

Neighbors

AUGUST 2026

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

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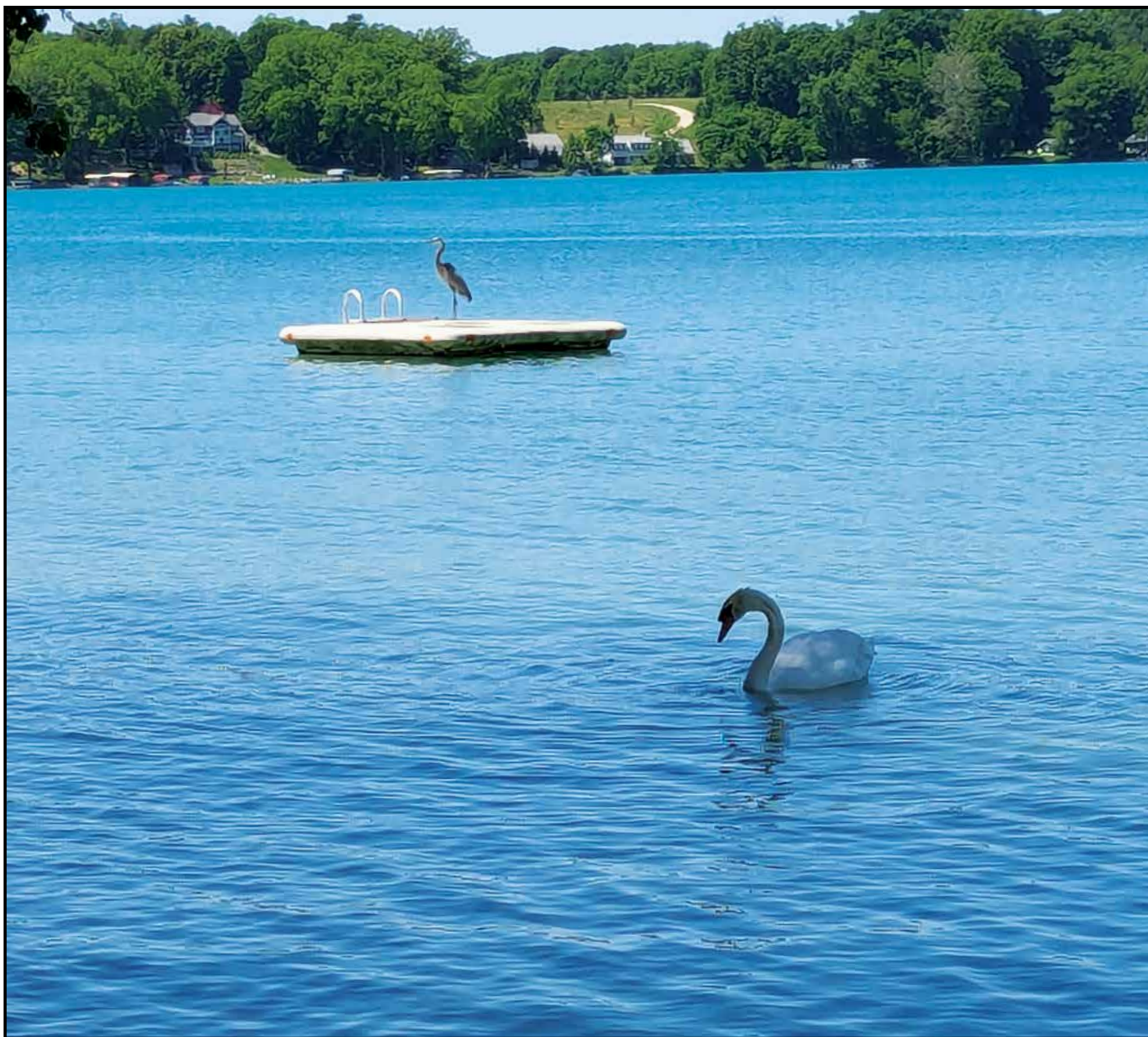
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Field Trip

**Summer
bugs on my
front deck**

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Regional News

CCCC Corn & Sausage Roast

The Cass County Conservation Club, 13710 US-12, Union, will hold its annual Corn and Sausage Roast fundraiser August 29 from 2–11 p.m. The event will feature great food, live music, raffles, and 50/50 drawings.

Cassopolis summer events

The Village of Cassopolis summer community event lineup will include Beach Bash, Rock the Block, Lakeside Live and Beach Blanket & Blockbusters. For events, dates, times and full details visit: <https://cassopolismainstreet.com/>

Beckwith Theatre performances

The Beckwith Theatre Co. will present these performances this season:

The Sunshine Boys by Neil Simon
August 21-23 and August 28-30

Wait Until Dark by Frederick Knott,
October 9-11 and October 16-18

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, December 3-5 and 11-13.

Tickets to events can be purchased at online at www.beckwiththeatre.com/box-office or by contacting the theater at BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com, Phone (269) 782-7653. For more information contact the BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com, 782-7653

CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURES & EVENTS

The Cass County Historical Society has announced the following 2026 lectures and events:

Ed Lowe Foundation Tour of Penn Church – Cassopolis, Aug. 17, 6 pm, 58220 Decatur Road, Cassopolis

Jake's Country Meats Farm Tour, Sept 15, 6 pm, 55721 Decatur Road, Cassopolis

Annual Fall Festival – Newton

House, Oct. 19, 4 pm, 20689 Marcellus Hwy., Decatur

November Lecture – TBA

Christmas at Newton House, Dec. 5, 1 – 4 pm, 20689 Marcellus Hwy., Decatur,

Unless otherwise stated, a short business meeting will start at 5:30 pm with lectures or tours beginning at 6 pm.

For information visit www.ccmihistoricalsociety.org.

A Taste of Ireland, Bored Teachers

Direct from Off-Broadway and London's West End, the internationally acclaimed A Taste of Ireland Company comes to the Lerner Theater in Elkhart with its flagship production, A Taste of Ireland: The Irish Music & Dance Sensation on Tue, Oct 27, at 7:30 pm.

The Lerner will also feature Bored Teachers: "Is It Friday Yet?!" Comedy Tour on Thursday, November 12 at 7:30 pm. The Bored Teachers Show is a comedy powerhouse that anyone who's ever been in a classroom can relate to

For questions or more info contact The Lerner Box Office, 574-293-4469 or email info@thelerner.com

Mental Health Symposium

The Lerner Theater will host the 2026 Mental Health Symposium with Sheryl Swoopes & Friends on Thursday, August 13 beginning at 5:30 pm.

The 2nd Annual Mental Health Symposium brings together music, mental wellness, and motivation in an unforgettable event led by WNBA and Basketball Legend Sheryl Swoopes. A 2016 Nasmith Basketball Hall of Fame inductee Swoopes has broken barriers in music, fashion, culture and basketball worldwide. Beyond the basketball, her

journey has been deeply personal and inspiring, and we are pleased to host this Q&A and community discussion.

The cost to attend will be Adults - \$17.15, FREE to Students.

Shipwreck History Aug. 15

Valerie Van Heest, local author, maritime historian, and underwater explorer will present "Lost and Found Legendary Lake Michigan Shipwrecks" on Saturday, Aug. 15th at the Hartford Public Library, 12 Church St., Hartford, MI beginning at 11am. This presentation is based on Van Heest's well-received book of the same name.

The Great Lakes served as a major commercial artery for centuries and became the final resting place for 1000s of schooners, freighters and steamships along with the cargo and people they carried. Lake Michigan is believed to have the largest concentration of these sunken vessels. Each shipwreck tells a unique story and awaits its telling. Van Heest combines her passion for maritime history, her love of underwater exploration, and her professional writings to bring their true stories to life.

This is a free event sponsored by the Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society and no reservation is needed. The Society also offers, to the public, a large collection of family and local history materials at the Hartford Public Library. Volunteers are available to answer questions, navigate the collection, and help patrons begin building their family trees. For more information call 269.558.5103 or email vbrgs@yahoo.com.

Beckwith presents Sunshine Boys

The Beckwith Theatre Company will

present The Sunshine Boys by Neil Simon on August 21 and 22 at 7:30 pm, August 23 at 2 pm and on August 28 and 29 7:30 pm and August 30 at 2 pm.

Al Lewis and Willy Clark are a pair of feuding vaudeville comedians who performed together for 47 years before finally calling it quits. A network genius then has the brilliant idea of reuniting the duo for a TV Special about the history of comedy. Once the reunion is on, the sparks and one-liners start to fly with equal speed. But can Lewis and Clark put aside their differences long enough to collect one last paycheck?

Tickets are \$15 (reserve online at www.beckwiththeatre.com/box-office). The Beckwith Theatre Company is at 100 New York Ave, Dowagiac.

For more info visit www.beckwiththeatre.com or phone (269) 782-7653.

Neighbors newspaper is for sale

After nearly 25 years publishing Neighbors, Fred Stein and Phil Vitale, the founders and operators, have started thinking about retiring. If you think this might be for you, qualified buyers should contact Fred for more information at:

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Regional Calendar

MISC. AREA EVENTS

August 29 - Cass County Conservation Club annual Corn and Sausage Roast fundraiser, 13710 US-12, Union, 2–11 p.m.

August 15 - “Lost and Found Legendary Lake Michigan Shipwrecks,” Hartford Public Library, 12 Church St., Hartford, MI beginning at 11am, 269.558.5103 or email vbgrgs@yahoo.com

August 21-23, 28-30 - The Sunshine Boys by Neil Simon, Beckwith Theater, Dowagiac, 7:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays, 2 pm on Sundays, BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com, 782-7653

October 9-11, 16-18, Wait Until Dark by Frederick Knott, Beckwith Theater, Dowagiac, 7:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays, 2 pm on Sundays, BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com, 782-7653

December 3-5, 11-13, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, Beckwith Theater, Dowagiac, 7:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays, 2 pm on Sundays, BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com, 782-7653

CASSOPOLIS MAIN STREET

LAKESIDE LIVE

Lakeside Live summer lineup events are planned for every Thursday throughout the summer, with free live music from 6-9 pm. Food trucks will be available along with Food Truck Alley at the beach.

Events will include:

August 6 - Now & Then Band
August 13 - Jesse Cline
August 20 The Paper Cups
August 27 - Dr. Rob and the Revivers

EDWARDSBURG MUSEUM (EAHM)
August 2026
6-9 - U.S. 12 Historic Heritage Trail Garage Sale, Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum.
16- Open house after All-School Reunion, 3 p.m., Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum
20 - Speaker: Bob Myers, Historical Society of Michigan: “Pontiac’s Rebellion,” 7 p.m., Edwardsburg Branch, Cass District Library.

SEPTEMBER 2026
17 - History Hounds film presentation from the Historical Society of Michigan, “Exploring Michigan’s Podunk Towns,” 7 p.m., Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum.
26 - Sauk Trail Festival: Echoes of Our Past, 1775-1875; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.,

Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum.

OCTOBER 2026
15 - Speaker: Bob Myers, Historical Society of Michigan, “The Worst Colonel,” 7 p.m., Edwardsburg Branch, Cass District Library.
31 - Witches on the Porch, 6-7 p.m., Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum

November 2026
10-Dec. 12 - Display: “Stars, Stripes, and Christmas Lights: A red, white, and blue Patriotic theme for Christmas, Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum.
24-28 - The Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum closes for Thanksgiving break

December 2026
3 - Christmas Tree Lighting, 6:30 p.m., followed by open house, Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum.
12 - Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum closes and re-opens in mid-April 2027.

DOWAGIAC EVENTS
www.dowagiacchamber.com/

LIBRARY EVENTS
For **Cass District Library** events visit <https://www.cassdistrictlibrary.org/events/>

For **Dowagiac District Library** events visit <https://www.dowagiacdl.org/events>.

For **Marcellus Township Memorial Library** events visit <https://www.marcellus.michlibrary.org/>

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Lake Life with Jane

Out like a sad song (I made that up)

by **Jane Boudreau**

Happy August to Neighbors! And just like the old saying: March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb, August comes in like a party and out like a sad song (I made that up!). Lakes and towns become a bit quieter after Labor Day, if not for the locals, who know how to make good times last! All in all, it's a month to do all those summer things on your Bucket List; explore all the lakes and countryside, have a family and friend gathering- large or small, to go down in the records. I've had a great summer with my sidekick, Poppy, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones, hitting some new-to-me hot spots like Holden Green Tavern and Cassopolis Beer Company. I'm also looking forward to seeing all of the changes being made at The Diamond Lake Yacht Club. On a sad note, we lost some longtime, good people on the lake over this past winter: Doug Horstman, Susie Tankersley, and Mike Seedorf. People like these are the gems you find when you move to a new place. They share with you their family, friends, experiences, memories, and a wealth of information and advice about lake life. It makes you think about the imprint you'll leave behind, and the people who will remember you with a smile.



August Signature Cocktail



For a drink that first gained its popularity in the early 19th century, the Tom Collins definitely has staying power. And in the Collins family of drink, it's arguably the most popular. A Collins simply means a sour cocktail (those involving a spirit mixed with sugar and citrus) served in a tall glass over ice, topped with soda water. It might be interesting to note that the drink's origin is a little sketchy, and it very well could have been called the Bill Collins. Seems a barkeep who worked for the Limmer's Hotel in London, named Bill Collins, decided to name the concoction after himself. Whether he actually had any part in inventing the final combination of ingredients, a gin named Old Tom seemingly did, and thus, we have a refreshing,

citrusy, sparkling cocktail called the Tom Collins.

This is now a favorite summer drink of mine. I can see myself sipping one al fresco, at a table outside a seafood restaurant housed inside an 18th-century whaling captain's home. Or wait, I'm relaxing on my dock, drink in hand, wearing a simple sundress, straw hat, barefoot. My latest book, sunscreen, and Poppy at my feet. Diamond Lake ripples and sparkles in the bright afternoon sunlight. I'm home.

Tom Collins

Ice
2 oz. London Dry gin
1 oz. fresh lemon juice
1 oz. simple syrup*
3 oz. plain or lemon seltzer water
2 cocktail cherries
Sliced lemon for serving

Fill a cocktail shaker with ice. Add gin, lemon juice, and simple syrup and vigorously shake until the outside of the shaker is frosty, about 20 seconds.

Pour the gin mixture into an ice-filled Collins glass (or whatever you have on hand). Pour seltzer water over, and garnish with a lemon wedge or twist. Let's upgrade the traditional, artificially dyed maraschino cherry with a dark red cocktail cherry that's been candied or preserved.

Jane's Imaginary Book Club

"One spring morning, a stranger arrives in the small Southern town of Golden. No one knows where he has come from...or why..."

(From Theo of Golden)

I read this month's book after hearing it was similar, in extent, to *The Correspondent*, which I reviewed in April. That sealed the deal as *The Correspondent* was one of the best novels I'd read in a long time. Theo begins spending time at a local coffee shop upon arriving in Golden. There, he finds pencil portraits done by a local artist hanging on the walls. He begins to purchase them to return to the hands of the person depicted, and in doing so, "...a story is told, a friendship born, and a life altered." Allen Levi's book was published in 2023, but is currently being passed around in book clubs (and mine, of which you are all members, albeit anonymously), and is gaining popularity again. Once I finished, I was thanking my lucky stars that I stumbled upon this book, which is dog-eared with underlinings and notes in the margins. I give it 5 stars and highly recommend diving into this magical tale of friendship, generosity, and the power of kindness.

Recipes for August are on the lighter side because why not? And a little on the elegant side. The company is ready. Can I suggest you offer a Tom Collins as your signature drink? So far, we've had some very proper guests who are accustomed to being offered a drink at first greeting, and then moving on to their choice of beverages. But you might have someone problematic arrive at your home. Enter, Mr. Bill Collins.

Jane's Pulled Pork

When we had company at the lake a few weeks ago, I really tried to stay on top of my game. That means having delicious, easy, and casual food for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. No — I never pull all

of this off. Nev-ahh!! The best I can do is make what I can ahead of time and keep everything fresh and ready to assemble (like chopping up those onions or the lettuce). Do not think it's simple, and you can do it later. Take the shortcuts when you have the time.

So this is my pulled pork for sandwiches. I made it in the slow cooker in about 4 hours. I refrigerate it, then remove it to let it reach room temperature about half an hour before serving. Then it just needs to be heated up in the microwave or in a pot on the stove. I use a bottled barbecue, which I admit has a lot of sugar, but sometimes you just have to have a little help. I like an Asian sort of feel to my BBQ, so adding soy sauce is a powerful touch. Feel free to add more or less of any ingredient.



Jane's Pulled Pork

2 lb. pork shoulder, trimmed of fat
1 bottle barbecue sauce of your choice
1 T Worcestershire sauce
2 T soy sauce
3 T brown sugar
1 T garlic powder
1 T onion powder
Optional: Pinch of red pepper flakes, salt, and pepper to taste

Place the pork shoulder in the slow cooker and set it to 4-8 hours. An hour before it's done, mix all of the sauce ingredients together and pour over the meat. Begin to shred the pork with 2 forks. Mix the sauce in as you go along. Let it cook until all of the flavors meld. Adjust seasonings. I like to load the meat onto Italian rolls, preferably toasted in the oven, since they don't get soggy that way. Serves a crowd.

I wanted something different this summer as a side dish other than the usual potato salad. But it's a classic, and the family wouldn't hear of it. I came up with this after tasting the great combo of sour cream and dried ranch dressing mix. The beauty of my recipe is that you don't have to peel the potatoes, which is half the work in making traditional potato salad. Feel free to use fingerling potatoes, super creamy and colorful. Also, you may want to double the recipe for a larger group.

Creamy Ranch Potato Salad



3 lbs. red potatoes
8 oz. sour cream
2 T ranch dressing mix
1 medium red onion, halved and thinly sliced
3 stalks of celery, trimmed and diced
1 red pepper, diced

Fill a large pot with water and add a good tablespoon of salt. Add the potatoes, whole and unpeeled. Boil until just tender, and you can insert a sharp knife through to the center. Strain and let cool.

In a medium bowl, stir the ranch dressing mix together with the sour cream. Fold in the onions, celery, and peppers.

Cut the cooled potatoes into 1 1/2 inch pieces and place in a large bowl. Gently mix in the sour cream mixture to coat. Add a bit of salt and pepper to taste. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour, but this salad deserves to let the flavors meld for a few hours or overnight. Serves 4-6

As always, I like to give you something sweet each month. Cookies may sound like an odd thing to share in August, but sometimes we've all had it with fresh fruit this and fresh fruit that. And ice cream. Well...maybe not ice cream. So with me trying to wrap my head around the fact that in two months we will be looking at much cooler days, and all the cozy scents of fall in the air, I think these delicate, buttery cookies deserve to made center stage this month, perhaps with your coffee in the morning, or an iced latte in the afternoon...and maybe a few after dinner just for that last sweet bite of the day. Of course, you can keep them in your cookie jar for the kiddos, but if you know they're there, they might not be around long!

This recipe comes from a longtime blogger friend, Julie Blanner, and credit for this photo goes to her as well.

Caramel Cheesecake Cookies



8 oz. cream cheese, softened
1/2 c. butter, softened
1 1/2 c sugar
1 t vanilla
2 c flour
1/2 c graham cracker crumbs
1 bag of caramels

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Combine cream cheese, butter, sugar, and vanilla. Beat in mixer until fluffy.

Gradually add the flour and graham cracker crumbs.

Roll a somewhat large ball of dough, about the size of two cookie scoops. Make a hole in the center with your thumb and insert a caramel. Gently roll back into a ball. Place on a parchment-lined cookie sheet and continue with the rest of the

Continued, see
JANE
on next page

Our Children

Building a positive attitude about school

by **SANDY FLEMING**

We've almost come to the end of summer break, and soon it will be time to return to the classroom for kids across the area. So often, families face this transition with worry and even dread. They hear their children say they are treated unfairly, that they don't like school, or that they even "hate" it. Like so much of life, people often see what they are looking for. Here are some positive ways that you can turn this attitude around, getting off onto a positive footing for the coming school year.

Household Climate

The very first place to examine for roots of school enthusiasm (or lack thereof) is at home. What kinds of things do parents, grandparents, older siblings, and other family members say about school? What body language is apparent when the topic comes up? If school requirements are always met with a response of annoyance, distress, or concern, children will almost automatically pick up on this. If the topic of school elicits stories of past wrongs, of feelings of failure, and of misbehavior or problems, then children will naturally believe that school is a place to be avoided.

Attitudes are highly contagious, and children are very, very prone to mimicry. They see and hear the responses of those around them, and incorporate them into their own feelings about education. The family attitude becomes their attitude. What kinds of messages about education has your child been getting, not just from the words you say, but also from the stories you tell, the body language you show, and the priority you put on managing the details of getting ready for school?

It's possible you may dread the coming of the new school year because of the extra demands it puts on your household. After all, there are more rigid schedules to enforce, homework to monitor, and expenses of school supplies that need to be managed. While all of these things are very real in many households, be very careful not to show your feelings to your children.

There is also an unspoken current of feelings about education that every household has. Is going to school a mandatory sentence that must be served before getting on with the business of life? Or is it an opportunity to learn, grow, and develop skills needed for success? This has a lot to do with your own success in school and how much you feel your education has impacted your life. Chances are very good that your child senses the level of commitment and priority you have for the process. Examine if the messages you send about school match your intentions.

Minimizing Stress Associated with the Start of School

Nearly everyone resists impositions of additional expectations and requirements on their lives. None of us want to be "controlled" by outside forces. If your family is "free-wheeling" all summer long, without schedule or structure, to the children headed back to school routines, it can feel like you are turning the home into a regimented prison.

Most people do much better with the gradual changes to a more orderly schedule. Don't expect your kids to go from sleeping until mid-afternoon to rising at 6 am for the bus without a fight! They simply cannot adjust to those huge changes overnight, or even the week before school starts.

The time to start gradually returning

to a school-year routine is weeks before school begins. In other words, the time is right now, this week. The more time you allow for reinstating school schedules, the more gradually you can adjust everyone. Instead of trying to shift bedtimes, wake times, and meal times by hours within a few days, move everything earlier gradually several weeks before you need to be on schedule for real. Give some incentives for getting up and about before lunch time, then by 10 AM, then by 9 am, and so on.

Remember that positive reinforcement (i.e. incentives) works much more effectively to change behavior than punishment does. Find ways to make the changes "worthwhile" in the eyes of the kids. Maybe they earn an extra privilege or two when they succeed in getting up on time as asked. Perhaps the family can go on an exciting outing if the kids get up at the correct time for the entire week before the trip.

For most students, getting their input into the schedule can go a long way to getting buy-in. Even very young children can learn to set up and rise with an alarm. Even very young children can participate in choosing outfits for the coming day on the night before bed and laying the clothes out. Even very young children can gather what they need to leave the house before lying down for the night. It's all part of routines that we adults put into place for ourselves, and the earlier they learn to do the same, the better off they will be. It will help them develop a sense of control and ownership of their own behavior, and is a key to helping them grow in maturity and responsibility. And like nearly any other skill, no one develops it magically out of thin air. The pieces are learned gradually, with help from caring adults. Start your child down that path this year, no matter how old he or she may be.

Work Out a Daily Schedule Together for School

Kids thrive when they are given control of their lives within parameters adults set for them. Let them help lay out what each school day's schedule will look like. It is probable that you know the big pieces, like when they need to leave the house for the day, when they are likely to return, and when meals and bedtimes are at your house. For most families, that leaves several hours of discretionary time, both before and after school.

Get your child's input on how to use that time, given that homework and chores need to be accomplished. Maybe your youngster would like a break after arriving home to do what he or she wants before starting in on homework. Maybe the kid needs at least 30 minutes of "down time" before heading off to bed. Giving them the control to set these parts of their schedules will help them feel more in charge of their world. Make sure the big, important stuff gets done, but give choices about when to work on it and how long the sessions will be. Agree on an observable standard after a week or two from school's first day to assess if the plan is working (grades are good, homework and chores are getting done, child is ready for the day when needed, etc.). If it's working, then keep it going! If it's not working, adjust it together.

Minimize Anxiety by Attending School Functions

Many schools have an open house or a meet-the-teacher event before or right after the school year starts. Make every effort to get your child there (even with a grandparent or a family friend), and try

really hard to get there as a parent. You will pick up valuable information about expectations for the school year, and your student will have a chance to see new classrooms, meet teachers, and see friends.

When you attend school functions and show interest in your child's education, you set the tone for the year – school is important enough to work around, to make a sacrifice for, to prioritize. Your students will notice!

Prioritize Attendance

Did you know that 28 percent of students in Michigan are chronically absent from school? That means they miss 10% of the year or more (18 or more days absent). At that point, learning is disrupted. The stats are even worse for the economically disadvantaged and for students in grade 12, nearing 40-45 percent. When kids miss that much time in class, their learning suffers.

Yes, I know they do get sick at times. Yes, I know they should not attend if they have fever or other symptoms of illness. For sure keep them home then, even though some kids just get sick a LOT.

But I also meet students who get to skip school on their birthdays. They skip school for family outings and vacations. Sometimes they skip school because they overslept or because they were grumpy in the morning. I've known multiple families where parents need to be at work before kids need to get off to school, and there's no Plan B for if they miss the bus or their alarm does not go off. These things are changeable. I challenge you this year to keep track. When kids get to missing 10 or more days during a semester, it is cause for concern, so keep a record at home, on your own. Jot down which days were missed and the reason. There's a good chance you may see a pattern (frequent misses on Mondays or Fridays, misses after late nights, absences after visits with the noncustodial parent, and so forth). If this is the case for your child, take steps to correct the problem.

Watch for Signs of Trouble

Often, kids become reluctant to attend school or to keep up with homework because there is a problem with learning. It does not mean your child is not able to learn, just that there might be a mismatch between the teaching and your child's strengths. Take action sooner rather than later if you suspect a learning problem. Do not minimize their struggles!!

Signs of possible problems include

JANE

Continued from previous page

dough.

Bake for 12 minutes. Remove from the oven and press each cookie with the bottom of a buttered glass. Press gently and give it a bit of a turn. Return the pan to the oven for an additional 3 minutes. You can serve these warm, but if you can't, 10 seconds in the microwave will work. Yields 24 cookies.

Enjoy this last, beautiful, long-stretching, toes in the sand, hand-holding, ice cream dripping, sunset-loving month of August. One like this will never come again, but there will be more summers, more Augusts. Lake life is about continuing traditions, but also having tons of room to make new memories with new

reluctance to head out to school, "dislike" of a particular class or teacher, avoidance of homework, and low grades on tests and other work that is done solely in class and not brought home. Keep an eye on the time spent on homework routinely. It needs to be in proportion with your child's grade and age. It is not normal to spend every waking hour between school and bed on homework assignments.

If there seems to be too much homework, be sure to communicate with the child's teachers. Is the student doing what is expected in class? Is the child's work pace on par with peers? Does the student have the skills needed to be successful? There are strategies to help families avoid the hours-slaving-over-homework trap, but they need to be explored and implemented as a team of parent and teacher and child. Just do not ignore the problem!

In other words, your child's overall attitude about school has a lot to do with what happens at home. It relates directly to your attitude and the attitudes of other adults in the child's life. By making even small changes in the household routines, you can have a substantial impact on school attendance, and ultimately, on your child's success.

Sandy Fleming is a private tutor and writer living in Edwardsburg. Grab more practical ideas to help with learning at her websites: <https://learningnook.com> and <https://sandyflemingonline.com>.

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friends, family members, and the few furry friends who come into our lives to carry on the goodness of our hearts in the wake of the last precious one.

Until next month!



Jane Boudreau is a blogger, writer, and newspaper columnist who lives on Diamond Lake, as well as in Chicago, with a little place in the mountains of North Carolina. You can reach her at blndy9@yahoo.com.-- Jane Boudreau <http://blondiesjournals.blogspot.com>

Field Trip

The summer bugs on my front deck

Ok, so here's the deal ... a few weeks ago the prosthetic knee the doc implanted in my left leg just last January, the one that was doing so well I was ready to sign up for the butt-kicking contest, suddenly went whacko and tried to kill me. Seems that somehow in the course of 24-hours a staph infection set in and began to attack the knee, causing it to swell to beach ball size, send the most awful pain messages to my nerve endings, and, according to the doc, endanger my very life. Next morning, after a quick emergency surgery to remove the part of the knee the infection had destroyed, debride the leg and sew me back up, I found myself flat on my back in the hospital wonder how in the hell I was going to get a field trip done for Neighbors this month.

When the hospital warden finally conditionally pardoned me five days later, I wheel-chaired, walked and caned my busted body back home, still with no good Plan B for a field trip.



The next morning dawned sunny and warm and I dragged myself out onto a deck chair to try began rehab as best I could. I was sitting there enjoying the sun, cursing the bug that tried to kill me ... when lo and behold, this creepy bug thing (top right) crawled across my chair. Being a classically trained news photographer, I just so happened to have my camera at the ready, so I shot him (wanted to use a 9 MM but I chose the St. Francis of Assisi option instead).

Realizing that the possibility of me actually going anywhere to shoot pics was somewhere between slim and none, I began a bug photo safari ... right there on my deck ... hope no one is offended or grossed out because this is the best I've got this month.

If you'll notice the pics of the beasties on the next page, I can explain. After photographing all these bugs that showed up that week (like starlet-wanna-bees they tend to swarm when a camera comes out, all whispering in bug tongue, "I'm ready for my closeup Mr. De Mille) the activity attracted a couple hungry predators who were seemingly willing, able, and happy to have the feast.

So now I'm in negotiations with Sal the Snake and Tree Frog, Dino Dan and T. Rex to convince them go after the bug that's been eating my knee. Don't know how much it will cost to hire them but it's bound to be less than the fees from the infectious control specialists.

Just to be honest, some of those critters on that page weren't really on my front deck, but you never know what you might see when you're taking the kind of pain meds they're giving me this week ...



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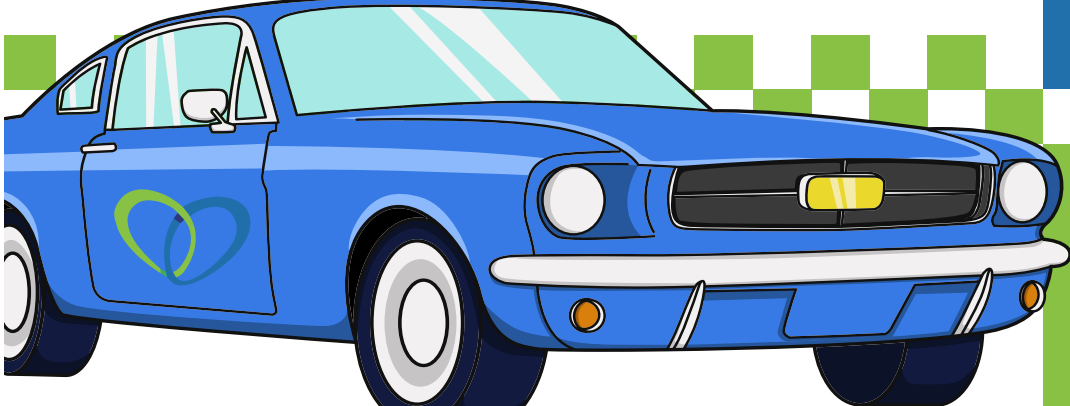
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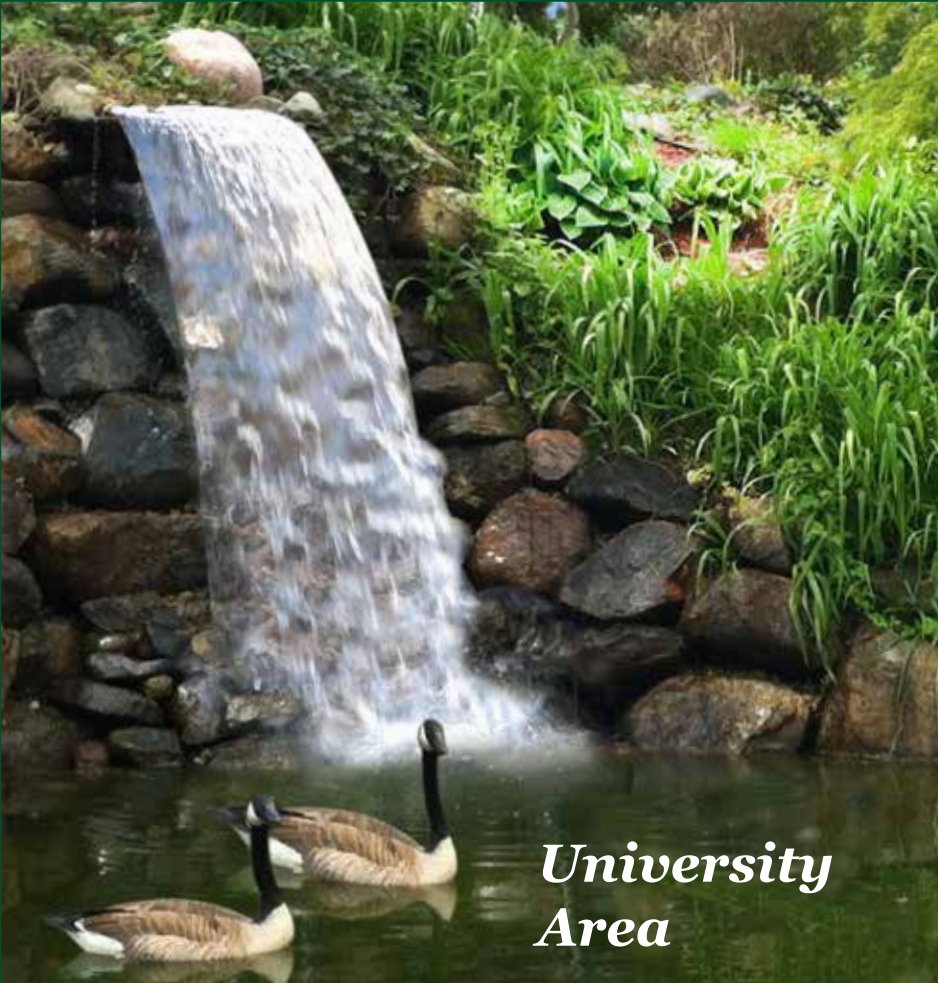
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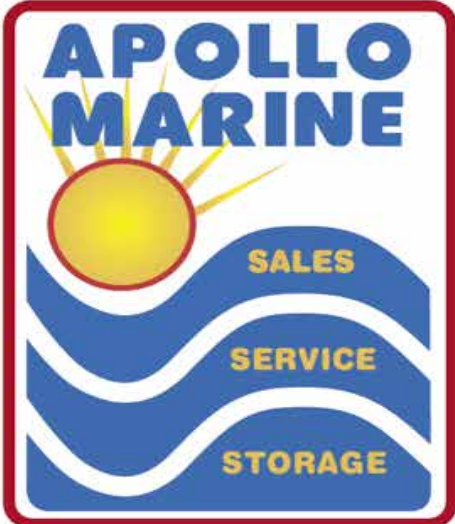
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Historic Postcards

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, has 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.

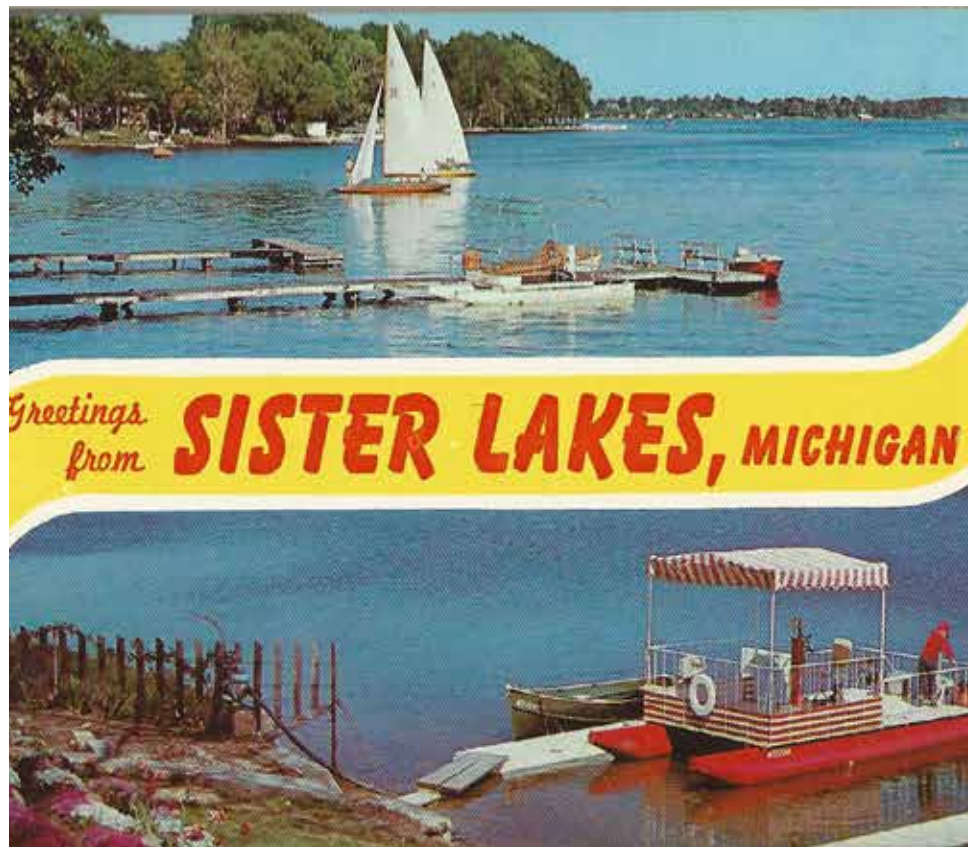
Jerdon has used many of his postcards featuring the Sister Lakes area in a book written by RL Rasmussen. The book, which retails for \$39.95, is in its second print-

ing 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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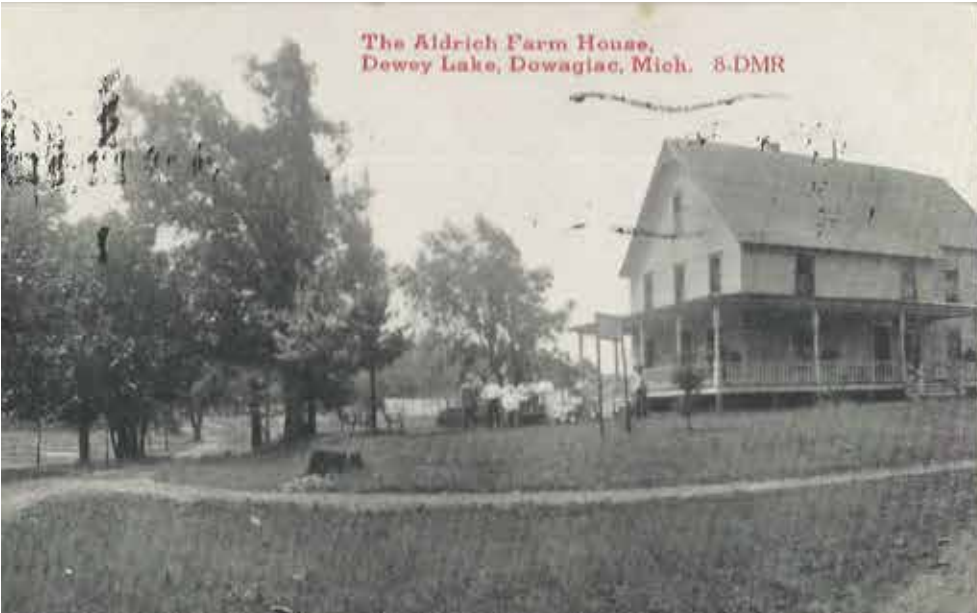
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Nature Notes

Hudsonian godwit makes rare summer visit

by Jonathan Wuepper
Manager
Local History Branch
Cass District Library
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Cassopolis, MI 49031
jwuepper@cass.lib.mi.us

July is the month that interesting shorebirds start to show up on the Southwest Michigan beaches! Some shorebirds such as the willet and marbled godwit are already done nesting, and are now migrating at a leisurely pace towards their wintering grounds on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.

Both the willet and marbled godwits are large shorebirds that nest in the "prairie pothole" regions of the Great Plains. They are considered uncommon "fall" migrants in Southwest Michigan, but are being reported in record numbers this year. On July 1, Don Estep of LaPorte photographed a flock of over 350 willets at New Buffalo, a new high count of the species in Michigan!

The most impressive shorebird to appear on our beaches this year is that of a single Hudsonian godwit on June 30 at New Buffalo, present within a flock of marbled godwits, seen and photographed by multiple observers.

The Hudsonian godwit is seen every few years in our region, but usually later during August to November. There are just three records of the Hudsonian godwit during the ornithological summer months of June and July in Berrien



Hudsonian godwit, lower right, and seven marbled godwits and a ring-billed gull, June 30 at New Buffalo beach. Photos by Josh Duis of Niles.



Rare shorebirds in flight, June 30, New Buffalo. Willet (left), Hudsonian godwit (top) showing distinctive black tail with white band (top center), and six marbled godwits. Jush Duis photo.

A portion of a flock of over 350 willets on July 1 at New Buffalo. This is a record high count of the species in the state of Michigan! Photo by Don Estep of LaPorte, Indiana.

d) Showy emerald moth, Benton Township July 1. Caroline Duncan photo.

County over the last 65 years. The individual seen June 30 at New Buffalo possibly represents an unmated individual.

The Hudsonian godwit performs an epic migration twice per year. It breeds in Alaska, Yukon, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories in the west. In eastern North America it nests on the south shore of the Hudson Bay. It is thought that the individuals that appear in our region are of the Hudson Bay population. The Hudsonian godwit winters

thousands of miles to the south, along the shores of Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and southern Brazil. Most Hudsonian godwits that nest on the south shore of Hudson Bay are thought to migrate non-stop, offshore of the Atlantic coast of Canada and the US, to South America. A relative few migrate through the Great Lakes region.

All of the above shorebirds eat primarily worms, insects and other marine invertebrates. The Hudsonian godwit builds a nest close to water, constructing

it of sedges, moss, lichen. An average of four eggs are laid, both parents take turns with egg incubation.

Caroline Duncan of Benton Township found a showy emerald moth on July 1. This pretty moth is uncommon in Michigan, but more common in Indiana and Ohio. This species feeds exclusively on staghorn sumac and poison ivy!

Local History

Meet the Huntleys, pioneers of Cass County

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

One pioneer family of Howard Township was that of Ephraim Huntly. There is not a lot of published information on the family, so I thought I'd make them the subject of this month's history article. Interestingly, I found a Civil War era family photo on Find-A-Grave, showing most of the family: five daughters, four of five sons.

The Huntly (also spelled Huntley) patriarch was Ephraim Huntly, born September 10, 1798, near Greenfield, Saratoga County, New York. In 1816, Ephraim moved to Hamburg, Erie County, NY. In 1826, he married Eliza Ross born Worthington, Massachusetts. In 1833 he came to Cass County, Michigan to purchase land and when en route, nearly escaped death when the steamer "George Washington" on her fourth trip, ran ashore and broke up on Lake Erie, near Long Point, Ontario. Sixty passengers survived including Ephraim Huntly, one life was lost.

Ephraim Huntly purchased 60 acres of land on the southeast quarter of section 30 in Howard Township. The deed was recorded in 1834. The property fronted Yankee Street, named so because many of the pioneer settlers were from New York and New England. Additionally, Ephraim purchased 40 acres of marshland in section 32 of Howard. This was part of a wetland



Ephraim Huntly Family, circa 1863. Standing left to right: Emma Marie, (1847-1911); George Gordon, (1850-

1908); Phoebe Louise, (1837-1905); Charles Williams, (1843-1914); Ellen Eliza, (1840-1937); Joseph Uriel Riley, (1833-1910); Captain James Johnson, (1831-1881). Seated: Harriet Helen (1828-1911); Ephraim, father of the family, (1798-1881); Mary Ann, (1836-1922). Not pictured: (Benjamin) Franklin, (1829-1885). Photo was taken during the Civil War. James Johnson Huntly is in uniform, having served in Company E of the 9th Michigan Infantry. Photo courtesy Find-A-Grave.

known as "Priest's Marsh," named for George Priest who owned a majority of the wetland. This marsh was actually a wet prairie, popular with hunters in the 19th and early 20th Centuries, particularly for hunting prairie chickens.

The Huntly homestead was located at the southeast corner of the property on Yankee Street. This home no longer exists. Ephraim likely built a log house, and later a frame farmhouse. Today a home at 2379 Yankee Street occupies the site of the old Huntly homestead.

Ephraim and Eliza had 10 children: 5 daughters and 5 sons, each child lived to adulthood, all leading interesting lives, but space does not permit to delve into them in full, however a few brief mentions are warranted. Eliza Ross Huntly died in 1855 (some sources say 1856).

James Johnson Huntly served in the

Civil War, enlisting in Company E of the 9th Michigan Infantry in Niles in August 1861. His initial rank was Sergeant, but he was promoted to Captain in 1864. He was mustered out in September 15, 1865. He died in Iowa in 1881.

Benjamin Franklin Huntly, (known as Franklin) the only sibling not in the 1863 photo, worked in the printing office of the Niles Republican, a well-known pioneer newspaper, under the editorship of Darius B. Cook, beginning April 1, 1846. Franklin Huntly eventually moved to California and worked at the Sacramento Bee. Franklin died in 1885.

George Gordon Huntly, known as G Gordon, was born at the family homestead on April 20, 1850. In the 1863 family photo, he is approximately 12-13 years of age. On September 23, 1879, G Gordon married Miss Anna A. Reese at the resi-



Above: Reese-Huntly home, located in section 29, at the northeast corner of the intersection of Lake Shore and Huntly Roads. This Vernacular-style home quite possibly replaced a log structure just after the Civil War. This view was taken on July 24, 1980. Credit: Cass District Library.

dence of her father, Judson Wade Reese, which still stands at the northeast corner of Lake Shore Road and Huntly Road. This home is often referred to as "The Huntly Home", which it indeed was, but it was most likely built by Judson W. Reese, who lived there until his death in 1902. The house is of the Vernacular architectural style with long, round arch windows, eyebrow headers, bay window with dentals, cut, stone foundation and double doors with transoms.

G Gordon, like his father, was elected to several Howard Township and Cass County offices. Most notably, G Gordon served as Cass County Drain Commissioner.

Huntly Road in Howard Township was named after the family. The family were Baptist, and Huntly Baptist Church was likely named after Ephraim.

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Kicking some Trojan butt with grandson Dominic



Way back in 1965 when I was just a snotty nosed teenager, The Rolling Stones released a single called (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction capturing their first No. 1 hit on the US Billboard Hot 100. In the song Mick Jagger belts out a line that says "Baby, better come back, maybe next week

'Cause, you see, I'm on a losing streak." Widely misunderstood at the time, the song, and that line have stuck in my head like an earworm and echoed a thousand times through my personal history. And over the last couple weeks they have never been more true.

To say I've been on a losing streak is something of an understatement. The last two weeks have visited upon me an ass whupping like I've never had before ... and I've been down that road more than once.

I a two-week span I spent over seven hours (in one day) in acute pain in an emergency room at a hospital where I had needles stuck into me, tests run on me, fluid drained out of me, medicines injected into me and a whole bunch of malarkey fed to me in the form of platitudes, procedures, prayers and treatment plans.

The next morning I was rushed into a surgical suite for an emergency procedure that involved cutting open my knee, tearing out a good part of the six-month-old total knee joint that had nearly healed, power washing the whole area and then sewing me back up.

After they woke me up (screaming in pain) and filled me with narcotics, I spent the next five days in a hospital being further poked, jabbed, prodded, tested, dosed with a dozen different medicines and elixirs and fed a combination of "deemed healthy" hospital gruel that more resembled the fluid they drained out of my leg than any food that's ever hit my dining room table.

When they sent me home they were good enough to jab me with a PICC line (Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter), a long, thin, flexible tube they ran into a vein in my upper arm and threaded to a large vein near my heart so I'd be all set up for the long-term IV antibiotic treatments which they tell me my beloved spouse and

retired nurse has to use of daily for the next several months until I'm get either cured or dead. Then they set me up with half a dozen or so appointments to visit surgeons, infectious disease specialists and assorted other medicos who they tell me will be assessing, testing, poking, jabbing, drawing blood, and otherwise abusing my body and psyche for an indefinite period of time.

Meanwhile, as if they hadn't tortured me enough, **NO BEER!**

You gotta be kidding me ... Did I mention "losing steak?" I guess I must have grievously sinned in a previous life to have warranted on such a severe punishment.

But then, just when I was at my lowest; when the sun was blotted out from the sky and the clouds were rolling in dark and ominous; when the Hemingway shotgun in the woods was beginning to sing a siren song in my fevered dreams, something unexpected happened.

Something good splashed in my sea of misery. I had largely forgotten, considering the distractions of the last couple weeks, but months ago when I first heard that Christopher Nolan was making a movie out of Homer's Odyssey and it was going to star my favorite Martian, Matt Damon. I mentioned this tidbit in passing at a family dinner, and to my surprise, amusement and delight, grandson Dominic popped into the conversation and animatedly admitted that he was really into The Odyssey and he would love to see it.

Having studied The Odyssey in high school in at least three college classes, I have long considered myself something of an Odyssey nerd, but aside from the Matt Damon allure I doubted that anyone I know would find such an esoteric event attractive. Taking a chance, I jumped all over Dominic's statement and asked if he'd like to go see the movie with me when it came out.

He almost swam across the Aeolian Sea in the gravy boat on the table. "Hell yes, I'm in!" he promised.

Months passed in the interim. Dom went off for his first year of college (at my alma mater!) and I went on abusing myself as I oft do ... and while I was battling the demons that plagued me over the last couple weeks, the release date arrived just as I was being released

from the hospital and the movie opened at a theater just blocks from Dominic's home in South Bend.

Aware of my limitations, he reached out and gently asked if I was up to it.

"Hell yes," I told him. "I'm in!" I bought the tickets online (yes, I spent the time and figured out how to use that infernal machine of a cell phone they made me buy), splurged on ultra-comfy, reclining, heated seats, then drove (one-footed) into town early to get him so we could have breakfast and get to the theater before the foot-stomping, knee-jostling unruly crowd of battle-thirsty Trojans would show up and endanger my personal spatial bubble.

At breakfast we talked about the Odyssey. Dom knew the characters. He knew the timeline. He understood the symbolism and the historical significance.

He got it. And he was stoked. We rolled into the parking lot more than a half hour early. Dom treated me to a box of M&Ms with peanuts and a plain water at the over-priced concession stand, and I limped (with a cane) into the empty theater to our handicapped seats.

And then, there it was, right in our faces. For the next three hours we sat open mouthed and wide eyed as we reveled in the spectacle of ancient battles, deceptions, desecrations, mutations, monsters, double crosses, incredible threats, horrific sea voyages, dangers of all sorts, and a final, epic conquest as the Martian kicked some Trojan ass with the help of an unlikely wooden horse, blinded an angry cyclops, kicked the lotus habit, visited hell and eventually made his way home where he had to kill the suitors in his palace, perform an incredible feat of archery legerdemain and regwin both his wife Penelope and his throne.

Rockne woulda called him Irish! On the way home we stopped for ice cream (it was national ice cream day, and I could see no better way to honor it than sharing a Buster Bar with my grandson).

I'm still at war with that losing streak, but last Saturday morning, even if it was just for a couple hours, I got some pretty good grandpa satisfaction.

Thanks Mick for the song, and thanks Dom for sharing Saturday with me. It was time well spent. And I'll take my satisfaction from that.



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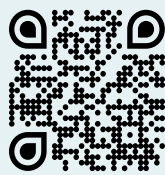


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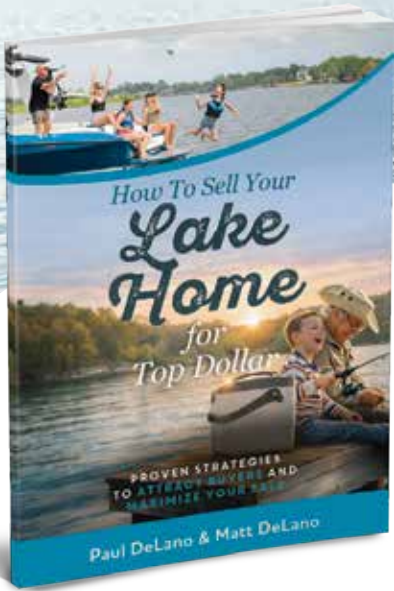
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