

MUSEUM GUIDE

Rain or shine, museums offer creative outlets for all

BY NANCY SUNDSTROM

Special to the Record-Eagle

If your idea of a museum is a building full of dusty, antiquated relics from eras gone by, then odds are you haven't visited one of the many area museums that will not only educate — but entertain, too.

In Traverse City, for example, two of the most popular include the Dennos Museum Center on the grounds of Northwestern Michigan College and the Great Lakes Children Museum.

Through June 22, Dennos is presenting "Tradition and Transformation: The Art of Japan," featuring Japanese kimonos, bamboo basketry, prints, dolls, ceramics, lacquer ware and a full-size teahouse, among other items. Its Discovery Gallery has interactive activities that relate to various aspects of Japanese culture such as food, clothing and music.

After the Japan exhibit leaves, the next offerings will be "Pursuits & Pleasures: Baroque Paintings from the Detroit Institute of Arts," which runs June 28-Sept. 14. "Calder for Kids," another interactive exhibition introducing young people to the world and work of Alexander Calder, runs July 5-Oct. 20.

Summer will be another busy season for the Great Lakes Children's Museum.

Offering children an opportunity to explore science and art through projects, games, displays and a wide range of hands-on activities, the museum's exhibits are enhanced with special offerings. There are one-week camps and short

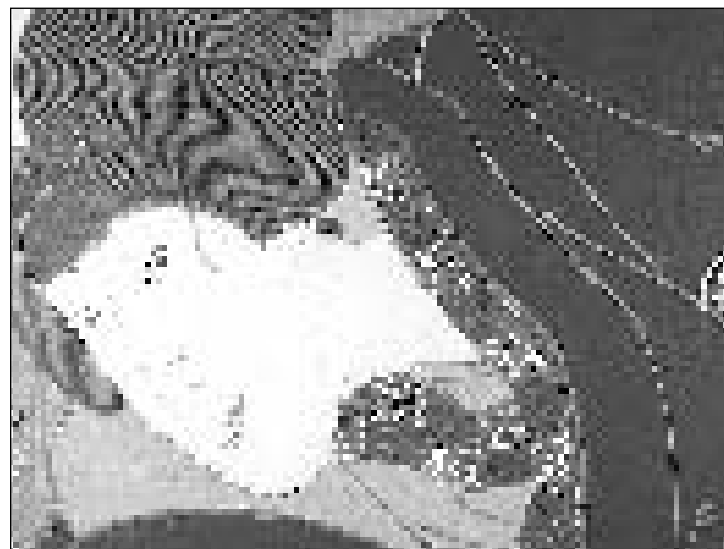
programs available throughout the summer that provide additional educational enrichment opportunities.

In nearby Acme, the Music House Museum expands its hours for the summer to show visitors from all over the world an extensive collection of automated musical instruments. Guests are escorted through period settings and galleries for an hour-long tour of memorable entertainment.

If you continue to venture farther north in the direction of the Mackinac Bridge, you'll find Fort Michilimackinac in Mackinaw City, where you can recreate a day in the life of an 18th century settler, and the Fort De Baude Museum in St. Ignace. Built on the site of the original fort, the museum houses displays depicting the day-to-day existence of the area's first inhabitants.

South from Traverse City, in the Grayling and Gaylord area, a number of other fine museums reflect the towns' colorful history. The Hartwick Pines Logging Museum is nestled among the towering trees of one of the state's only remaining stands of virgin white pine timber. The Civilian Conservation Corps Museum honors the 100,000 men who went to work on conservation and restoration projects during the Great Depression. And the Crawford County Historical Museum can be found in a refurbished train depot in downtown Grayling.

Museums are a great draw on a rainy day, but there are so many diverse and unique museums of interest throughout northern Michigan in general that you may just want to take a day to visit one even when the sun is shining.



Record-Eagle file art

"The Art of Japan" exhibit will be featured at the Dennos Museum through June 22.

The Headlands

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