

Neighbors

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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

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

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Neighbors is published monthly from April through October

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Field Trip Charles B. Hayes Family Sculpture Park



**Notre Dame, IN
Pages 7-9**

Regional News

Cass County Historical Society Fall Festival is Oct. 10

The Cass County Historical Society Fall Festival will be Saturday, Oct. 10 from 11 am - 4 pm at The Newton House, 20689 Marcellus Hwy Decatur.

This free, family-centered event will feature Civil War reenactors, cannon firing demonstrations, meet & greet with local authors, self-guided tours of the Historic Newton House, wagon rides through Fred Russ Forest Park, food truck & free snacks, artisan vendors and a kids pie eating contest , ages 5-17, medals awarded.



Beckwith Theatre performances

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

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 can be purchased at online at www.beckwiththeatre.com/box-office or 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:

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

"Aviation Firsts of SW Michigan" by Dr. Stuart Boekeloo at HPL

Dr. Boekeloo will be visiting the Hartford Public Library, 12 Church St., Hartford, on Saturday, Sep. 19 to present a program titled "Aviation Firsts of SW Michigan." This amazing local history story begins at 11 am and will chronicle the first flight before the Wright brothers,

the first aviator to fly around the world, the first to fly over Lake Michigan, the first man in space, and the development of the space galley for NASA by the Whirlpool Company, among other events that make our state a leader in aviation history. Boekeloo has had a dentistry practice in St. Joe for over 20 years but may be best known for his local live radio broadcasts of Dr. B's History Roadshow and Taking the Mystery Our of History, where for 10 years he shared his knowledge for Michigan history. The event is free of charge and open to the public. No reservation is needed.

Sauk Trail Festival Sept. 26

Music from the Civil War era will waft through the air, and at least 12 reenactors will be in period attire at the Sauk Trail Festival on Sat., Sept. 26, at the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum. This year's event, from 10 am to 3 pm, covers the years 1775-1875 and celebrates the nation's 250th anniversary. The festival spans the period from the signing of the Declaration of Independence through the Civil War.

The Sarett Nature Center's 35-foot Voyageur Canoe will be in Edwardsburg for free rides on Pleasant Lake. An artillery demonstration, children's crafts, and an archaeological dig will provide interest. Erica Hartley, director of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, will speak. She is an instructor for the Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Studies at Western Michigan University.

A highlight of the day will be a performance by four members of the open group, Lawless Jam, featuring the guitar, Appalachian dulcimer, banjo, and fiddle. Songs to be performed were either writ-

ten during the Civil War or popular at that time. The exception will be "Ashokan Farewell," the title theme of Ken Burns' 1990 documentary series, "The Civil War," on PBS Television. Among the selections will be "Soldiers' Joy," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "John Brown's Body," "Battle Cry of Freedom," "Rally Round the Flag," and "Johnny Comes Marching Home."

The Lawless Jam emerged in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic when musicians from around Michiana began jamming outdoors at the Dr. T.K. Lawless County Park near Vandalia. Since then, there have been appearances at the Cass County Historical Society's Harvest Festival at Newton Woods; the Underground Railroad Days; and the Cass County Fair. Members jam from 3 to 4:30 pm on Wednesdays at the Cass County Council on Aging, Cassopolis. Food trucks will be on site. There is no admission charge.

Holiday Potpourri Bazaar

St. Paul Lutheran Ladies Circle will host an Annual Holiday Potpourri Bazaar Saturday, November 14, from 9 am to 2 pm. The bazaar is held at St. Paul Lutheran church is located at 305 West State Street in Cassopolis. The church is handicap accessible.

The bazaar will feature area crafters, a bake sale, used book sale, 'White Reindeer table' and the 'Best Lunch' in town. Carry outs will be available. No admission – bring your family and friends for some holiday shopping and lunch.

Contact Jenny Bischoff for more information and to rent a space, at 782.7484. jennybischoff@hotmail.com.







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Regional News

ON THE COVER

The Sycamore Tussock Moth see on the cover of this month's Neighbors is most recognizable in its larval stage, characterized by a dense covering of pale yellow to white hairs and distinct long orange and white filaments. While the adult moths are relatively inconspicuous with pale, mottled forewings, the caterpillars are frequently found on the undersides of leaves in urban and forested environments. This species is specifically associated with plane trees and sycamores, where large populations can cause noticeable though rarely fatal defoliation.

Key Features - Caterpillars feature dense tufts of white or pale yellow setae covering the body. Long, hair-like orange and white pencils extend from the front and rear of the larva. Adult moths have translucent, yellowish-tan forewings with faint wavy brown bands. The thorax of the adult moth is covered in thick, hair-like scales matching the wing color.

Are they poisonous?

They are not venomous in the sense of a sting, but their hairs (setae) are irritating. Touching them can cause an itchy, prickly rash on the skin, so it is best to avoid handling them with bare hands.

Anderson named president of Michigan association of county treasurers

Cass County Treasurer Hope Anderson has been elected president of the Michigan Association of County Treasurers (MACT) at the association's recent conference in Bay City.

Since 1934, MACT has worked to educate its members, assist with legislation, share solutions through networking, protect the interests of taxpayers and promote consistency among treasurers' offices throughout Michigan.

As president, Anderson will help lead the statewide organization and represent county treasurers from across Michigan. Her selection builds on several years of involvement with MACT and provides Cass County with a voice in statewide conversations affecting county treasurers and the residents they serve.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as president of the Michigan Association of County Treasurers," Anderson said. "When I became Cass County Treasurer in 2018, MACT was an invaluable source of education, guidance and support. I am grateful for the opportunity to give back by supporting other treasurers, strengthening collaboration among our offices and helping advance practices and policies that serve taxpayers throughout Michigan."

Anderson was appointed Cass County Treasurer in 2018 to fill a partial term and was subsequently elected to the position in 2020 and reelected in 2024.

In addition to her responsibilities as Treasurer, Anderson serves as chair of the Cass County Land Bank



Cass County Treasurer Hope Anderson (third from right) was recently elected president of the Michigan Association of County Treasurers. Anderson has served as Cass County Treasurer since 2018.

Authority, which works to address vacant, abandoned and tax-foreclosed properties and return them to productive use. She also serves as a member of the Cass County Economic Development Corporation and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Through her roles with the County and MACT, Anderson has worked alongside local and statewide partners on issues related to property taxation, delinquent tax administration and county financial operations.

The Michigan Association of County Treasurers provides education, professional development and advocacy

for Michigan's 83 county treasurers and their staffs. The organization also serves as a forum for county treasurers to exchange information and collaborate on issues affecting their offices and taxpayers statewide.

Other officers elected include 1st Vice President Shelly Weich, of nearby Berrien County; 2nd Vice President Mary Mitchell, of Emmet County; Secretary Latitia Lamelle Sharp, of Washtenaw County; and Treasurer Jason O'Connell, of Newaygo County.

For more information about the Cass County Treasurer's Office, visit the Cass County website.



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Regional Calendar

MISC. AREA EVENTS

September 19 - Aviation Firsts of SW Michigan, Hartford Public Library, 12 Church St., Hartford, MI, 11 am

September 25 - Cass County Historical Society tour of Jake's Country Meats, 6 pm, 55721 Decatur Road, Cassopolis, www.ccmi-historicalsociety.org

September 26 - Sauk Trail Festival, Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum. 10 am to 3 pm

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

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October 27 - A Taste of Ireland, Bored Teachers, the Lerner Theater, Elkhart, 7:30 pm. 574-293-4469 or email info@thelerner.com

November 12 - Bored Teachers:

"Is It Friday Yet?!" 7:30 pm. 574-293-4469 or email info@thelerner.com

November 14 - St. Paul Lutheran Ladies Circle annual holiday pot-pourri bazaar, 9 am - 2 pm, 782.7484. jennybischoff@hotmail.com

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

December 5 - Christmas at Newton House, Dec. 5, 1 - 4 pm, 20689 Marcellus Hwy., Decatur, www.ccmihistorical society.org

DOWAGIAC EVENTS
www.dowagiacchamber.com/

EDWARDSBURG MUSEUM (EAHM)

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.

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

Shall I even say it's September



by Jane Boudreau

Hello Neighbors! Shall I even say it's September? I know people are grieving, and most likely, others, are breathing a sigh of relief. So I ask, what are you going to miss, and what are you looking forward to? These questions are like tipping the balance on a scale...you'll figure out a lot of things about yourself. Lake life is all about enjoying the lake, the activities on the lake, and also the peace you may find sitting on the shore or on your own deck. Lake life in the summer months brings friends and family together, and you can't find anything better than that. I've often said in my columns, "Don't rush the seasons." I believe we need to relish this summer and hopefully, go into September without regrets.

Jane's Imaginary Book Club The Calamity Club

If you have read Kathryn Stockett's first best selling novel, The Help, you will thoroughly enjoy this followup. Set in rural Mississippi in the 1930's, the Great Depression still a close echo behind, a common thread ties three women to form a club. This turbulent time sets the background in which discrimination against women, abandonment, depression, and alcoholism, are day to day realities. The strong female characters (and many, many more) will have you cheering during hard times and good, often told with an eye toward the sometimes hilarious views and idioms of the South, and also a lot of tears. While this is fiction, it's also a telling of a time in history that reads as close to the truth than we see in words that are often heartbreaking to read. This book had me turning the pages non-stop, and when not reading, the characters were fresh on my mind. It is making the rounds of book clubs everywhere, and at just over 600 pages, it will make for some late night discussions. I give it four and a half stars, not five only because I felt the beginning was a tad slow. After that it was a page turner all the way. I hope you pick it up!



September Signature Drink Spicy Salty Dog

This would have been a great cocktail to share in one of my "summer" col-



umns, but I'm still somewhat in denial. Enjoy now, and next month we will get into the fallish drinks that involve apples, maple syrup and maybe a little pumpkin spice. This is a variation of the traditional Salty Dog which uses gin rather than vodka, along with the bite of jalapeno, the tartness of grapefruit, and the sweetness of simple syrup. Double or triple the ingredients and serve by the pitcher if you'd like. You can than keep an eye out for any brazen guests who may want a second serving, which by all costs, is not what the signature drink is about. If it happens, ban them from your next soiree. Enjoy!

For the spicy simple syrup:

- 1/2 c sugar
- 1/2 c water
- 1 small jalapeno, sliced

For the cocktail:

- 1 c fresh grapefruit juice
- 1/3 c vodka
- Kosher salt
- ice

To make the spicy simple syrup, combine the sugar, water, and sliced jalapeño in a small saucepan. Simmer for about 8 minutes, until it has thickened to a syrupy consistency. Remove from heat and let cool. You can store this in the fridge for several days.

To make the cocktails, run a slice of grapefruit around the rims of two glasses and dip in kosher salt. Fill with ice. Combine grapefruit juice, vodka, and simple syrup in a shaker filled with ice. Shake until chilled. Strain over the prepared glasses, and serve immediately with extra jalapeno and/or grapefruit slices as garnish. Serves two.



Pork Chops with Honey Mustard Glaze

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. bone-in pork chops or 4 portions
- 2 T vegetable oil

Honey Mustard Glaze:

- 2 T spicy brown mustard
- 3 T honey

Spice Rub:

- 1 T Salt
- 1/2 T black pepper
- 1 T garlic powder
- 1 T onion powder
- 1/2 T ground cinnamon
- 1 t cayenne pepper
- 1 t paprika

(You may want to make extra spice rub and keep it in a jar...it is that good)

Prepare glaze and set aside. Mix together the spice rub and pat it on both sides of the chops evenly. Heat the oil over medium-high heat and brown the chops without crowding until they have a light golden, brown crust, about three minutes per side. Remove to a baking dish and bake covered at 350 degrees for approximately 35 minutes or until tem-



perature reads 110 degrees. Brush the glaze over the chops and return them to the oven for 5 minutes, or until they reach 120 degrees. Let chops rest 5 minutes before serving. Serves 4

Jane's Spicy Stuffed Peppers with Farro

With these peppers you can control the spice when using the Cajun spices and jalapeño peppers. I've also been using farro as a go-to for rice, as it is slightly lower in carbs, has tons more

protein, and is all around healthy.

Ingredients:

- 2 red bell peppers, sliced in half length-wise, seeds removed
- 1 1/3 cups of pork roast or thick-cut boneless pork chop, diced
- 3 oz. chorizo sausage, roughly chopped
- 1/2 c farro
- 1/2 T canola oil
- 1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely diced
- 1 poblano pepper, seeded and finely chopped
- 1 plum tomato, seeded and roughly chopped
- 1 c black beans
- 2-3 T Cajun seasonings
- 1 T oregano
- 2 c Mexican cheese, divided
- S&P to taste

Cook the farro in a large pot of boiling water for approximately 20 minutes, until tender. Drain and set aside. Meanwhile, sauté the pork in the canola oil over medium heat for about 3 minutes, stirring and tossing frequently. Add the remaining ingredients, including the farro and 2/3 of the cheese. Mix well and continue cooking for an additional 3-5 minutes.

Trim the bottoms of the bell peppers very thinly so they will sit steady in the baking dish. Spoon the sautéed mixture into the four pepper halves, pressing it in firmly. Top with the last bit of cheese. Place the pepper halves in a shallow baking dish and pour 1/2 cup of water around them so that they will steam. Cover tightly with foil and bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Gently lift the peppers onto a serving dish. Serves 2-4 persons

Baked Chicken & Chorizo Sausage



Ingredients:

- 2 T olive oil, divided
- 1 lb. boneless chicken thighs
- 12 oz. soft Chorizo sausage, roughly chopped
- 2 cups yellow baby potatoes, diced
- 1 red onion, sliced in rings
- 1 red pepper, sliced into strips
- 2 t dried oregano
- 2 t. salt and pepper each,
- Zest of one orange.

In an ovenproof skillet or Dutch oven, heat the olive oil over medium heat, and lightly brown chicken thighs, about 3 minutes each side. Off the heat and add the chorizo sausage, then top with diced potatoes. Layer red onion over, then oregano and S&P. Grate orange zest

Continued, see

JANE
on next page

Our Children

Taming the homework monster

by **SANDY FLEMING**

Most students are back in the classroom right now and settling into school year routines. Unless your child is very young, this likely includes homework of some sort. From those first sight word and spelling word lists in primary school to full-blown, multi-day or multi-week research assignments in high school, homework is probably a necessity in your house. Let's take a look at how to tame the homework monster at your house this fall.

A Fact of School Life

Know that educators have been debating the value of homework for several generations now. On the pro-homework side, there are experts who believe that

- Added practice is important for learning
- Homework teaches independence and responsibility
- There may not be adequate time to complete necessary work during the school day

There is a group on the other side of the debate that thinks homework should be decreased or even abolished. Their reasons include

- Homework interferes with family time and unstructured time so needed in childhood
- Parents are not always equipped to help with assignments correctly
- Some parents give up and do the work for the child, negating its value

But no matter which side of the debate encapsulates your views as a parent, the fact of the matter is that most teachers expect some sort of homework to be completed at least at some times. Some may have established expectations, like a homework packet sent home each week, a spelling list to be studied, or math facts to be memorized. Others leave the option squarely on the students' shoulders – whenever an assignment cannot be completed in class for whatever reason, it should be finished that night at home. And most teachers in the upper grade classes will tell you that there is need for study and review to prepare for tests.

The Homework Battle

It is pretty much a given that kids do not want to do homework. They have already spent six or more hours in learning mode, and by the time they get home (often after a long bus ride), their inclination is to unwind. The feeling is much like what adults experience after a long, hard day at the job: it's time to relax after work. We have this stage all set for disagreements and even fights over when and how and how much homework to do each evening.

Often, homework time must be supervised, as well. Parents need to find that extra push to sit down with the kids or to be in the vicinity to enforce the household homework rules and assist with difficult or confusing assignments. Often, the parents in charge of setting up and enforcing homework routines are tired themselves, or even are physically not present during the times when the child could or should be working.

The main cure for the Homework Battle (for both kids and adults) is to set up a routine that works for everyone. Set aside a time for homework each afternoon or evening and keep it sacred. No matter what (outside of a true emergency), make sure that homework time happens on that routine. If you need to change the time, be intentional about



swapping it for an equal amount of time at a different point in your day. Don't just skip it.

Make sure you as a parent are armed with alternative activities to fill "homework time," as well. This allows you to keep the routine even if there are no assignments from school on that day or if your child settles in for work, then announces, "Oops! I left that paper (or book or device or other crucial piece) at school." Alternative activities could include a writing assignment appropriate for your child's age and grade, reading for a specific amount of time (with some sort of response to the text), practice on basic math skills, working in a home workbook, or similar tasks. If you are prepared with work that will help your student practice, you have a valid reason for reserving the time each day.

How much time is "enough time"? The experts recommend planning about 10 minutes per grade level daily. So a first grader should set aside 10 minutes, and an eighth grader could be expected to work approximately an hour and a half daily. The high school estimates are a bit different, and depend on the class and teacher, so asking the teacher directly what he or she expects might be a good idea. And if your child finishes assigned tasks early, switch to the prepared set that you've made up to fill the rest of the time. When you consistently expect X amount of time to be spent on academic work, your routine can be cemented into place. If you allow students to "skip" part or all of the time based on being "finished," the kids are more likely to forget about assignments or leave crucial materials at school so they don't have to do any work that day at home.

When to Yell for Help

For some students, homework is much more than an annoyance. Some families spend far more time on homework such that it disrupts a healthy bal-

ance each and every night. If you find that your child is sitting down to do homework after school and is still not done by bedtime, you need to take a closer look. If your child fights tooth and nail, has tantrums over the course of weeks or months over homework, is frequently reduced to tears, or has other major signs of stress, it's time to investigate.

Document what is going on. How long is your child actually spending on homework tasks on which days? Which subjects, and what kind of assignments? Are there specific types of homework that cause more trouble than others? Keep records for a few weeks to see if you can find a pattern.

Make sure you have all the supplies and items that might be needed for efficient work on hand. Homework delays can be caused by searching for things like colored pencils, glue, scissors, or charged devices. Make sure there's an appropriate environment for academic work as well. The student should have a well-lit, comfortable, and quiet place to work that is free from distractions such as television, music, conversation, and so forth. Video games and social media should be made unavailable (even by covert means). Even the family pet can be a distraction to some!

If all of these details are in place, it's time to look at other causes for the difficulty. Does your student have the basic skills needed for the task? For example, a reading problem can show up as misread or unread directions even on math tasks. Reading comprehension may interfere with getting needed answers from text. Writing challenges may make it hard for a student to create paragraphs or essays. Lack of foundational knowledge or skills, sometimes taught weeks, months, or years before, can interfere with learning activities in the present. Many academic skills rely on a firm foundation of earlier learning, and if this is not intact, the current assignment might seem impossible.

A simple check for reading skill is to have your student read a passage of text at his or her grade level out loud for you (the librarian can help guide you to a book, or there are lists on the internet). Does your student make a lot of mistakes? Two or three are fine, but when you get towards four or five reading errors, it can interfere with comprehension. Think about reading speed, too. Is it way too slow or way too fast? That can lead to problems. Does your reader skip over or ignore punctuation like periods or commas? Does he or she read with phrasing and expression, or is the reading choppy and disjointed? After the reading, ask your student some simple questions. Ask for some information that was stated directly in the text. Ask what some of the harder words mean. Ask for some conclusions that readers could make from the text that were not stated directly, like what the author most likely meant.

A simple check for math skills starts with basic computation. Does your student know the math facts that are needed at his or her age? How about place value? Fractions and decimals? Without foundational skills, math gets more and more difficult in the upper grades. Check the student's scratch paper to see if it is neat and organized or impossible to read. Does he or she show the steps to solve the problem or just skip straight to the answer?

Also, take a look at work habits. Does the student read directions consistently? Can he or she restate those directions to you out loud by telling you what they need to do? Compare the online gradebook or class management system with what your student says has been assigned and when it is due. Ask your student about the plan to get longer assignments completed. He or she should be able to articulate the order of the steps and when each step should be completed.

Sometimes a bit of detective work can help you get to the bottom of homework battles. What seems like a behavior problem could easily have its roots in an academic skill weakness. Be sure to talk to the teacher about the challenges you are facing with homework and use that documented record of what's happening. There might be suggestions you haven't tried or the teacher may recommend outside help to get back on track.

Sandy Fleming is an educational consultant, private tutor, and writer living in Edwardsburg. You can visit her websites at <https://learningnook.com> and <https://sandyflemingonline.com> for additional ideas to minimize homework challenges and other suggestions to foster school success.

JANE

Continued from previous page

over the top and then drizzle the remaining T of olive oil. Cover and bake at 425 degrees for 45 minutes. Uncover, and bake an additional 25 minutes. Serves 4-6

I hope you enjoy this month's copy of Neighbors. Have a fun and safe Labor Day weekend, and we will be back here again next month, hopefully not with anymore pork recipes!

Jane Boudreau is a writer, blogger, and newspaper columnist. She lives on Diamond Lake as well as in Chicago, and a little getaway in Asheville, NC. You can contact her at blndy9@yahoo.com

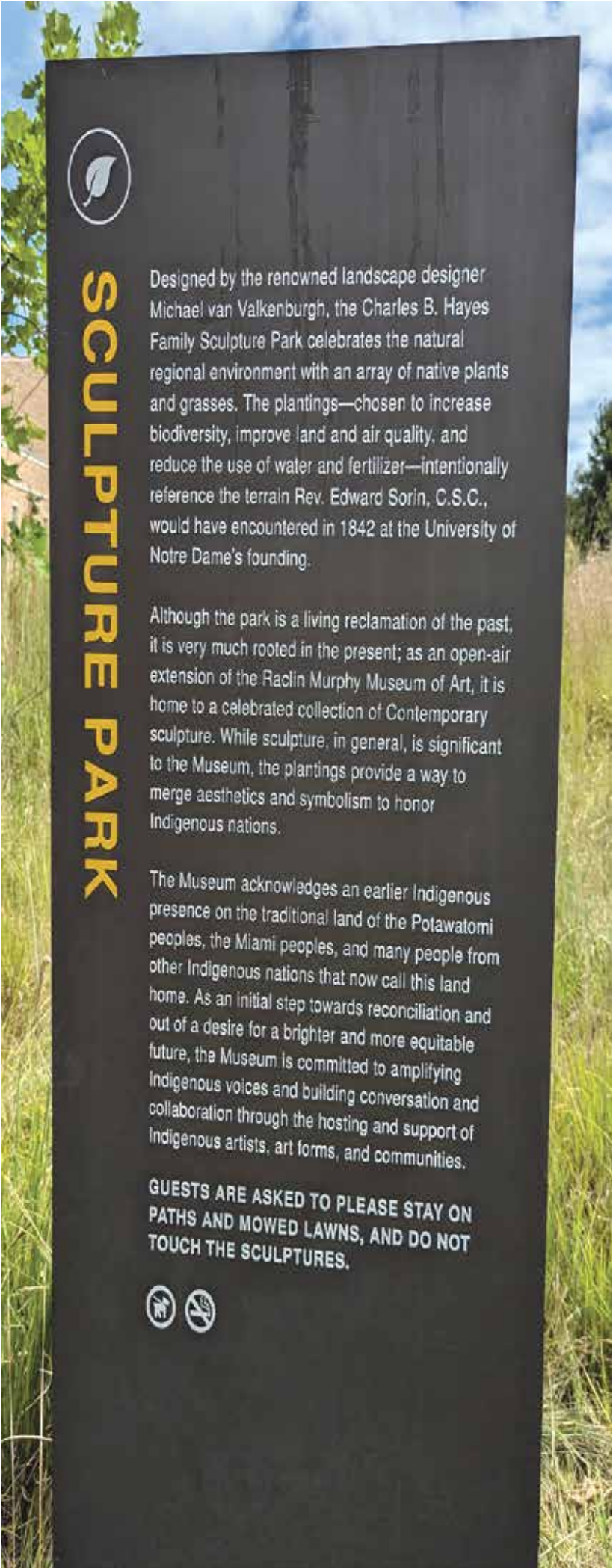
Field Trip



The Charles B. Hayes Family Sculpture Park at the Raclin Murphy Museum of Art at Notre Dame was established with the theme Reclaiming our Nature/

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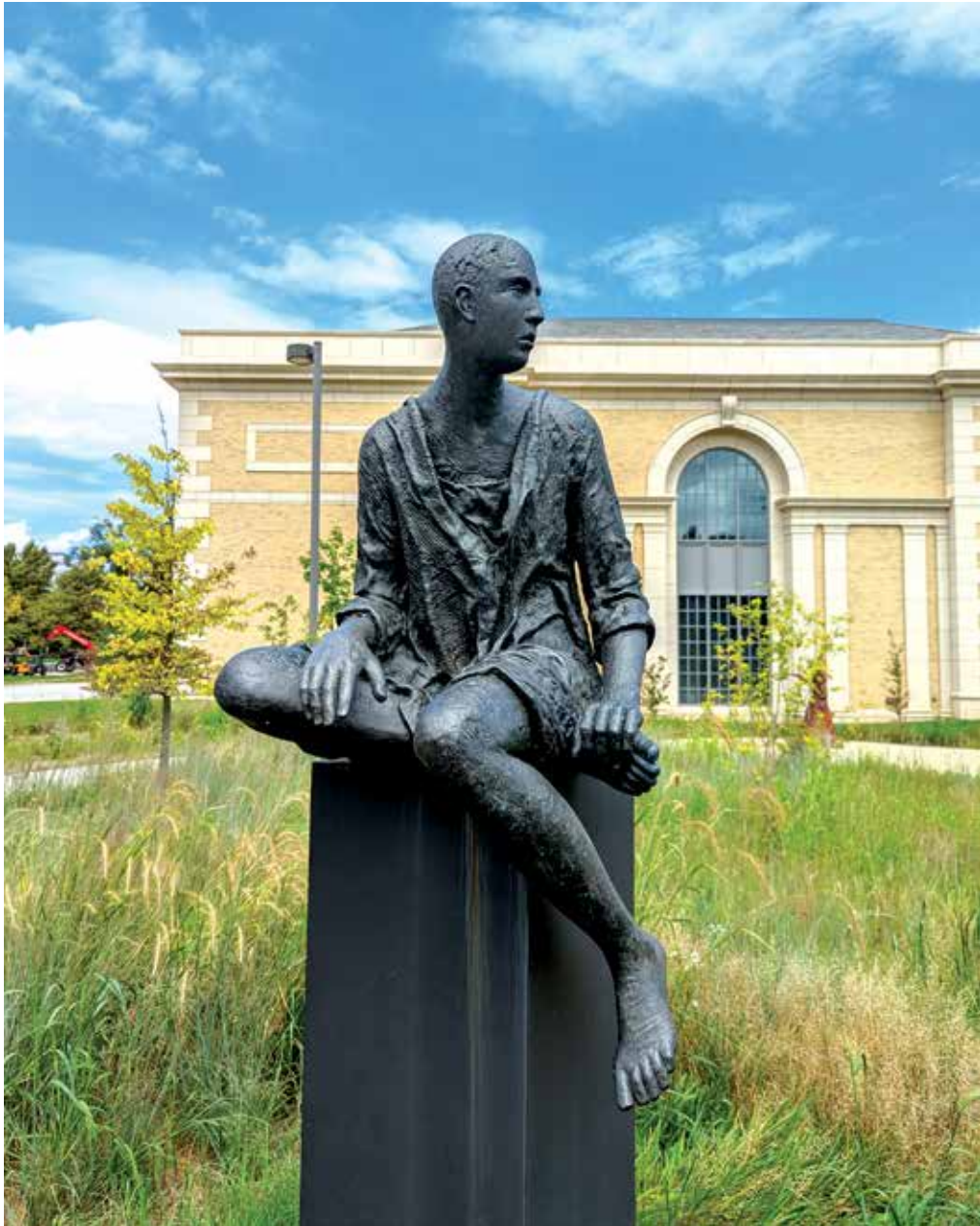


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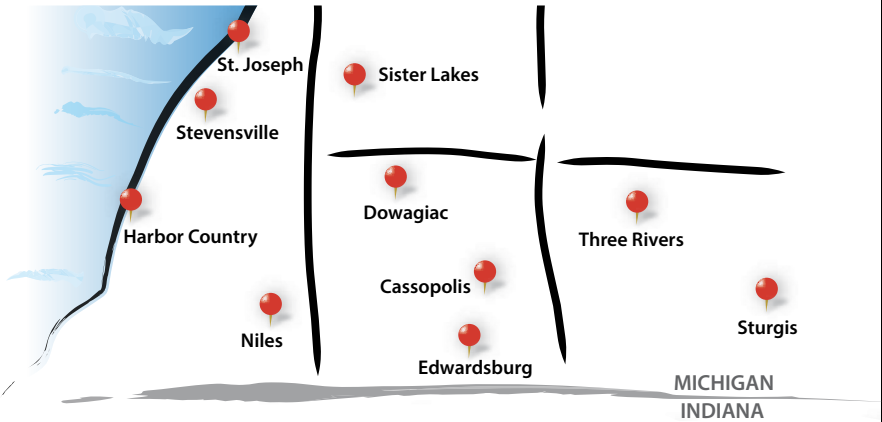
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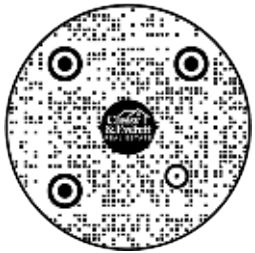


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Historic Postcards

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 printing by the publisher, Arcadia Publishing.

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

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

In this edition of Neighbors we have selected postcards showing images of various places around Cass County. In future issues, we will couple additional cards from one or more of the area's lakes with views of nearby communities, lakes and countryside.



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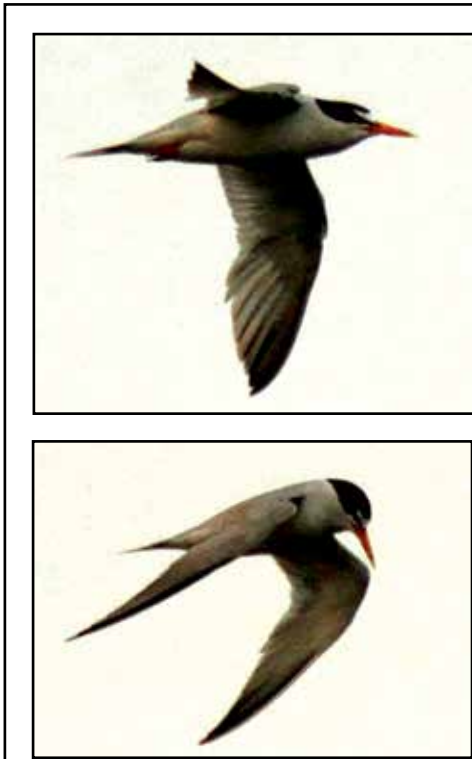
Least tern seen at New Buffalo a first for the area

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

In eastern North America, the least tern has three populations during the breeding season. One population ranges from the New England coastline south to Florida, and along the shores of the Gulf from Florida, west and south to northern Mexico. The second population is found along the major river systems of the interior of the United States, such as the Mississippi, Platte and Missouri Rivers. The third eastern population of least terns are found throughout the Caribbean Islands.

The least tern is the smallest tern in North America measuring between eight and nine inches in length with a twenty-inch wingspan. During the breeding season adults have a yellow bill which turns black during the winter.

The species is not found regularly in Michigan. In fact, Duis' record is just the fifteenth occurrence of the species in Michigan seen over a span of 83 years! The first occurred in July 1943 in Monroe County. Berrien County's first record and the second for Michigan occurred on June 4, 1970 along the St. Joseph waterfront, located by Walter M. Booth. Other county records include two seen on July 8, 2004 at the New Buffalo waterfront found by Tim Rodenkirk and one on May 29, 2013 at the Three Oaks Wastewater Lagoons found by Leland Shaum and Neal Miller.



Another rarity in Southwest Michigan was an anhinga, seen July 15-16 in Lawrence Township, Van Buren County by Mike Pavelek.

The anhinga looks like a species from the prehistoric past with a long, black snakelike neck, a pointed bill and a tail much longer than the similarly appearing double-crested cormorant.

The anhingas range over most of the tropical portion of South America, north to the southeastern US. It is found frequently from eastern Texas, east to



Left: Least tern, August 10, On August 10 Josh Duis located a least tern at New Buffalo Harbor, representing the fourth record of the species in Berrien County.
New Buffalo Harbor, Josh Duis of Niles.

Center: Anhinga on July 16, Lawrence Township, Van Buren County by Mike Pavelek.

Right: Ruby-throated Hummingbird at the Little Redhead Spigelia in the yard of Dale Brewer of Lincoln Township.



southern Virginia.

Occasionally the species wanders north of its traditional range. Michigan's first anhinga record occurred on September 18, 2005 at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne County. Since 2005 there have been five other records of the anhinga in Michigan. Pavelek's anhinga is the first record in any of Michigan's southwestern counties.

In early August, Dale Brewer of Lincoln Township captured several images of ruby-throated hummingbirds feed-

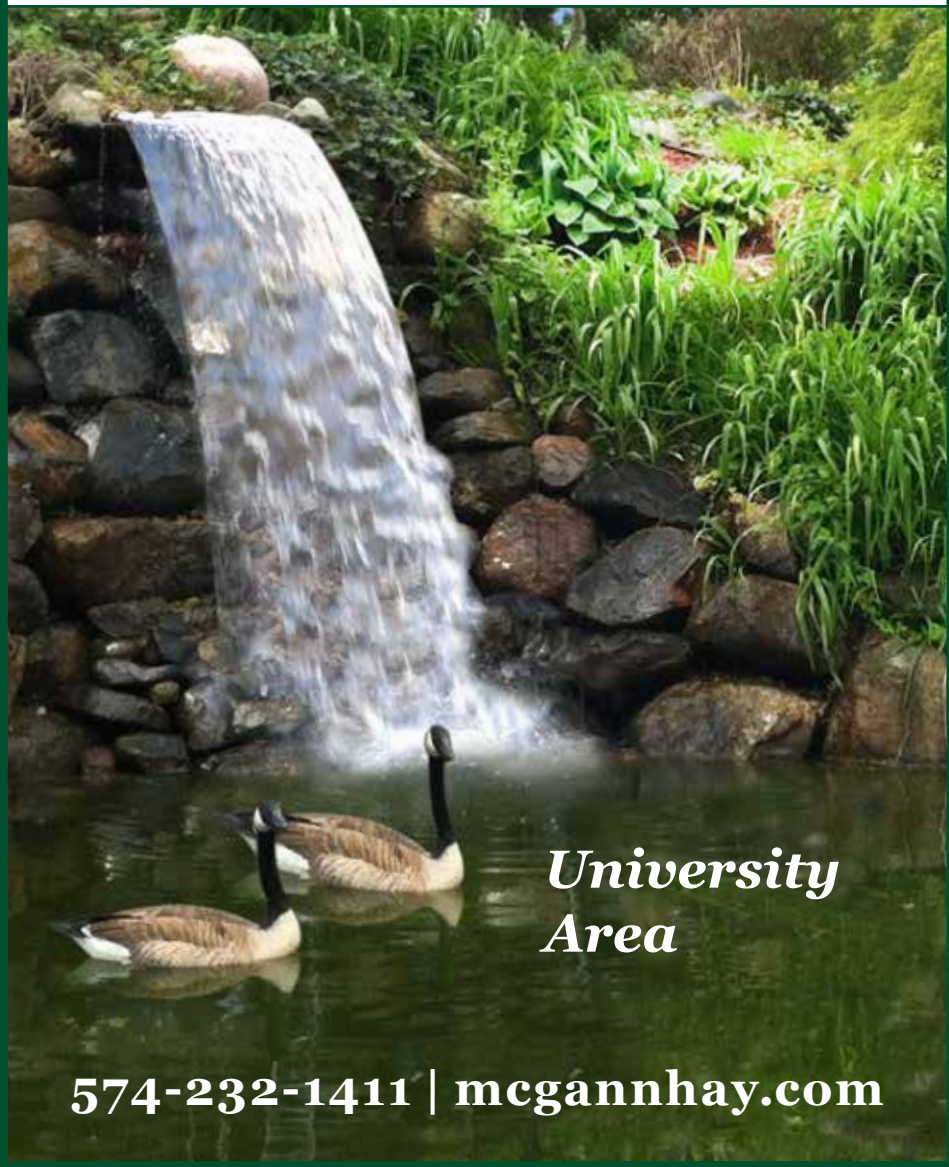
ing on nectar of Little Redhead Spigelia and purple Hosta flowers along the family border fence.

Only adult male ruby-throated hummingbirds have the iridescent red gorget (throat) feathers. By mid-August, the majority of adult male ruby-throated hummingbirds have already departed Michigan.

Most ruby-throated hummingbirds depart Berrien County for the wintering grounds by early October but stragglers may linger through November.

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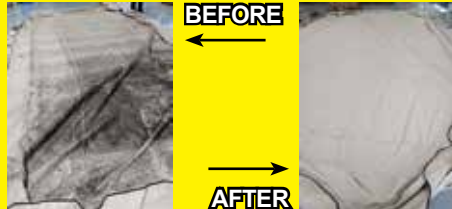


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Local History

Milton Twp historic Follmer family home

by Jonathan Wuepper
Manager, Local History Branch
Cass District Library
145 North Broadway St.
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Jacob and Acfalohnia Follmer (also spelled Fullmer) came from the Kingdom of Wurttemberg, which is in modern Germany, to the British North American Colonies, arriving on September 20, 1738. They first settled in New York, but soon afterward went to Berks County, Pennsylvania, then still a wilderness.

On July 1, 1808, Daniel Follmer was born in Pennsylvania, the great-grandson of Jacob and Acfalohnia. In 1834, Daniel came west to Beardsley's Prairie, Cass County, Michigan, then still on the frontier wilderness. He purchased several tracts of land, mostly on the tallgrass prairie in sections 13, 14, 23 and 24 in Milton Township and in section 18 of Ontwa township. In 1835 Daniel returned to Columbia County, Pennsylvania where he married Margaret A. Anderson. Then they moved to Milton Township.

In 1860, Follmer owned a total of 340 acres of prime farmland, of which 260 acres were in cultivation and 80 acres remained "unimproved."

The Follmer's resided in section 13, where they eventually built an Italianate-style home. In 1859-1860, Dowagiac photographer John Piper captured an image of the Follmer residence. This image was sketched and reproduced in the margin of a large wall map showing land ownership, etc, published in 1860.

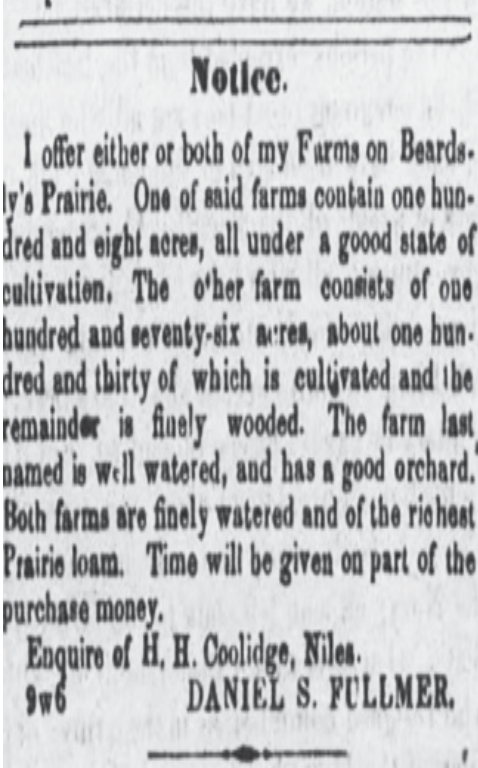
In the 1860 US Census, the Follmer household consisted of: Daniel, age 53; Margaret (wife), age 46; Catherine Follmer, age 22, who was possibly a daughter, or daughter-in-law, and a young boy whose name and age are illegible. He was either 7 or 9 years of age.

The 1860s was a tragic decade for the Follmer's. A check of our Cass County Cemetery record books, which have more information than on Find-A-Grave, show the following family members who are buried in Smith's Chapel Cemetery: Henry W. Follmer, died February 6, 1864, age 6 years, 9 months, 22 days; Purty Follmer, died February 7, 1864, age 1 year, 1 month, 23 days; "His twin brother" [no name given] died February 9, 1863; DS [Daniel S.] Follmer died April 29, 1865. Note that other sources state Daniel S died December 23, 1864. County death records did not begin until 1867 and there is scant local newspaper coverage from the 1860s, so we have little else to go on.

By July 1864 Daniel Follmer advertised in the Niles Republican



newspaper that his farms were for



Top: Former Follmer house, 2023, from Google Images. The current owners, James and Lorena Milliken, have done an admirable job at maintaining the historical integrity of the home.

Above right: Sketch of Daniel Follmer residence, section 13, Milton Twp, Cass County. Based on an ambrotype photo by John Piper. From Map of the Counties Cass, Van Buren and Berrien by Geil, Harley & Siverd, 1860.

Above left: Daniel Follmer's advertisement for his farms in the Niles Republican, July 2, 1864. By 1872 over 100 acres including the house were still owned by the Follmer estate.

sale. On the 1872 plat atlas of Cass County, the Follmer estate was still in possession of the house and acreage in section 13 of Milton Twp. Catherine Follmer who was 22 years old in 1860 married John Barber in December of that year. The Barber family owned the house and adjacent property until around 1920. It had several owners from the 1920s to the mid-1960s when it was purchased by the Milliken family, who currently own the home and surrounding land. As you can see by the photo, the Milliken's have done well to keep the home in good shape, and it retains its historic look.



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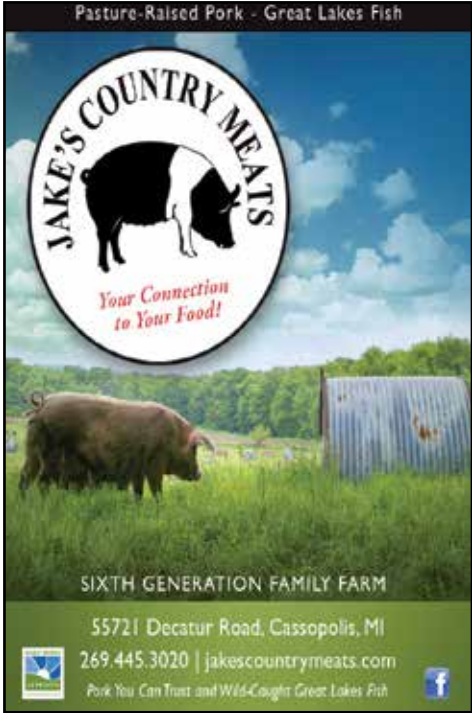
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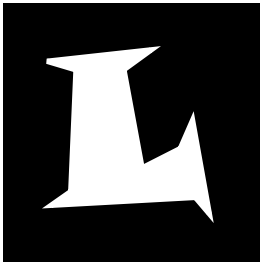
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The Last Word

by **PHIL VITALE**
aka **SAILORPHIL**

I'm done eating pizza before bed for the rest of the year



Last night I dreamed that somehow, without notice, this summer was just about to end ... not just end, but come crashing down like the final notes of some great, thundering season finale. In this nightmare the birds were massing and stringing themselves along the telephone, cable and electric wires along the streets in weird patterns that looked liked a musical score of Bach-inspired black notes on an open book sitting just above a piano keyboard, waiting for the cosmic maestro to theatrically spread his coat tails out behind him, sit down, crack his knuckles and commence pecking out an interlude or an etude or some other masterwork that the great composer in the sky had conjured up for his own amusement.

Like one of those horrid nightmares where you abide in horror, powerless raise a hand to stop some disaster or other from occurring, unable to even scream a warning, unable to force yourself awake and end the inevitable, this dream rolled across my psyche like a freight train rolling across an empty landscape, carrying away its seasonal freight of balmy, sunny days and warm nights and leaving in it's path what is sure to be a likely load of mixed bright-and-dull fallen fall leaves topped by a frosty coating of ice and snow crystals.

It ain't fair I tell ya! Summer can't be over already! I guess I shoulda seen it coming.

I mean I've already seen the start of the daily morning parade of school busses loaded with unhappy kids rolling down the street, their sour, dour faces making them look more like sentenced inmates on their way to the lockup than bright and happy back-to-class incoming, ready-to-learn, eager classmates.

And I've already passed half a dozen "back to school" ads and aisle-end displays of uncomfortable-looking shoes, brightly colored book bags and piles and piles of spiral notebooks at the neighborhood Wallymart.

And I've already begun to see the local fruit markets switching displays from farm-fresh corn and home-grown tomatoes to heaped zucchinis, gourds and even piles of those cutsey, tiny pumpkins.

But, hey, how can this be? It's just barely the end of August ... on my calendar autumn isn't scheduled to get here until mid next month!

I mean, what's next, Christmas music piped over the intercom at Maynards?

I want to file a complaint!

Admittedly I've had some health problems that have kept me from enjoying a portion of this summer, but I've barely caught any fish at all.

I've only had my sailboat out a couple times.

I've only toddled my pontoon around the lake half a dozen times at most, and even when I did the summer wasn't hot enough to tempt me to jump in to cool off.

I've barely broken sweat, even on those few 90-plus days ... and you tell me that summer's almost over already and cooler, if not colder temps aren't far behind?

How can this be?

I want a do-over! I want a summer Mulligan!

As I'm writing this I'm looking out the window of my office and wondering if I'm imagining things.

The leaves are still green.

The sun's shining over a flat-calm lake, reflecting a mid-summer scene if I ever saw one.

Surely my summer-ending Steven-Kingish dream the other night was just the result of a pizza-fueled fantasy or a hold-over memory from staying up too late and watching a rerun of Steve McQueen busting up the Blob with his 1960s teenage buddies.

It's only a movie It's only a movie.

WAKE UP, I tell myself!

It's still only August!

But alas, even as I retreat into my denial, I just noticed half a dozen dinner-plate-sized, brown and dried up sycamore leaves strewn across the neighbor's yard; the brilliantly colored red and orange sumac exploding at the edge of the almost ready-to-pick corn on Harvey Street; the scurrying and scampering squirrel family hustling the fallen nuts from below my shagbark hickory tree up the side of the neighbor's oak where their winter hidey-hole next has already blossomed into its full winter form.

NOOOOOO, I whine. It ain't fair!

I remember my dear old mom telling me at times like this, "cheer up, things could get worse."

So I did my best to cheer up. And sure enough, just like mom told me was going to happen, things got worse.

As a distraction I flipped on the tube (something I almost never do in summer), and what do I see but some soft-in-the-middle weatherman gesticulating in front of a fake weather map and pointing to a bunch of numbers and arrows and wavy lines ... and what does that jerk tell me?

Cooler weather is coming, he says wickedly.

The Farmer's Almanac doesn't lie; El Nino and its sister, La Nina (and the Santa Maria for all I know) are pointing to a cold, wet, snowy winter, he almost cackles.

TV off; back to looking out the window.

Shake my head a couple times

I'm pretty sure it's an optical illusion (or a remnant from that pizza pig-out nightmare) but the way the breeze is flicking across the top of the lake makes it look like a skiff of ice is forming.

And, am I imagining it or is crazy Ron putting his ice shanty together on the far shore already?

Ron and I have had a years-long running discussion about ice fishing ... he arguing that six blue gills through the ice is a triumph, while I counter that the only good ice fishing is when my finger moves the cubes sufficiently to get the olive out of the bottom of the glass.

Wait, it's still August, ice fishing is months away. Why am I thinking about ice fishing?

Change of pace. Pleasant thoughts.

Maybe I'll go for a boat ride today.

Maybe I'll troll a lure around the lake while I'm boating and see if I can scare up a small bass or two.

Maybe I'll stop the boat and drift in the light breeze and enjoy the sunshine and not even think about when I am going to have to get the trailer out and haul the boat over to the neighbor's barn so I can change the gear lube and the oil and winterize the motor and pull the tarp across it to keep the winter pigeons from making a mess all winter while it sits idle ...

Wait, there I go again.

It can't be true.

It's still only August.

That crazy nightmare's got me all shook up.

That settles it, no more pizza just before bed!



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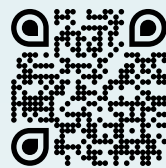


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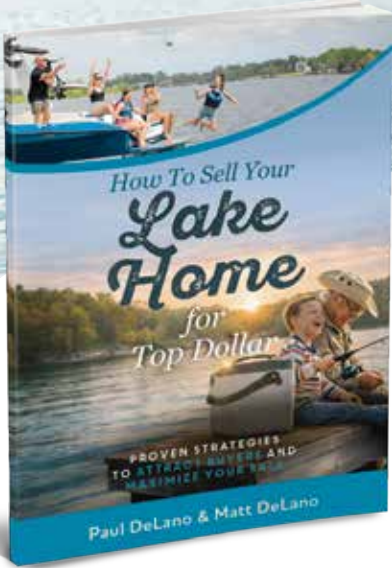


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