

Neighbors

JULY 2025 **NOW IN OUR 22nd YEAR** **FREE—Take one**

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)

Inside this month

Regional News Page 2, 3
Regional Events Page 4, 5
Lake Life with Jane Page 6
Field Trip..... Pages 10-11
Floyd's Postcards..... Pages 13-15
The Last Word..... Page 19

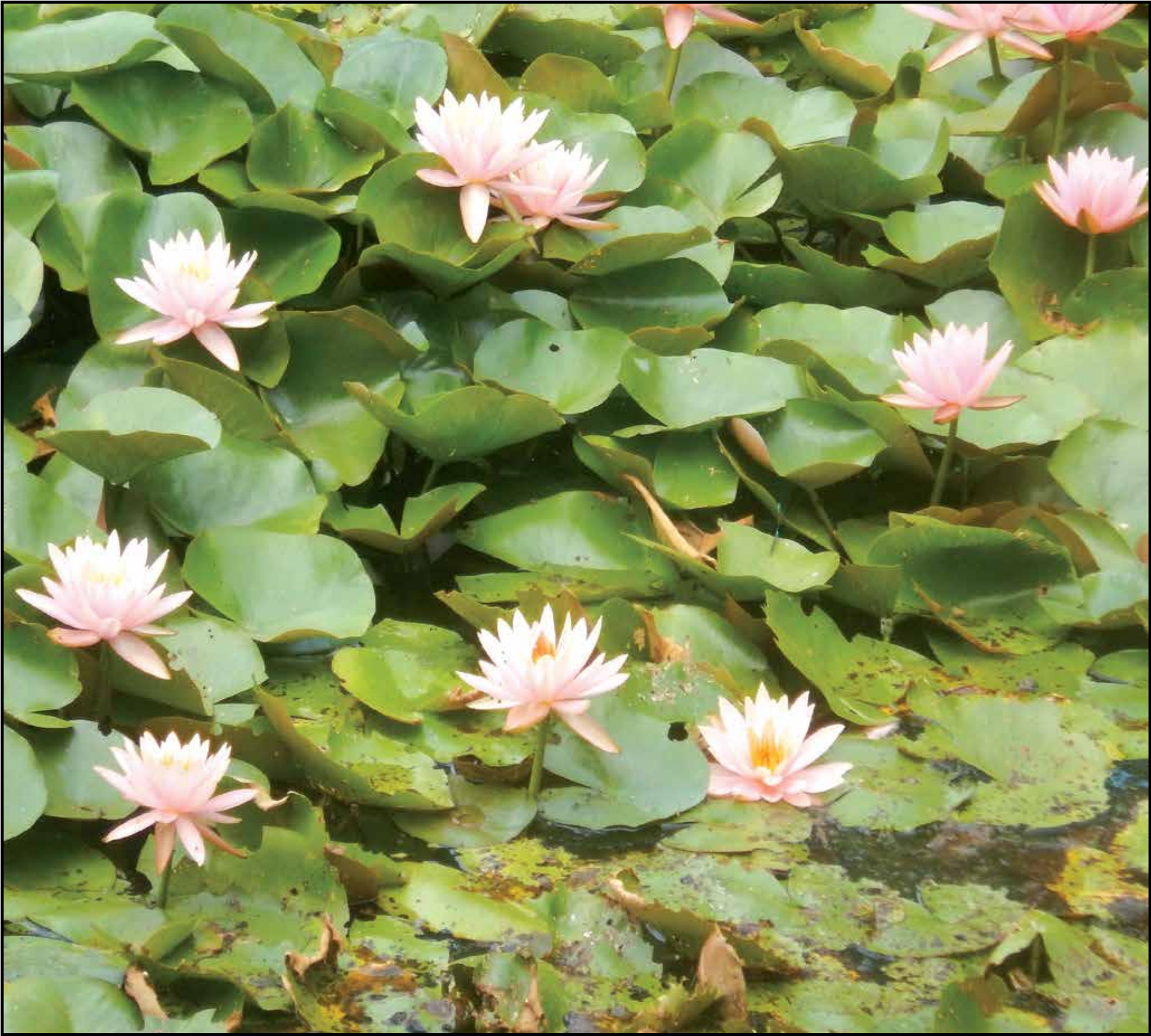
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Field Trip:



**Sunny St. Joseph, MI
Pages 9-12**

Regional News

Vandalia Underground Railroad Days Festival is July 12, 13

Underground Railroad Days, July 12, 13 (11-5pm) Vandalia, Michigan
Underground Railroad Society of Cass County (URSCC) and Village of Vandalia celebrate UGRR in this community .

URSCC sponsors guided tours telling the story of 1847 Kentucky Slave Raid starting from Milo Barnes Park, 102nd United States Colored Troops Civil War soldiers camp across from park. Open houses at UGRR sites--Bonine House, Bonine Carriage House, Bogue House and Brownsville School. Displays and presentations in Vandalia Youth Center.



James E. Bonine House



Bonine Carriage House



Village of Vandalia sponsors art/craft booths, food trucks, and family events on Village grounds. On Sunday morning 11am, community church service under the tent. More information on www.urscc.org

Cass County Historical Society Lecture & Event Series

The Cass County Historical Society

has announced the remainder of its 2025 lecture and event series. Events include:
Edwardsburg History Museum – Show & Tell - JULY 15, 6:30pm, Location: 26818 Main Street, Join Edwardsburg and Cass County Historical Societies for a Show 'N Tell of artifacts, heirlooms, and tools. Neil Hassinger will give a short lecture on "What's Underfoot in Edwardsburg" discussing items discovered at Village sites.

Bob Lehigh Property – Decatur

AUG 19, 6:30pm, 53333 Gards Prairie Road, Decatur. Visit the Lehigh family farmstead established in 1837. Step back in time and explore the rich history of our community at this unique lecture event surrounded by artifacts from a local iconic DX Gas Station.

Newberg One Room School House - SEPT.

16, 6:30 pm, 13020 Born St, Jones. Visit the 1856 one-room schoolhouse for a unique opportunity to hear firsthand memories from former students who attended this historic school.

Annual Fall Festival – Newton House - OCT.

11, 11 – 3 pm, 20689 Marcellus Hwy., Decatur, MI 49045 (Adjacent to Fred Russ Forest Park). Come to the annual Fall Festival at Newton House, a free, family-friendly event featuring kid's activities, pie-eating contests, puppeteers, free snacks, house tours, wagon rides through Fred Russ Forest Park with Civil War reenactments.

Christmas at Newton House – DEC 6, 1

– 4 pm. Experience the magic of the season at historic Newton House, beautifully decorated for the holidays. This exclusive, ticketed event offers a festive escape in a historic setting. Watch our FB page and website for more details!

Unless otherwise stated, there will

be a short Society Business Meeting at 6:30 pm with lectures or tours beginning at 7 pm. For more information write to the Cass County Historical Society, PO Box 21, Cassopolis, MI 4903, email - ccmihistoricalsociety@gmail.com or visit www.ccmihistoricalsociety.org.

Local author book signing concert

Local Author and storytelling musician Annie Rettic will present at a book signing concert, hosted by the Cassopolis United Methodist Church, 209 South Rowland, with parking on O'Keefe street. She will be reading a chapter from her book, *Gratitude: A Path To Grace*.

The reading will be interspersed by song, highlighting lyrics in the book and stories that reflect how Gratitude influences her life. Rettic calls these concerts, *Gratitude Galas*. They are joyous celebrations of the power that having a blessed attitude can bring.

Books and CD's will be available for purchase. Concert will be July 15 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm.

Dessert will be served. Reservations requested R 269-445-3107 by July 11.

Edwardsburg Museum among winners of grant program

The America250MI Committee has awarded the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum \$2,975 as part of the first round of the America250MI History Grant Program for the museum's deck renovation, which is expected to ensure

its safety for handicap access.

The work will include replacing deck boards, railings, and support posts. New wooden beams will be installed as needed on the 12-foot by 36-foot structure. The deck ramp will feature new metal handrails on both sides. Work will be completed this summer for the museum's Sauk Trail Event, "Echoes of Our Past," set for Sat., Sept. 27. Reenactors will use the deck for special presentations.

The America250MI History Grant Program is funding projects that will help preserve Michigan's history for future generations. The grant program represents a key element of the state's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The Edwardsburg museum is participating locally in this project. In 2020, Governor Whitmer directed the Historical Society of Michigan and the Michigan History Center to coordinate the state's commemoration of the anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. The two organizations created the America250MI Committee to aid and advise this effort.

Edwardsburg Museum displays

The Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum's next exhibit will be "Sauk Trail: Echoes of the Past," from July 22 to Nov. 1. It will be highlighted by two glass cases of artifacts that the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi Indians will loan to the museum and set up. Other museum areas will showcase items that would have been used when the Village of Edwardsburg was first settled in the 1820s, such as grinding wheels and stones, woodworking tools, and old axes.



CASSOPOLIS, MI
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Regional News

"Tis the Season," will end the year. It will highlight all items that revolve around the holidays, with trees, garlands, and many ornaments. That display will run from Nov. 4 through Dec. 13.

The museum hours are 1 to 4 pm Tuesdays through Fridays, and 11 am to 2 pm on Saturdays. It also will be open on the second Wednesday of each month from 6 to 8 pm. It will close on Dec. 13 and re-open in mid-spring, 2026.

Edwardsburg Museum July events

Variety will reign in July at the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum with metal detecting, Sauk Trail history, and music on the museum's back deck.

A badge from the 1894 Columbian Exposition (The Chicago World's Fair), a 1925 dance card from the University of Illinois Military Ball, a running board from a 1909 Model T, printing plates from the Edwardsburg Argus, and a 1935 half dime. Neil Hassinger will address all of these, discovered while metal detecting.

Hassinger, a Niles native who, with his wife, Kathleen, has lived in Edwardsburg for 38 years, will speak on "What's Underfoot in Edwardsburg" at 7 p.m., Thurs., July 17. It is just one of the things Hassinger has done after retiring from a business he owned. A 1977 graduate of Niles High School, he attended Southwestern Michigan College. In addition to metal detecting, he is involved with the archaeological digs conducted each summer by Western Michigan University at the Fort St. Joseph site along the St. Joseph River in Niles. He also serves as a museum volunteer and actively participates in reenactments.

On July 22, the display, "Sauk Trail: Echoes of Our Past," will open. The exhibit will feature artifacts on loan from the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi, which will curate the showcase.

Also included are grinding wheels, stones, woodworking tools, and old axes that were used when Edwardsburg was settled. The display will be featured during the Sauk Trail Festival on September 27.

The Relics, one of the region's longest-running musical groups, will perform at the museum at 7 p.m., Sat., July 26, on the museum's back deck. Classic rock and pop music will be selections from the group's repertoire.

Admission to all three events is free.

Beckwith call for auditions

The Beckwith Theatre in Dowagiac has issued a call for auditions for performers and crew members for the upcoming play Murdered to Death by Peter Gordon. Audition dates are July 19-21, Fri/Sat at 7:30 pm and Sun at 2 pm. Performances will be Sept 26-28 and Oct. 3-5.

For more information visit the website: <https://www.beckwiththeatre.com/> or call 782-7653.

Athletic Boosters' 30th Annual Big Hole/Glow Golf Scramble

The Cassopolis Athletic Boosters will host the 30th Annual Big Hole/Glow Golf Scramble on Saturday, August 9 at Diamond Lake Golf Course, 22041 M-60 East, Cassopolis. Registration will be at 3:30 pm, shotgun Start 4:30 pm. Cost is \$320 per team (includes cart & 1 glow

ball per player). Dinner & refreshments provided.

Registration forms available at <https://cassopolisathletics.com/main/otherbooster/> /57623058

Lerner Theater Tuesday Tours

The Lerner Theater, 410 S. Main St., Elkhart will also offer Theatre Tour Tuesdays on June 17, July 15, August 12, September 16, October 14, November 18 and December 16. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance or at the Lerner Box Office on the day of the tour, proceeds to benefit the Lerner Theatre Volunteer Group..

Tours begin every hour on the hour from 10 am-3 pm. No reservations are required.

Lerner to host World Ballet Co. and Steven Curtis Chapman

The Lerner Theater in Elkhart will host the World Ballet Company: The Great Gatsby on Friday, October 3 at 7 pm. Tickets are on sale now at \$89, \$75, \$55 or \$39 plus fees.

Step into the jazzy world of the Roaring Twenties with this new Broadway-style ballet by the World Ballet Company. See the glitz, glamor, and tragic romance of F. Scott Fitzgerald's timeless novel on stage, featuring a multinational cast of 40 professional ballet dancers, an all-star creative team, original jazz-inspired score, multimedia effects, acrobatics, dazzling costumes, and lavish sets.

The World Ballet Company is based in Los Angeles, and led by Sasha Gorskaya and Gulya Hartwick, the World

Ballet Company presents the most beloved and iconic ballets of our time in cities nationwide. Driven by the belief that ballet is for everyone, performances appeal to newcomers and seasoned ballet goers alike. The company attracts many international artists and comprises renowned professional dancers representing over ten countries.

The World Ballet Company has traveled to more than 300 cities, reaching an audience of more than 450,000, many of whom are first-time attendees to a ballet.

For more information see <https://worldballetcompany.com>

The theater will also host Steven Curtis Chapman's SPEECHLESS '25 Tour on Sunday, September 21 at 7 pm.

VIP Package includes Early Entry, VIP Tour Laminated, Exclusive VIP Poster and \$5 Steven Curtis Chapman Merchandise Voucher with early shopping access. For tickets and information visit <http://www.https://thelerner.com/>

St. Joseph County (IN) Parks' 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.

The camps are for children entering kindergarten through eighth grade. Dates for the camps are: July 2: Outdoor Skills (ages 11 -14) July 7-July 11: Who Done it? (ages 10-11) July 28-August 1: Junior Indiana Master Naturalist (ages 9-12)

For more information, or to request registration materials, please call 574/654-3155, or visit www.sjcparks.org.

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Regional Calendar

MISC. AREA EVENTS
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY (IN) PARKS' SUMMER NATURE CAMPS
July 2: Outdoor Skills (ages 11 -14)
July 7-July 11: Who Done it? (ages 10-11)
July 28-August 1: Junior Indiana Master Naturalist (ages 9-12)
For more information, or to request registration materials, call 574/654-3155, or visit www.sjcparks.org.

DIAMOND LAKE FIREWORKS - July 5 (rain date July 6), dusk

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD DAYS FESTIVAL - July 12, 13 Vandalia, 11 am - 5 pm

CASS COUNTY 4-H FAIR - July 27 - August 2, 445-8265

CASSOPOLIS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS 30TH ANNUAL BIG HOLE/GLOW GOLF SCRAMBLE - Saturday, August 9, Diamond Lake Golf Course,. Registration at 3:30 pm, shotgun start 4:30 pm. \$320 per team (includes cart & 1 glow ball per player). Dinner & refreshments provided. Registration forms available at <https://cassopolisathletics.com/main/otherbooster/> /57623058

WORLD BALLET COMPANY: THE GREAT GATSBY - October 3, 7 pm, Lerner Theater, Elkhart, \$39-\$89, <https://worldballetcompany.com>

CHRISTMAS AT THE BONINE HOUSE - Dec 1-14, 1-6 pm.

DOWAGIAC EVENTS
www.dowagiacchamber.com/events/upcoming-events

MUSIC IN THE PARK, August 21, 7:30 - 9

pm
SUMMER FESTIVAL & BBQ COMPETITION, July 18, 2025 - July 19

STEVE'S RUN, July 18, 6 - 9 pm

ED'S OPEN HEADER CRUISE, July 24, 5:30 - 8:30pm

ROD & ROLL CLASSIC AUTO SHOW, August 16, 8: am - 3 pm

SISTER LAKES FIREWORKS, August 30, 9 - 11 pm

UNDER THE HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL, October 11, 10 am - 4 pm

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND & THETA MU CRAFT SHOW, November 14, 15, 10 am - 5 pm

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY, November 29, 10 am

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS PARADE, December 05, 7 - 8 pm

ICE TIME FESTIVAL, February 07, 2026, 10 am - 4 pm

CASS CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY EDWARDSBURG HISTORY MUSEUM SHOW & TELL - JULY 15, 6:30pm, 26818 Main Street, Edwardsburg
BOB LEHIGH PROPERTY - AUG 19, 6:30 pm, 53333 Gards Prairie Road, Decatur.
NEWBERG ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE - SEPT. 16, 6:30 pm, 13020 Born St, Jones.
ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL - OCT. 11, 11 – 3 pm, Newton House, 20689 Marcellus Hwy.,

Decatur,
CHRISTMAS AT NEWTON HOUSE
– DEC 6, 1 – 4 pm.

EDWARDSBURG MUSEUM JULY 15 – CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING, 6:30 pm, at the museum.

JULY 17 – SPEAKER: NEIL HASSINGER, 7 PM.

JULY 22-NOVEMBER 1 –DISPLAY: 'SAUK TRAIL: ECHOES OF OUR PAST

JULY 26-MUSIC AT THE MUSEUM, 7 pm.. No admission charge.

AUGUST 7-10 - US 12 GARAGE SALE FUNDRAISER.

AUGUST 17 – OPEN HOUSE AFTER THE ALL-SCHOOL REUNION

AUGUST 21-SPEAKER: EDWARDSBURG AUTHOR JIM PAULEY, 7 PM

SEPTEMBER 27- SAUK TRAIL FESTIVAL: ECHOES OF THE PAST

OCTOBER 16—SPEAKER: OWEN WRIGHT, 7 pm. OCTOBER 31— WITCHES ON THE PORCH

NOVEMBER 4-DECEMBER 13: DISPLAY: "TIS THE SEASON."

DECEMBER 4-CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING, 5:30 pm, followed by open house.

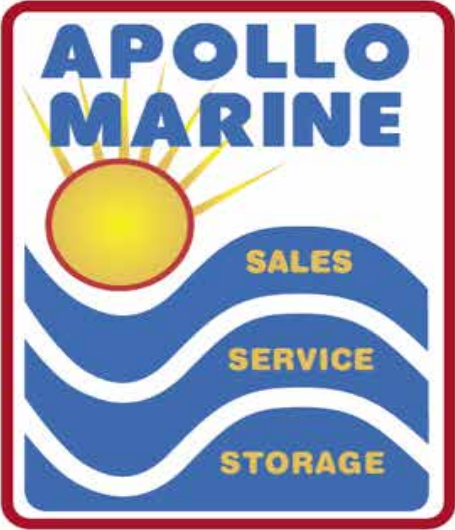
DECEMBER 13: MUSEUM CLOSES UNTIL SPRING 2026

CASS DISTRICT LIBRARY
*Registration required
T'AI CHI with Alyse Knepple, Mason/Union Branch Mondays: 11 am. Join Alyse Knepple at the Mason/Union Branch for T'ai Chi. T'ai Chi is a series of gentle physical exercises and stretches. Alyse will offer a free introductory class, followed by four weekly classes which will cost \$40.
CARDIO DRUMMING* Howard Branch, Mondays: 5 pm. Cardio drumming is a fun and fast-paced way to get your heart rate up, improve your rhythm and burn calories all while having fun! Please bring a bucket, exercise ball, drumsticks and 1 to 2lb weights. There are four sets of materials available, these are available on a first come first serve basis. This program is free, but a gratuity of \$5.00 is encouraged for the instructor but not required to participate. Registration is required, please call the Howard Branch at 269-487-9214 to register.
COOKIES AND CANVAS* Main Branch, Wednesday, July 2: 11 am. Paint your very own masterpiece while enjoying a sweet treat! This program is intended for ages six and up. All materials will be provided. Registration is required, please call Stephanie Knepple at 269-749-1384 to register.
MAKE YOUR MARK STAMP ART* Edwardsburg Branch, Wednesday, July 2
Session 1: 1 pm - 2 pm (Ages 5-11)
Session 2: 3 pm - 4 pm (Ages 12-18)
Explore stamping as an art form! Using everyday items, create unique stamps to decorate your very own canvas bag to take home. Registration is required, please call the Edwardsburg Branch at 269-487-9215 to register.
YOUNG INVENTORS Howard Branch, Saturday, July 5: 10:30am. Explore and learn about inventors and their remarkable creations on the first Saturday of every month at 10:30am. Get ready to create a fun project inspired by the featured inventor of the month! Young Inventors is ideal for adventurous individuals aged 7-14.
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Regional Calendar

Branch, Tuesday, July 8: 2 pm. Celebrate the wonderful colors of the animal kingdom! Join us for an up close look of animals from different countries and diverse ecosystems and learn how colors help them survive. Open to all ages, we will see you there! Questions? Call the Mason/Union Branch at 269-357-7821.

ADULT CRAFT CLUB: RUSTIC WOOD STAR WREATH* Main Branch.

Wednesday, July 9: 1 pm. Join us at the Main Branch each month for a new craft project with Adult Craft Club. This month, make a rustic wooden star wreath, perfect for indoor or outdoor decor! All materials will be provided. Registration is required, contact Stephanie Knepple at 269-749-1384 to register.

Repco Wildlife Encounter Thursday, July 10. Howard Branch: 3 pm; Edwardsburg Branch: 5:30pm; It's getting wild at the library! All are welcome for a fun and interactive program with LIVE ANIMALS. Experience and encounter these amazing reptiles up close and learn about their habitats, importance and uniqueness. Come and see for yourself!

STORY SKETCHING WITH SHARRON OTT VIDEO PREMIERE

Mason/Union Branch, Monday, July 14: 1 pm. Get ready to dive into the magical world of The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum! Watch your masterpieces come to life on the big screen with a video compilation of both sketching sessions while you enjoy refreshments. Questions? Please call the Mason/Union Branch at 269-487-9215.

SAVAGE READERS BOOK CLUB, Savage Bean Coffee Co.. Tuesday, July 15: 10 am. Enjoy a fresh cup of coffee and book discussion every third Tuesday of the month! Join Savage Readers Book Club hosted by Cass District Library and Savage Bean Co. Contact Stephanie Knepple at 269-749-1384 for more details and the current month title.

CRITCHLOW ALLIGATOR SANCTUARY LIVE ANIMAL PROGRAM Main Branch, Wednesday, July 16: 1 pm. All ages are welcome to meet the rescued reptiles of Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary! Gain an appreciation for the planet and ecosystem by meeting these animal ambassadors. We'll see you there!

Love Creek Nature Center Presents: Backyard Bugs Edwardsburg Branch, Thursday, July 17: 2 pm. Love Creek Nature Center will be stopping by the Edwardsburg Branch to talk about the creepy, crawly world of bugs! Participants will learn interesting facts about bugs in our area and have the opportunity to go for a bug hunt of their own at the library (weather permitting)! All ages welcome. Questions? Call the Edwardsburg Branch at 269-487-9215.

VILLAGE BOOK CLUB Edwardsburg Branch, Thursday, July 17: 5:30pm. Village Book Club meets every third Thursday of the month at 5:30pm. Join us for a lively book discussion of Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel. Please contact the Edwardsburg Branch at 269-487-9215 for more details.

HOMESCHOOL HANGOUT Edwardsburg Branch, Monday, July 21: 1 pm. Looking for a fun way to meet other homeschoolers? Then look no further! Join us at the Edwardsburg Branch for a STEAM related activity. This program is open to youth ages 5-12. All materials will be provided.

ed.
ILLUSTRATED JOURNALING AND URBAN SKETCHING WITH WENDY HARNS* Mason/Union Branch.

Monday, July 21: 6 pm. Get started "drawing your life! Wendy Harns has always been an avid and passionate journaler. She hails from the Lansing area and is eager to share her illustrated journaling and urban sketching experiences with our community. Recommendations for sketchbooks, tools, media, and techniques will be discussed. Wendy will bring some of her tools and journals for display, as well as a take-home resource to guide and inspire. There is no wrong way to do it! No drawing experience required. Registrants will also leave with a starter sketchbook, compliments of the library. Intended for ages 16+. Registration is required, please call the Mason/Union Branch at 269-357-7821 to register.

STORYTIME ART SHOW Main Branch Wednesday, July 23: 1 pm - 3 pm. Join us for refreshments and soak in the creativity of the little artists of CDL Storytime from all branch locations. Stick around for art activity stations and face painting fun! Questions? Call Stephanie Knepple at 269-749-1384
Live Outdoor Concert: The Hillsiders Mason Union Branch Wednesday, July 23: 6 pm. Get ready for the rhythm of local entertainment: the Hillsiders! Specializing in folk/rock, the Hillsiders will put on a show you will not want to miss! Be sure to bring a blanket for folding chair for this outdoor concert at the Mason/Union Branch.

DOWAGIAC DISTRICT LIBRARY SUMMER READING kicks off June 19 and runs through August 9, 2025. We will have Teen and Tween game days, audiobook listening events for ages 6 years old to 12 years old, Disney movie days, and so much more. For more information on these events, visit <https://www.dowagiacd.org/events>.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME. TUESDAYS: 10:30-11:30 am. The Dowagiac District Library offers this weekly story time each Tuesday at 10:30 am. Preschool Story Time is geared toward children 3-5 years old.

MAKE & SHARE COOKBOOK CLUB. (THURSDAY, July 3); 5:30-6:30pm. July's Book: The Weekday Vegetarians Get Simple: Strategies and So-Good Recipes to Suit Every Craving and Mood by Jenny Rosenstrach. Create a recipe from the monthly cookbook selection, then join us at the library for a recipe share & book discussion.
S.T.E.A.M FOR TWEENS. (WEDNESDAY, , July 16); 4pm. Children ages 8-12 are invited to join this science program designed to engage young minds to think like a scientist. Space is limited, please register by calling 269-782-3826 or email (att: Pam) at dowagiadlibrarystaff@gmail.com.

SIP & SHARE BOOK CLUB AT SISTER LAKES BREWING. (WEDNESDAY, July 9); 6-8pm. July's Book: The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History, from the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement by Sharon McMahon. This event is being held at Sister Lakes Brewing Company 92500 CO RD 690 Dowagiac, MI 49047. For further information, please call Erin at 269-782-3826 or email erin@dowagiacd.org.
JIGSAW PUZZLE RACES-500 PIECE. (THURSDAY, July 10); 3-7pm. Get ready

to piece together some epic fun at our TWO Jigsaw Puzzle Races this summer! Bring your team and your fastest puzzle building skills to see who can complete the puzzle first.

MESSY TIME FRIDAYS. (FRIDAY, July 11, July 25); 11-12pm. Kids of all ages are invited to join us for Messy Time Fridays throughout the summer. Please wear older or play clothes. We're often in direct sunlight, so please remember to put sunscreen on before leaving the house. In the event of inclement weather, Messy Time may need to be canceled. If in doubt, please call us at 782-3826.

BENJAMMIN MUSIC SHOW. (FRIDAY, July 11); 1-2pm. Come join us for a fun, friendly, and possibly LOUD music show here at the Dowagiac District Library. Artist BenJammin (and his jammin' crew) will be performing an educational and interactive music show that will be color themed for our Color Our World summer reading program. This activity will be located in the library Children's Area.

CRAFT NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER PAINTED PORTRAITS. (THURSDAY, July 17); 5:30-6:45pm. This July, grab your BFF and join us for a Best Friends Forever painted portraits night. Get ready for an evening bursting with creativity as you capture each other's fabulousness on canvas. We will provide the supplies, so just bring your bestie and your imagination. Registration is required, email erin@dowagiacd.org or call 269-782-3826.

BOOK SALE-3 DAYS. (FRIDAY, July 18 9am-5:30pm, SATURDAY, July 19 9am-2pm, MONDAY, July 21 9am-2pm); Annual Dowagiac Ladies Library Association Book Sale located in the community room.

COLOR FIGHT. (SATURDAY, July 19); 12pm-2pm. Ready to get messy? Join us at the pavilion behind the library! We will be using washable colored powders to color our world by spraying and/or throwing them at each other, so wear some old clothes and come join the fight! Our color fight will take place at the pavilion behind the library and is for all ages.

CHRONICLES OF CASS COUNTY,

MICHIGAN AUTHOR MARY ROSE WOOD. (TUESDAY, July 22); 5-7pm. We are excited to welcome local author, Rose Mary Wood, to the library's community room to discuss her new book, Chronicles of Cass County, Michigan.

THE CLASSICS BOOK CLUB. (TUESDAY, July 29); 5-6pm. July's Book: The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Revisit those classics from school or discover something new to expand your horizons! We meet the last Tuesday of the month in the Community Room, bringing our life experiences to the discussion.

ADVENTURES IN BOOKLAND BOOK CLUB FOR KIDS. (WEDNESDAY, July 30); 4-5pm. July's Book: The Case of the Feathered Mask by Holly Webb. The Adventures in Bookland Book Club is for kids 6-8 years old. For more information, stop by the Youth Services desk located on the second floor of the library.

THE INKWELL EXPLORERS BOOK CLUB FOR TWEENS. (THURSDAY, July 31); 4-5pm. July's Book: The Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis. The Inkwell Explorers Book Club is for tweens 9-12 years old. For more information, stop by the Youth Services desk located on the second floor of the library.

YA FOR ADULTS BOOK CLUB. (THURSDAY, July 31); 5-6pm. July's Book: Rise of a Hero by Hilari Bell. The YA for Adults Book Club is for adults 18+ years old. The club features a YA (young adult) novel each month. Participants register and pick up their copy of the month's selection at the beginning of the month and then meet and discuss the book on the last Thursday of the month. For more information, stop by the Youth Services desk located on the second floor of the library.

For more information on these events, visit: <https://www.dowagiacd.org/events>.

MARCELLUS TOWNSHIP WOOD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

To see the upcoming events for July visit <https://www.marcellus.michlibrary.org/>



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Lake Life with Jane

Three cheers for the red, white and blue

Patriotic Playlist

American Woman - Lenny Kravitz
Firecracker - Josh Turner
America The Beautiful - Blake Shelton & Miranda Lambert
Only In America - Brooks and Dunn
ROCK in the USA - John Mellencamp
American Boy - Estelle
Party in the USA - Miley Cyrus
Firework - Katy Perry
God Bless America - Celine Dion
American Girl - Tom Petty
Made in America - Toby Keith
American Baby - Dave Matthews Band
American Idiot - Green Day
Born in the USA - Bruce Springsteen
All American Girl - Carrie Underwood
America - Neil Diamond
God Bless the USA - Lee Greenwood
It's America - Rodney Atkins
American Honey - Lady Antebellum
American Soldier - Toby Keith
Courtesy of the Red, White & Blue - Toby Keith
This Land is Your Land - Peter, Paul and Mary
Yankee Doodle - The Countdown Kids
Star Spangled Banner

TheMomma.com

by **Jane Boudreau**

Hello Neighbors, and welcome to the best month of the year: July! That month when we celebrate one of the most spectacular of all summer holidays just tailor made for lake life -- the 4th of July, Independence Day. Personally, I feel I've been on Diamond forever. We've evolved from having a zillion family and friends bunking with us, chartering out groups to the sandbar with our boat, pontoon, and wave runners to play and party, (kids and dogs included) and heading out at night to anchor and watch the incredible fireworks display. Countless years of this and now the little ones are adults. Some who have kiddos of their own (mine included), two of the best, furry, four-legged, first mates I could ever have are gone and missed, but nevertheless, my rescue Poppy has taken to lake life like a



natural.

Sooooo ... the Big Bang is just days away and you're probably busy and not reading this. If you are, it's probably all beat up and wrinkled, sections out of place, stained with salsa and drips of High Noon, just passed around the table over and over to anyone who happens to sit down to scan the ads (I know, who reads my fluff), and it will be used with the kindling to start the bonfire tonight. The fact of the matter is, I struggle with this fluff. Do you want a recipe for Poppy Seed Muffins?

How to prevent flies from ruining your outdoor food buffet? I didn't want to bombard you with photos of the red, white and blue traditional decorations and such. Last year I tossed out every single patriotic decoration that I had that was flimsy, i.e., the Michael's, Hobby Lobby sort just before Memorial Day and

went back to said stores and made a killing on said items which were on sale and new and improved, thus giving me a multitude of ideas for decorating my patio tables and so on. I also picked up a few plastic bins and labels to pack this stuff up for next year Yee Haw! Talk about a happy camper. I finally took my own advice! So I'm ready and excited to do things to celebrate the red, white, and blue. Let it wave proudly!



July's Signature Cocktail

This beautiful drink was a long time coming for the simple reason that ... I really hate peeling mangoes! If that gives you any hints, it's the sweet, but tart, and totally summertime Mango Margarita! I love when I'm served them, but the mess and stickiness, I can live without. And I love mangoes. Each time we were in Mexico, I would come home craving the platters heaping with fruit on the breakfast buffet, where I would dive into the mangoes. And then I found the recipe for this drink which calls for canned mango nectar, and I can now mix up a frosty favorite that takes me back to Cancun every time! Now, if anyone has any tips on how to slay those mangoes, let me know.



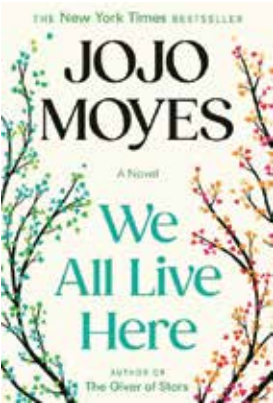
Mango Margarita

Ingredients:
2 cups ice
12 oz. margarita mix with alcohol
4 oz. mango nectar
1/2 lime, plus more for garnish
1 T salt or sugar

Directions:
Combine ice, margarita mix, and mango nectar in a blender; squeeze 1 lime half into the blender and blend until the cocktail is smooth and frothy. If desired, run a lime edge around the rim of a rocks glass and rim with your choice of sugar or salt. Garnish drink with a lime wedge.

Jane's Imaginary Book Club

When Jojo Moyes comes out with a new book, I'm always excited. It doesn't mean I run out and buy it (that's why we have book reviews!), but I've learned that being the incredible writer that she is, she has the ability to go places and create characters and stories that can have



one reader in tears, then laughter, and another bored silly. Moyes has a huge following, much like Kristen Hannah, the author of the novel featured in last month's Book Club (you were here, weren't you?).

Getting on to the book, I really liked it, I think Moyes has a way to get to the heart of her people, to their souls. She's good with relationships, making them quirky and messy and scattered, and sometimes perfect for just a few moments. This is the story of several generations living under one roof. A divorced mother with two daughters giving her headaches, and an elder stepfather all in a house that's falling apart. With Moyes' usual keen sense of sarcastic humor and signature warmth and empathy, this is a cast of characters I won't forget. This gets all the stars!

Watermelon 'Pizza' with Feta and Balsamic Glaze



This is a beautiful sight! I can't begin to tell you how refreshing and delicious the flavors are. The ingredients look a little odd, but hey, you have to step outside of the box and be open to new things. Food included. Everything compliments each other. And besides being visually pleasing, you will be hooked on how delicious this is.

Ingredients:
1 large watermelon, cut in the middle to get the three biggest slices, 1 inch thick (the remaining will not be wasted if you have kiddies around!) 3 oz. feta cheese, crumbled 15 pitted kalamata olives, sliced 2 T mint leaves, chopped 1 to 2 T balsamic glaze

Directions:
Cut the rounds of watermelon into 'pizza slices' and arrange on a round pizza pan or dish as seen in the photo. Randomly sprinkle on all of the remaining ingredients and then drizzle the balsamic glaze over. I use a small plastic bottle found at a local craft store that has a cooking/baking aisle. You can use a teaspoon but it tends to look sloppy. Serve cold.

Honey Lime Rainbow Fruit Salad

This is going to be your mainstay for summer parties and all of your friends are going to know you for it. Shhhhh...I won't tell you got it here. This is crazy simple and wherever you can, sub canned fruit such as pineapple or peaches. No one will know. And all of this is do-ahead-easy.

Ingredients:
2 bananas, sliced
12 oz blueberries



12 oz red grapes
4 kiwis
1 15 oz can mandarin oranges in juice
1 large pineapple, skin removed and chopped in cubes
1 lb strawberries
1/4 c honey
2 T lime zest (the green skin), grated fine, about 2 limes
1 T lime juice

Directions:
Toss all of your fruit gently in a large bowl. Sorry we rarely see scales in markets anymore but try to eyeball the quantities you need. I also suggest you add your bananas last so the dressing keeps them from turning brown.

Mix together the honey, lime zest and juice. Grate the zest first and then squeeze out the juice. You can add more or less depending on your taste buds or how the whole salad tastes. Enjoy!!

Pasta with Sun-dried Tomatoes & Pesto



This was a new recipe for me last summer so I want to share it here now. It's super easy to throw together and it feeds a small crowd. Make it your new summer side dish.

Ingredients:
1 lb. rigatoni pasta
1/4 c olive oil
1/4 c basil pesto (available in most grocery stores)
1 T dried Italian herbs
3 garlic cloves, minced
1 c red cherry tomatoes, sliced in half
1 c yellow cherry tomatoes, sliced in half
1/4 c. sun-dried tomatoes, roughly

See
JANE
on the next page

Our Children

Summer reading for all ages

by **SANDY FLEMING**

The single biggest thing you can do to help your child succeed in school is to get them reading on a regular basis. For the little ones and prereaders, we know this means reading to them daily or even several times a day. For the middle grades, when they know some reading, but still need to practice to keep skills sharp, this could look like heading out to the library or bookstore every week or two, and setting aside time each day to crack a book. And for the middle and high school students, make sure they have a wide variety in their reading diet, and that they do more than simply passively read. They should be engaging their brains in some fashion as well!

However, I often do get asked how to actually get these things done with kids of different age levels. Here are some ideas, tips and tricks that you can try to add a little more reading to their mental diets this summer!

Toddlers/Preschoolers

Yes, it's great if they ask for the same book over and over! Please accommodate them! They are learning many important concepts through repetition, including the reliability of words, boosting memory skills, and making predictions. It's a developmental phase, and I promise they will eventually grow out of it, but for now, read it again if that's what they want.

Be sure to read accurately at this stage, too. No fair shortening the story because you're in a hurry! This disrupts the learning of the very concepts that we need to be teaching. Don't change the words or shorten the story one bit. Read a wide array of types of books. Be sure to include fairy tales, nursery rhymes, and other traditional literature, too. These traditional stories form a foundation of shared understanding. If you watch closely over the years between elementary school and high school, other stories and texts make allusions to these early stories. Don't deny your child access to this deeper understanding because you believe these traditional bits of literature are outdated, or don't reflect the values you are teaching. Instead, use them as jumping off points to discuss what you believe and why. Your child will pick up the messages that you emphasize. If you avoid traditional nursery rhymes, fairy tales, and other folk literature, your child will be completely lost when another text references "as tall as a beanstalk" or "crafty like the wolf." Allusions (mentions of ideas from other pieces of literature) are all over the place in even middle school and high school reading, and your child will be left behind if he or she has

no idea what others are talking about.

Include rhymes, poetry, and rhyming books. Hearing how language can be made to sing nurtures a host of critical phonemic awareness skills. This group of skills forms a foundation for later understanding of phonics and how to "sound words out." Phonemic awareness skills include skills such as identifying beginning, medial, and ending sounds, saying words that all start in the same way (alliteration), making rhymes and other silly constructions, and much more. Poetry goes a long way to helping master these skills.

Books for young children can be divided into two categories: controlled vocabulary books and true picture books. Controlled vocabulary books are those that are perfect for emergent readers. They have a lot of short, common words. The sentences are short and easy to understand, and they will likely be among the first that your child can read on their own (even if reading at this age is really more an exercise in memory). Picture books, on the other hand, have rich text and gorgeous, meaningful, and even very detailed illustrations on most of the pages. The language level is much higher, but then, your child's listening comprehension level is also much higher than you think. Read realistic fiction, fantasy fiction, and nonfiction books together.

You can even try chapter books! Reading a chapter a day of a longer, harder book will help your child develop the ability to pay attention, to visualize, and to learn new vocabulary words. Try reading "the Wizard of Oz," "Mary Poppins," or any favorites that you recall from your childhood. Read during quiet times, like while children are eating, when they are settling down for a nap or bed, or first thing in the morning. It's a far more beneficial habit than turning to the screens all day and every day. And if they don't seem interested yet, don't despair. Try a different book, or try again in a few weeks. You'll find it's a wonderful way to draw closer as a family.

Be sure to actively engage children as you read. Stop and ask questions about what just happened or what they think will happen next. Ask why characters did the things they did, and how the characters' actions will affect the other characters or the situation. Point out how characters solve problems and how they handle interpersonal relationships. Go on a treasure hunt in the illustrations to find specific items, things that start with a certain letter, or identify items that are partially hidden. If the book is familiar, try reading along and leaving out a word to see if your child can catch your "mistake."

Preschool/Kindergarten/Early Elementary

Children who are getting ready to learn to read or who have made the connection between the printed and the spoken words are often called "emergent readers." They recognize some words, they know how to sound out others, and they notice when they don't recognize a word and often ask for help. These kids are usually excited about learning to read, and proud to show off their new skills. However, this is also the time when reading challenges might show up, and it's the very best time to start reading interventions if needed.

By this stage of the game, kids should be confident with those phonemic awareness skills: adding or deleting sounds and syllables on request, changing beginning, middle and ending sounds to make new words, separating words into the sounds that make them up, and blending sounds into words when they hear them separately, rhyming, counting words and syllables, and more. If there are any problems with these skills, now is the time to practice and build them!

Young children are typically taught a set of common words called "sight words." Many of these words do not follow basic phonics rules (like "said" or "gone"), so it's important to memorize them as opposed to encouraging children to sound them out. Look for the lists that came home with your child from school, and play games and practice these words all summer long. Many schools use a version of the Dolch List, even if the words were presented in a different order, so if you can't find or did not save the word lists you can easily get the same words from a quick internet search.

Be sure to make practice "gamified": play memory or go fish or old maid with the words you want kids to master. Try spreading them out on the floor and having your child move in some special way (like hopping or crawling) to the word you call out, or hide them around the play area like Easter eggs for your child to find. About the last thing you want to do is have "boring" practice, so be sure to at least end your practice sessions with something active. A huge favorite around here with my tutoring kids is to spread the words to practice out on the table and give the child a fly swatter. Call a word and let them smack it!

Keep reading out loud, and once they learn to read a bit, let them read to you. Keep on talking about the story and asking questions about the characters, the setting, the plot, and so forth. And be sure to read those chapter books now. It's great practice to help them learn to stay focused, which is a critical school skill!

Middle Grades and Older Kids

Once your student is a confident reader, keep going! Don't stop having family reading time or reading aloud together. That's how they build vocabulary and other comprehension skills. You can also have them read in day-to-day situations, like reading directions to assemble something, using a recipe, or choosing a new game to learn and teach to the family by following the directions.

Here's a great way to help guide them on the level of books to read independently. Open the book to a page with lots of words and few or no pictures and have the child read aloud. Put up a finger for each word that is misread, stumbled over, or otherwise difficult. If there are more than five, it might be best to enjoy that book at a time when an adult can support their reading.

Reading aloud is still a really, really good family activity. Just shift over to books that are a smidge out of reach of the student and that will likely keep their interest. Consider fan fiction that goes with their favorite movie, or some of the classic books that will likely be studied in school. You can watch the video version of many books, then compare that to the printed version for a bit of analysis.

Vocabulary is one of the most important and most neglected comprehension skills at these ages. Try subscribing to a word-of-the-day program (many dictionary publishers offer them for free online), and learn some new words together. Do crossword puzzles and play word games together. Not only will you build vocabulary (which will improve comprehension and writing), but you will also improve spelling skills and hopefully lay the foundation of a life-long hobby!

Sandy Fleming is a private tutor and writer living in Edwardsburg. Get more suggestions to help with reading as well as learning in other subject areas and for all ages at <https://learningnook.com> and <https://sandyflemingonline.com>.

JANE

Continued from
previous page

chopped
1 1/2 c fresh or buffalo mozzarella cheese,
roughly chopped
1/2 c grated Parmesan cheese
S & P to taste

Directions:

Boil pasta according to box directions. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, mix the olive oil with the pesto, herbs, and garlic. Drain the pasta and toss with the olive oil mixture. Gently mix in the sun-

dried tomatoes, tomatoes, and mozzarella cheese. Stir in the Parmesan cheese and season with S & P to taste. Serves 8-12 as a side dish.

Happy Independence Day! Be safe Everyone. Watch your kiddos. Watch your neighbors. Lock up your wallets and keys when you go out on your boat. Blow out all the candles when you go in for the night. Grab an extra bag of ice.

Jane Boudreau is a blogger, writer, and newspaper columnist, who lives on Diamond Lake, and in Chicago, and Asheville, NC. You can reach her at blndy9@yahoo.com -- Jane Boudreau <http://blondiesjournals.blogspot.com>

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'bout boats and boating

Never sell my water skis

By **RUSTY COLLINS**

My father had a rule growing up. Anyone who wanted to come to the lake and have fun behind the boat had to at least give water skiing a shot. I would always inform my friends, “hey my dad is going to tell you to try water skiing, just give it a shot and then we can tube and run the jet ski” (easy fun).



Some would laugh, others would roll their eyes. But eventually the day would come that we showed up to the lake and my dad was at the ready. Standing there with our “O’Brien JR Amigo” ski set. And a warmed up inboard at the ready! Ready to make me feel embarrassed! Or so I thought.

On one particular day I had some friends up from a new school that I had switched to. I was trying to be cool! I needed to be cool. But my dad was already on it. He knew what he was doing. First kid goes in, fights the skis for 20-30 minutes and gives up. I’m already on edge. I want my friends to have a good time. Second kid goes in the water. He fights and fights it. He can’t get it together. Third kid goes in. There he goes! He’s up! He’s screaming with enthusiasm! He was on top of the world! We shouted and screamed like we had just won the lottery.

I knew the feeling all too well. I had fought myself to get up on skis as a very young kid. And I’ll never forget the day I did it. My dad was so proud of me, that



when he turned the boat around to pick me up he just shut the boat off and jumped in the water and gave me a big hug. That feeling never stopped for him. Every time we got a new kid up on skis, my dad would just lose his mind. We all would.

After the third kid came in, it was my turn. My dad had been trying to get me

up on a slalom ski, but I was far from proficient at getting up deep water. I could drop a ski and start from the dock but he was going to put me on the spot. He pulled out the slalom and said, “OK Rusty, show them one ski”

My heart sank. I was the guy with the boat. I better pull this off. 1,2,3,4,5 attempts, and I can see my friends get-



ting bored in the boat, they’re hot from the boat not moving any air for the last 20 minutes.

Sixth attempt, I’m up! I did it! NO WAY! My new friends thought it was so cool to see me cross the wake on my slalom ski. High fives and pats on the back were all over me when I came to the boat. We skied all day into the evening. Never made it to a tube or a jet ski. We were challenged. We were rewarded.

My dad knew what he was doing. He really knew what he was doing. I was no longer the new kid. I was the kid with a goofy dad and slalom ski. And I was ok with that.

Fast forward 20 years, and now my son is starting to bring his friends to the lake. And yes, I still have the same rules. And yes, I still have the same skis. Heck! I even have the same boat that this story happened with.

I know watersports have changed over the years, but I’ll never sell my skis.


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Field Trip

Sunny Saint Joseph, MI

On a stupid hot, sunny day a week or so ago my wife and I decided to cool down by driving over to the big lake and see if we could find a bit of a breeze. After an hour's trip we landed up on the bluff in St. Joe, where we found a parking space (most are safe for three hours) and started wandering around up on the bluff. We visited the Krasl Art Center, a beautiful and charming museum/art instruction facility overlooking the lake (free admission, very friendly and helpful staff). We shot a couple pics and walked on past several memorials to police and soldiers, historical displays and a bevy of well-kept flower beds and shaded, park-like resting areas. When the temp hit somewhere around 90 we ducked into Schu's for a cold one (or two), then eventually went looking for a good Italian dinner. We found one ... lots to do and see, but I recommend going when temps are below 95!



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After more than 20 years of publishing Neighbors, Fred and Phil, the founders and operators of Neighbors have started thinking that we've become a couple of old, worn down septuagenarians, and maybe it's time to start thinking about retiring.

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Historic Postcards

Historic postcards depict rich scenes of the past

In this issue of Neighbors, Jerdon Real Estate of Dowagiac, owned by Floyd Jerdon and his son Tom, have again provided antique postcards of a few of the many lakes and towns 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 used many of his postcards featuring the Sister Lakes area in a book written by RL Rasmussen. The book, which retails for \$ \$39.95, is in its second printing by the publisher, Arcadia

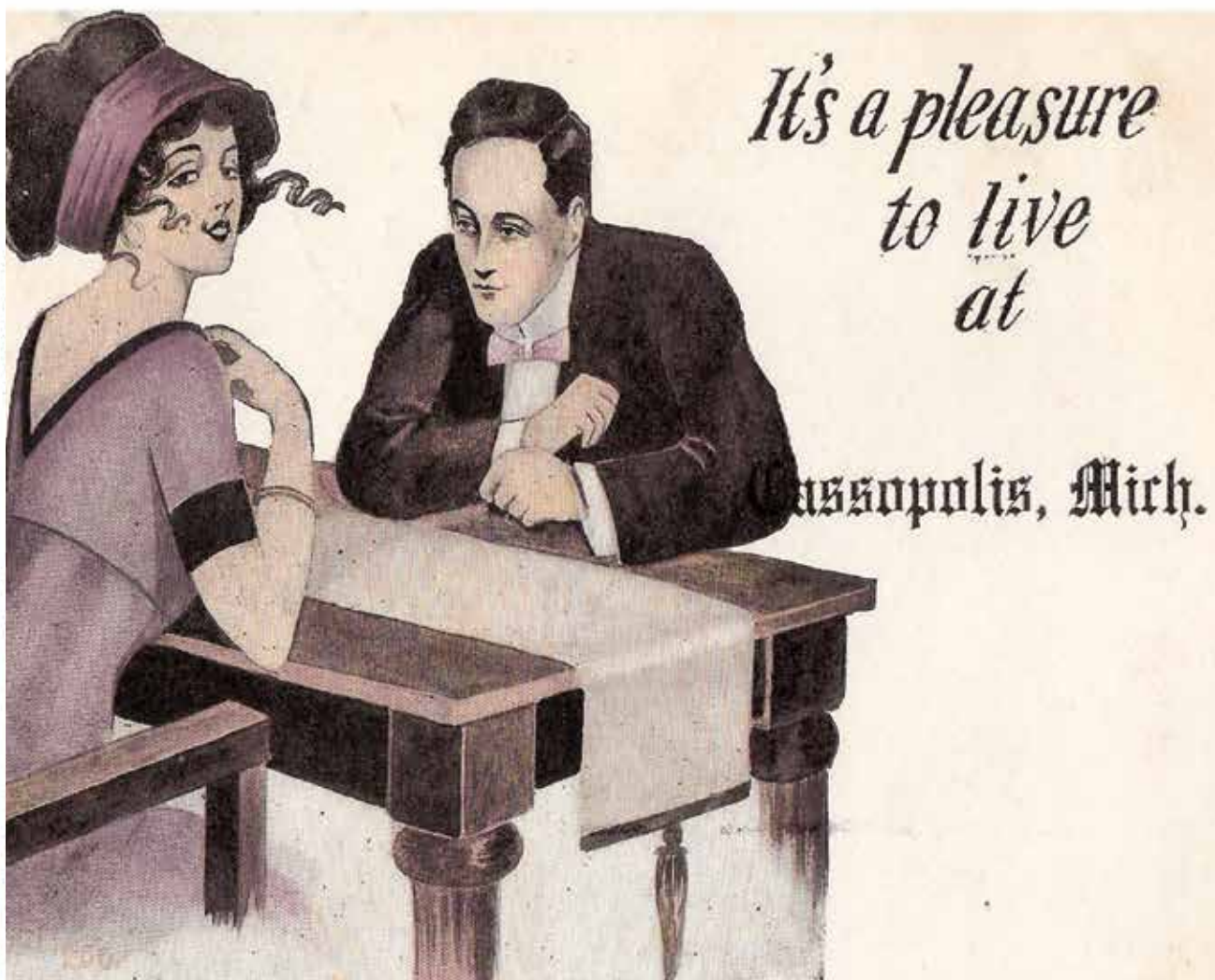
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Among other places, the book may be purchased at the Jerdon Real Estate office on M-62 West, and at Whistlestop Gifts, which is operated by the Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce.

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

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In this edition of Neighbors we have selected postcards showing images of 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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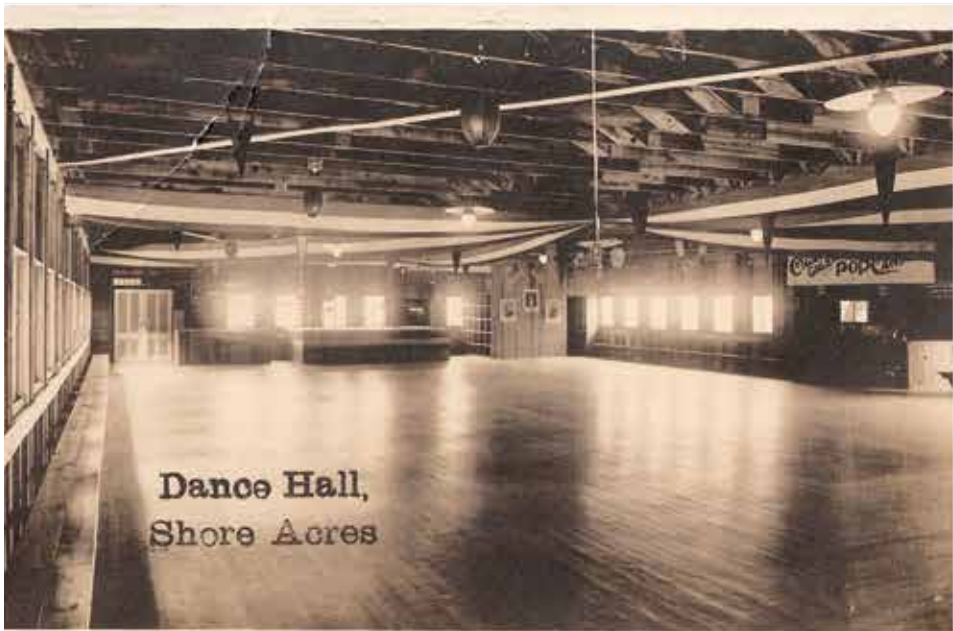
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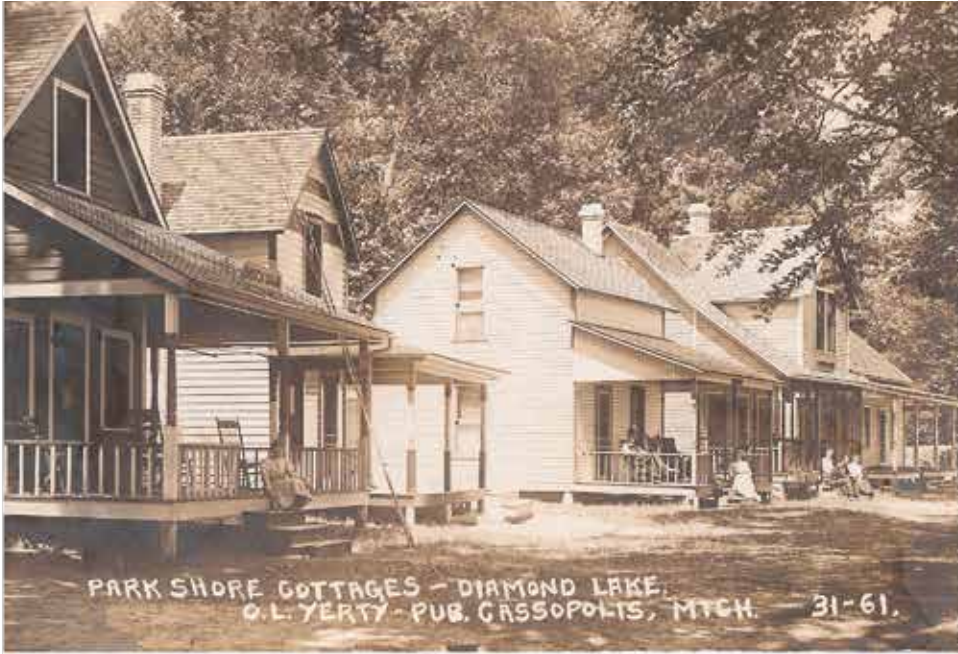


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Nature Notes

Sightings in peak bird season

by Jonathan Wuepper
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Peak bird migration season in Southwest Michigan occurs in mid-May and this year Three Oaks Township produced two rarities.

On May 16, Wendy Jones, formerly of Niles, visited the Three Oaks Wastewater Ponds off Schwark Road and found a white-faced ibis in the south pond. This long-legged wading bird of the Great Plains likely got blown off course by the previous night's strong storm front that passed through our area. The white-faced ibis was seen through at least May 18 by over 100 birdwatchers from three states. What is believed to be the same bird was seen briefly on May 17 off Basswood Road in a pond near the old Forest Lawn Landfill.

The white-faced ibis discovered by Jones was only the fourth record of the species in Southwest Michigan. All of the records occurred in Berrien County. Previous records of white-faced ibis in our area include: one present May 13-16, 2003 in Galien Township; one on May 28, 2009 at Three Oaks Wastewater Ponds; and one on June 3, 2018 in Royalton Township.

The white-faced ibis nests on the Great Plains south to the Gulf coast of Texas and Louisiana. It prefers freshwater ponds, marshes, rivers in which to hunt for invertebrates and small vertebrates. The nest is built in shrubs and small trees up to 6 feet in height, and prefers to nest in colonies.

The Great Plains population migrates south to the Gulf Coast, south to northern South America for the winter months.

The other rarity seen in Three Oaks Township was the discovery of a pair of blue grosbeaks on May 14, along Basswood Road just north of the Indiana-Michigan state line by Cory Gregory of Kansas. Gregory initially discovered this bird by hearing the loud, warbling song of the male before getting a visual sighting. On May 16 a female blue grosbeak was discovered in the same area as the male, leading to the belief that there is now a nesting pair, a first for Berrien County!

Blue grosbeaks are common summer residents in the southeastern US, north



Left: White-faced ibis at Three Oaks Wastewater Ponds on May 16, 2025. Photo by Joshua Duis of Niles. This western species was present at that location through at least May 18.

Top right: Female blue grosbeak on May 16, along Basswood Road in Three Oaks Township. Photo courtesy of Nolan Williams of Parma, Michigan.



A male blue grosbeak was discovered on May 14 by Cory Gregory, and a female on May 16.

Bottom right: Eurasian tree sparrow at the feeder of Tate Butler of Lakeside, April 24, was a first county record of this introduced species of weaver finch.

to central Illinois, Indiana and southern Ohio. In recent decades blue grosbeaks have been slowly expanding their breeding range northward. From 2011-2013, I observed at least one male blue grosbeak during the breeding season in Pokagon Township, Cass County. In 2013 a female was seen along with the male.

Lastly, I'd like to report that a Eurasian tree sparrow was photographed back on April 24 at the home feeder of Tate Butler of Lakeside, Chikaming Township. This is the first record of this species for Berrien County!

The Eurasian tree sparrow is actual-

ly a weaver finch, not a true sparrow, and was initially introduced to North America in 1870 near St. Louis. Although Eurasian tree sparrows became established around St. Louis, they didn't spread across the continent, as did its close relative to the house sparrow.

Over the last 15 years, Eurasian tree sparrows have been turning up more frequently in Illinois, Iowa and other Midwestern states. To date, there have been well over a dozen records of this species from Michigan, but oddly, all but a handful have been from the Upper Peninsula.

Michigan's first record of Eurasian tree sparrow came on November 5, 2005 when one was discovered on a farm in Jefferson Township, Cass County. This individual was last observed June 20, 2007 and until April 24 of this year, represented the sole record of the species for Southwest Michigan.

Both sexes of Eurasian tree sparrows are identified from the similar appearing male house sparrow by their all chestnut colored cap and distinct black spot behind the ear.

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Local History

Wade family glass plate negatives

by Jonathan Wuepper
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Cassopolis, MI 49031
jwuepper@cass.lib.mi.us

The Cass District Library has in our collections, a set of glass plate negatives (mostly unlabeled) originally belonging to the William A. Wade family. I believe they were taken in the very early part of the 20th Century. During June 2025, these glass plates were digitized and prints were made by Gene's Camera Store, South Bend.

Attached is a digitized copy of one of the photos. This may be the home of Jesse Smith located on the south end of Pleasant Lake, built between 1860-1872. This home is shown on the Edwardsburg village page in the Atlas of Cass County, Michigan by D.J. Lake, published by C.O. Titus in 1872. Dr. Sweetland later built another home on this same site.

Also in the photo set is a (double exposed?) photo of two twin babies together, with "WA Wade" shown on a window frame. This undoubtedly stands for William Alva Wade, father of the twins.

The babies are almost certainly twin brothers, Barry Alva and Barton Robert Wade, born May 28, 1902 in Edwardsburg, Michigan to William Alva (1866-1929) and Laura Ellen Snyder Wade (1869-1946).

According to his obituary, Barry Wade played baseball for "several leagues", and was a contractor that built many sea-walls on area lakes. Barry also served as Chief of Police in Edwardsburg for many years. He married Eva Mae Albright in 1940. I found no record of any children by Barry and Eva Mae Wade. Barry Wade passed, age 76, in 1979.

Barton Wade was an architectural inspector. In 1927 he married Mildred Truitt and together they had one daughter Janice Wade. Barton spent most of his life in Cass County and passed away in 1985 at age 82.

There are also two photographs in the collection of the Edwardsburg grain elevator, and this elevator still stands today, albeit in a modified state, located along the railroad tracks at the intersection of Elkhart Road and M-62. At the time this photograph was taken, circa 1900, the current M-62 roadway did not exist between Hamilton Street south to Section Street.

If any descendants of the Wade family would like to help identify persons in some of the photographs, please get in touch with Jonathan Wuepper, manager of the Local History Branch of the Cass District Library.



This photograph of a home was believed taken circa 1900, and was part of a collection of glass plate negatives found in the Local History Branch of the Cass District Library. The negatives were donated to the library in 1995. This home possibly belonged to Dr. Sweetland, or the previous owner, Jesse Smith, located on the north end of First Street.



Above: Grain elevator next to the Grand Trunk Railroad tracks, Edwardsburg, circa 1900.



Left: Twin baby boys, probably Barry A. and Barton R. Wade, born May 24, 1902.

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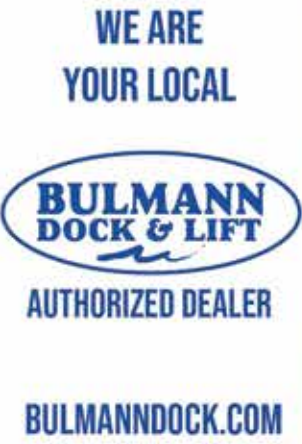
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A rose by any other name ...



Maybe it's because I'm getting ready to attend my 55th high school class reunion just a couple months after my grandson Dominic graduated from my old high school (James Whitcomb Riley in South Bend), but the past couple of weeks have been filled with memories of my past. I grew

up on the south side of South Bend in a working-class neighborhood, hung out with my two brothers and sowed youthful hell with a gang of city-wise street toughs who delighted in teaching me some of life's most important lessons (many of which involved pranks, hijinks, petty crimes and occasional blood letting).

Back then everyone had a nickname, most of which would be considered politically or socially unacceptable in today's world, and most came from questionable origins ... the regulars in my group had names like Crash, Goose, Mustard Seed, Otis or Peanut Butter Pants. For genetically apparent reasons my older brother Paul and I were Big and Little Wop.

But for some reason our younger brother Chris never got tagged with a nickname. Most of his buds (he was six years younger than us, so he ran with a younger crowd) had nicknames among their clan. Chris's buds Cave Dave, Fat Doug and Weiner (they all called me Fungus after I grew a beard in high school) had made up their own names for each other, then shared and lived by those aliases for years, but if they ever called Chris by any other name I never heard it.

Chris should have had a nickname, and as his closest older brother (and as the brother who later became a writer) I've chastised myself for not giving him one back then. I guess the six year age differential was just enough to keep him below my line of fire.

My memories of Chris as a kid are exactly that, he was a kid. When I was 12, he was six, so he didn't get to go do the things that us older kids did. He was age-excluded from hiding behind the garage with our gang smoking the Pall Malls we stole from dad's pack. He was too small to even play right field (where the weakest, slowest kid always got stuck watching the dandilions grow). Even the trips to the public swimming

pool were parent-forbidden since we had to pedal our bikes across too many dangerous intersections.

Maybe if he'd been born a couple years earlier he could have been part of the "in" crowd and earned a nickname amidst our mid-youth misdeeds and mischief.

Sure, there were things Chris did that could have resulted in a nickname, but they probably would have been the kind of names Radar O'Reilly would have worried about ("Don't call me Stinky ... that's the kind of thing that sticks to a guy.")

When Chris was born, six-year-old Phil told people that the morning of his birth was "gloomy and we had toast for breakfast." That became family lore over the years, so I guess we could have called him Gloomy.

Or toast.

Then there was the time when Chris was three or four years old, and he stuck a small pebble in his nose. Mom had to take him to the emergency room where kindly old Doc Foley used forceps to extract it.

So he could have gone by Nosy, I guess. Or Rocky.

I remember my brothers and I had a huge HO car racetrack we'd built on an old, busted up ping pong table in the basement. Paul and I both had tackle boxes filled with the tiny cars and various parts, but poor Chris had his meager stash in a brown cloth sack that had a hole in it that let his cars fall out onto the floor.

He'd have never abided being called Holey.

Then there was the time when he was in his rebellious teenage years that he went with my wife, kids and I on a camping trip to Yellowstone. Half way through the trip he started complaining about the bread being crusty. After a shouting match he ran away. We were frantic, but Chris somehow found some kindred (much younger) spirits at another campsite, spent a couple days with them then hitched a ride back to his home in South Bend (they were going right past it anyway) and beat us home, safely, by two days.

Thought about nicknaming him "Beaten To A Pulp" after that fiasco. He apologized for that years later after he outgrew the teen angst and we became friends again.

Over the years Chris worked at a pretty broad range of professions. For a long time he designed, built and installed big signs. Many were huge electrical, flashing, neon, signs that he'd have to rappel off the top of a multi-story building in Indianapolis to install.

Being a lifelong hater of heights myself, after seeing some of his creations and imagining what he had to do to get them there (God, I need brain bleach just to get rid of the thought of hanging off the side of that building), I could have nicknamed him Fearless.

Or Stupid.

For quite a while he worked for a company where he'd take a huge blueprint detailing the plans for a mind-numbingly difficult and complex air-handling heating/air conditioning device that he'd have to build, test then install and activate on top of a building in a different state to keep a factory-full of workers warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

Weatherman as a nickname maybe?

As he matured and eventually retired he worked a variety of jobs around his home. He built a dock in a neighbor's boat house, installed ceiling fans, replaced a lot of window and door screens and he operated a huge weed harvesting barge at the lake where he lived (he usually did that in conjunction with a bit of other weed that he frequently dabbled in).

Thought back then maybe a nickname involving weed might be appropriate.

He also worked for several years welding, building and installing sun awnings for porches. Coulda been Sunny, maybe.

Never came up with a really good nickname; never got around to hanging one on him.

Now I'll never get to.

Chris died last week.

I've been pretty bummed.

I got to thinking what Chris might have chosen as a nickname for himself if we'd have every asked.

Knowing him, he probably would have said that we could call him anything ... except Late For Dinner.

Too late for that now. I just wish I could have had one more dinner with him, crusty break and all.

I'll miss you Chris. Rest in peace.

I'm done writing now. I'm going to leave a couple empty lines here at the end to symbolize the empty space in my heart where my memories of Chris are going to live for the rest of my life.

Goodbye brother.



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