

outdoors

Lakes museum honors Coast Guard

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Staff Writer

Lighthouse buffs may want to check out the Dossin Great Lakes Museum's exhibit honoring the 100th anniversary of U.S. Coast Guard activities on Belle Isle.

"Guardians of the Great Lakes" includes documents, models of Coast Guard vessels and relics from the early years. The state Department of Natural Resources has contributed a display on Michigan's land and water facilities.

DNR has also come up with a limited number of 18-by-21-inch color brochures giving the history and locations of some 50 lighthouses around the state. It should be exactly the guide you need if you intend to make a slide collection or do water color paintings of Michigan lighthouses. Brochures will be distributed free while supplies last.

The Belle Isle lighthouse acted as a nautical guide on the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair from 1881 to the early 1940s. In 1942 the lighthouse was replaced by a modern lifeboat station for the Coast Guard's broader duties of law enforcement, logistics support, pollution control and checking lake levels.

The Dossin Museum, for those who have never been there, is located on Strand Drive on the south side of the island facing Windsor. Signs will guide you.

THREE NATURE programs for three age groups are coming up at Kensington Metropark's nature center near Milford in western Oakland County. All are free, but call the nature center in advance at 685-1561 for space reservations.

• "Nature Tales for 3-5-Year-Olds" is a program of animal stories at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11. Naturalist Bob Hotelling will read the tales and afterwards discuss what's real and what isn't. Kids must be accompanied by parents.

• "Animal Stories for 5-9-Year-Olds" starts an hour later at 2 p.m. with the same format.

• "Nature by Bike," a family program, begins at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12, with naturalist Mark Szabo leading a one-hour trek over the bike-hike trail. Bring your own bike.

Kensington's nature center is located on the west side of the park. Take the Kensington Road exit from I-96. Park admission is \$2 per vehicle or \$7 for a season pass.

Area gas prices steady last week

Lead gasoline prices rose last week in Michigan's main travel arteries for the first time in 15 weeks, while Detroit-area prices remained the same or slightly lower than the previous week, according to the Automobile Club of Michigan.

Auto Club's "fuel gauge" survey of 300 major-brand stations along main state roads shows no-lead up 0.1 cent, the first increase for that grade since April 22.

No-lead averages \$1.459 per gallon, ranging from \$1.299 to \$1.619. Regular, along with highways averages \$1.404 per gallon, the same price as the previous week. It costs from \$1.239 to \$1.569.

At self-serve stations, no-lead gasoline averages \$1.388 per gallon, down 0.1 cent and 7 cents below the statewide full-serve cost. Self-serve regular averages \$1.319 per gallon, 0.1 cent lower than the previous

week and 8.5 cents below the statewide full-serve price.

A check of 109 metropolitan Detroit stations shows no-lead costs fell 0.1 cent. It costs an average \$1.461 per gallon. Regular averages \$1.406 per gallon, the same as the previous week.

Metropolitan Detroit self-serve dealers sell no-lead for an average \$1.363 per gallon, 0.2 cent lower than the previous week and 9.8 cents below the regional full-serve price. Self-serve regular averages \$1.269 per gallon, down 0.6 cent and 13.7 cents below the full-serve price.

Independent stations in metropolitan Detroit are selling no-lead for an average \$1.327 per gallon, down 0.3 cent. Regular sells for an average \$1.258 per gallon, down 0.2 cent from the previous week.

Premium no-lead averages \$1.542 per gallon in Michigan, down 1.2 cents from last month. Detroit-area premium no-lead costs

an average \$1.546 per gallon, down 0.5 cent from a month ago.

Diesel fuel along main highways averages \$1.365 per gallon, down 0.1 cent from two weeks ago. Detroit-area dealers sell diesel fuel for an average \$1.325 per gallon.

All stations checked report more gasoline than they can sell for the 21st consecutive week.

Along main highways, all stations will be open daylight hours Monday through Saturday and 75 percent Sunday. After 9 p.m., 45 percent are open weekdays, 48 percent Saturday and 36 percent Sunday. An average 12 percent remain open after midnight.

In the Detroit area, all stations are open daylight hours weekdays, 97 percent Saturday and 69 percent Sunday. After 9 p.m., 55 percent are open weekdays, 46 percent Saturday and 28 percent Sunday. An average 17 percent operate past midnight daily.

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800 NUMBERS: Some out-of-town businesses provide an "800 number" that you can dial without charge. For example, when you want to call out of town about reservations, look for "800 numbers" provided in ads by hotels, resorts, airlines and ground transportation.

MOVING? AVOID UNNECESSARY PHONE INSTALLATION CHARGES. PLAN HOW MANY PHONES AND WHAT KIND OF SERVICE YOU'LL NEED. THEN CALL AND TELL YOUR MICHIGAN BELL REPRESENTATIVE. REMEMBER, ONCE YOUR NEW SERVICE IS INSTALLED, EXTRA VISITS BY YOUR INSTALLER CAN MEAN EXTRA EXPENSES FOR YOU!

IN 1915, Michigan hooked up to the first cross-country long distance line and the first DETROIT-TO-SAN FRANCISCO call was made. It took 30 minutes to set up the three-minute call and cost the customer \$16.70!

IN 1877, THE FIRST COMMERCIAL TELEPHONE LINE WAS USED BY DETROIT DRUGSTORE. THE DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS THE SECOND TO USE THE NEW BELL TELEPHONE. A NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT STATED THAT "THE TELEPHONE IN THE POLICE STATIONS CONTINUES TO AFFORD VISITORS AND ATTENDANTS MUCH ENTERTAINMENT."

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