they reared their four children. In 1978, he coaxed Marj away from their home to spend the winter in the 1882-three-story Victorian brick house that needed repairs on Section Street. They purchased the house and, over the years, they did extensive renovations. They sold the house in 2006 after they moved to Woodfield Hills at Dailey Road and Pine Lake Street.

Dr. Rea sold his practice to Elkhart General Hospital in 1985 and, after five years, moved to the hospital's Bristol office. Marj worked first for Cass County Health Department, then became a nationally certified women's health nurse practitioner, working for the merged Cass-Van Buren Health Department.

Both have been extensively involved with community — with the Miss Edwardsburg Pageant, and the youth group at the former Edwardsburg Methodist Church. Marj Rea served on the Edwardsburg Public Schools Board of Trustees for nearly eight years and has been involved with the Monday Evening Club and the Edwardsburg Book Club. As a physician, Dr. Rea 'helped out' with the Edwardsburg sports teams, sang in the community choir, sang in a barber-shop group, and was an associate medical examiner with Dr. Robert Knox for Cass County. He was president of the Edwardsburg Methodist Church Board, and as well as the Cass County Mental Health Foundation. Both he and his wife were instrumental in working with the Barn Swallow Theatre where he was board president for 13 years.

Jack and Sue Rinehart, 7 pm, Oct. 19

Jack Rinehart, who as a former teacher and coach at Edwardsburg Public Schools, will be joined by his wife, Sue, to talk about their work and service to the community when they speak in October.

Well known for their community projects, including the Hope with Feet home repairs program through the Hope United Methodist Church, the Rineharts were reared here. She is a native, the former Susan Higley, and he was born in

Mishawaka but grew up in Edwardsburg. He was a 1964 graduate of EHS, where he was a class officer, played football, and was a member of the first Eddies wrestling team. Sue graduated in 1971 and she and Jack met at Southwestern Michigan College after his service in the U.S. Navy.

With a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University, he taught at Hanover-Horton High School, then Union City High School. He returned to Edwardsburg in 1985 where he taught, and was a coach for varsity wrestling, football, track and middle school level sports. He coached the Eddies to two state runner-up wrestling titles, the first year as an assistant, the second, as head coach. The second year, he was named regional wrestling coach of the year.

Summer Nature Camps

St. Joseph County (IN) Parks is taking registrations for Outdoor Adventures summer nature camps at St. Patrick's County Park in South Bend.

Six camps are offered for children entering kindergarten through 8th grade. They include:

June 13: Hooks and Arrows (ages 11-14)
June 16: Escape Room: Can you solve the mystery? (ages 11-14)
June 26-June 30: Pollinator Power (ages 8-9)
July 10-July 14: Slime Scientists (ages 6-7)
July 17-July 21: Who Done it? (ages 10-11)
July 24-July 28: Mud Monsters (ages 5-6)

For information, or registration, call 574/654-3155, or www.sjcparks.org.

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Regional Calendar

Cassopolis Main Street Summer Band Lineup
BEACH BASH @ STONE LAKE BEACH (+ Food trucks, beer garden, kids area, kayak rentals, and fireworks!)
ROCK THE BLOCK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES @ STONE LAKE BEACH (+ Food trucks & beer garden)
Saturday, July 15, 5-7 Top Secret, 8-11 The 1985
Saturday, Aug. 12, 5-7 Head Honchos, 8-11 TBD
Saturday, Sept. 9, 5-7 Roosters, 8-11 Memphis Underground
Saturday, October 7 (@Cass County Fairgrounds), 5-7 Dart Board Compromise, 8-11 P.S. Dump Your Boyfriend

June 9 - Lip sync contest, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747
June 10 - Kalita - master of magic & escape, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

June 22-25 - Elkhart Jazz Festival, <https://www.visitelkhartcounty.com/event/elkhart-jazz-festival/11379/>

June 17 - Lip sync contest, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

June 24 - Elton John, Billy Joel tribute, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

June 30 - Karaoke + Contest (country music theme), 7 pm,

Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

July 8 - Beach Boys Tribute "Captain Mike Show," 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

July 14, 15 - Straight Up 80s variety show, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

July 28 - Karaoke + Contest (classic rock theme), 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

July 29 - Savage Mike acoustic duo w/vocals, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

July 31, 2023 - August 6 - CASS COUNTY FAIR, info tba, For info visit the website <https://mycasscountyfair.com/>

Aug. 5 - John Denver tribute, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

Aug. 25 - Karaoke + Contest (1990s theme), 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

Sept. 22 - Karaoke, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

Oct. 27 - Karaoke + Contest (costume contest), 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

2023 CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURE/EVENT SERIES

JUNE 19 – Billieville, Ed Lowe Foundation - Ed Lowe Foundation complex, 58220 Decatur Road, Cassopolis. N

JULY 18 – 1870s House/Heddon Museum, 1870s House – 306 W. Division Street/Heddon Museum – 414 West Street, Dowagiac

AUG 15 – History Lecture on “Cass County During the Cold War,” Holden Green Tavern Cassopolis, 515 South Broadway, Cassopolis

SEPT. 19 – Cassopolis Carnegie Library & Turtle Lodge tour, 145 North Broadway, Cassopolis

OCT. 1 – Annual Fall Festival – 1 to 4:30 pm, Newton House, 20689 Marcellus Hwy., Decatur, free

Unless otherwise stated there will be a short Cass County Historical Society Business Meeting at 6:30 pm, with lectures or tours beginning at 7 pm. For more info Email – ccmihistoricalsociety@gmail.com

NEWTON HOUSE FIRST SUNDAY July 2 - GARDEN PARTY, 1 – 4:30 pm Open House and tour, walk around garden, 2 pm Garden talk. Refreshments and music

August 6 - KIDDIES DAY PARADE, 1 – 4:30 pm Open House and tour, 2 pm Costumes, decorated bikes, wagons, pets (leash or cage)

September 3 - OLD TOOL DAY, 1 – 4:30 pm Open House and tour, 2 pm Farm tools demonstrated, Bring something old and describe it's use

October 1 - FALL FEST. 1 – 4:30 pm Open House and tour, Food, activities, demonstrations, hay rides, vendors

THE EDWARDSBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM June 21 - Hacienda Day fundraiser, Mishawaka Hacienda on Grape Road. Participants must produce a coupon (available at the museum) in advance of ordering a meal. The restaurant donates 20 percent of the proceeds to the museum. Coupons also can be presented that day for gift cards for later use.

July 15 - Van Dyke Band on the museum's back deck. Show.

Aug. 10 - Aug. 13 -U.S. 12 garage sale. Booth space will be available with details provided on the museum's Facebook page.

Sept. 30 - Tour the Edwardsburg Cemetery. Transportation will be provided from the museum. Tickets available in advance

Cass Council on Aging
For a full calendar of events and programs at both COA locations, visit the Council on Aging's website at <https://www.casscoa.org/>

Dowagiac District Library JUN 8 - Story Squad, 5:30 pm 6:30 pm, Children 6-9. Parents and younger children will be asked to enjoy other areas of the library during this time.

JUN 10 - Saturday Story Time, 10:30

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EXCEPTIONAL FINANCING OFFERS AVAILABLE



Regional Calendar

am 11:30 am. Saturday Story Time is geared toward children 3-5 years old.

JUN13 - Preschool Story Time, 10:30 - 11:30 am, geared toward children 3-5 years old

JUN 13 - Teen Tuesday: Teen Cooking 101*, 3 pm, for teens 6th through 12th grade *Registration is required for this event. Sign up in the youth department by Friday, June 9.

JUN 15 - Story Squad, 5:30 pm.

JUN 16 - Messy Time Friday! 11am - noon. Please wear older or play clothes. .

JUN 20 - Preschool Story Time, 10:30 am

JUN 20 - Teen Tuesday: Arts & Crafts, 3 - 4 pm, for teens 6th through 12th grade

JUN 22, JULY 13 - Story Sketching-Circe, 5 - 6:45 pm. Sign up at the front desk to join or call the library at 782-3826 for more information.

JUN 22 - Story Squad, 5:,30 - 6:30 pm

JUN 22 Messy Time Friday! 11 am - noon

JUN 24 - Saturday Story Time, 10:30 - 11:30 am

JUN 26 - TBR Book Club for Teens, 3 - 4 pm, June Book: Legendborn by Tracy Deonn. For teens 13-18 years old. For information, stop by the Youth Services desk.

JUN 27 - Preschool Story Time, 10:30 - 11:30 am

JUN 27 - Teen Tuesday: Board Game Day, 3 - 4 pm. Game of the month: Clue! For teens 6th through 12th grade.

JUN 27 - One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey, 5 - 6:00 pm. To sign up, email Matt Weston at mweston@dowagiadl.org

JUN 29 - Story Squad, 5:30 - 6:30 pm for children 6-9

JUN 30, JULY 7 - Messy Time Friday! 11 am - noon.

JUL 13, JUL 27 - Story Sketching-Circe, 5 - 6:45 pm; Thursday, J

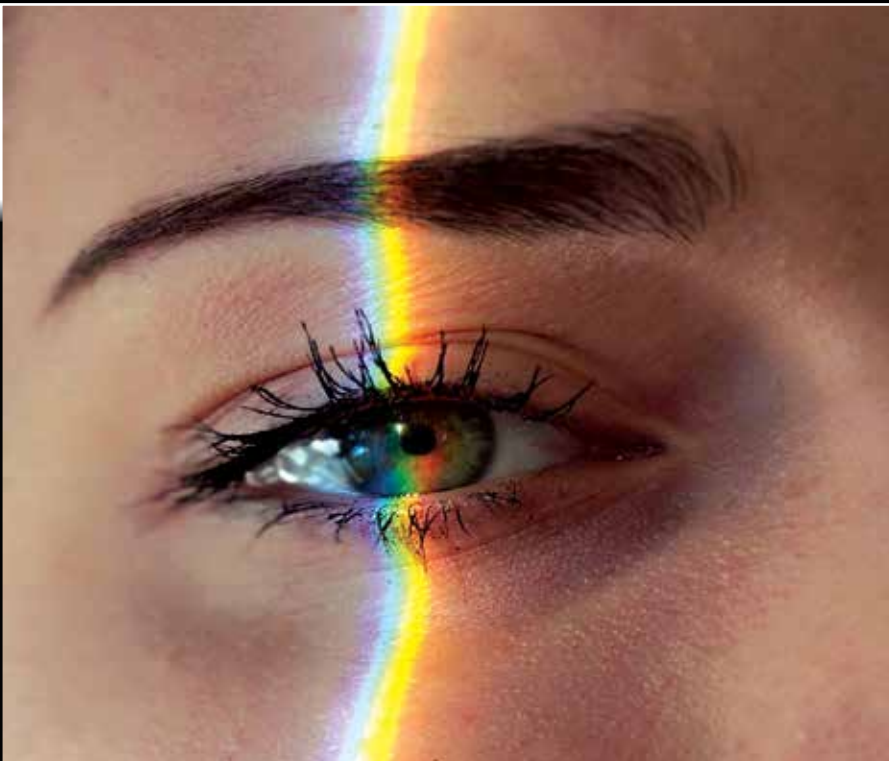
JUL 21 - Messy Time Friday!11 am - noon.

JUL 25 - The Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare, 5 - 6 pm. To sign up, email Matt Weston at mweston@dowagiadl.org

JUL 28, AUG 4 - Messy Time Friday! 11 am - noon

SEP 26 - The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare, 5 - 6:00 pm. To sign up, email Matt Weston at mweston@dowagiadl.org

Cass District Library June Programs 2023
For a list of June programs and events at the Cass District Library branches, visit their website at <https://www.cassdistrictlibrary.org/events-programs/>



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Business & Finance

Summer thoughts

By **Kerry Davis**
Kemner, Iott, Benz Agency

It looks like we may be done with winter and spring is coming to an end for most of us. The extended forecast, for what it's worth, is looking like we could be knocking on the door of summer. That doesn't mean Mother Nature won't throw us the occasional curve ball, but we are entering the summer months. For a lot of us, that means fitting in all of the activities we love to do in a short period of time.

Because of that, we need to take a look at protecting ourselves from some unforeseen hazards that come up when the weather gets warmer.

- **BOAT AND WATERCRAFT INSURANCE** - If you love the water and have the toys that go with that, you will want to make sure your boats and jet skis are covered properly.
- **MOTORCYCLES** - If you are like me and love the wind in your face, along with some occasional bugs, double check that your motorcycle and you are covered appropriately.
- **AUTO INSURANCE** - If you are planning a road trip or renting a car, you will want to review your existing policy to make sure you have sufficient coverage for your needs.
- **LIABILITY** - If your house is a central hangout for kids over the summer, we know outdoor activities increase. Things like pools and trampolines make the risk of accidents higher. You, obvious-

ly, take precautions with these things, but having an umbrella policy can protect you financially should an accident happen.

These are all great things to talk to your insurance agent about. They should guide you through the process of selecting the correct insurance coverage for you personally or your business, especially with some increased risks during the summer months. You don't want or need to spend all your time worrying about things that could go wrong. Just think about these things briefly and talk to your agent. Then, go out and enjoy the

beautiful weather because we never know when Winter #4 or Spring #3 will barge

in on our summer!

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Don't Leave Your Pet in the Car!

A car can overheat **even** when the window has been left cracked an inch or two.

Young, overweight or elderly animals, or those with short muzzles or thick or dark-colored coats are most at risk for overheating.

Shady spots offer **little** protection on hot days, and move with the sun.

90°

Even if the temperature outside is only 70°, the inside of your car may be as much as 20 degrees hotter!

102°

On an 85° day, it only takes ten minutes for the inside of your car to reach 102°.

120°

Within just 30 minutes, the car's interior can climb from 85° to a scorching 120°.

Many states and local governments have laws that prohibit leaving an animal unattended in a motor vehicle under dangerous conditions, which includes hot days. Your car could be damaged or you could be charged with a crime.

ASPCA

If you see an animal trapped in a car on a hot day, try to locate the owner or call 911! Stay by the car until assistance arrives.

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For the Table

Summer side dish lineup

by **Julie Frank**
Owner, **Ploughman's Market & Deli**
Cassopolis, MI

Summer is here and your calendar will soon be filled with backyard barbeques and family reunions. Here are three fresh new additions to your summer side dish line-up. I must admit that sometimes the sides are the best part of the meal. Are you with me? And for all of us side dish-lovers, a summer gathering cannot have too many!

French Potato Salad

This French-inspired potato and green bean salad is dressed with bright tarragon vinaigrette. Try this rustic side dish with your grilled meats. The key to a flavorful potato salad is to add the vinaigrette while the potatoes are still warm. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

Ingredients

- 2 pounds baby golden potatoes
- 4 cups of trimmed green beans, cut in 1-inch pieces
- 2 tbs. minced shallot
- 1 tbs. Dijon mustard
- 2 tbs. chopped fresh tarragon
- 2 tbs. honey
- ¼ cup white wine vinegar
- ½ cup olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and add the potatoes, whole. If you are using baby golden potatoes, there is no need to peel them. The skin is very thin and tender. Simmer the potatoes until tender, about 10 minutes. Drain the potatoes and allow them to cool, enough to handle.

Toss the green beans in a tablespoon of olive oil, salt, and pepper. Roast on a sheet pan for 15 minutes in a 400-degree



This French-inspired potato and green bean salad is dressed with bright tarragon vinaigrette.

oven. You could also blanch the green beans for three minutes in boiling water and then put the green beans in a bowl of ice water. The latter method will keep the beans very green. I chose to roast them because I like the flavor better.

To make the tarragon vinaigrette, combine the shallots, mustard, tarragon, honey, and vinegar in a mixing bowl. Slowly whisk in the olive oil.

When the potatoes are cool enough to handle, cut the larger ones in quarters and the smaller ones in half. Mix the potatoes, beans (drain well if you used the blanching method), and vinaigrette. You will want to add the vinaigrette to the potatoes when they are still warm.

This will ensure the potatoes soak up the flavorful vinaigrette. Check the salad for salt and pepper.

Zucchini Foil Packets

The grill is the best way to cook zucchini. Fresh rosemary is a perfect flavor partner for zucchini. Wrapping the veggies up into foil packets is quick and makes clean-up super easy.

Ingredients

- 4-5 zucchini, sliced into ¼ inch rounds
- 3-4 Tbs vegetable or olive oil
- 4 Tbs. grated Parmesan Cheese
- Pinch of red pepper flakes
- 1 tsp Kosher salt
- 1 tsp of fresh rosemary or other herb of choice

Instructions

Mix ingredients into a bowl and toss

to coat, except for cheese. Divide zucchini mixture onto 4 sheets of aluminum foil, pull the sides and ends of the foil up, fold, and crimp to create a pouch. Leave a gap in the top of the packet or puncture with a fork a few times. The steam needs to escape, otherwise the zucchini will only steam and not get caramelized. Near the end of cooking time, carefully open the packets and sprinkle zucchini with Parmesan cheese. Place seam side up on your heated grill for about 15-20 minutes, depending on the temperature of your grill.

Watermelon & Feta Salad

This side dish combines sweet watermelon, savory cucumber, red onion, and salty feta cheese for a refreshing salad. It's the perfect side for a hot summer day and it makes a beautiful addition to your outdoor table.

Ingredients

- ½ medium watermelon, cut into 1 inch chunks (about 4-5 cups)
- ½ English or seedless cucumber, sliced thinly
- ¼ cup red onion, thinly sliced
- 3 Tbs olive oil
- 2 Tbs freshly squeezed lime juice
- 6-8 basil leaves, torn or cut into chiffonade
- Pinch of sugar

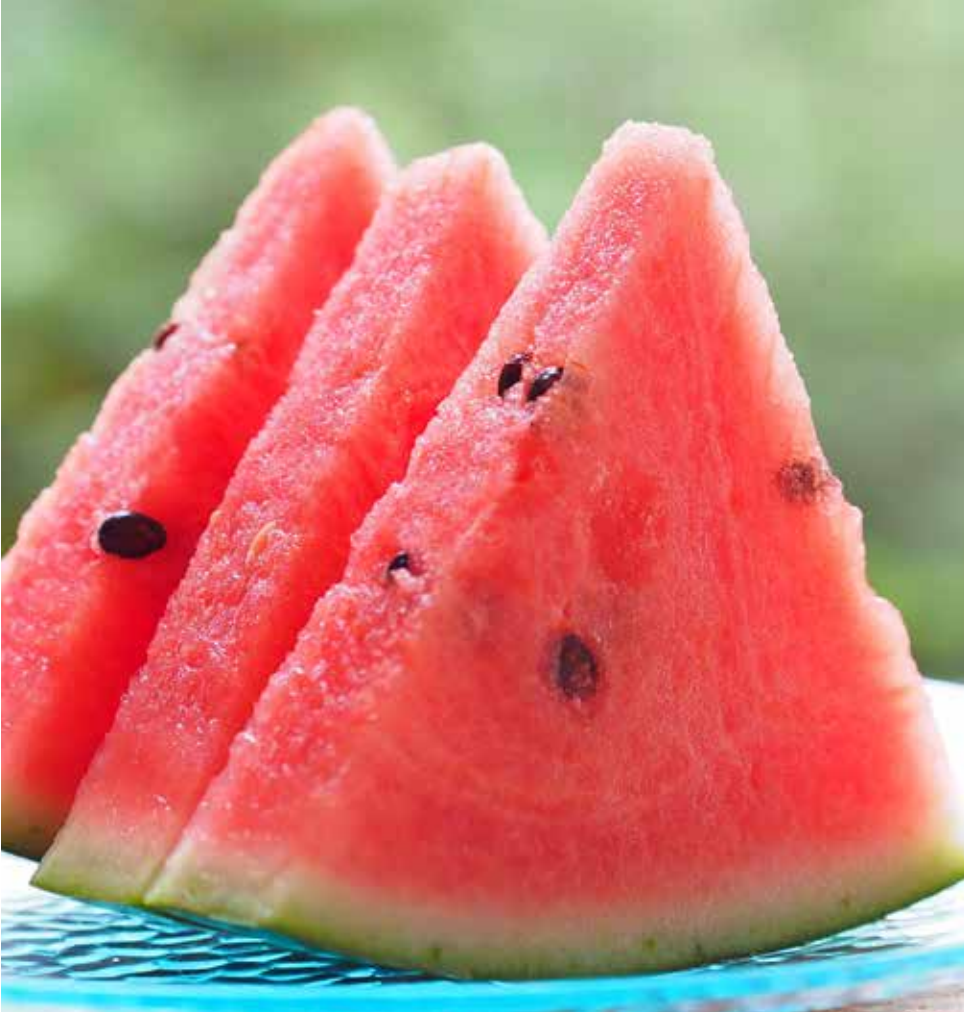
Instructions

Whisk the olive oil and lime juice together with a pinch of sugar. Combine remaining ingredients in a large bowl. Pour over lime vinaigrette, toss to coat, and chill for about 20 minutes.

Julie Frank grew up in the restaurant business starting as a dishwasher in her mother's restaurant making \$1.25 per hour. She left the family business and went into education for over twenty-five years. Julie has returned to her roots to open Ploughman's Market, Bakery, and Deli in Cassopolis, Michigan. She lives in Dowagiac, Michigan with her husband and a mischievous German shepherd.



Wrapping the veggies up into foil packets is quick and makes clean-up super easy.



This side dish is the perfect side for a hot summer day and it makes a beautiful addition to your outdoor table.

Our Children

Sizzling summer science

by **SANDY FLEMING**

Summer is a great time to explore learning, and what better area to focus on than science? Most kids and teens have at least a passing interest in learning more about some aspect of the world, and in the summer, they are free to pursue their own projects.

This year, help them along a bit by giving some guidance and making the learning a priority. It will be a whole lot more productive than more screen time or hanging out and saying how boring things are! Plus, if you play your cards right, the projects will also pull in reading, writing, and math skills so you'll have a real trifecta!

Let's start with a quickie review of how to turn observations and experiments into "science" at home. The main difference is that learners need to process the information they gather in some fashion and put it to use. You can make sure this happens by getting a bit more formal than simply exploring the world.

First, have the students choose a specific topic they want to understand more fully. You can guide this if you have a cool experiment in mind if you wish, or let them have free rein. Have them start by doing some background research appropriate to their age level. Library books, Internet articles, encyclopedia articles, and any other age-appropriate information will be good sources.

After a bit of background reading, have the young scientists come up with a few questions. What would they like to find out about the topic? See if they can create or design a way to get the answer to their questions through first-hand observations and experiments. Help them gather the supplies they need and set things up. When they do the experiments, be sure they write down their observations, measurements, and other data. They'll need it later!

With data numbers in hand, have them put it into an organized format. This might be a table or a graph of some kind. Looking at the numbers, have them tell how the numbers show what was happening with the observations or experiment.

At least once this summer, have the kids write up their experiment in an age-appropriate manner. Elementary kids could make a poster of some kind. Middle and high school students should plan to actually write a report.

The first part should be the background information they gathered, in summary form. Next, they should discuss the question they chose to pursue and why. What theory did they come up with to answer their question? They'll need to describe how they planned, set up and completed their experiment or observation, and then talk about the data they collect and what it means. Finally, they should be able to draw some kind of conclusion that answers their question and maybe a new question they want to look at next. Their report should be between 5-6 paragraphs and several pages long, depending on age level.

Here's what this could look like for the topic of weather. First, research to learn more about weather in general. How does it work? What is the difference between weather and climate? Perhaps your child noticed that there are bits of "weather folklore" floating around. How accurate are these observations? A famous one is "Red in the morning, sail-



ors take warning. Red sky at night is a sailor's delight." Does a red sunrise really predict rainy or bad weather? Spend a few weeks collecting data to find out! Or perhaps they could find out if the wind flipping tree leaves upside down means a storm is coming. Watch the tree leaves and then see if a storm appears within minutes or hours. The list goes on and on, and it's a great topic to explore! You don't need any special equipment, just time to observe and make notes in a journal for several weeks. Then use the numbers gathered with measurements (like how long between leaves turning over and bad weather, or the actual weather on the day after a red sunset) to make a table or a graph. Explain what it all means, and presto! You will have a science experiment report!

So now that you've got the idea, here are some quick, easy, and inexpensive science exploration ideas to explore!

Kitchen Science

- Mixing vinegar and baking soda creates a fizzy reaction. Common uses include powering "rockets," making raisins "dance," and creating a show with a papier mache or clay volcano. How many experiments can you find that are based on this combination? What other uses can your student devise for the push that comes from mixing these two elements?

- Mixing oil and water can create opportunities for observation. Put a little food color into one element or the other to make things look more dramatic. What is the effect of adding a little dish soap to the mix?

- Try a few experiments with cake! Fashion 5 small "pans" from foil, and prepare to mix up five teensy cakes. Try leaving an important ingredient out of 4 of the samples- no egg in one, no oil in one, no sugar in one, and no baking powder in one. Make number 5 teensy but normally. Sample the experiments, try cutting them open and observe what is different about the look and texture of each of them.

- Eggs can be a fun item to observe as well. Can the young scientists figure out what causes the white and yolk to harden? What happens if you soak an egg in a jar of vinegar for a few days? Give close inspection to the structure of an egg. See if the kids can find the membranes that separate egg from shell and yolk from albumen. It's said that you can tell the freshness of an egg by putting it

in a pitcher of water. Does this work? Why?

- Conduct a study about which hiccup cures are most effective. Structure, Air Pressure and Gravity

- Can the kids find a way to successfully cushion an egg so it can survive a 10 foot drop?

- Try making a boat from foil and see how many pennies it can hold before it sinks. What is the effect of trying different configurations?

- Do some construction using marshmallows and dry spaghetti, gumdrops and tooth picks, or even rolled up papers and masking tape. Choose a structure to build (like a bridge or a tower) and an experiment to try (how high can it be so it can still stand alone, or how much weight can it hold?). See what designs work the best.

- Use a hair dryer or a vacuum cleaner in reverse. What things will "fly" in the stream of air?

- Hang a pair of strings between two chairs ten or more feet apart. Create a "rocket" by attaching a balloon to a drinking straw, and thread the straw onto the string. If you do two, you can have races. Can you find the best way to create the rockets?

The world is absolutely full of things to learn and experiments to try, and most of them cost nothing except time and energy. So ditch the screens for a bit and encourage some exploration. Get a bit creative this summer, and you can have some sizzling summer science fun at your house (and the kids won't even notice that they are learning and growing!)

Sandy Fleming is a private tutor and writer from Edwardsburg. Want more project-based learning fun to help prevent summer learning slide?

Check out Active Minds – a great set of summer fun activity ideas to keep brains moving all summer long! Visit <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Active-Minds-Ten-Great-Projects-to-Keep-Kids-Learning-5765890>.

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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.

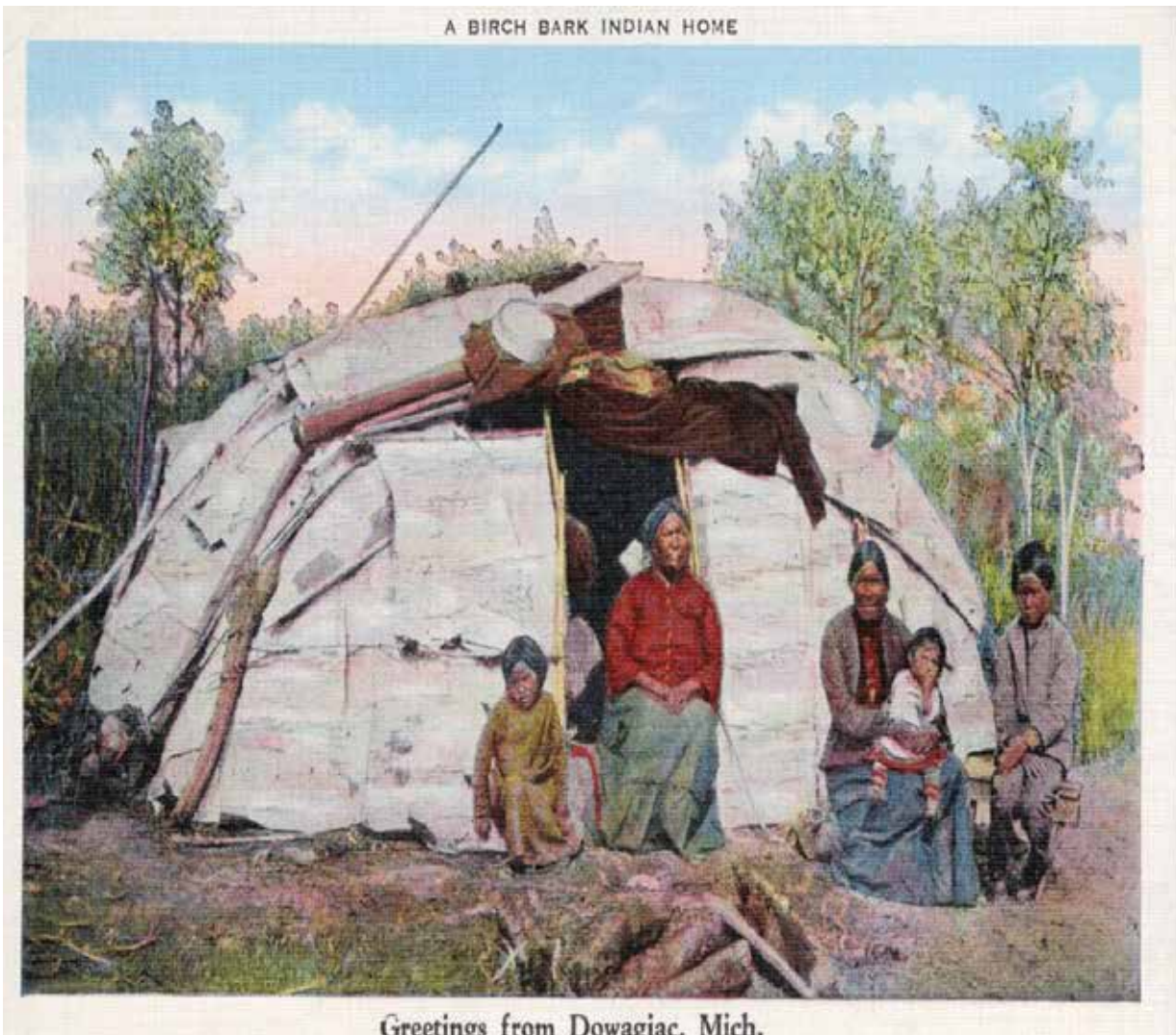
Jerdon has recently used many of his postcards featuring the Sister Lakes area in a book written by RL Rasmussen. The book, which retails for \$19.99, is in its second printing by the publisher, Arcadia Publishing.

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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Local History

Historic Moon Cemetery

Provided by_
Jonathan Wuepper,
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Cass District Library
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The Moon Cemetery is located just south of the intersection of M-60 and Decatur Road in Penn Township, Cass County, Michigan and was named for the Moon family because several members of that pioneer family are buried there. That cemetery has also been referred to as the McIntosh Cemetery for the same reason, in addition to being called the Geneva Cemetery after the lost village of Geneva, platted in 1830 on the north shore of Diamond Lake. Lastly, it has been called the Kincheloe Cemetery because the Ivan C. Kincheloe memorial lies adjacent to it.

The sign for the Moon Cemetery along M-60 has the year 1811 on it, signifying that was the year the cemetery was created. That year is inaccurate and here is why: Cass County, Michigan was not "set off" (boundaries established), nor organized (able to levy its own taxes, established its own courts, etc) until 1829.

The eastern boundary of Moon Cemetery lies on the eastern north-south line of section 30, also the western north-south line of section 29, in Penn Township. This line was established by a survey that was conducted in 1828, eighteen years after 1811. Thus, no cemetery would have been established before the section line. Also the road we now call M-60 was not laid out until the 1840s.



Moon Cemetery is located along Decatur Road, just south of M-60, Penn Township, Cass County, Michigan. Named after the Moon family who were pioneers in Penn Township. The date on the sign, 1811, signifying the establishment of the cemetery is inaccurate.

During the 1810s, there were no actual settlers in Southwest Michigan, the only Euro-Americans being a handful of fur trappers, hunters and traders.

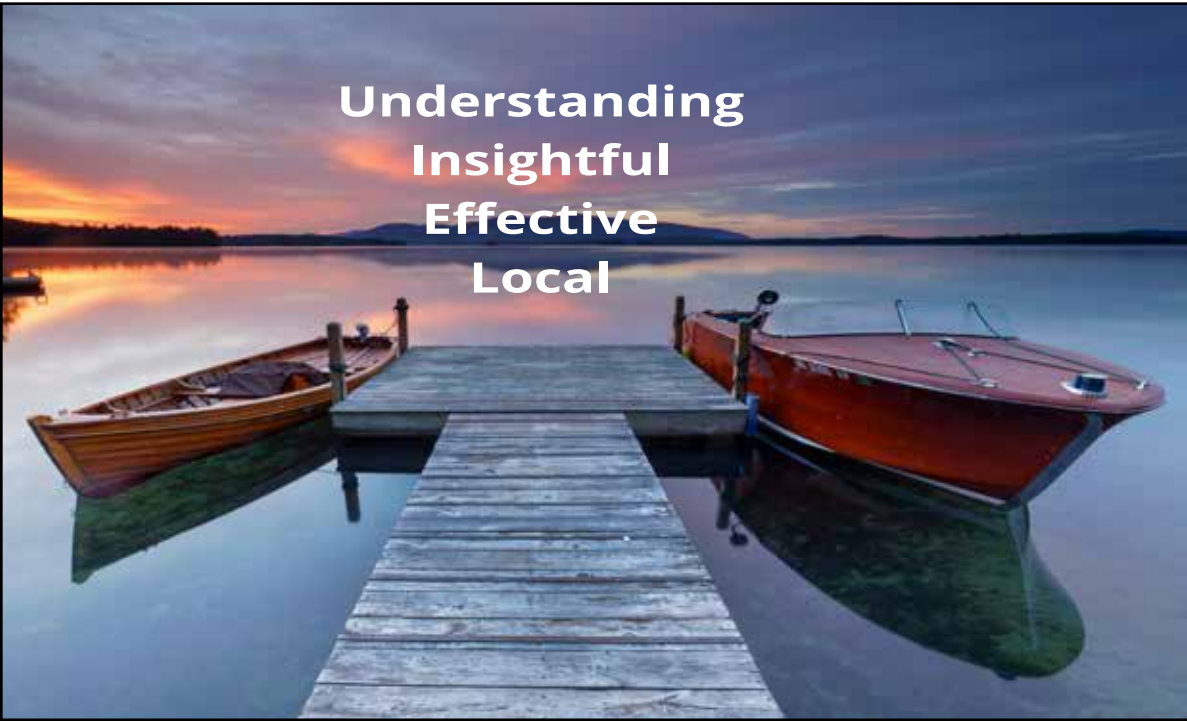
It is very likely that the date of 1811 appears on the cemetery sign because that year is listed on a headstone within the cemetery. During the mid-19th Century it was common to commemorate

family members that had died back east by engraving their names along with birth and death dates, etc. on family headstones. P. (initial only) Benson aged 61 years, who died October 5, 1811 is listed in the Moon Cemetery index compiled by the Daughters of the American Revolution, sometime during the 1930s-1940s. It is likely it is from this

source that the year 1811 came from when the sign painter was looking for the date that the cemetery was established.

Moon Cemetery was likely created during the 1830s or early 1840s

To find the true date of the establishment of Moon Cemetery, one must do a title search at the Cass County courthouse.



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Nature Notes

Northern mockingbirds, grosbeaks

Provided by Cass District Library
Local History branch

Northern mockingbirds can mimic over 150 songs and calls of bird species, and can imitate sirens, motor vehicles, trains and more! Roughly the size of our common blue jay, this songbird is more slender than the jay and has an overall light grayish appearance with flashes of white on the upper wing. Northern mockingbirds, specifically the males, have a habit of singing in the dead of night much to the annoyance of anyone in earshot who is trying to sleep.

Brad Anderson of Bridgman photographed a northern mockingbird on April 29 along Rambo Road in Bridgman, featured in this week's column. The species is common in the southern United States, and southern Michigan is the northern edge of their range although they are occasionally seen in the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula.

The preferred habitat of the northern mockingbird is thickets, orchards, suburban areas, forest edges, etc. They avoid large expanses of unbroken forests. For example, it is very unlikely that a northern mockingbird will be located in Warren Woods State Park, or Newton's Woods in Cass County. There is currently no known reliable place in Berrien County in which to find nesting northern mockingbirds. Until recently a pair of northern mockingbirds had been nesting in Lincoln Township Cemetery located off Stevensville-Baroda Road.

Northern mockingbirds eat insects and berries, and will frequent bird feeders during the winter months. Most northern mockingbirds that nest in our region depart south for the winter, but occasionally some individuals will stay the entire winter. During the early 1970s northern mockingbird populations had reached a peak in Southwest Michigan, although still classified as uncommon in the area. A series of harsh winters during the late 1970s and early 1980s decimated local mockingbird populations, and the species has never recovered.

On May 4 Art Herman of Hagar Township photographed a male rose-breasted grosbeak at his window feeder. This species winters in the West Indies and Mexico south to northern South America. On average the first report each spring of a rose-breasted grosbeak in Berrien County takes place by April 24. This year the first known report of a rose-breasted grosbeak was one on April 28 in Buchanan Township by Evert Riley.



Male rose-breasted grosbeak, May 4, Hagar Township, Arthur Herman.



Northern mockingbird, April 29, 2023, Bridgman, Brad Anderson.

Rose-breasted grosbeaks eat seeds, insects, and berries. It may rely more on sunflower seeds after its initial spring arrival in the north if the weather remains cold. In Southwest Michigan, the peak spring northward passage of the species takes place during the second week of May, and their arrival in northern Michigan lags behind 10-14 days. Resident birds will court among the high tree tops among second growth forest, usually timed with the foliage leafing out in full.

Both sexes participate in nesting duties and the male rose-breasted grosbeak has a distinct trait of singing while sitting on the nest. Unfortunately, because the species prefers smaller woodlots of second growth forest, it has become a common host to the brown-headed cowbird. The female brown-headed cowbird is a nomadic grassland species of blackbird which does not build her own nest, finds another songbird's nest, removes an egg then deposits her own egg into the foreign

nest. Over the years I have received several photographs of adult rose-breasted grosbeaks feeding fledgling brown-headed cowbirds.

Rose-breasted grosbeaks depart Southwest Michigan during September. On average, the last report of the year of the species in Berrien County is made on October 8. A few individuals may linger until October 20. Winter records are rare and should be documented with photographs.



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I guess I just ain't a kid anymore ...



Back in the days when I wore a younger man's clothes, I harbored this favorite fantasy of one day playing shortstop for the Chicago Cubs. In my Wrigley-esque La La Land of admittedly Quixotic dreams, I used to see myself diving

toward third to barely back-hand a hot, hopping grounder, rolling across the infield dirt like a Chinese acrobat and coming up throwing, zip-ping a blazing zinger to the first baseman just in time to beat the runner as he vainly stretched toward the bag.

Now that I've reached "a certain age" and the harbor where that (and a boatload of other youthful fantasies were anchored) has seen more ships sailing out than in, I've come to the sad realization that no matter how agile, active and ambitious I might have imagined myself when I dreamt those Mitty-like delusions, the pervasive pains and aches, the crepitation cracking and creaking in my joints and bones, and the two-sided, week-long pill box I crack open twice every day all serve as stark reminders that the dark truth is simply ...

... I just ain't a kid anymore.

Not naturally prone to admitting my own faults, failures or shortcomings, and having for a lifetime cowered behind the myth that I am only as old as I feel, this is evolving into a not-so-swift in the glutes.

I remember (once in a while) back in my salad days when a buddy, John Wayne (not his real name, just a nickname his friends tagged him with since he was a lot older than most of us ... just like the actor), used to say to any of us impertinent kids who dared tease him about his age, that the secret to aging gracefully was to forget the number of years you'd actually been alive, and to live like you were the age you'd imagine yourself to be if you didn't really know how old you really were.

For a long time I chose to be 21 (chosen out of thin air because that was the age I most wanted to be as a kid ... until I actually got to 21 and beyond and had to deal with the car payment, the mortgage, raising the kids and all those other adult responsibilities). Then, for a long time I was somewhere around 29 (thanks to Jack Benny who never admitted to being any older than

that). Then I was 30 for a while (mostly because of Jimmy Buffett's pirate), before I finally settled into admitting to being in my 40s (middle age, middle income, fair-to-middling health and all that).

But now that I've passed (I hate that word!) into my 70s and senioritis has stricken, my youthful dreams are more often haunted by a cloaked and hooded demon carrying a scythe and searching the dark for me than they are by the hallucination of Ernie Banks giving me a "thumbs up" after my great throw across the field.

I read last week on the websited (lopsided?) news (OMG, is there still news now that hometown newspapers have faded into the gray ether of the Internet) that the World Wide Web just turned 30 years old.

"Horsefeathers," I puffed archaically. "The Web's older than that! Say it ain't so!"

I remember a long time ago when this whipper-snapper of a kid who'd been hired in the brand-new IT department at the newspaper where I worked installed my first "real" work computer onto my desk. He patiently gave me the five-minute "Computer 101" introductory instructions (it only took five minutes in those days because back then he only needed to replace the hammer and chisel I'd been using to carve the front page onto the stone tablets with, and the new-fangled gizmo powered by the amazing 64 kilobytes of RAM which was all you needed to run DOS and BASIC), and told me about this new Web stuff coming out. Then he boldly challenged me to get a site up before he built his own site where was going to put some new "computer" games (remember Pong, PacMan and Asteroids?) so he and his albino-pale buddies could game all night long.

Wasn't long after that when I got my first AOL mail (thanks to that dial-up modem that screamed like an stepped-on cat), hopped online, immersed myself into the swirling ether, and crowed to anyone who could boot up that I was the new king of the kingdom of Web-dom.

Looking back, even though I was in my 40s then (I only felt 20-something), the reality was that while I was swelling my head and teething on kilos of kudos, somewhere in a dark California garage, a long-haired kid was already selling bushels of Apples and building the first MacIntoshes, and some Gates guy had long since opened the windows that the whole world would soon

use to fly their computerized surfboards across my newly but unjustly-claimed kingdom.

And so another pipe dream was up in smoke.

It wasn't too long after all those being mesmerized by megabytes of surfing, the terrible terabytes of hours tapping onto plastic keyboards and seemingly endless days of squinting at tomes of Times New Roman, Ariel and Bodoni, that the carpal-tunnel in my Web kingdom promptly slapped me across the face.

And it began to dawn on me that ...

... I wasn't a kid anymore.

I really don't know how I have lived this long (maybe Billy Joel was right), but somehow I've managed to Rollator myself into a septuagenarian sunset age that as a kid I considered to be the knock, knock, knocking on heaven's door (even though my own hopefully not-yet eternity is unlikely to be looking in that direction).

It was just yesterday (when all my troubles seemed so far away) that I found myself golfing (it's what old people do when they can't play shortstop anymore) with my bud, Bud, when our much younger (ergo, more physically able) neighbor was drilling his drives dozens of yards past ours ("Hey, wait up Bob. We'll catch up to you in a couple shots."). As I watched in awe as his tee shot soared past the outer limits of my vision, I heard myself whining to Bud that on my ocean, the long drive ship had long since sailed as I dribbled another drive.

Tired of listening to the lame excuses for the next double bogey, my bud, Bud, turned to me and sagely (but somewhat savagely) pointed out that as a couple of over-the-hill, 70 year olds, in light of his open-heart surgery and my strokes and shoulder replacement, at least we were out there with that kid hacking golf balls around and chewing the scenery over matters of mortality, and that seeing as how we were above the fairways instead of being under them, all things considered we really weren't doing too badly ... for a couple old guys.

Wanting to get in the last whine (at my age, one wine is never enough, and never say "one last" to an old guy unless you're flicking the lights and announcing closing time) I told him about my second base fantasy.

Bud just smirked. and as he helped me pick up my now too-heavy golf bag she snarked, "Well, I guess ... "

"... you just ain't a kid anymore."



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