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**FIELD TRIP: In Search of
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REGIONAL NEWS

Rummage & Bake Sale

A Rummage and Bake Sale will take place on Friday, May 28 and Saturday, May 29, from 9 am to 3 pm both days at the Dowagiac First United Methodist Church, 326 N. Lowe St in Dowagiac

Items for sale include clothing, furniture, home decor, housewares, shoes, boots, gloves, hats, handbags, jewelry, kitchen utensils, small appliances, seasonal items, picture frames, lamps, tables, chairs, music/audio, sleeping bags, linens, books, medical supplies, and much more.

A bag sale will be featured on Saturday, May 29, with special pricing of \$4 per bag, or buy two bags and get a third bag free. All else will be half off, except bake goods are priced as marked.

Organizers are requesting that everyone wear face masks and observe social distancing.

For additional information, call Darlene at 782-8551 or LouAnn at 782-2997.

Cass County 4-H Auction

Hailey Harman, Cass County 4-H program coordinator has announced the annual 4-H Leaders' Association Auction

has returned for 2021! This fundraiser for the Association will be held through RedStar Auctions in Edwardsburg with viewing of the items available starting May 15, bidding starting on May 19 and the auction gavel falling on May 21.

Harman states, "We are excited to see this auction back this year after having to cancel it last year due to the pandemic. It is the Cass County 4-H Leaders' Association's main fundraiser for the year, and it really hurt last year not having it." The association uses funds raised to provide scholarships, camps, and learning opportunities for the county's 700+ 4-H youth.

"Using RedStar Auctions this year," Harman continued, "allows our supporters the opportunity to view all items up for sale through their on-line website. It also allows for people to donate some items to a very worthy cause. It is a great way to continue this great fundraiser and keep socially distanced at the same time."

Cass County 4-H Clubs have put together "baskets" for the auction ranging from movie night to great gardening. Members of the 4-H Leaders' Association have also been collecting items to be sold,

including some big ticket items like autographed sports memorabilia from Notre Dame, various tool sets and drills, and KitchenAid items, and a rental to the Cass County Parks.

"People should keep their eyes open for our auction fliers," Harman said, "reminding everyone about the auction and the details of the sale. We also give a big thank you to RedStar Auctions, 27383 May Street, Edwardsburg for all their help with this special sale. Their website is www.redstarauctions.com." If you have items that you would like to donate for this sale, contact Hailey Harman, 4-H program coordinator at harmanha@msu.edu.

Demolition Derby, Fair planned

The Cass County Fair is planning a demolition derby on Saturday, May 9 at 7 pm at the fairgrounds in Cassopolis.

The Cass County Fair is scheduled from Sunday, August 1 through Saturday August 7.

Visit the Cass County Fair website, www.mycasscountyfair.com, for more information, entry forms, rules, fees and admission!

Kayak in a Kettle at Spicer Lake

Join a park naturalist on Saturday May 8 beginning at 9 am to kayak one of the kettle lakes found at the Spicer Lake Nature Preserve. Participants will learn about the history of the Nature Preserve and the unique habitat found within and surrounding the lake.

Program fee \$10/person. We request participants to have kayaking experience and be comfortable with a short hike to reach Lancaster Lake.

Spicer Lake Nature Preserve is located at 50840 County Line Road, New Carlisle, IN. For more information, or to register, call (574) 654-3155, or visit www.sjcparks.org.

Genealogical Society collection

Spring is officially here, and it is time to enjoy the weather and the many wonderful attractions that southwest Michigan offers. If learning more about your family history or local history is of interest to you now is the time to plan a visit to the Hartford Public Library where everyone is welcome.

The Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society (VBRGS) Genealogy Room at the Hartford Public Library

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REGIONAL NEWS

(HPL) has a vast collection of family history books written by area residents. This collection appeals to genealogists as well as those who just wish to learn more about their ancestors. The lives of thousands of southwest Michigan ancestors are remembered and documented in these books which contain personal recollections, letters, photographs, and other interesting items.

A few of the many contributors to this vast Family History Collection are Mary Grant, Gerald Phillips, James Allen, Suzanne Breed, Ruth Hanold Crane, James Hillard, Bess Cook Britton, Toni Benson, Shirley Probst, Virginia Meachum, Shirley Howe, John Hamilton

and the Dowd family. These people have family connections to so many in southwest Michigan there is sure to be something of interest for most people.

This collection is available for viewing in the library only. The staff and genealogy room volunteers would be happy to answer questions and assist either in person, by phone at 588.5103 or by email at vbrgs@yahoo.com.

Healthy Tots nature program

St. Joseph County (IN) Parks and St. Joseph County Health Department are partnering up to teach little ones about themselves and nature at the same time! Staff will teach kids about growing up

healthy and then we will get moving with a themed game and explore the world around us. A great way to get active and socialize at a safe distance. For kids ages 5 and under, with an adult. Program will meet at Ferrettie-Baugo Creek County Park at 10 am on Thursdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27. Meet at the Oak Tree Shelter. This is a FREE program and registration is not required. Call (574) 674-9765 with questions. Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County is at 57057 Ash Road, Osceola, IN. For more information, call (574) 674-9765.

Dowagiac Memorial Day parade

On May 31, from 10:30 am - noon, families and friends gather outside City

Hall on Memorial Day to honor the many Veterans who served our country. The ceremony includes a featured speaker and performances by the high school and Kalamazoo bagpipe bands. A Memorial Day parade is then planned to proceed to Riverside Cemetery for Veterans' services. The Masons of Peninsular Lodge #10 host this long-standing tradition. To obtain a parade registration form, call (269) 424-5538

Editor's Note: Due to the changing nature of the pandemic, it is advisable to check with event organizers for appropriate protocols and safety procedures prior to attending any event.


Cass County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, May 15, 2021
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REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

May 6-27 (Thursdays) - Healthy Tots nature program, Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park, Osceola, IN 574-674-9765

May 8 - Kayak a kettle lake at Spicer Lake Nature Preserve, New Carlisle, IN, 574-654-3155

May 9 - Demolition Derby, Cass County Fair Grounds, Cassopolis, 7 pm, Free

May 15 - 9 am - noon, Cass County Hazardous Waste Collection, Cass County Road Commission, Cassopolis, 445-4420

May 21 - Dowagiac Memorial Day Parade, 10:30 am - Noon

May 28, 29 - Rummage and Bake Sale, Dowagiac First United Methodist Church, 782-2997

June 2 - Dowagiac Farm & Artisan Market, 9am - 2 pm

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

August 1 - 7 - Cass County Fair

August 21 - Dowagiac Rod & Roll Classic Auto Show, 7 am - 4 pm

October 9 - Dowagiac Under the

Harvest Moon Festival, 10 am - 4 pm

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to the pandemic all events are subject to change or cancellation. Please check with event organizers prior to attending any events.

May 2021 Programs - Cass District Library Programs

May 3 - 8: May the 4th and Revenge of the 5th Day (All Locations) - Teens and Tweens are you a Sith or a Jedi? Stop by any location to celebrate the iconic Star Wars Day, May the 4th Be With You. Kits are available while supplies last.

May 3 - 8: DIY Birdhouse Craft Take and Make (All Locations) - Made of slotted natural wood for easy assembly, this is a fun DIY wood craft for all ages. Get creative and add paint, stickers or other decorative materials. Twine is included to hang your birdhouse. Kits are available while supplies last.

May 3 - 8: Mother's Day Planter Craft (All Locations) - Mother's Day is just around the corner! Celebrate by creating a custom planter. Tin bucket, soil, paint, vinyl and seeds are all included while supplies last.

May 10 - 15: Wood Wind Chime Take and Make (All Locations) - Express your artistic side with fun DIY wood wind chime. With circle, heart and star designs, this kit will add a splash of color and sound to your porch or patio. Each kit contains assorted styles with metal chimes. Kits are available while supplies last.

May 12 - 1 pm: Craft Club (Main Branch) - Join us at the Main Branch for a monthly craft club! Space is limited and registration is required. Supplies will be provided. Contact Stephanie at (269) 749-1384 ext. 106 for more information and to register.

May 15 - June 5: Dino Hunt (Edwardsburg Branch) - Calling all young Paleontologists! Dinosaurs have taken over the Edwardsburg Branch location. Will you come celebrate

National Dinosaur Day and help us find them all before they get loose? Find the golden dino egg for a special prize!

May 17 - 22: Make a Kaleidoscope Kit (Howard Branch) - Make your own kaleidoscope with this take and make kit at the Howard Branch! Create a mesmerizing, swirling, colorful and eye catching treasure. Kits are available while supplies last.

All Month: Outdoor Spring Story Time - Bring your favorite blanket and join us for outdoor stories, songs, games, crafts and other activities! Outdoor Story Time is being offered at Main, Edwardsburg and Mason/Union branches. Story time is designed for children ages 3-5 years old and their caregiver. If weather conditions are poor, this program will be moved indoors.

- Mason/Union Branch: Wednesday May 5, 12 and 19 - 10:00 am
- Main Branch: Thursday May 6, 13 and 20 - 10:00 am
- Edwardsburg Branch: Friday May 7, 14 and 21 - 10:00 am

All Month - More Than a Book Club (Edwardsburg Branch): Do you miss in-person book discussions? Do you want suggestions on great books to read? Then stop by the Edwardsburg Branch to pick up a monthly book bundle. There will be a featured title each month but this "no pressure" book club allows you to read at your own leisure and keep track of your thoughts to share when we can meet again. Bundles include suggestions, read-alikes, activities, and more. Contact Cindy at (269) 467-0649 ext. 303 for more information.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Rumbling thunder ... on the road!

By **Charlie Rethford**
Kemner, Iott, Benz Agency

While Spring 2021 may look different in many ways compared to what we've always known, spring in Michigan is consistent in bringing rain, flowers, green grass, birds, and the rumble of thunder. Many of us are restless from the cold, gray winter, like always. In addition, we have been sheltered this past year from our normal activities. I am hoping that this spring, we will start breaking out of our cocoons and returning to some form of normalcy.

So, I mentioned before, the 'rumble of thunder.' To some, that means exactly what it says...spring storms, nice breeze. To many others, myself included, this means the rumble of my motorcycle traveling to specific destinations or just out for a nice cruise. I like to think of this as my wind therapy, and I haven't had that therapy all winter long.

While preparing for our riding season, motorcyclists are very diligent. We make sure our fluids are changed and the bike is clean. We have our gear ready for whatever our Michigan weather might bring us. We have destinations in mind that we would like to reach. We keep our bikes in good repair because motorcycle boots are NOT comfortable for walking! However, there is one thing that we may overlook- our motorcycle insurance. Not that we don't have it, but many times we may not have the policy that includes our best interests. We have

policies in place because we need it for our bank or for the state.

However, if we are paying for this policy, we might as well look at the parts of it that could benefit us the most. This could include adding coverages or just increasing the limits on current coverages. Here are some examples of things to think about:

- Increasing liability limits- the state minimums are very low compared to amounts that may be required in lawsuits
- Adding road trouble- this could include coverage for towing to a repair shop or trip interruption that would cover extra expenses if you're away from home
- Physical damage coverage- if you have a loan on your bike, this is probably already required. This can also include coverage for protective gear. The collision coverage would cover the damage to the bike in a collision and comprehensive would cover for things like a tree falling on a parked bike or hitting a deer.
- Carried contents coverage- covers personal belongings on your bike if damaged or stolen
- Enhanced injury protection- we all know, but don't like to think about bike injuries being more serious and needing extra coverage
- Check if you have full replacement cost- this means your part replacement is going to be replaced with a brand new part, not the depreciated value
- Adding coverage for re-customization. This is a big one. You can add this to your policy for the things you add to your



bike aftermarket. Many times, we have a huge amount, above and beyond what the original price was invested in our bikes, and this can be covered too. I have a 2014 Road King CVO and my husband has a 2015 Street Glide Special. He is having all kinds of work done on his at the moment, so he can keep up with me. If he were to have an accident, he would not be happy if it were to be replaced

with a stock Street Glide.

Like I said, these are some things to think about. Chances are, you don't enjoy reading the policy cover to cover to find out yourself. The policy is there to protect you and your assets. Every policy is different and every company is different, so check with your agent for specific questions.

Enjoy the weather and be safe.

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LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

Just happy to see green everywhere!

by **Jane Boudreau**

Hey Neighbors! And hello May. Hard to believe we are going into the fifth month of the year. I feel like Christmas was just a few weeks ago. Or maybe it was the snow and sleet that still has me shivering. No matter, I'm just happy to see green everywhere. The daffodils are fading a bit, but the tulips are in full bloom. I read somewhere that your tulips will do exceptionally well if you've had a good, long, cold winter. They need the dormancy. I remember now that the few times we had mild winters my tulips were a little scraggly. So that's one good thing we have going for us after this hellacious winter.

Sometimes you have to focus on the joys in life. First--we made it! I feel good about some of the positive things I accomplished. I read a lot more books than I usually manage to do, and also picked up some gardening and home decorating magazines to peruse and dream. I fiddled with some new recipes (I'm including two for you in this column), and plowed through some organizing projects.

As lazy as I can be, it drives me crazy when I have to face the plain old truth: if I were more organized, life would be much easier. I look at magazines and blogs, and everything looks neat as a pin. I know for a fact, having blogged for twelve years now, that a lot of effort goes into making these rooms look picture perfect. Fresh fruit and flowers are brought in, and the children are hidden in closets. Some ladies will even admit that they rearranged and hid a bit of clutter to make for a pretty picture. But I still feel the insecurity that maybe I'm not keeping areas as neat and organized as I should. The living rooms, even family



rooms I see in the media look cozy, warm, and well, perfect. But also ... so cozy! I

want that!

Sometimes I pacify myself with visions of these kitchens on a weekday morning when the harried mother is making school lunches, helping the six-year old find his shoes, ironing a shirt for her husband, tripping over the cat, and the baby is spitting up oatmeal. This is real. This is what happens people, no matter how pretty the kitchen is.

I've known how bad my kitchen counters are. If I ever forget, my kids and husband will remind me. Am I the only person who keeps the toaster, KitchenAid mixer, food processor, coffee machine, Keurig coffee maker, canisters for sugar and flour, a huge jar for wooden spoons and utensils, cookbooks, and that huge stack of mail, magazines, Post It Notes, and the never ending bills that needed to be paid last week? And yes, I'm lucky to have a lot of counter space. I know most of this can be put away in cabinets and drawers. I just happen to know, if its not in plain sight, I probably won't use it. A recipe calls for using the food processor, forget it, too much trouble pulling it out (and knocking over the perilously stacked Tupperware. Toast for breakfast? Noooo ... not pulling that heavy thing out with all of its burnt crumbs. Maybe I should bake something today. Hmmmm, that mixer is way back in that lower cabinet, and must weigh three hundred pounds. So you can see, I need everything convenient no matter how nasty it looks (at least in the eyes of the magazine publishers).

One day my husband asked me where the can opener was, he was making a can of soup. I said, "Its in the same drawer it's always been in." He scratched his head and said, "I thought we had an electric one." I too, was puzzled for a second. I think I actually put it away a few years ago, forgot about it and bought the

little gadget. So you see, I need that stuff in plain sight. Maybe you do, too???

You probably know how much I love summer at the lake. Well actually I love any time at the lake. May is a lot of scrambling around getting the boats and toys in the water, the beach looking purdy, the outdoor furniture, well, out. Oh, don't forget washing windows, getting the garage organized, and weeding and feeding the lawn and garden. When I'm grumbling about this frenzy of these not-so-fun activities, I think of a quote I heard somewhere: Your worst day could be someone's best.

The fruits of your labor will be rewarded. By June you'll be spending slow days enjoying the sun and water. Reading on the dock, pruning and watering the flowers, cooking on the grill, and eating under the stars.



A few summers ago I started to feed the birds. It was the first time I was at the lake more than just a few days here and there. I am loving it. My next door neighbor, Susie, sure knows her birds and she's helped me identify a lot of them. One feeder I can see from inside the house, and another from the patio. I've had birdhouses all over the place for a very long time. With the feeders I was always a little guilty that if I only sporadically fed the birds, they would starve or something. Nope, they always seem to make their way over. I was having a bit of a problem with sparrows hogging the feeders, and someone told me to make sure to use a seed blend with sunflowers. Apparently they don't like those. Seems to have worked. I also bought a bird bath so I have a real spa going on for the critters. If you have any bird related advice, please send me an email. I'm also concerned about house sparrows. They really hog the birdhouses and chase away the more colorful birds. What to do ...

So here we go with the recipes. I wanted to keep it light. Yes, this comes from the gal that gave you beef stew just last month! I think the pasta dish and salad I'm sharing would be great for a casual lunch, or for dinner with company. They are quick, simple and don't require a lot of ingredients. Add some good bread and white wine, voila!

Summertime Pasta Salad

Ingredients:

1 lb. linguine
1 cup reserved pasta cooking water
16 oz. bag frozen peas and carrots
1 T olive oil



Continued on next page. See:

JANE

LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

JANE

Continued from previous page

- 1 large shallot
- 3 cloves of fresh garlic
- 2 eggs, whisked well
- 1/4 c milk or half & half
- 1 T dried thyme
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 fresh lemon juice
- Lemon slices for garnish (optional)

Directions:

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the linguine and cook about 6 minutes or so. Add frozen peas and carrots a few minutes before the pasta is al dente, or just tender. Remember to reserve 1 cup of that starchy water. I just dip a 2 c glass measuring cup right into the pot to get that water. Drain.

Meanwhile, peel the shallot and garlic cloves, chop finely. Heat the olive oil in a small sauté pan, and cook on low about 2 minutes, being careful to not burn the garlic.

Return the pasta, veggies, shallots and garlic back to the large pot. Mix the whisked eggs in the reserved pasta water just a bit at a time so it doesn't cook (like scrambled eggs). Add the milk and then pour the whole mixture in with the pasta. Toss well and mix in the thyme, salt and pepper. Sprinkle lemon juice over, and serve on a large platter. Serves 6

Wilted Spinach Salad with Shallots and Bacon

Ingredients:

- 1 large container of fresh baby spinach



- 12 sea scallops
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 T olive oil
- 6-7 slices of bacon
- 1 t reserved bacon drippings
- 3 scallions (green onions), trimmed
- 3 cloves chopped garlic
- 2 T fresh lemon juice
- 1 t balsamic vinegar

Directions:

Cook bacon until crisp. Drain and set aside. Reserve 1 t of the drippings. Crumble when it is cool enough to touch.

In a large skillet or saucepan, heat the olive oil over high heat, but avoid letting it smoke. Season the scallops with salt and pepper, add to the hot pan and sear, approximately 2 minutes on each side, or until the scallop is spongy when you press it with your finger. Remove all to a dish, cover and keep warm. Add the bacon drippings to the same pan and sauté the green onion and garlic over low



heat until just softened. Add half the spinach and toss quickly until just starting to wilt. Add the remaining spinach, turn off heat, and gently toss all. You want a combination of cooked and almost cooked greens. Toss in the bacon, scallions and garlic. Mix the lemon and balsamic together and drizzle over the salad, again, tossing gently.

Chop the scallops into roughly 4 pieces each. Divide the salad over 4 plates, top with the scallops and serve.

Here's wishing you a great month of May. Let's get on the move and get all of our summer prep ready. We can then spend the next three months chilling, eat-

ing, enjoying some cool beverages, and soaking up the sun.

See you in June with some full outdoor meals, sides and dessert, all done with no sweat!! Also, some cute ideas for dressing up your patio/deck table. And remember to stay safe because Covid is still here.

Jane Boudreau is a writer and blogger who is a 30 year resident of Diamond Lake. She also has a home in Chicago, and a little place in the mountains of North Carolina. You can reach her at blndy9@yahoo.com

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Making up for lost time

by **SANDY FLEMING**

This past year, many kids returned to more formal school activities at some point, but nearly everyone lost a lot of time and ground. The switch to virtual learning was not kind to many, many students, and some students spent time out of class even when school was open due to quarantine requirements or illness. The long and the short of the matter is that many, perhaps even a majority of kids did not make the expected progress at school. And if your child is among the many who struggle with school under normal circumstances, chances are very good that these prolonged periods of virtual learning set them back quite a way.

Most districts have decided to carry on with business as usual, even if students are not at the levels they would typically have attained by now under normal circumstances. No one in the area is talking about delaying graduation or not promoting kids to the next grade. Instead, our society has made the collective decision to help kids as best we can and apply educational “first aid” when we find that kids missed a crucial point of learning.

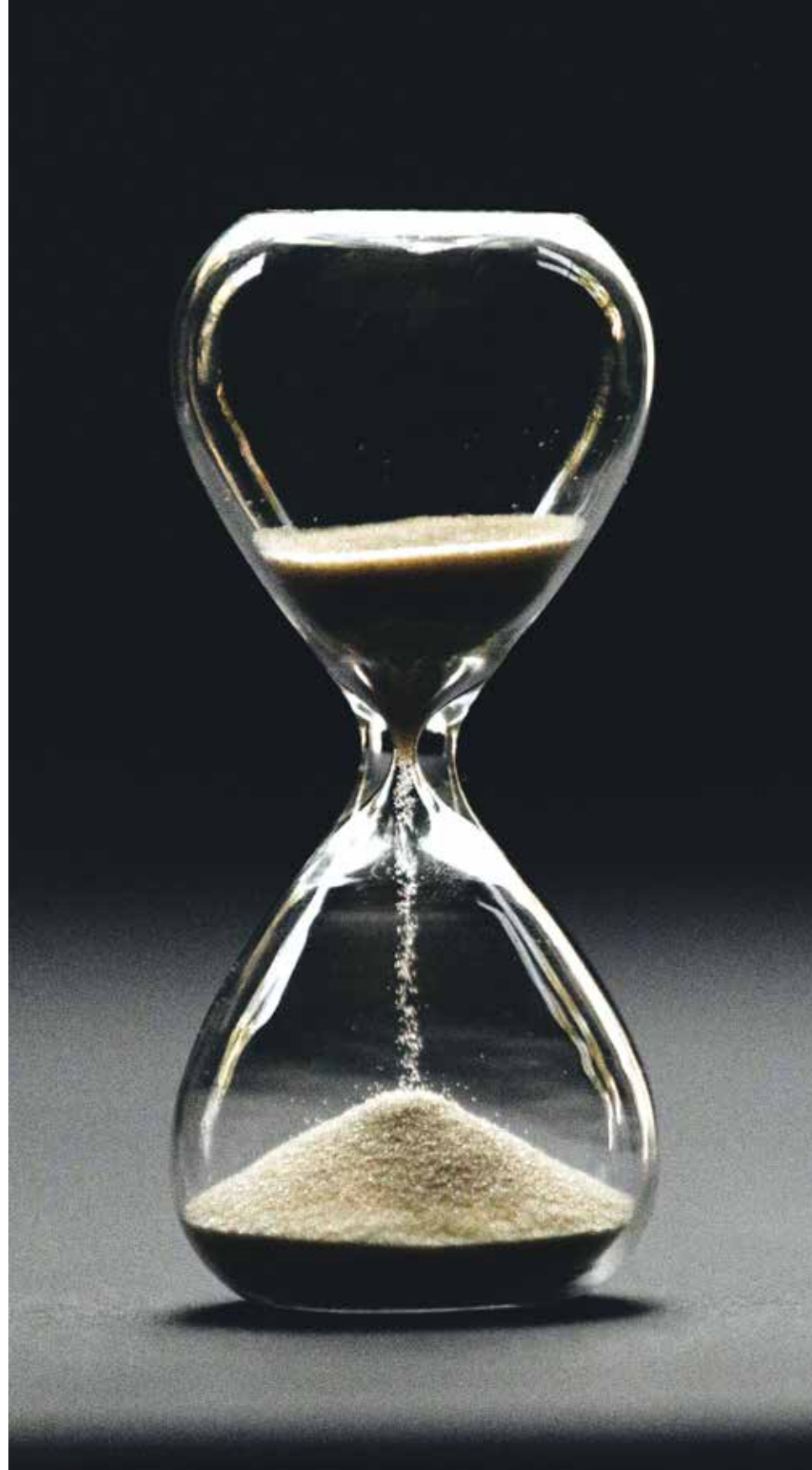
Some schools are offering summer “catch-up” programs, as well. Those students will use part of their vacation time to gain some educational ground and hopefully become better prepared for their work in the fall. But parents can do a lot to help kids make up some lost ground at home, as well. And given our past year or so, it would be wise to try to figure out just what your child needs to be successful in the coming grades. I’m sure we will soon start seeing statistics for how many American children are unprepared or underprepared for the curriculum demands next fall. Don’t let your child be one of those statistics!

Find Out What is Going On

If you ask classroom teachers, most will tell you that most kids are doing “just fine.” That is, they are keeping up with their peers. That does not take into account the fact that the entire group might be behind or moving more slowly than in years past. A better measure of your child’s actual achievement might be the standardized test scores that many districts have been doing in spite of the pandemic. These compare your child’s performance to that of an “average” group of kids from around the country in years past. Look especially at the percentile score. This tells you where your child would place in a group of 100 typical kids at this age. A percentile score around 50 means that your kid is in the middle of the pack, so to speak. The scores on that test were average. A score in the 80th percentile would mean that your child scored better than 80 of those 100 average children- pretty good! However, if your child’s percentile scores are lower than that 50 percent mark, especially if they are much lower than scores in years past before the pandemic, take that as a sign that further investigation is needed.

Reading

Make sure your child is reading approximately on grade level (or above). Grab a fiction and a nonfiction book that



are commercially labeled as being for your child’s current grade placement. Need to find out the grade level of a specific title? Check out Scholastic Book Wizard at <https://bookwizard.scholastic.com/>. Just type the title and author in and you are likely to get info on the book’s level.

Once you’ve found a fiction and a nonfiction book at your child’s grade level, you can find out a lot about his or her reading. It’s good to use both a fiction and a nonfiction sample because nonfiction reading is just a little bit tougher than fiction, but it’s the kind of skills kids need to manage schoolwork.

Open the book to a page in the middle with mostly words and few or no pictures. Have your child read aloud. Count the number of words that cause your child problems (misread, hesitation, “sounding out” and so forth). Be subtle so your child does not know you are counting. If you get to 5 before your child finishes the page, reading skills may be off and should get a closer look by a professional teacher or tutor. It’s a red flag of

sorts if your student cannot read all the words on the page accurately.

After your child has read the page, ask him or her a few quick questions about the text. Ask for a summary. Reading does little good if we don’t understand and remember! Any troubles in this area also warrant a closer look.

Writing

The best way to find out if your child can write is to have him or her actually write for you (no computer!). If your kid needs a prompt to write about, try to think of something they will find interesting and meaningful. Ask a gamer to compare two video games, for example, or a horse-crazed child to describe the most beautiful horse in the world.

For writing, the first thing to look for is fluency. How many actual words and sentences and paragraphs can your child produce? Covertly time the effort, and you can actually calculate a “words per minute” writing score- the higher the better. It’s a great baseline to compare to later efforts, too. Here’s a quick guide

about what to expect at different age ranges:

Kindergarten- attempts to write a sentence or two.

Grades 1-2 – writes three to five sentences about the topic.

Grades 3-5 – writes a well-formed paragraph (topic sentence, stays on topic, supporting details, closing or conclusion)

Grades 7-8 – writes 2-4 paragraphs and organizes writing.

Grades 9-12 – writes a well formed essay (5 paragraphs including introduction and conclusion, three or more body paragraphs, all points supported with evidence and details).

Writing is important in school because that’s often the way teachers measure other kinds of learning. If your student does not write well, he or she will have a lot of challenges making the grade. If you have concerns about writing after your experiment, talk to a teacher or tutor for some guidance.

Math

Math skills are so sequential that it’s really hard to learn if foundational skills are not intact. Keep an eye on how well your child does basic math. The best way to assess math is by solving math problems. There are some really comprehensive assessments you can print from the internet. One of my favorites is at <https://www.mathmammoth.com/complete/placement-tests>. This site has a free set of year-end math tests for grades 1-7. If your child is in high school, look for sites that offer upper level math classes and have placement tests. If your youngster scores lower than about 75 percent on these types of tests for grade level, he or she may have big challenges awaiting in math next year. Talk to a teacher or a tutor about how you can help bridge some of the gaps.

Now What?

Even if your child does not get to go to a summer school program, summer is still a fabulous time to play catch up on academic skills. Even working just an hour or two per day will make a huge difference when school rolls back around in August or September. You can prevent summer slide and even gain ground with just a little bit of effort.

Put together a learning plan for your kids. You can scrounge resources like pages from the internet to address weak skills, or grab a grade level practice workbook from your local bookstore. Either way, make it a routine expectation that kids will read some, write some, and do math some each day during vacation. You can set expectations by time spent or by work completed, whichever seems best for your group. Many families put this task right on the same level as getting chores done. Reward great effort, and kids will usually fall in line with your expectations. Of course, they will grumble a bit- but you know and I know just how important this process is. Keep them moving forward this summer!

Sandy Fleming is a private tutor and writer living in Edwardsburg. She offers both in person and online tutorial assistance for all ages as well as consultation for parents. Visit the website at <http://sandyflemingonline.com> to check out all of the programs and options available!

LOCAL HISTORY

Lowell H. Glover, early Cassopolis grocer, attorney, JP, author

Provided by **Jon Wuepper**,

Branch Manager of the Cass District Library, 145 North Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, jwuepper@cass.lib.mi.us

Lowell H. Glover was born on February 25, 1839, in Orleans County, New York to Orville R. and Julia Ann Carr Glover. That same year the family moved to White Pigeon Prairie, St. Joseph County, Michigan. During the fall of 1840 the Glover family moved to Edwardsburg, Cass County, Michigan, where his father died in 1852.

After attending school for two years, Lowell took charge of a grocery store belonging to his stepfather, and at the same time pursued his law study. In the meantime he lost his right hand by the bursting of a shotgun. This unfortunate accident may have saved his life for he was unfit to serve in the upcoming Civil War.

In April 1861, he moved to Cassopolis and commenced the study of law with Judge Daniel Blackman (almost certainly on Broadway Street on the site now occupied by the Local History Branch Library). In April 1862, he was elected Justice of the Peace in LaGrange Township, and with the exception of one year held that office continually until his death. In October of 1862, Lowell Glover was admitted to the bar after examination in open court, and at the time of his death was the oldest member of the Cass County bar.

Lowell Glover held many other public positions, always with credit. He has been supervisor, deputy county clerk, postmaster at Cassopolis during Grover Cleveland's first administration, deputy State Land Commissioner, and lived two years at Lansing during Governor Winan's administration, and served as Cass County Circuit Court Commissioner.

While studying law with Judge Blackman in Cassopolis, he was frequently brought into the National Democrat printing office and on occasion undertook the entire production of that paper. At various times he furnished articles on special subjects of great value. In the



Glover home 1890-1920s, 141 North Broadway Street, circa 1924. Then owned by the widow Maryetta Harper Glover. Lowell H. Glover & family lived there from at least the 1890s until his death in 1913. Notice the LaGrange Township Library to the right of the home, a Carnegie Library, built 1908-1909. Prior to the library, the lot contained the first brick building ever constructed in Cassopolis (1837), built by Alexander H. Redfield. Several lawyers practiced law in the red brick office including Daniel Blackman, and Lowell Glover before the office was moved in 1908 to make way for the construction of the library. Photo by Melissa Blanche Harrison, courtesy Keith Harrison. Up until the middle to late 20th Century, when a person of local prominence would pass away, it was not uncommon that each local paper would write their own obituary, offering their own tidbits of factual information about that person's life. The following is a short biography of Lowell H. Glover (1839-1913), prominent attorney-at-law in Cassopolis for over 50 years. He was a long-serving Justice of the Peace, author, historian, newspaper writer and editor. The information was culled from obituaries that appeared in the Cassopolis Vigilant, National (Cassopolis) Democrat, and Edwardsburg Argus.

Lowell H. Glover, age around 60 years old, as he appeared in his "Twentieth Century History of Cass County, Michigan" (1906). Researched and edited in his brick law office at 145 North Broadway, Cassopolis. The Local History Branch of the Cass District Library, formerly the LaGrange Township Library, currently occupies this site.

spring of 1911 he wrote for the Democrat a reminiscence, "Cassopolis Fifty Years Ago," which ran in three issues of that paper. However just one of these installments has survived and is on microfilm at the Local History Branch Library.

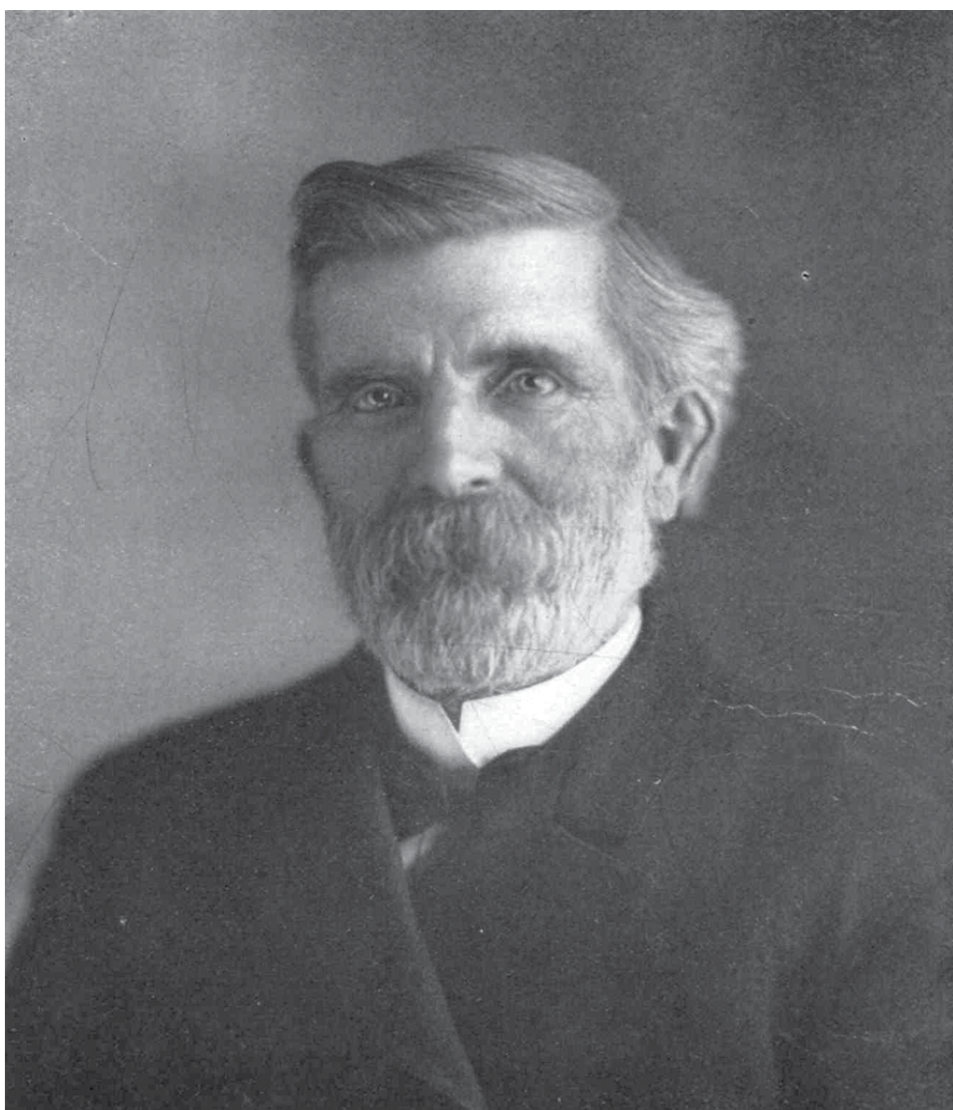
Glover's most ambitious work was for several years secretary and historian of the Cass County Pioneer Society. In 1906 the "Twentieth Century History of Cass County, Michigan" was published under his editorial guidance, and a great amount of this 780+ page work was authored by him as well.

On October 3, 1865 he married Miss Maryetta Harper, youngest daughter of

Captain Joseph and Caroline Harper. This union was blessed with one daughter, Fannie Eugenia, wife of John F. Ryan.

Lowell H. Glover died at his resi-

dence, 141 Broadway Street, Cassopolis on Tuesday afternoon, August 19, 1913. He was at that time survived by his wife, daughter, and six grandchildren.



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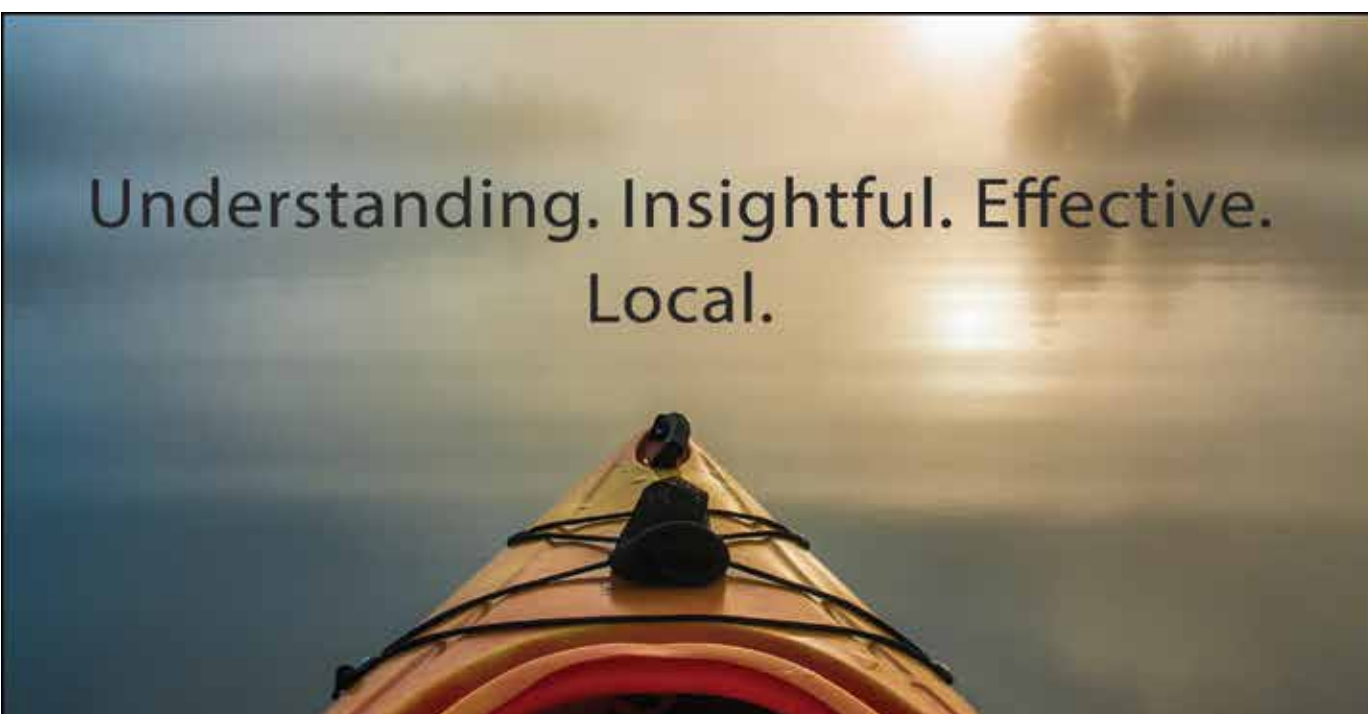
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HISTORIC POSTCARDS

Historic postcards depict rich scenes of area's past

In this issue of Neighbors, Jerdon Real Estate of Dowagiac, owned by Floyd Jerdon and his son Tom, has provided antique postcards of a few of the many lakes in our area.

Floyd and his wife Donna started collecting post cards more than 20 years ago, and since Jerdon Real Estate specializes in marketing lake property, it was a natural fit that Floyd's interest be directed to the lake cards. The collection now numbers many thousands.

Jerdon has recently used many of his postcards featuring the Sister Lakes area in

a book written by RL Rasmussen. The book, which retails for \$19.99, is in its second printing by the publisher, Arcadia Publishing.

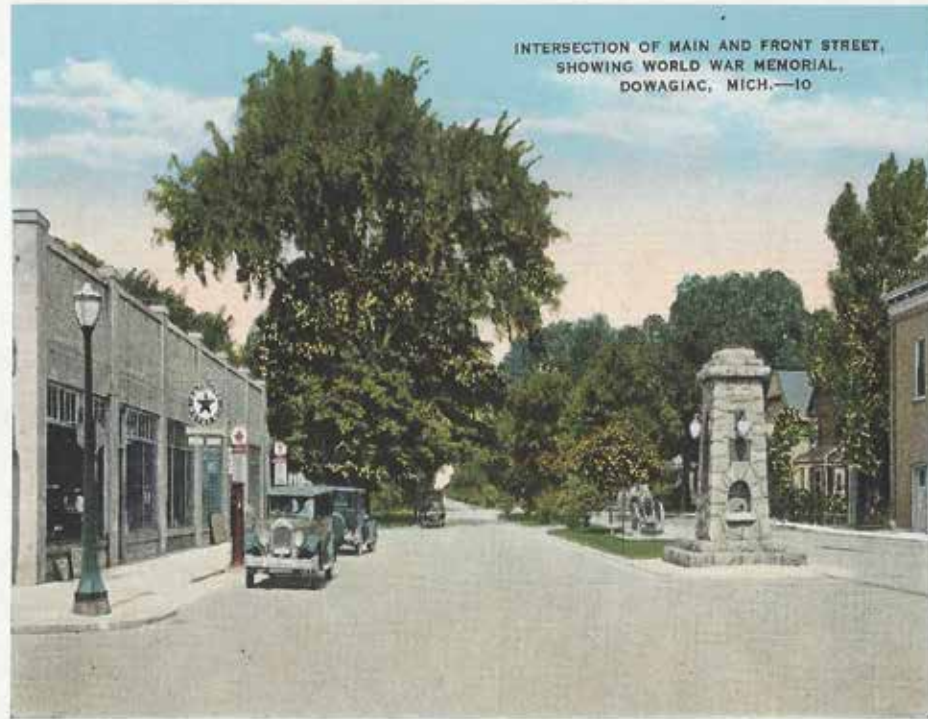
Among other places, the book may be purchased at the Jerdon Real Estate office on M-62 West, and at Whistlestop Gifts, which is operated by the Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce.

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

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

ous 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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Stan Morris and his N. G. C. Orchestra at Harmona, Sister Lakes, Mich.



Road Scene Sister Lakes, Mich.



Rayton's Resort Sister Lakes, Mich.



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NATURE NOTES

Spring migrants return to nest

*Provided by Cass District Library
Local History Branch*

Julie Koch of Benton Township sent in pictures of great horned owl adults and young at a nest site on her property, that were taken on March 23. It is quite likely that the two young great horned owls seen in the photo hatched from eggs that were laid as early as January of this year.

Among the southern half of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, the great horned owl is among the earliest species of birds to nest in the calendar year, often laying eggs in January or February. The mother of the two great horned owls seen in Koch's photos likely incubated the eggs through snowstorms this past winter. Two eggs are the average number per brood, occasionally three are present. If the first clutch of eggs is lost early in the nesting season, the adult pair may try again, but only one successful family of young is raised per year.

The location of the nest of the great horned owl is variable. In most cases, it is placed on top of an old red-tailed hawk or other diurnal raptors nests. Other times it is constructed within a tree cavity, but in this case, it was placed inside the top of a tree that had broken off. This may have worked to the owl's advantage, as it provided a little extra shelter and slightly warmer temperature than had the nest been built in the openness of an old red-tailed hawk's nest. Perhaps it provided just enough extra warmth to save the eggs from freezing?

Great horned owls are widely distributed from northern Alaska and Canada, south through all of the Lower 48 contiguous United States, Mexico, south through all of Central and South America. It is most common in areas of forests that are interspersed with open lands. In Michigan, this type of habitat is most common south of the imaginary line that runs west-east between Muskegon and Bay City.

The young of this year will remain with their parents through the summer and fall, and will go their separate ways in November. Adult great horned owls pair bond for life and are known for their nest site fidelity.

Speaking of nest site fidelity, Bob Conrad of St. Joseph was out to the Madron Lake Road osprey platform in Buchanan Township on March 31 and photographed the pair of adult osprey repairing the nest there, readying it for the 2021 nesting season.

Over the past ten years I have covered in this column at least one pair of osprey that have nested in the general vicinity of Madron Lake, Buchanan Township. Initially the pair of osprey were resting atop an electrical pole with live electrical wires just inches away. One year this resulted in disaster when one of the wires contacted at least one of the wooden sticks that was part of the nest, resulting in the nest catching fire. Fortunately, no young or eggs were destroyed and the adult osprey flew away unharmed.

This incident resulted in AEP placing an osprey platform nearby, which the adult ospreys took a liking to and have used it for nesting every subsequent year.

Like the bald eagle, the osprey (also known as the fish eagle) have made a remarkable comeback since the middle 20th Century when numbers were at an all-time low following habitat destruction, unregulated shooting, and most importantly, the use of the harmful pesticide



Top left: Great horned owl adult and baby at nest site, March 23, 2021 in Benton Tup by Julie Kock of that place.

Top right: Two hatchling great horned owls at nest site, March 23, 2021. Great horned owls may nest in old red-tailed hawk nests, tree cavities or in this case, a hollowed top of a tree. These babies hatched from eggs that were laid in the nest during February.

Middle left: Osprey repairing a nest atop a platform built especially for the nesting of that species of raptor by AEP. Photo by Bob Conrad (of St. Joseph) on March 30, 2021 in Buchanan Township.

Middle right: Adult osprey prepares to land atop the nest platform along Madron Lake Road, Buchanan Township, March 30, 2021. Photo by Bob Conrad of St. Joseph.

Above right: Greater white fronted geese (foreground) at Three Oaks Ponds, March 10, by Judy Gidwitz of Chicago.

Above left: Three greater white fronted geese in foreground, with Canada Geese in background, March 9, at Three Oaks Wastewater Ponds. Lisa Schaler of Bridgman. Initially found by David Denton of Paw Paw on March 8, they remained at Three Oaks until at least March 18.

DDT, which caused the eggs of many birds, including the osprey to be extremely thin after they were laid, and split before they young could fully form.

In addition to the Madron Lake osprey nest, other known osprey nest

locations in Berrien County include the Berrien Springs Dam, the Boyle Lake State Game Area, and a new location where the Dowagiac River crosses M-139 in Niles Township. I noticed an adult osprey building a nest on a cellphone

tower this past week at this location.

Continued on next page. See:
NATURE

NATURE NOTES

NATURE

Continued from previous page

Brad Anderson of Bridgman photographed a male eastern towhee on March 31 at Warren Dunes State Park. The eastern towhee is a common spring and fall migrant and summer resident in Southwest Michigan, and is found most commonly among brushy forest edges. Look for them on the ground, for their nickname is "ground robin". They tend to scrape away old leaves, etc. from the forest floor looking for food such as grubs, insects and other small invertebrates.

In the winter eastern towhees migrate to the Southeastern US, but a very few may stay in Michigan, perhaps a half dozen are reported in the state each winter, usually from the south half of the lower peninsula.

On March 8, David Denton of Paw Paw located three greater white fronted geese at the Three Oaks Retention Ponds outside Three Oaks. Greater white fronted geese are also known by sportsmen as "speckle bellies" for the overall grayish breast along with dark bars. This goose resembles a barnyard goose, but the latter lacks the dark bars on the chest.

While greater white fronted geese occurrences are still uncommon, and noteworthy, in Southwest Michigan, they are no longer considered rare. Over the last 30-40 years, geese that range over the interior of North America have dramatically increased in numbers. This includes not only the greater white fronted goose, but also Canada goose, cackling goose, snow goose, and Ross's goose.



Male and female hooded merganser, North Lake, Grand Mere State Park, March 7, 2021, Brad Anderson.

One of the primary factors for the increase in numbers of geese in recent decades is the availability of winter food supply. In winter, a great majority of geese that breed in the Arctic, which includes the greater white fronted goose, winter on the Great Plains and central Mississippi River valley. This area has an ample winter food supply of waste gain in

fields. They also will eat grass found in large yards and golf courses.

Another component to the increase of the goose population in central North America is the elimination of the harmful pesticide DDT in the 1960s. This has resulted in a greater percentage of the nesting attempts of geese, and other birds, being successful.

Look for greater white fronted geese, among large flocks of Canada geese. In addition to the Three Oaks Reclamation Ponds, recent sightings of the species have occurred along the large open fields along Linco and Scottsdale Roads in south Royalton Township. Greater white fronted geese have also been sighted in recent years at the Grand Mere Lakes, and Paw Paw Lake. The photo-period during which they move through Berrien County is roughly mid-February through mid-March.

Brad Anderson of Bridgman photographed a male and female pair of hooded mergansers on North Lake at Grand Mere State Park on March 7. The hooded merganser is one of three species of mergansers that frequent Southwest Michigan, being least abundant of the three during migration. It is an uncommon summer resident, and very uncommon, irregular breeding species in our region.

Hooded mergansers nest along wooded lakes, which are few and far between in our region. Historic literature indicates this species was much more common among the southern half of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan during pre-settlement and pioneer times. Habitat destruction no doubt played a major role in the decline of the hooded merganser as a breeding species in Southwest Michigan. Interestingly, North Lake still retains much of its wooded shoreline. Places to look for this species in summer would be Little Paw Paw Lake in Coloma Township and Big Smith Lake in Berrien Township, as both have wooded shorelines.



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THE LAST WORD

by Phil Vitale
aka sailorphil

May the Fourth be with this old Rust Bucket



rust me when I tell you that there's very little humorous about the prospect of having the humerus and the connecting bones on the right side of my torso, bones that

make up what used to be a pretty rugged shoulder, surgically removed and replaced by man-made bones (although they tell me that in this case, they're 3-D printed, computer-made bones).

You see, I'm an old man. If I make it to this year's Cinco de Mayo, my birthday, I'll have weathered 69 birthdays, an achievement that I'm sure has more to do with blind, dumb luck than it has with good, clean, healthy living and meticulous preparation.

I know that a lot of people don't consider 69 to be *THAT* old. Lots of people go way past that and a lot of them do it in pretty good shape.

But I'm not most people, and among the myriad of dents, dings and busted up parts, my shoulder's in pretty bad shape and is scheduled to be replaced on May 4.

If I was a used car, I'd probably have been traded in a long time ago. I doubt anyone I know would ever have laid even odds that I'd still be rolling down the roads after all these years.

Including me.

I'm officially older than I ever thought I'd be.

And I'm officially falling apart.

On top of all those years, there's the mileage to think about.

Everyone knows that when you're looking at used cars, you have to consider

the age of the rust bucket and the number of miles on the odometer as a package before making an offer.

If I was a used car, I can't imagine anyone would offer more than a couple hundred bucks for what's left of Rust Bucket Phil when they consider how much abuse that all the years and all the miles have rolled over me.

But here I am.

Or at least what's left of me.

Sure, there aren't a lot of obvious dents, and hardly any rust showing, but there's no denying the age. Paint's faded and chipped. The top's turned white after being out in the sun and weather all those years. Tires are worn, and I don't think the horn even works any more.

Drive train's still doing ok, ticking along well enough most of the time, or at least that's what the cardiologist tells me when he refills my meds, and despite a couple of what should have been disasters back in the days when I was sowing wild oats and chewing up all the green in the salad days of a misspent youth, I still can spin the wheels once in a while.

Suspension's sagging and not in real good shape anymore. Knees and hips are both pretty worn, and the shock absorbers are almost certainly worn out after the pounding they've taken across all those miles ... God only knows how many miles of bad road I've been down.

Most days I feel like I could really use a lube job and an oil change. Maybe some new filters, and a run through the high-speed carwash would help.

Certainly a professional detailing would go a long way to bringing in a few extra bucks in any potential offer.

My insurance company tells me that it might not be such a good idea to pay for that comprehensive policy, and that a \$500 deductible plan is probably above the total of what I'd get if I was totaled out and considered a complete loss.

But here I am.

Or at least what's left of me.

I'm pretty sure the wife, family and my dog aren't considering trading me on a new model, they don't want to go through the break-in and here's not much value in something this old.

I'm thinking they're just going to let me keep on running as best I can until I just spontaneously fall apart while I'm moving down the road one day. No tow trucks. No emergency road service. No cell phone calls to Triple "A" (although in my case they might put in a call to AA).

So after several years of putting up with the parts that should be replaced a long time ago, I've scheduled a repair shop appointment for May 4. I should be good to get there under my own power, but even if I can't they'll just drop me off for the day (no loaners available, sorry), let the mechanics do their thing, and come pick me up the next morning to take me back to my own garage.

Daughter Sanya pointed out that the day of the scheduled repair, May 4, is cosmically significant.

Star Wars Day, she called it.

"May the Fourth be with you," she said with a chuckle.

I liked that.

Been using it everywhere (that's what old people do when they can't come up with their own witticisms).

It made me think about Han Solo

and the Millennium Falcon.

When we first saw the Falcon in the original movie, Luke Skywalker called it a piece of junk.

I've been called worse.

I never made the Kessel Run in less than 12 parsecs, but I've been known to outrun a few Star Destroyers in my time, skirt the Maw black-hole cluster once or twice, and "hang in there" while Imperial stormtroopers fired away at me with their laser blasters. (Don't get cocky, kid). God knows I've been known to howl at the moon from time to time. Sometimes I even howled at two moons at once.

And so, here I am.

Or at least what's left of me.

Age and miles notwithstanding, I'm feeling pretty good about my chances.

The repair guy's the best, they tell me. The shop's gotten good reviews, four stars or better on Amazon. The parts they're putting in have been made out of some pretty durable new materials that I've been told should last longer than most of the chassis and the other original parts their going to be paired with.

Might take a while before I'm going to be able to use the new stuff the way I used to (ab)use the old parts. There's bound to be new rattles and road noises, and there's bound to be a break-in period.

But all in all, I'm optimistic.

And although the dalai lama hasn't told me that on my deathbed, I will receive total consciousness (so I don't have that going for me), I at least have most of the stars aligned.

So if the Fourth is with me, I'll see you at the Cinco de Mayo party.

Just don't get cocky kid!

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