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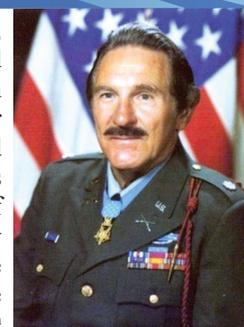
Bygone Monroe Resident is the Most DECORATED WW11 Soldier

By David Odziana, *ThumbPrint News* Staff Writer and Field Reporter

Individuals who donate their time to better a community for the youth are unsung heroes who rarely get the recognition they deserve. One man who served the city of Monroe for more than 15 years did a great deal for the area, but what he did for our country is a service that would go down in history – eventually.

Matt Urban was born in Buffalo, New York, on August 25, 1919, to parents who were both immigrants from Poland. As a young child, Urban was very involved in sports, especially boxing, with aspirations to one day have a career as a coach. He enrolled at Cornell University

in 1937, where he remained until 1941, earning a degree in government and history. While attending Cornell, Urban became a part of the Reserve Officer Training Corps, and when the United States became involved in WWII, he was quickly drafted. Soon, he found himself at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on July 2, 1941, to attend basic training – once that was completed, Urban became a lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion, 60th



See DECORATED Page 24

History of Girl Scouts' Most Celebrated Award

By David Odziana, *ThumbPrint News* Staff Writer and Field Reporter

Back in the early 1900s, Juliette Gordon Low, lovingly known as "Daisy", started a group for young girls in Georgia, which was first known as the Girl Guides – little did she know in just a few decades that club would blossom into one of the largest of its kind in the world.

After meeting with Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts, Daisy decided to form an equivalent group for girls. Planning for the first meeting got underway, with 18 members signed up to attend. However during that initial gathering, the number of members grew to 108. The first year of operation, its founder chose

the Tenderfoot Pin as the symbol for the club. The following year the name was changed from Girl Guides to the name we know today, Girl Scouts of America – after just three years of existence, the Girl Scouts grew to 200 troops with 5,000 girls. Like the Boy Scouts, whose highest award is an Eagle Scout, Juliette quickly recognized the need for a top honor for the Girl Scouts, which became known as the Golden Eaglet of Merit Award implemented in 1916. This was just the beginning of the extensive history of changes for the Girl Scouts' highest award throughout its 101 year existence. Just three years after its creation, the name was shortened to the Golden Eaglet Award – by the time the honor changed names, almost 10,000 members earned the title. The organization even



See GIRL SCOUTS Page 4

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Letter from the EDITOR

As I am sitting in my backyard tiki hut in Sarasota, Florida, it is about 6:00 p.m. and, after a wonderful day at Siesta Key Beach, it is still over 70 degrees. We have our yardwork finished, including picking bunches of grapefruit, blood oranges, Valencia oranges, Meyer lemons and pummelos. All of the last minute things have been taken care of before we leave to go back home to Michigan in the morning.

Back in Michigan, many of the children in our readership area had a snow day today. Although most of them are ecstatic, it just reinforces my feeling that maybe we should extend our stay in Sarasota for another month or so. I am realizing, as I get older, that as much as I love Michigan in spring, summer and fall, I really could do without that fourth season. Cold weather and I just do not get along anymore.

Of course, when this edition goes to press, spring will only be about three weeks away (by the calendar, anyway). March, it seems, can be fickle – very nice weather with crocuses and daffodils peeking through the brown earth or intent on producing a traffic-stopping, late winter storm. I do think, though it isn't an option at this point, that I would be better returning to Michigan about the beginning of May.

There is one thing I do like about March, however. Although we haven't done it in quite a few years, making our own maple syrup in March was one of my favorite things to do in that month.

The best maple syrup is made from the sugar maple, though other maple varieties will produce usable syrup as well. The days that are ideal to collect the sap is when it is still below freezing at night, but above 40 degrees in the daytime. Although some sap can be collected in February, from my experience we had the best luck the beginning of March.

Maple sap is collected by pounding a special maple syrup tap into the tree (some are made out of wood, but most today are made out of metal). Large diameter trees can support several taps. Plastic or tin buckets are hung on the taps to collect the sap. We often used washed and cleaned out plastic milk containers that had been partially cut to handle the tap. The collection amount may vary, depending on the temperature. Some days you will collect only a small amount and other days the containers will overflow if not emptied.

Boiling the sap is what causes the clear liquid to turn into the lovely, dark or amber-colored, sweet syrup that we all love. However, it takes a lot of sap to make maple syrup – 10 gallons of maple sap to make one quart of maple syrup. Now you can understand why maple syrup is so much more expensive to buy than imitation maple syrup.

My first attempt at making maple syrup was on my stove in the home in which I used to live. In a very large pot we would keep adding more sap as the liquid boiled down. Eventually, we did make maple syrup, but you can imagine how much steam was generated boiling down 10 gallons of sap. At that time we had an old kitchen that was wallpapered. After our maple syrup making attempt, some of that paper started peeling away from the walls, so we eventually peeled the rest away and painted instead. However, I wouldn't suggest trying to do the maple syrup indoors – unless your kitchen is in need of remodeling anyway!

Most people boil the syrup outdoors in a large kettle or a special evaporator pan under which a log fire is built. Maple syrup making takes time and there is nothing better than standing outside on a snowy day, stirring the sap, keeping warm by the fire and smelling that maple smell as it nears becoming syrup. Yes, that is one March memory that makes me realize that there is probably something good about every winter month, if I would only stop and analyze each a little more.

On the other hand, I think I would be ok at my age staying in Florida until the first of May and going down to the local IHOP restaurant here, ordering some buckwheat pancakes with real maple syrup and then, later in the day, heading down to the beach for one more nap in the warm, tropical sun. 🌴



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A Sister Alice Spring

By Patricia Cosner Kubic ThumbPrint News Columnist

I met Sister Alice on Monday, March 24, 2003, at 10:20 a.m. I am so grateful I happened to check the clock to mark the exact moment I met one of the brightest people in the world. That March 24th was the opening day of my business, a small health club. I was so anxious; my goal for the day was to not vomit...or at least, not do it in public.

After seeing numerous “opening soon” ads in the local newspaper, Sister Alice stopped by on that scary morning. We introduced ourselves and then she said something that I will never forget, “You must be really nervous today.” And then she asked me to pray with her. She asked God to bless my business with prosperity and to be a place where women can improve their health. It was an unexpected and perfect moment.

It took no time for Sister Alice to be a club favorite; she got to know everybody. And with the help of hindsight, I circle back to one reason that makes her personality so magnetic: Sister Alice is the walking truth of “hope springs eternal.”

As you can imagine, anytime a group of people gather, politics can become the topic. I can only imagine the colorful talk that would fill the circuit if my club was still open today! At my health club, I had an equal amount of blue and red voters. But no matter the color, Sister Alice’s fundamental contribution to the discussion would be praying for our leaders to do the right thing.

Sister Alice is one of those dear people who I think about a lot, but don’t call nearly as often as should. However, I did catch up with her recently. She is in the middle of her 87th year and is making some major headway recovering from a recent health bump.

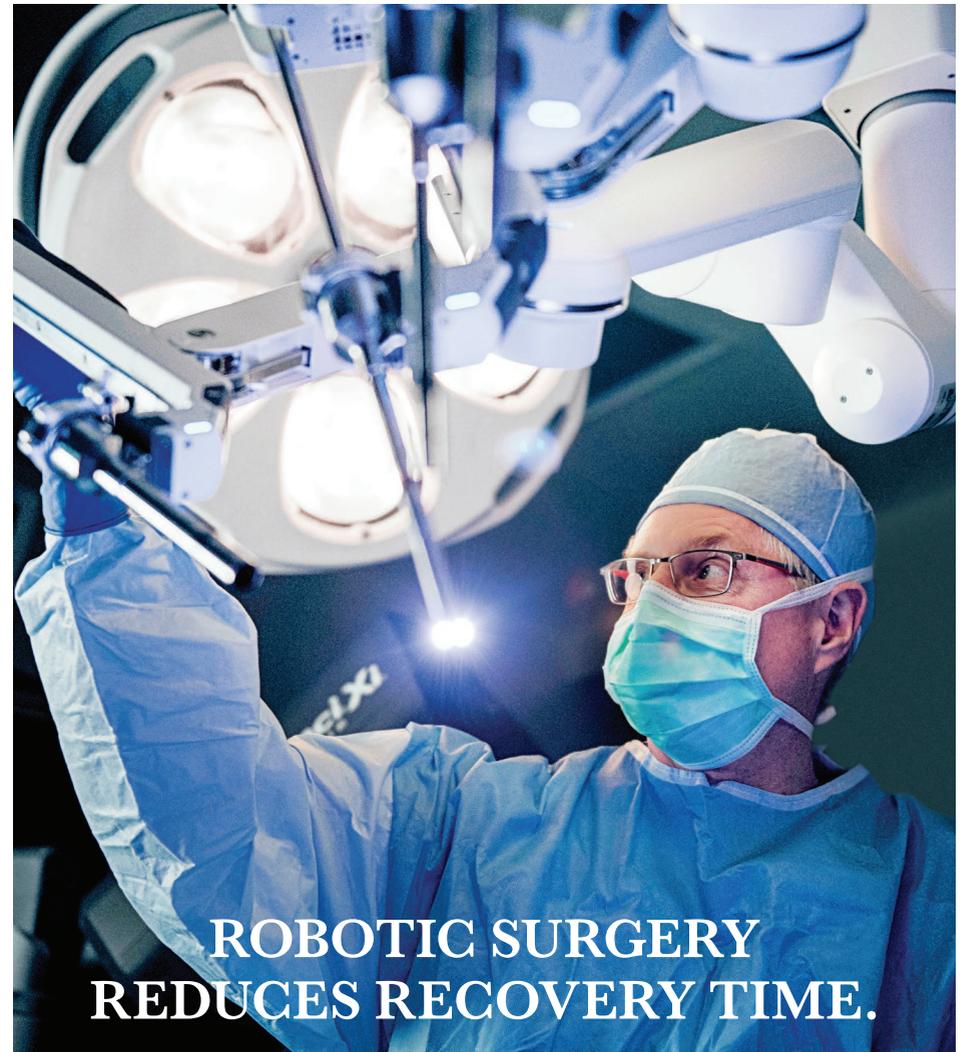
While listening to the details of her challenging January, I thought that story would be the headline of our chat. Not so much. The news of her double diamond jubilee is what really took my breath away. This milestone marks 70 years of being a nun; Sister Alice heard a very loud and decisive calling when she was just 17 years old.

For 70 years, Sister Alice has not lost her lightness. I know her heart broke during WWII, losing JFK, Martin and Bobby, and the hard summer of 1967, Watergate, mid-east wars, September 11th...literally countless heartaches that would grow a callus on anybody’s heart.

During the ten years I had my business, I saw Sister Alice twice a week on average and never once did I see her looking defeated. When GM and Chrysler went bankrupt, my club was hit very hard. My membership count melted like ice on an August sidewalk. So many of my members were frightened about their budgets and my membership dues were ripe for the chopping block. I remember the day when the three local news stations had helicopters hovering over the GM Tech Center on a big lay-off day showing streams of people walking to their cars carrying banker boxes full of their stuff. It was Sister Alice who, in one swoop, listened empathically, then reminded us we are stronger than we think.

Seventy years of trusting that things will work out is not just inspiring; it is decades of proof that hope does, indeed, spring eternal. And if Sister Alice can carry lightness for seven decades, surely we can work toward our happy ending just as the tulips come up. 🌷

You can reach Patricia by emailing her at pckubic@gmail.com.



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GIRL SCOUTS produced a film in honor of the girl's group the same year, which was continued from Page 1 titled *The Golden Eaglet*.

By the time Juliette retired from her position as the Girl Scouts' president in 1920, there were 3,000 troops and nearly 70,000 members. The Golden Eaglet Award remained the Girl Scouts' highest honor until 1938, when it was changed to the First Class award. The First Class only lasted two years before the Curved Bar Award was introduced in 1940. This honor was only available for girls of the First Class ranking. Due to the United States' involvement in WWII, the endowment was initially just a patch because of the metal ration, which remained until the metal shortage ended. After remaining unchanged for more than two decades, another change was implemented in 1963. The First Class award took over as the highest award available in the Girl Scouts once again, which required a certain number of badges and the completion of a real-life challenge to test their intelligence in scouting. The change of a decade brought the longest serving award in the organization's history starting in 1980 – the Gold Award. 🌱

The Girl Scout Law has been changed several times since 1912.

The original Girl Scout Law written by Juliette Gordon Low was:

The Girl Scout Law

- ♦ A Girl Scout's honor is to be trusted
- ♦ A Girl Scout is loyal
- ♦ A Girl Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others
- ♦ A Girl Scout is a friend to all, and a sister to every other girl scout no matter to what social class she may belong
- ♦ A Girl Scout is courteous
- ♦ A Girl Scout keeps herself pure
- ♦ A Girl Scout is a friend to animals
- ♦ A Girl Scout obeys orders
- ♦ A Girl Scout is cheerful
- ♦ A Girl Scout is thrifty



1912-1976

*Right is right, even if
no one else is doing it.*

~ Juliette Gordon Low

Motto: Be prepared. Slogan: Do a good turn daily.



Juliette Gordon Low (in center)

Jamie's Smiles

Partners with Local Companies to Change the Lives of Children with Special Needs with over \$15,000 in Assistance

Jamie's Smiles' mission is to supply supplemental funding to outstanding programs that benefit children with special needs, through grants and other financial means. This past holiday season, Jamie's Smiles raised over \$5,970 and adopted two families with a total of nine people through the Macomb Infant Preschool Program (MIPP). Their corporate sponsors' contributions and discounts, as well as donated items, raised the retail value of their assistance to local families to over \$15,000.

Jamie's Smiles is a fund created through the non-profit organization, the Shelby Community Foundation (SCF), in memory of Jameson Bates. Jamie was born with Down syndrome and passed away from a rare seizure disorder in January of 2006. His parents, Mark and Gretchen Bates, created the "Jamie's Smiles" memorial and endowment funds to help other children with special needs like their son and to raise awareness about the value of "special children" in our community.

Gretchen Bates expressed gratitude to their corporate sponsors this year when she said, "A HUGE THANK YOU to our corporate sponsors, Kohl's "A Team", which is a part of the "Kohl's Cares for Kids" program, CEC Controls, located in Warren, Michigan, Costco of Shelby Township, the Disc Institute of Clinton Township and St. Therese of Lisieux Parish. Kohl's donated \$500 to the Jamie's Smiles' adoptions, gave discounts for the purchase of clothing items and toys and wrapped most of the gifts for our families. CEC Controls and their employees contributed toys and gifts to help with our families and adoptions. Our newest corporate sponsors, Costco of Shelby Township and the Disc Institute, donated items like diapers, wipes, clothing, toys, books, gift cards and more to help our struggling families. Additionally, our friends at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish helped by contributing toys, clothing, sheets, comforters, wrapping paper and much more," Bates said. She went on to say, "All corporate sponsors make a donation valued at or above \$500 to Jamie's Smiles' holiday adoptions. We are pleased to welcome previous friends, as well as so many new companies, to help us to change the lives of children with special needs in our community!"

"Many organizations work with us to help our adopted families, including: Meijer (Hall Road, Utica), Value Center Market (Clinton Township) and Target (Clinton Township). Additionally, many individuals donated items to help out our two adopted families and a myriad of gift cards and dozens of other items were given to many other needy families with children in the MIPP," said Bates. "We estimate that we have touched the lives of over 177 people this year alone! Since we began, we have given away over \$118,500 in grants and assistance to programs and, as a result, helped many families in Macomb County. We also have over \$120,900 in our accounts and believe that we are making a DIRECT impact on the lives of children in our local area!"

If you are interested in more information about Jamie's Smiles, please visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/JamiesSmiles, on the web at www.JamiesSmiles.org or call (586) 909-5305. Financial gifts are always accepted and appreciated. Please make checks payable to "SCF – Jamie's Smiles" at P.O. Box 183181, Shelby Twp., MI 48318 or call for information on how to make credit card or PayPal donations. 🌱



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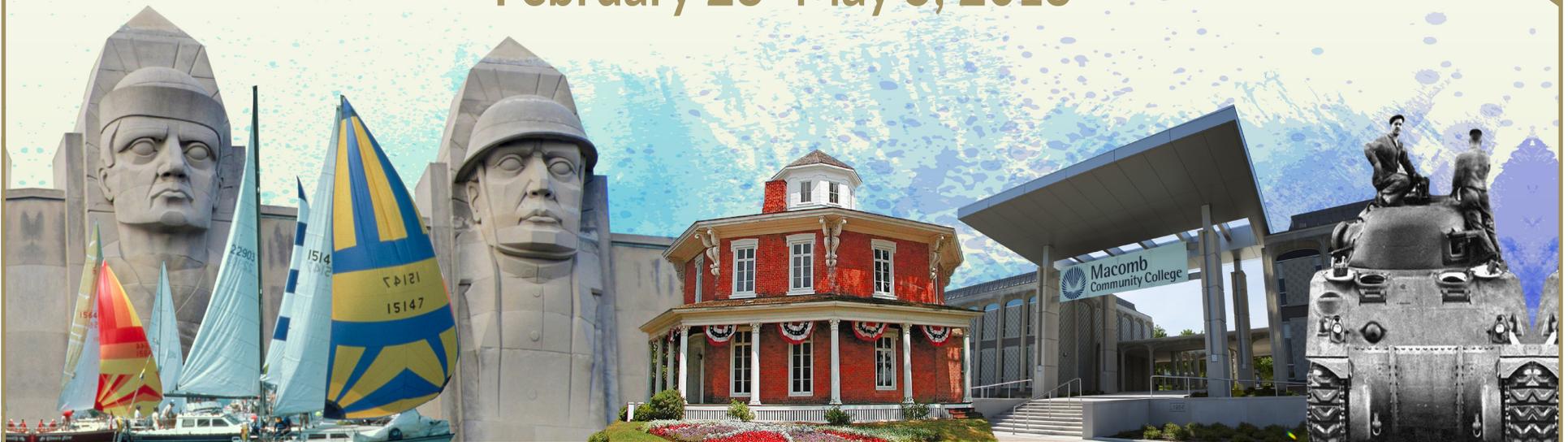
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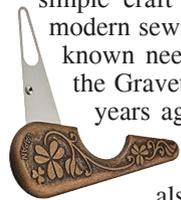


THUMBPRINT NEWS CONTEST

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object, person or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, go to our website www.thumbprintnews.com and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting the correct answer by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a wonderful surprise gift at the end of the year! On December 16, 2018, one winner will be drawn out of all the monthly winners and the lucky person will be notified.

For our February contest, we asked our readers to identify what the object pictured below is. Of all of those submitting the correct answer, Ruth Kruczynski of Fair Haven, Michigan, was randomly chosen to be entered into the year-end drawing. Ruth identified that the object is a tool to help thread a needle.

The needle was one of humankind's first tools, developing over time from a simple craft item to being a part of modern sewing machines. The oldest known needles with eyes date from the Gravettian period, about 25,000 years ago, where they were used not only to stitch hides together for warmth, but also for decorating textiles.



The needle is the distinctive tool of the Upper Paleolithic period that began about 40,000 years ago. Paleolithic needles made of animal bones, antlers and tusks helped make possible the extension of human settlement into cooler regions after the Ice Age and were also used for making fishing nets and carrying bags.

Although the first needle with an eye appeared thousands of years ago, it wasn't until 1755 that a patent was awarded for a needle with an eye to a Charles Frederik Wiesenthal, a German who was living in England at the time. Of course, with the invention of needles with eyes it follows that inventions were bound to appear to make threading the needle easier.

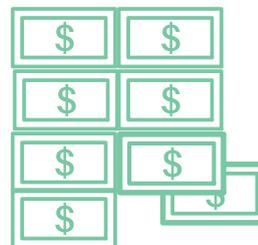
For our March contest, we are asking our readers to identify what the object pictured below is. Remember, go to our website www.thumbprintnews.com if you know the answer.

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POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE IN DOGS AND CATS

By Dr. DiBenedetto, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Polycystic kidney disease (PKD) is an inherited disease that causes irreversible damage to the kidney, which can result in kidney failure. PKD is not as common in dogs as it is in cats. It can affect all breeds of cats and dogs, but seems to be seen more frequently in Cairn Terriers, Beagles, Persians and Persian-related cat breeds like Himalayans and Scottish Folds. Polycystic kidney disease is a slow-growing disorder in which large portions of the functional renal tissue are displaced by multiple cysts. These cysts are small, closed, liquid-filled sacs that tend to multiply in number and grow in size over time, eventually overwhelming the normal kidney tissue and causing the kidneys to fail.

Polycystic kidney disease is difficult to detect in the initial stages. The cysts often remain undetected until they become large and numerous enough that the kidneys can no longer keep up with the body's demand and fail. The number of cysts that develop with aging varies in every patient, as does their size and the rate at which they grow within the kidney. The average age of a pet diagnosed with PKD is about seven years old. Once the disease has progressed, the symptoms seen are typically the same as those associated with kidney disease in general. Those include loss of appetite, drinking excessively, urinating excessively, weight loss, vomiting, high blood pressure and lethargy. These patients are also at an increased risk for secondary infections associated with the cysts. While the cysts themselves are not painful, a secondary infection or a cyst that has grown large enough to cause increased pressure on the capsule of the kidney can be painful.

A diagnosis can be made by seeing your veterinarian for a complete physical exam, along with checking a blood chemistry profile and urinalysis. The abnormally shaped kidneys may be felt on abdominal palpation, but a diagnosis of PKD needs to be confirmed by radiographs and/or abdominal ultrasound; depending on the size of the cysts, smaller cysts cannot be seen on a radiograph. Genetic testing is available for cats older than eight weeks of age, but this testing does not give us any information on the staging or prognosis of the disease. It only allows us to identify carriers.

Treatment for PKD is limited to treating the chronic kidney failure, since eliminating the renal cysts is not possible. Treatment should involve a protein and phosphorus restricted diet, fluid therapy either in the hospital or at home, depending on how severe the disease is when it is diagnosed. Medications can be given to control hypertension, any gastric ulcers that may develop or any infections that may occur secondary to PKD. In some cases, periodic removal of fluid from large renal cysts with a needle (a process known as aspiration) can be used to minimize pain and temporarily reduce cyst volume. 🐾

Editor's note: Dr. DiBenedetto is a veterinarian at Maple Veterinary Hospital located at 2981 Iowa in Troy, Michigan. The hospital website is www.mvhvet.com. For other pet-related questions, you can reach Dr. DiBenedetto at (248) 585-2622.



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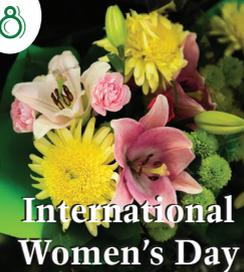
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The New Math of Relationship

By John Vincent Senkus, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

"Stay away from negative people. They have a problem for every solution."
— Albert Einstein

Michael and Alex are next door neighbors. They physically occupy just about the same exact place in this earthly realm. Michael looks out his window at night and with wonderment, admires the shimmering stars, the dancing clouds as they float past the waxing, gibbous moon, and notices how the late evening just seems to send an invitation for the whispering pines, the screech owl and the fireflies to join in. The music of the night resonates with high vibration. Meanwhile, Alex, after watching the news, looks out his window to make certain his garage is locked while thinking of the poor guy in the next county whose trucks were stolen. The music of this night is the blare of the television

Michael's wife, Anna, just loves how special he makes her feel by noticing and nurturing all of her one-of-a-kind qualities and the nuances that make their union so unique. Her beautiful, sparkling eyes, the way she giggles when he kisses her ear, how her kind heart wishes comfort and warmth for all of Mother Nature's creatures, and especially how he encourages her to develop and be her true self. On the other hand, Alex's wife, Marion, wishes that he would stop worrying about the media's dismal portrayal of this world, and spend as much time thinking about her as he does about the soap opera politics filling the headlines.

Two diametrically opposed views of life, from two people living one hundred feet apart! A life filled with high energy and positive thinking, and one filled with the low energy of negativity. How can this be? Fortunately, and unfortunately, this world is a perfect breeding ground for polarity. *This means that we will find that which we look for ... and what we look for becomes our reality!* These self-fulfilling prophecies perpetually reinforce themselves, making the breaking of the negativity cycle that much more difficult. However, with a bit of understanding, reversing the momentum of negativity can be done.



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So, just why is it so easy for negativity to get a hold of us? Also, why can't the good stuff latch on with the same amount of ease? It all has to do with the way our brains have been hardwired. Dr. Rick Hanson explains it this way, "The nervous system has been evolving for 600 million years, from ancient jellyfish to modern humans. Our ancestors had to make a critical decision many times a day: approach a reward or avoid a hazard – pursue a carrot or duck a stick. Both are important. Imagine being a hominid in Africa a million years ago, living in a small band. To pass on your genes, you've got to find food, have sex, and cooperate with others to help the band's children (particularly yours) to have children of their own; these are big carrots in the Serengeti. Additionally, you've got to hide from predators, steer clear of Alpha males and females looking for trouble, and not let other hunter-gatherer bands kill you; these are significant sticks. But, here's the key difference between carrots and sticks – if you miss out on a carrot today, you'll have a chance at more carrots tomorrow. But if you fail to avoid a stick today – WHAP! – no more carrots forever."

But what was, doesn't have to translate into what is! That is the beauty of higher awareness and the ability to think about that which we think about. It allows us to challenge our ancient programming and develop the mindfulness that can discern between the real tiger versus the paper version. If you are a naysayer and gravitate toward the down side of things, there are a few simple ways you can help train your brain to let go of some of your outdated negativity biases and habits:

- As obvious as this sounds, create more positive experiences. Do what you have to in order to feel constructively good.
- When a positive experience does come around, pay more attention to it and think about it longer and more often.
- Absorb the experience and memory more vividly. Account all the details as if you are watching and feeling them in slow motion. This will help your brain better retain the experience in your memory and tune your amygdala to focus less on the negative.
- Don't just retain the negative elements of a situation. Bring whatever positive aspects you can into it whenever it comes to mind. This helps the positive energy infuse into the negative neural pathways to help create a better perspective.
- When encountering or recalling a negative experience, place yourself at the "edge". Imagine that you are a spectator to what is going on around you. This detachment can bring a calmness and clarity otherwise unseen when emotionally attached. Keep in mind that many of life's best lessons will come via your trials and tribulations, especially those whose pattern keeps repeating over and over again.

Of course, your efforts to minimize negativity doesn't mean becoming blind to real threats or ignoring prudence. However, it does mean tuning out the "negativity noise" of those things that really aren't important, that do not directly impact you, that you have no control over, and that are a rehash and regurgitation of the same old thing only in a different place or time. Bottom line, tune out all those things that are keeping you distracted from your higher self and your divine purpose! When these thoughts can then be replaced by those of an elevated nature – the pendulum will swing the other way, bringing a more balanced and optimistic view into your life.

No one likes a grouch (they don't even like themselves!). Negative outlooks suck the life out of everything around them, including relationship. As Ziad K. Abdelnour stated, "A negative mind can never give you a positive life." And who wants that...? Take a close look at what you notice and pay attention to. Are you a magnet for the positive ... or the negative? Remember, you can either lift your world, or drag it down. The choice is really up to you.

Thanks for reading! If you would like more information or have any questions or comments, please email me at land1equal3@gmail.com.

In our next column, we will examine the art of "building special" within relationship.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I just want to commend you on putting out a fine little newspaper. I always pick up my copy at Total Sports in Harrison Township. The articles are always interesting, and I sense an overall respect for traditional American values. I try to support your advertisers, and I just want to encourage you to keep up the good work.

Thanks!

Bob Zabick
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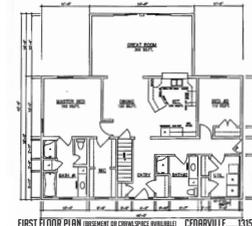
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By Pamela Grey-Pugliese

ThumbPrint News Columnist

This winter has been a little harsher than the past two or three years. The past two months have seemed to drag by, and it actually seems like we should be a few months ahead of where we are right now. Why can't the summer months go on as slow as this, instead of flying by us in a blink of an eye?

Being Michiganders, we roll the dice every winter as to what we are going to get weather-wise. I have owned my little place for six years this May; time has really flown by. I enjoy looking back at the pictures I took when I first bought the place. I knew the minute I walked in for the viewing when it was for sale that this place was going to be mine. So many fun memories were created at that little place. I have made a lot of changes with just some paint, decorations, landscaping, etc. Certain things about the cottage have become "traditions" with my family and friends in the past six years. We have certain sayings and jokes that we say that can only be understood and appreciated by those that have shared time there! Certain unwritten rules apply to the place, such as mealtimes, what each guest's weekend routines are, and what easy meals are planned for the weekend. We also have nicknames for each other that we have fun with; we have Stella, Kiddo, Jebber and Roberto, just to name a few.

I love when my friends share my excitement for the upcoming spring and the ideas I have for the place. I consider my cottage a judgement-

free zone. If anybody wants to sleep late, they do; if they want to stay up until 4:00 a.m., they do that too. If they overindulge in late night snacks or libations, nobody says a word. It's like a summer camp for adults!

I am starting to plan the opening of the cottage in a month or so, deciding if I want to change any paint colors, rearrange any furniture or change anything indoors. Weather permitting, in just a few short weeks, I'll start to bring my freezable items back to the cottage to restock the fridge, cupboards and drawers to use for the upcoming summer season. My excitement is building this month and I'm getting ready to start heading up to the cabin more. I'm already creating my new music playlist for the nights we sit outside by the fire.

What can get a little tricky is when I officially turn on the water, since we have had such a cold, long, snowy winter; there is always the chance of a broken pipe or a minor crack to be repaired.

All in all, even though there can be a little maintenance to take care of in the spring, I still look forward to beginning a new season of warmer weather! I'm looking forward to seeing the grass begin to green, the neighbors that have endured the long winter, and the sounds of the early morning birds in my little piece of heaven! The anticipation is building at this time of year for me as I look forward to another Michigan spring right around the corner. Happy St. Patrick's Day ThumbPrint News readers! 🍀

HEALTH MATTERS CLEANSING AND PURIFICATION

By Dr. Christopher J. Zimmer, D.C., *ThumbPrint News* Guest Writer

As someone who has been in the field of Chiropractic now for 34 years and a proponent to employ natural methods whenever possible to improve one's health, I've often been asked my opinion about "Cleansing or Purification" this time of year.

Of course this is very understandable, considering that most of us have overindulged during the holidays. Feeling tired, sluggish and over-weight, so many are seeking a solution as to what to do about it.

Let's first consider this simple question: Why do I need Purification? While it is true that overindulging may be responsible for the symptoms just mentioned, when it comes to a wide range of conditions, such as chronic fatigue, difficulty sleeping (insomnia), joint discomfort, indigestion, gastrointestinal upset or low libido, the cause is often a bit more complex than just overeating and may be a sign of toxic overload to one's body.

Our bodies are wonderfully designed to rid itself of toxins. However, with being exposed constantly to external toxins daily from the air, water and food, our body's (detoxification) system is unable to keep up.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention is reporting that of the approximately 80,000 registered chemicals for use in the U.S., many hundreds of these chemicals are present in our bodies. These toxic chemicals have been shown to affect our immune, hormone, nervous and reproductive systems.

Unfortunately, today a large source for toxic exposure is from the foods we eat and, hence, the rise today of more natural "organic" sources in our stores.

You can determine your "toxic load" by asking yourself these questions:

- Do you eat meat that is not organic?
- Do you eat processed food?
- Do you eat non-organic fruits and vegetables?
- Do you use artificial sweeteners?
- Do you drink pop?
- Do you eat fast foods?
- Do you drink tap water?

If you answered "yes" to a majority of these, then it is likely your diet is contributing to your "toxic load". Now combine this with regular exposure to personal care products and cleaners we all use daily, and you have created a "toxic perfect storm", and all of these toxins are having an impact on your health.

By lightening up your toxic load, you can have immediate benefits to your health, including helping you manage your weight. Starting with a purification program by cleansing, and changing your diet to organic foods, you will be on your way to having a clearer, brighter and lighter future! 🍀

Editor's Note: Dr. Christopher Zimmer D.C., has been practicing Chiropractic and Alternative Health Care for the last 34 years and may be reached at either office location: 447 S. Water in Marine City, (810) 765-5622, or 610 Minnie in Port Huron, (810) 987-7500. He can also be reached by email at zimmerchiro@sbcglobal.net. Visit their website at zimmerchiro.com.

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MY BODY'S REVOLT

By **Laura Irwin**, *ThumbPrint News Staff Writer*

Oh, the pain! Imagine jagged rocks as big as golf balls crashing into each other inside of your intestines! That's the best way I can describe it. By about 3:00 p.m. each day, I was in such lower gut pain that all I could manage was to lie down in misery and try to sleep. This all started about two weeks before my 53rd birthday, following nearly three years of extremely disruptive perimenopausal symptoms.

Those first few days of misery, my thoughts were "it's just a bout of gastrointestinal distress". Perhaps a result of something I had eaten...maybe the extra helpings of baked beans at the July 4th celebrations. However, it continued on to the next day, and the next, and the next... As is human nature, I speculated, a lot, thinking maybe it was a complication of menopause to focusing on worst case scenarios, i.e. ovarian cysts, cancer, colitis, etc.

After a few days of being consumed by all of the distressing possibilities, I managed to refocus my thoughts towards actually observing my symptoms, hoping that it could be something as simple as adjusting how much or what I was eating. The next morning came and there was little to no pain – just some residual tiredness. However, as I said, by the time 3:00 p.m. rolled around, I could barely function. The progression of the discomfort had been gradual throughout the day, something I finally noticed while paying closer attention. Except, nothing about my day was out of the ordinary, especially the food I had consumed. This daily agony couldn't have been food-related, right? It had to be something else... something worse. My thoughts began to spiral once again.

More days passed in the same manor, but I was trying my best to not jump to those worst case scenarios. I began taking OTC gas relief and ibuprofen, still hoping that it really was food-related and not any of those big bad potentials. Unfortunately, the OTC medicines only provided me with minimal relief. After over two weeks of this distress, my family was getting concerned – it seemed all I could do at home anymore was lie down in misery! They began clamoring for me to visit a physician, and had I not been waking up feeling well enough to proceed with my day, I surely would've listened immediately.

Online investigation ensued, while I was feeling up to it in the morning, and several possible ailments presented (as they tend to when you try and find answers over the internet). Nothing I found seemed like an easy fix. I became resigned to a physician visit, but was still procrastinating about the call when my good friend suggested giving a gluten-free diet a try for two weeks to see if it helped at all.

After a day of eating a bagel for breakfast and a grilled cheese on rye for lunch, I was once again lying down with the same miserable pain. I thought back to what my friend said and began researching food options for this type of eating plan. The resulting info didn't seem entirely too restrictive, other than some of my favorite foods: pizza, bread, pasta and cookies were not on the list; (thankfully cheese, wine and some chocolates are allowed). I vowed to give it a try; what could it hurt, right? The very first day I was amazed to find myself still pain free at 3:00 p.m. and able to do more than just lie down in misery after work. My family was relieved as well, but still skeptical that something as "simple" as this could be the solution.

As I continued to research and eat gluten-free food options, my symptoms all but disappeared. I say "all but", because some foods, like salami, might appear to the untrained gluten-sleuth to be gluten-free, but is not. After eating several slices with cheese and mustard one night, in a fit of frustrated hunger, the pain and discomfort resurfaced. I had a pretty good idea what had brought about this recurrence, so I specifically looked up salami. Whoops, there it was, right on the "NO" list.

The next day at work, I was describing, what I am now referring to as the "salami incident", to my co-worker when she suggested that there may be pills to aid in relieving the discomfort of gluten intolerance. "Wait? What?" How could I have missed this option? Online research revealed the truth of her statement.

There is a magic little "all natural" pill, at a cost of \$12 per bottle of 30, with a warning: it should not replace a gluten-free diet, but only used to aid in the digestion of wheat proteins IF you eat something you're unsure of. So sadly, no, I still cannot have whatever I want, but occasionally, when temptation is too great, I can indulge myself. Like during a recent visit to my father's place in Kentucky, I was happily able to allow myself a small portion of his homemade sausage gravy (over gluten-free toast, of course) – no one makes it quite as good as he does. I limited my portion and took the pill as directed. Low and behold, no pain.

In the course of this journey, I was told by a close friend that her neighbor, who was experiencing similar symptoms, had been diagnosed with Lupus. After two years (TWO YEARS) of no improvement and a loss of hope, he finally saw a physician who recognized it for Celiac disease. Less than a month later, he was feeling measurably better and began returning to his normal activities. I am so grateful that I was able to figure this out much faster than two years – the benefits of procrastinating on that doctor call, huh?

In the last five years, this whole gluten issue has become much more prominent in our world. It's still new enough that most physicians aren't able to recognize it, but we have entire sections devoted to it at grocery stores, though the sections are still small enough to be extremely pricy. A small loaf of gluten-free bread is about \$5.00. Ouch! Not to mention, I'm the only one in my household with this ailment, so now I get to make meals with gluten for them and without for me. Double the work, double the cost.

Six months into this new eating plan, I am more convinced than ever that gluten is the culprit. I simply cannot dispute how much better my body feels without it – and it isn't just being rid of the debilitating cramps! I have more energy, less weight (I've lost 30 lbs. and don't want to find it again!), and I've even noticed an improvement in my memory. As time passes and my gluten-sleuthing powers improve, I still find foods that disagree with me, even with diligent label reading, but for the most part I am restored. I have and will continue to adapt the best I can, fighting this revolt against gooey wheat protein my body has staged. 🍀



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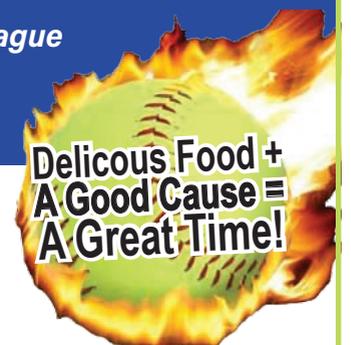
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HISTORY OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES

By Alan Naldrett, *ThumbPrint News* Contributor

Four wheel drive, also known as 4 x 4, or four by four, and often written as 4WD, is a type of vehicle able to provide power and torque to all wheel ends of a two-axle vehicle simultaneously.

A steam engine, with the first 4WD system for a steam-powered traction engine, was developed in England in 1893, by Bramah Joseph Diplock. Globally, the credit for developing the concept of 4WD vehicles is given to Ferdinand Porsche, who later designed the *Porsche* and *Volkswagen*. In 1899, he designed an *electric* vehicle with 4WD for Austrian truck maker Jacob Lohner; the car was called the *Lohner-Porsche*. This car debuted at the 1900 World Exposition in Paris, France.

In 1903, the first 4WD car driven by an internal combustion engine is said by many to be the Dutch vehicle, the *Spyker*. The inventors were brothers Jacobus and Hendrik-Jan Spijker of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. *Mercedes (Daimler-Benz)* also started building 4WD vehicles in 1903, and their cars had all-wheel steering as well.

In the United States, one of the first 4WD proponents was Robert Twyford of Pennsylvania. His company was the **Twyford Motor Car Company**, and in Pittsburgh and Brookville, Pennsylvania, they built the *Twyford* from 1899 until 1907. Besides having 4WD, it had the first crude power-steering, using bevel gears.

Twyford moved the factory from Pittsburgh to a

10-acre site offered by Brookville in 1904. The company moved into a two-story, brick factory and continued to produce vehicles there until 1907. After the company folded, Robert Twyford continued to profit from his 4WD patents.

In Mankato, Minnesota, candy-maker Ernest Rosenberger formed the Four-Wheel Traction Co. to manufacture his 4-wheel-drive vehicle idea. The town held a ceremony opening the new factory in 1907. There were three workers in all and they had assembled five cars by 1908. Rosenberger put together a 4WD vehicle in 1909. He felt 4 x 4 would help navigate hilly terrain.

By 1912, over 30 cars and trucks had been made. The factory continued building *Katos*, (they were also called *Four*



1910 Kato 4WD truck

Tractions and Mankatos), until 1913, when the **Four-Wheel Traction Co.** sold out to the **Nevada Manufacturing Co.** of Nevada, Iowa.

Another major American venture into 4WD came in 1908, when inventor Otto Zachow designed his shaft-drive steam-powered Z&B, a 4WD vehicle, in Clintonville, Wisconsin. Zachow and his brother-in-law William Besserdich formed the **Four-Wheel Drive Automobile Company** (also known as



1904 Twyford Stanhope, most likely the first American 4WD vehicle. It sold for \$1,200.

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the **Badger Four Wheel Drive Automobile Company**) in Clintonville to produce the vehicle. For a time, they were the world's largest producer of 4 x 4 vehicles. Their 1908 car, the *Battleship*, was considered the first successful 4 x 4 manufactured for the public. Their patent, which was the basis for their 4WD vehicle, was for a double-Y universal joint, encased in a drop-forged ball-and-socket.

The company switched to making trucks exclusively and opened a division in Canada in 1918, and in Great Britain in 1921. During World War II, the company manufactured over 15,000 4WD trucks for the American and British military. The company became **FWD Corporation** in 1958. They have since been incorporated into **ELB Capital Management**.

Frank H. Morse of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, built a 4WD steam auto in 1902, which he sold for \$550. The next year he joined the **Four-Wheel Drive Wagon Company** in Milwaukee, working on manufacturing commercial vehicles.

In Lanark and Rockford, Illinois, a 1901 steam 4WD car was produced by the **Cotta Automobile Company**. Charles Cotta had submitted and received his patent in 1900. He sold his patent to the **Four Wheel Drive Wagon Company** of Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1903. They continued producing 4WD autos until 1906. Thereafter, Charles Cotta started a successful company (the **Cotta Gear Co.**) that built transmissions.

In 1909, two Bakersfield, California gentlemen, Morton Homer Magie and Charles Nelson Winters, patented a shaft-drive four-wheel-drive vehicle. They had allegedly been working on it since 1904. They formed the **Road Runner Auto Company** to build the car, but any actual manufacturing is doubtful.

Another Californian, Charles Van Winkle of Farmington, built a vehicle in 1904 that was a chain-driven. He built at least one prototype and then sold the design to the **Stockton Four Wheel Drive Motor Co.**, which failed to manufacture any autos.

One of the most notable 4WD vehicles was released by the **Jeffrey/Nash Corporation** in 1913. The vehicle was called the *Quad* and had four wheel drive, four-wheel brakes, AND four-wheel steering. Between 1913 and 1919, over 11,000 of the vehicles were manufactured. By 1928, total production topped 41,000 trucks.

Other notable 4WD vehicles and facts:

- In 1914, Jesse Livingood from Graysville, Pennsylvania, created a kit that would convert a *Ford Model T* into a 4WD vehicle.
- Douglas and Maurice Steiger developed the first successful 4WD tractor, the *Steiger Tractor*, in 1958.



The Jeffrey Nash Quad truck with 4WD

the *Steiger Tractor*, in 1958.

- From 1936 to 1944, the Japanese company **Tokyo Kurogane Kogyo** manufactured 4WD military vehicles for the Japanese military. The vehicles had a transfer case that engaged the front wheels.

- In 1938 the Russian military built the *GAZ-61*, a 4WD

military vehicle.

- During World War II, the **American Bantam Co.** started production on the 4WD *Jeep*. Further *Jeeps* were produced by **Ford** and **Willys**. The *Jeep* was manufactured by **Willys**, on to **Kaiser**, then **Nash Motors Co.**, and then **American Motors Company**, and is now a **Chrysler** vehicle.

- After their success with the *Jeep*, the **Willys Co.** manufactured the *CJ 2-A* in 1945, a 4WD vehicle.

- The **Willys Co.** successor, **Kaiser-Jeep**, released the *Jeep Wagoneer* in 1963, a very successful 4WD vehicle with automatic transmission.

- Trucks and off-road vehicles are now often 4WD exclusively. In 1946, Dodge released the *Power Wagon* and in 1948, Ford released the *F-Series* pickup truck.

- In 1980, Chrysler releases the **Eagle** car division, to

manufacture a 4WD passenger car.



1944 Willys Jeep



1946 Dodge Power Wagon

Editor's Note: Author Alan Naldrett welcomes comments and can be reached by email at alannaldrett@gail.com.

A NEW MUSEUM IS COMING SOON! Four wheel drive vehicles and off-road travel have a great interest to people all over the world, and a group of enthusiasts from Michigan has come together to create a place where individuals will learn about and experience this huge part of automotive history. The Museum of Off Road Adventure (The M.O.R.A.) will showcase a variety of vehicles and items focusing from the earliest days of back country travel to the hard-core machines of today and everything in-between. The museum is currently looking for four wheel drive and off-road vehicles and displays of interest to take on loan or donation. They are also looking for volunteers, and membership information is coming soon. Please continue to follow the museum's progress and watch for the museum's opening date through the *ThumbPrint News*, at www.themora.org and on Facebook at facebook.com/themoramuseum. For questions about volunteering or to speak to someone about making your vehicle or item part of the museum please contact Executive Director/Curator Keith Kodet at (877) FWD-MORA or at kkodet@themora.org (501c3 non-profit status pending).

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This is the final submission for this column – we have enjoyed the journey and are sad to see it end. Thank you, Gerald, for sharing.

In Childhood's Happy Hours

Submitted By **Gerald Nyquist**, *ThumbPrint News* Contributor



LITTLE JUNE BRIDES

Oh, little June brides in dresses white
And your picture hats so fair,
Pardon us, please, if we look again, --
We'll try not to rudely stare.

And the little bridesmaid in a filmy gown
With eyes of shining brown,
Has a laugh that is trying to get away
But we think she will keep it down.

And Grandmother darling so little and frail,
Will stand for her picture, too,
Between the bride and the bridesmaid there,
And help to complete the view.

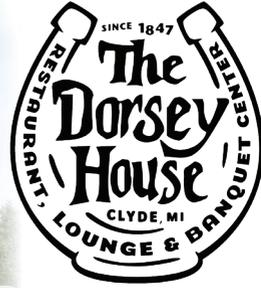
Here 's another fair bride with sparkling eyes
And hair so shining brown.
May all their years be happy ones
With blessings falling 'round.



"The poems and accompanying photos, all from 1924, feature three sisters: Eileen, Geraldine and Lucille (my mother). Lucille was seven years of age at the time the photos were shot. Eileen and Geraldine were born in New Haven, Macomb County. Lucille was born in New Baltimore, Macomb County. I was named Gerald after my Aunt Geraldine because I was born on the day of her wedding, December 28, 1940.

"The girl's parents were Frances and Adolph Reiter. Adolph, for a time, ran the interurban railroad power house in New Baltimore, during which time the family lived at 35955 Main Street in that city. The setting for the poems and photos is their subsequent residence at 4695 Lenox Street on the east side of Detroit. (Later, they farmed on Walker Road in Sanilac County and retired to a home in Port Sanilac.) Their Lenox Street next-door neighbor shot photos of the girls at play and wrote the corresponding poems. Unfortunately, his identity is lost to history."

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Focus on Hospice

When is the Right Time to Seek Hospice Care?

Contributed by Faith Jaciuk, Community Liaison, Grace Hospice, Marysville, Michigan

The need for hospice care can sometimes be quite obvious when the life expectancy of an individual is limited to days instead of weeks or months. However, there are often situations in which the decision to choose hospice is anything but clear. Medicare has determined that patients with a terminal prognosis of six months or less are appropriate to receive hospice services. There are, of course, exceptions to this and some people live more than six months.

Wouldn't it be great if physicians had a crystal ball and they could see what the future holds for the patients in their care? Unfortunately, we know this isn't the case. Doctors do their best to formulate a prognosis based on all the information available to them and they try to anticipate which conditions are likely to result in death over a span of weeks or months. Some diagnoses are easier to forecast than others. One example is a patient with cancer who is no longer responding to treatment. The outlook is grim and hospice can be very helpful in providing comfort and support during this critical period. Chronic diseases, like COPD and CHF, worsen over time and eventually progress to a point where death is expected sooner rather than later. Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and ALS are all terminal illnesses, but the timeline varies widely, and it can be difficult to know when hospice should get involved. Renal disease is also a life-limiting diagnosis and without dialysis, patients pass away rather quickly. Grace Hospice offers a compassionate transition program for those wishing to wean off of dialysis over a period of weeks, instead of stopping treatments abruptly.

Sometimes an individual hasn't been diagnosed with a specific disease, but their condition is progressively deteriorating. This often happens with advanced age and there are signs and symptoms that indicate hospice may be appropriate. Significant weight loss, frequent infections, increased falls and recurrent hospitalizations are just a few examples. Dependence on others for daily activities, loss of appetite, breathing and swallowing difficulties are others. Some people just lose their desire to go on living with failing health and they accept death as a normal part of the life cycle.

Ideally, your physician should discuss hospice when the time seems right, but they sometimes don't realize when that time is here. The earlier hospice gets involved, the better the outcome for a patient and their family. There is never a cost involved for an evaluation to see if hospice is appropriate for you or a loved one faced with declining health and limited life expectancy.

I am available to answer specific questions or provide more detailed information, if needed. Feel free to call Grace Hospice at (810) 294-8580.

Editors Note: The content of this article is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. For more information call us at (810) 294-8580.

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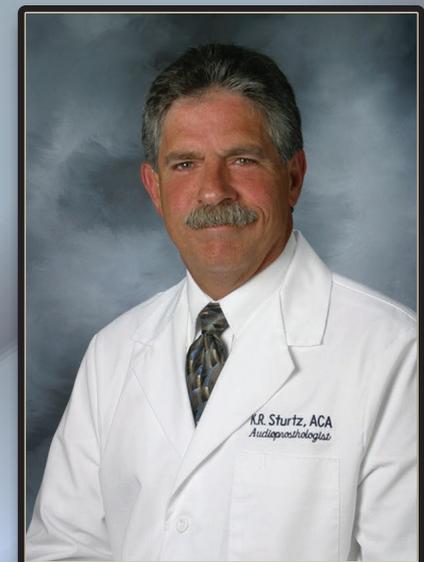
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Facts about France

- France is the world's most popular tourist destination.
- Louis XIX was the king of France for just 20 minutes, the shortest reign ever.
- The French Army was the first to use camouflage in 1915, during WWI.
- In France you can marry a dead person.
- The French have produced a number of world-renowned inventions, including canning jars, the Braille system for the blind, the stethoscope and the hair dryer, among others.



This month we are featuring photos taken by Diane Viers of Sterling Heights who took our newspaper with her on her trip to France. Here is what she had to say about her trip:



I was in France on a Missions Trip. We were in both Lyons and Paris, France. It was a great trip; the cheese and the breads were out of this world!
I did learn a very important lesson about riding the Paris underground sub-way: When the doors open to let you out, move FAST! Otherwise, they will shut on you. I have never been so happy to have complete strangers pushing my backside as I was that day. With their help, I got out of harm's way with just a few minor bruises and one crushed ego!

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DECORATED

continued from Page 1

Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division.

Once he completed his training, Urban's first assignment was Morale and Special Service Officer during a planned invasion of North Africa near the end of 1942. Urban and his division boarded a ship to complete their first task, but Matt's job was to remain on the vessel and ensure entertainment for the soldiers returning from the battle. Soon after the troops stormed the beach, heavy gunfire broke out, and despite being given specific orders to remain on the ship and being threatened with a court martial by his colonel, Urban boarded a raft and rushed the beach. When he reached the battle, Urban took the place of a platoon leader who was wounded, and although he defied his commanding officer, his actions resulted in a promotion to executive officer of the F Company of the 2nd Battalion. By the spring of 1943, the United States became involved in one of the largest battles since they started fighting in the war near Kasserine Pass in Tunisia. During the campaign, Urban managed to single-handedly eliminate an observation post used by the Germans before moving his company forward to push the enemy back. While leading his fellow soldiers, Urban suffered injuries to his hand and arm, but because of his effort, he was awarded two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.



Soldiers from the Australian Army's 9th Division during the Siege of Tobruk; North African Campaign, August 1941



American troops approaching Omaha Beach, during the Invasion of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944

When their services were no longer needed in North Africa, the 9th Division was transferred to assist in the invasion of Normandy – on June 14, 1944, Urban and his men engaged in a battle near Renouf, France. The Germans quickly pinned down the American soldiers and two enemy tanks threatened the well-being of every soldier on the front line. After making the quick decision that something needed to be done, Urban grabbed a bazooka, and while being completely exposed to enemy bullets, he was able to eliminate both tanks. This allowed his troops to continue forward, but shortly after this encounter, Urban was shot in the leg with a 37-millimeter bullet. Although he was injured, Matt refused to leave his men who were under heavy gunfire once again. The battle continued throughout the night and into the morning. Suddenly, Urban suffered another wound; this time he was shot in the forearm. After experiencing his second injury of the battle, he was quickly sent to England to be treated for his wounds.

While recovering from his injuries in the hospital, Urban learned that the 2nd Battalion experienced immense casualties, while others were taken as prisoners of war after he was evacuated. Unable to lie in bed while his men were fighting, Urban checked himself out of the hospital, still limping along with a cane, and made his way back to rejoin his fellow soldiers. Returning on July 25, he found his company engaged in Operation Cobra and quickly assumed his position leading his men in the battle. Before long his battalion suffered the loss of two of their tanks, while a third was still functional, but unmanned. Urban gave the order to the lieutenant in charge of tank operations to board the tank and return fire on the enemy. Unfortunately, the two men weren't able to make it to the stalled tank because they were gunned down before they could reach their target. Back to square one, Urban made the decision to take matters into his own hands – he limped over to the tank as fast as he could under heavy fire with bullets ricocheting all around him. Somehow he made it to the tank unscathed and manned the machine gun, which devastated the enemy and inspired his troops, resulting in the destruction of the foe's position. On August 2, his battalion became involved in another battle in which Urban was hit with shrapnel in the chest and back, but despite attempts to hospitalize him for surgery, he remained with his men on the battlefield. According to a sergeant who witnessed the incredible bravery, he explained the scene as "one of the craziest officers suddenly appeared before us, yelling like a madman and waving a gun in his hand. He got us on our feet, though, gave us our confidence back and saved our lives." It was because of his resilience to remain with his fellow soldiers despite being severely injured that he was given the nickname "The Ghost". A few days after this encounter, Urban was promoted to commander of the 2nd Battalion after the previous commander was killed on August 6 – he suffered another injury just nine days after his promotion, but once again he refused treatment.

On September 3, 1944, the 2nd Battalion received orders to set up a crossing point on the Meuse River in Belgium. The enemy quickly met them with resistance by setting up a large

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force by the river, and after they bombarded the Americans with bullets and mortars, they halted the attack. Urban removed himself from his command post and set up a new plan for his battalion, putting himself on the front line to lead his men. While making his way across the open land, Captain Urban was struck in the neck by enemy gunfire, which caused him to almost completely lose his voice. Despite his life-threatening injury, Urban couldn't fathom leaving his soldiers during a battle and remained in the fight until the cross point was established – it was said that the wound to his neck was so severe that a priest actually read him his last rights on the battlefield. By the time Urban was able to recover from his neck wound, WWII had concluded, but it wasn't until after two years of therapy that he was able to once again utilize his vocal cords.

Matt Urban retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel and he received 11 medals for his bravery throughout the war, but it would be some time before his true contributions were revealed and many more honors followed. After his time in the army, Urban began writing about various subjects regarding veterans for *Liberty Magazine*, where he remained for three years. Following his time with the magazine, Matt relocated to work in Port Huron, where he took a position as a city recreation director – he remained in this position from 1949 until 1956. Urban took a new position in the city of Monroe, serving as the director of the community center for 16 years until 1972.

A handful of high ranking officers reportedly witnessed Urban's amazing dedication to his men and his outstanding service, which prompted one colonel to write a recommendation that he should be considered for the Medal of Honor. Shortly after he filed the paperwork, the colonel was killed in action and the paperwork was apparently lost somewhere within the Army. It wasn't until the end of the 1970s, that a reporter doing research happened upon the recommendation, which he brought to the attention of the Army. The Army conducted an extensive investigation into the claim, which included contacting many of those serving with Urban to get eyewitness testimony. Finally on July 19, 1980, after more than 35 years of waiting, Matt Urban was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Carter – the Commander in Chief was quoted as saying Urban was the greatest soldier in American history. While the Medal of Honor was the highest award he received after his service, Urban was also awarded many other medals for his time spent serving in WWII. The long forgotten awards included the Legion of Merit, the Croix de Guerre presented by the French Ambassador, the Bronze Star with the "V" device for valor, as well as his seventh Purple Heart.

When Matt Urban was finished collecting all of his honors, the true picture of all he did for his men and our country finally emerged. Within his 20 months of service in the United States Army, Urban earned 29 medals, making him the most decorated soldier in American history. Following the ceremony, an article was written about Urban which ran in the *Congressional Record*, stating "Captain Urban's personal leadership, limitless bravery and repeated extraordinary exposure to enemy fire served as an inspiration to his entire battalion. His valorous and intrepid actions reflect the utmost credit on him and uphold the noble traditions of the United States Army."

Urban retired from serving the community in 1989, but continued to work with veterans and young men interested in joining the military. He passed away in Holland, Michigan, on March 4, 1995, as a result of complications caused by injuries suffered during WWII and was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. While many people may not be familiar with Urban because it took so long for him to get recognition for his service, the places he lived following the war have ensured he will long be remembered. Among the long list of places named for his honor, the American Legion Post 40 in Monroe still bears his name.



Vocabulary Voyage

By Laura Irwin, ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

We continue our quest for new words to increase our vocabulary. Why? A good vocabulary makes communication simpler and allows us to be better understood, and in the words of Albert Einstein, "Once you stop learning, you start dying." We would love for our readers to submit some of their favorite words.

trope [trōp]

An noun meaning a figure of speech: a word or expression used in a figurative sense.
Example: A screenplay that reads like a catalog of mystery-thriller tropes.
First known use: before the 12th century

benison [ben-i-son]

A noun meaning a blessing, benediction.
Example: Be grateful for the benison of having your family around the table for a meal. First known use: 13th century

maladroit [ma-le-droit]

An adjective meaning lacking adroitness : inept.
Example: The governor has been criticized for his maladroit handling of the budget crisis. First known use: 1685

For future Vocabulary Voyage columns, we would love to have words submitted by our readers. If you have suggestions, please email the word(s) and meaning(s) to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net, along with your first and last name and the city of your residence. Emails not containing all the requested information will not be considered.



CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

march

If you have an event in April that you would like listed in the April issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by March 12, 2018. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

Editor's note: Before traveling beyond your hometown to attend any of these events, please call ahead for any changes in dates or times or for any cancellations.

Genesee

No events were submitted for Genesee County this month.

Huron

Bad Axe - March 3 & 17

Tip of the Thumb Dancers, Huron County Senior Center, 150 Nugent Rd., 7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Admission for dances is \$6. Bring finger foods and friends! Cancellations on WLEW and WMIC radio. March 3 is our Mardi Gras night, with entertainment by Lighthouse Three; March 17 is our St. Patrick's Dance with entertainment by Emerson, Ernie and Mike. For more information call Jerry at (989) 479-6568.

Lapeer

Lapeer - March 4

Lapeer Area Michigan Contemporary Muzzleloading Arms Show, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$5 donation at the door. For more information call (248) 744-1716.

Lapeer - March 6

Spaghetti Dinner, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 4:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. \$7 per person, \$6 seniors, \$4 for ages 4 - 7 (under 4 free). Public welcome. All proceeds go towards Lapeer District Schools Scholarship Fund. For more information email Kathy at americanlegion16@gmail.com or call (810) 664-9312.

Lapeer - March 10

Johnny Cash Tribute Show with Tribute Artist Rock Harley, Lapeer Area Elk's Lodge #2567, 200 E. Nepessing St., 2:00 p.m. matinee or 7:00 p.m. evening show. \$20 per person or table of 8 for \$140. RSVP only. For tickets call Gary at (810) 441-9075.

Lapeer - March 13

Taco Night, American Legion

Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. For more information call (810) 664-9312 or email Kathy at americanlegion16@gmail.com.

Lapeer - March 24

2018 Vegas Night, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., doors open at 7:00 p.m. All proceeds benefit Lapeer area youth programs. For more information email Kathy at americanlegion16@gmail.com or call (810) 664-9312

Macomb

Memphis - all of 2018

Bottle and Can Drive, various locations. Woman's Life Chapter 855 is collecting bottles and cans all year long to help those in need. For a representative of our group call (586) 392-5136.

New Baltimore - March 4

Flea Market, Craft and Vendor Show, VFW Hall, 35011 23 Mile Rd., 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. No reservations needed to set up. 8-foot tables can be rented for \$10 each. No admission to shop. For more information call Michelle at (586) 725-7100.

Richmond - March 6

Woman's Life Chapter 855 Meeting, Lois Wagner Memorial Library, 35200 Division, 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information call (810) 305-2245.

Washington Twp. - March 7, 14 & 21

Confident Communicators Toastmasters Club, Washington Township offices in the upstairs boardroom, 57900 Van Dyke (between 26 Mile Rd. and West), 8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. 1st three visits are free. For more information contact Kim at (586) 933-3286.

Romeo - March 10

Meditation as a Form of Worship, First Congregational Church of Romeo,

102 Church St., 5:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. For more information email Nellie at nelliegriffin@live.com.

Romeo - March 21

Self-Defense for Women, Washington Center, 57880 Van Dyke, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Can you defend yourself against a violent attack? Do you have the knowledge, skill and confidence to defend your family? Learn simple, life-saving skills from programs designed to increase your safety after only one class. \$35 for residents; \$38 for non-residents. For more information call (586) 752-6543 ext. 3.

Oakland

Novi - March 1 - 4

Cottage and Lakefront Living Show, 46100 Grand River Ave., 1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, 11:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. on Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$10; \$4 for children 6 - 14; children 5 and under are free. Walk through a full-size cabin, find out about replacing a dock or seawall, add unique cottage and outdoor furniture or see the latest in water toys. Visit NoviCottageShow.com for complete details or call (248) 540-3197 for more information.

St. Clair

Memphis - March 1

Dinner and a Movie, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 5:30 p.m. Now showing *RV*, starring Robin Williams. Dinner provided by the Friends of the Memphis Library. For more information call (810) 392-2980.

Port Huron - begins March 1 continues 8 consecutive weeks

A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls, Lake Huron Medical Center, 2601 Electric Ave., 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. This program is designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. It is free and attendees are encouraged to attend all 8 sessions. Please call (810) 216-1035 to register or for more information.

Capac - March 2, 9 & 30

Family Storytime, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 10:00 a.m. Enjoy stories, songs and crafts with a mix of poems, puppets, finger plays and movement activities that promote literacy. For more information call (810) 395-7000.

Smiths Creek - March 2

Fan the Flame: New Life Christian Academy Benefit Banquet, Solitude Links Golf Course & Banquet Center, 5810 Flinchbaugh Rd. Fellowship time at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. Live

and silent auctions, and there will be an opportunity for you to give to the ministry of NLCA during the evening. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the school office, 5517 Griswold Rd. in Kimball. For more information call (810) 367-3770.

Marine City - March 4

Free Bridal Event, Marine City Banquet Center, 6385 King Rd., 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mimosa bar, prizes, samples and giveaways. For more information email Lou at extralou@gmail.com.

Algonac - March 5, 12, 19 & 26

Senior Scrabble, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 1:00 p.m. Seniors, join us weekly to play this popular game. Limited to 12 players. Registration recommended. All levels of skill welcome. For more information or to register call (810) 794-4471.

Port Huron - March 6, 13, 20, April 3 & 10

Sign Language Class, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorran Blvd., 1:30 p.m. Learn the basics of American Sign Language in a fun, hands-on atmosphere. Limit 15 per session; please register for each session by calling (810) 987-7323 ext. 124.

St. Clair - March 7, 14, 21 & 28

The Almost Every Wednesday Knitting Group, St. Clair Library, 310 S. Second St., 11:30 a.m. A drop-in knitting/crochet needlework group. All are welcome. For more information call (810) 329-3951.

Lakeport - March 9

Teen Marshmallow Shooter Gun Battle, Burtchville Township Library, 7097 Second St., 1:00 p.m. Make a PVC marshmallow shooter gun, then test it out in battle! Supplies provided. Ages 10 - 19. Registration required; limited supplies. For more information or to register call (810) 385-8550.

Yale - March 9 & 23

Knights of Columbus Council #8710 Fish Fry Dinners, Fr. Dunn Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 310 N. Main St., lunch 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., dinner 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Carryouts available. For more information visit facebook.com/KofC8710.

Casco - March 10

Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society's 6th Annual Historic Tea, Golden Hawk, 9861 Meisner Rd. Doors open at 1:00 p.m., tea begins at 2:00 p.m. Will feature a program by Lynn Anderson called "Crinolines and Classics: Those Fabulous Fifties". English tea, scones, sandwiches and homemade sweets will be served. Advance tickets only

\$35. To purchase tickets or for more information call Christine at (586) 727-7772.

Clyde - March 10
Community Baby Shower, Hillside Wesleyan Church, 5114 N. River Rd., 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. All expectant mothers and fathers in St. Clair County (and new moms with babies under 3 months old) are invited to attend this free event that offers door prizes, speakers and vendors. The St. Clair Health Department will offer free Tdap and flu vaccines during registration. Lunch provided. Registration deadline is March 7. To register for the event, go to GreatStartStClair.org and click on "Community Events" or call (810) 455-4443.

Port Huron - March 10
Spring Craft and Vendor Show, Visiting Nurse Association, 1430 Military St., 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. \$1 admission; kids free. Bake sale, raffles and much more. All proceeds go to VNA Adult Day Program for Alzheimer's and dementia. For more information call Cricket at (810) 388-6056.

Port Huron Twp. - March 10
Blue Water Area Humane Society 16th Annual Charity Auction, 4100 Griswold Rd., doors open at 9:00 a.m.; auction begins at 10:00 a.m. Preview March 9 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. For pictures and videos of items to be auctioned, visit facebook.com/Bluewaterareahs. Food available for sale. Accepting donations of items (tax deductible). For more information call (810) 984-2840.

Marysville - March 12
Healing from Loss, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 6:00 p.m. The compassionate staff of Grace Hospice will share on various aspects of dealing with grief and loss, as well as answer questions and engage in discussion. For more information call (810) 364-9493.

Marine City - March 14, 21 & 28
Tutors for Kids, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, 6:00 p.m. Could you use help with your homework? Your local library can help. Receive one-on-one, free tutoring in the subject of your choice with local high school National Honor Society students. Grades K - 8. Call (810) 765-5233 for more information or to register.

Algonac - March 15, 16 & 17
Book Sale, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., during library hours. Sponsored by the Friends of the Algonac-Clay Library. Besides gently-used, hardcover and paperback books, we will also be selling puzzles, DVDs, CDs and more. Proceeds

support library projects and programs. Donations will be accepted between February 20 and March 14. For more information call (810) 794-4471.

Fair Haven - March 17
Once Upon a Story Party, Ira Township Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd., 11:00 a.m. It's a storybook party! Come dressed as your favorite book character, if you like. There will be lots of fun activities to enjoy, crafts to make and yummy treats. Ages 3 - 8. All supplies provided. For more information call (586) 725-9081.

Marine City - March 21
St. Clair County Dive Team Night at Foxfire Fixin's Restaurant, 7200 River Rd., 5:00 p.m. to Close. Foxfire Fixin's and *ThumbPrint News* support our First Responders - and you can too! On this night, Foxfire Fixin's will donate 20% of all food purchases to the St. Clair County Dive Team. For more information see ad on pg. 17 of this issue. Reservations recommended by calling (810) 765-Y'ALL (9255).

Port Huron - March 22 - 25
Port Huron Northern High School's Spring Musical Bye Bye Birdie, Port Huron Northern, 1799 Krafft Rd., matinees March 22 at 9:00 a.m., on March 23 at noon., and on March 24 and 25 at 2:00 p.m. Evening performances March 22 - 24 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors/students. Contact (810) 531-7379 for further information or for group discounts.

Port Huron - March 23 & 24
New Life Christian Academy's Spring Musical The Sound of Music, Port Huron High School Performing Arts Center, 2215 Court St. March 23 at 7:00 p.m. and March 24 at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. This play is presented by the Fine Arts Department of New Life Christian Academy, in association with Riverbank Theatre. Tickets are \$13. Call (810) 367-3770 or stop by the school, 5517 Griswold Rd., Kimball, for more information and to purchase tickets.

Kimball - March 24
Egg-Stravaganza Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny, Kimball Township Library, 1955 N. Allen Rd., 1:00 p.m. Hunt for eggs, win candy and prizes, and party with the Easter Bunny. Easter Bunny photo ops available. Event will be outdoors, so please dress appropriately. Ages 0 - 12. Registration requested by calling (810) 982-9171.

Port Huron Twp. - March 24
Blue Water Area Humane Society Indoor Flea Market, 4100 Griswold Rd., 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Set-up March 23 from 2:00 p.m. – 7:00

p.m. 100 square feet spaces available to rent for \$25 each. 8' or 6' tables for rent for \$5 each for inside of your booth. \$1 admission; children 12 and under free. Food available for sale. For more information or to rent booth space call Judy at (810) 794-7906.

St. Clair - March 24
Euchre Tournament, St. Clair Masonic Temple, 1800 St. Clair Hwy. Doors open at 1:00 p.m.; play begins at 1:30 p.m. Admission \$10 per person. Door prizes and 50/50 drawing. Refreshments provided. Hosted by Cornell Marysville Chapter 93 to raise money for the Shriner's Hospital. For more information call Diane at (586) 337-2729.

Port Huron - March 26
The Birth of Ford Motor Company and the Model T, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorrان Blvd., 6:30 p.m. Alan Naldrett and Lynn Lyon, authors of the new book, *Michigan's C. Harold Wills*, will give a pictorial presentation. Free. For more information call (810) 987-7323.

Yale - March 27
Make it at the Library, Yale Library, 2 Jones St., 6:00 p.m. Join us to create a craft. For children ages 5 - 10. This is a drop-in program. Registration requested, but not required. For more information call (810) 387-2940.

Marine City - March 28
Algonac Storm Night at Foxfire Fixin's Restaurant, 7200 River Rd., 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. You can support the Algonac Storm Fast Pitch Softball Teams! On this night, Foxfire Fixin's will donate 20% of all food purchases to the Algonac Storm teams. For more information see ad on pg. 17 of this

issue. Reservations recommended by calling (810) 765-Y'ALL (9255).

Sanilac

Sandusky - March 12 & 26
Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Everyone welcome - bring finger foods (for 8:30 p.m.) and friends. Admission: \$6 members, \$7 guests (regular dances). \$10 membership per year. On March 10 the Club provides chicken and entertainment will be by Melody Magic, and on March 24 entertainment provided by Dick Hedrich and Son. For more information call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

Port Sanilac - March 13
St. Patrick's Day Party with "Ourselves", Sanilac County Historical Society Village Church, 228 S. Ridge St., 3:00 p.m. The band "Ourselves" will perform an acoustic event with Irish ballads of love and drink, brawling and revolution, as well as comic music of the Irish experience. Corned beef sandwiches and beer or root beer will be served. Tickets available at the door. \$10 for members; \$20 for non-members. For more information visit sanilaccountymuseum.org.

Tuscola

No events were submitted for Tuscola County this month.

Wayne

No events were submitted for Wayne County this month.



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 <h1>March</h1> <p>WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY?</p>						
<p>1 On this day in 1941, Captain America first appears in comic book form.</p> 	<p>2 On this day in 1877, Rutherford B. Hayes is declared president, by one vote, the day before the inauguration.</p>	<p>3 On this day in 1969, Sirhan Sirhan testifies in a court, in Los Angeles, that he killed Robert Kennedy.</p>				
<p>4 On this day in 1801, Thomas Jefferson is the first U.S. President inaugurated in Washington, D.C.</p>	<p>5 On this day in 1912, the Italians become the first to use dirigibles for military purposes, using them for reconnaissance flights behind Turkish lines west of Tripoli.</p>	<p>6 On this day in 1972, Shaquille O'Neal, NBA center (Magic, Lakers, Olympic gold 1996) is born in Newark, New Jersey.</p>	<p>7 On this day in 1848, The Great Mahēle, a land redistribution proposal by King Kamehameha III, is signed in Hawaii.</p>	<p>8 On this day in 1618, Johannes Kepler discovers the third law of planetary motion.</p>	<p>9 On this day in 1959, Barbie makes her debut at the American Toy Fair in New York. Over a billion have been sold worldwide since.</p>	<p>10 On this day in 1982, the United States bans Libyan oil imports, because of Libya's continued support of terrorism.</p>
<p>11 On this day in 1810, the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte is married by proxy to Archduchess Marie Louise.</p>	<p>12 On this day in 1912, Girl Guides (now known as Girl Scouts) is formed in Savannah, Georgia, by Juliette Gordon Low.</p>	<p>13 On this day in 1781, astronomer William Herschel discovers the planet Uranus, which he names "Georgium Sidus," in honor of King George III.</p>	<p>14 On this day in 1939, the Nazis dissolve the republic of Czechoslovakia.</p> 	<p>15 On this day in 1955, the U.S. Air Force unveils the first self-guided missile.</p>	<p>16 On this day in 1917, Russian Czar Nicholas II abdicates his throne.</p>	<p>17 On this day in 1905, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, niece of President Theodore Roosevelt, marries Franklin D. Roosevelt in New York.</p>
<p>18 On this day in 1992, singer, Donna Summer, gets a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.</p> 	<p>19 On this day in 1981, during a routine test on the space shuttle <i>Columbia</i>, one technician is killed and two others are injured.</p>	<p>20 On this day in 1932, the German dirigible, <i>Graf Zeppelin</i>, makes the first flight to South America on a regular schedule.</p>	<p>21 On this day in 1891, a Hatfield marries a McCoy, ending the 20-year-long feud over accused pig-stealing in West Virginia.</p>	<p>22 On this day in 1904, the first color photograph is published in the <i>London Daily Illustrated Mirror</i>.</p>	<p>23 On this day in 1858, Eleazer A. Gardner of Philadelphia patents the cable street car, which runs on overhead cables.</p>	<p>24 On this day in 1868, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company is formed in New York City.</p> 
<p>25 On this day in 1954, RCA manufactures its first color TV set and begins mass production.</p>	<p>26 On this day in 1885, the Eastman Film Co. manufactures the first commercial motion picture film.</p>	<p>27 On this day in 1802, the Treaty of Amiens is signed, ending the French Revolutionary War.</p>	<p>28 On this day in 1962, the U.S. Air Force announces research into the use of lasers to intercept missiles and satellites.</p>	<p>29 On this day in 1951, the Chinese reject General Douglas MacArthur's offer for a truce in Korea.</p>	<p>30 On this day in 1936, Britain announces a naval construction program of 38 warships. This is the largest construction program in 15 years.</p>	<p>31 On this day in 1933, to relieve rampant unemployment, Congress authorizes the Civilian Conservation Corps.</p>



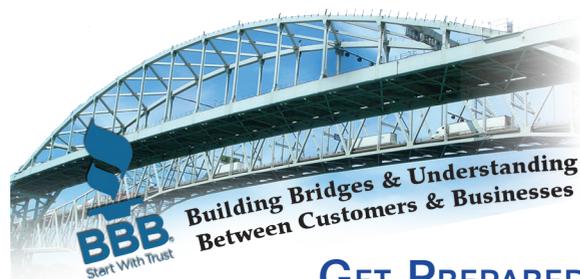
Submitted By **Katie Bancroft**, Community Engagement Coordinator YMCA of the Blue Water Area

Registration has begun for the Blue Water YMCA's Annual Leprechaun Loop! Individuals, children and families, of all fitness levels (many sporting St. Patrick's Day costumes), will make their way through the streets of downtown Port Huron on March 10th. Join in the fun and don't forget to wear your green. Prizes will be awarded! Registration can be done online at www.runsignup.com or by calling the YMCA (810) 987-6400. There is a 10K, 5K and 2K available. The cost for the adult 10k or 5K is \$30, the youth 10K or 5K is \$15, and the 2k Fun Walk/Run is \$20 per person. To learn more about the YMCA of the Blue Water Area, contact them

at (810) 987-6400 or visit www.bluewaterymca.com for more information.

Author's Note: For 125 years, the Y has been strengthening our community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The Y engages men, women and children of the Blue Water Area in nurturing the potential of youth and teens, improving the area's health and well-being, and providing opportunities to give back and support our neighbors. All Y programs and services are designed to build the core character values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. The Y is a place for people of all faiths, races, abilities, ages and incomes.





Melanie Duquesnel

GET PREPARED FOR TAX SEASON

Although Tax Day isn't until Tuesday, April 17, tax season is in full swing.

Filing taxes can often be a daunting task. Consumers should avoid procrastinating when preparing their taxes. By filing your taxes early, you can avoid stress from last minute rushing and have time to deal with any issues that may arise. Plus, the sooner you file, the sooner you get your refund.

BBB offers the following tips to help make your tax preparation as smooth as possible.

- **File Early.** The sooner you file, the less likely your tax refund could fall prey to hackers. During tax season, hackers are on the prowl creating Social Security numbers and trying to get other people's tax refunds.
- **Organize your paperwork.** Organize your receipts, necessary forms (including W-2s and 1099s) and proof of charitable contributions. Determine whether you're missing any necessary forms, and take the time now to reach out to the appropriate organizations and ensure that you receive them. Figure out if you'll take the standard deduction or if you'll exceed it. If you plan on itemizing your deductions, now is a good time to start. You can find all necessary forms on the IRS' website, IRS.gov, under "Forms and Publications".
- **Watch out for scammers.** Be cautious of any phone calls, emails or other contact from the "IRS". These scams are designed to convince consumers of their legitimacy, but don't be fooled. IRS will never initiate contact with you over the phone, social media or email. It's also important to watch out for tax-related identity theft, which occurs when someone fraudulently uses your Social Security number to file a return and claim a refund. If you've encountered any type of scam, make sure to report it to BBB Scam Tracker to help warn others.
- **Think about milestones.** Start by looking over your tax filings from previous years and take note of what's changed in your life. Old filings can remind you of forms and income/expenses that are easy to forget about. Milestones like buying or selling a house, starting or graduating from college, having a child or getting married can have big effects on your taxes.
- **Do your research.** Look into new tax laws and interpretations, both federally and in your state. This may alter your filing. If you are a foreign national that uses an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), you may need to renew your number. This process can take up to 11 weeks, so start now if necessary.
- **Decide how you'll file.** When it comes to filing your taxes, you have a few options.
 1. Your first option is to file your taxes manually.
 2. There are also a plethora of online programs you can use. Using tax preparation software or electronic filing cuts down on errors in your application compared to manual filing.
 3. Your third option is to hire a tax professional. If you haven't worked with a professional before, you may want to start meeting with multiple preparers to choose the right one for you. Schedule your appointments early, as calendars fill up quickly during tax season.

Unsure what to look for when finding a tax preparer? BBB offers these tips to help you with your search.

- **Look for credentials.** Ideally, your tax preparer should either be a certified public accountant, a tax attorney or an enrolled agent. All three can represent you before the IRS in all matters, including an audit.
- **Don't fall for the promise of a big refund.** Be wary of any tax preparation service promising larger refunds than the competition. Avoid any tax preparer who bases their fee on a percentage of the refund.
- **Think about accessibility.** Many tax preparation services only set up shop for the months leading up to April 17. In case the IRS finds errors, or in case of an audit, make sure you are able to contact your tax preparer at any time of the year.
- **Read the contract carefully.** Read tax preparation service contracts closely to ensure you understand issues such as how much it is going to cost for the service, how the cost will be affected if preparation is more complicated and time consuming than expected, and whether the tax preparer will represent you in the case of an audit.
- **Do your research.** Find out who your family, friends and even colleagues use to prepare their taxes and then check BBB Business Profiles at bbb.org to learn more about that preparer.

Need help finding that credible, ethical tax preparer? Visit bbb.org or call (248) 223-9400. We can help. 🐹

Editor's note: Melanie Duquesnel is the president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving Eastern Michigan & the Upper Peninsula, which is a non-profit organization that fights fraud and promotes ethical business practices in the local marketplace through its business accreditation, consumer education and dispute resolution programs. Contact your local BBB by calling (248) 223-9400 or by visiting www.bbb.org.

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Don Alcorn, GRI and Barbara Alcorn, GRI

MARKET MATTERS

As we continue on our wild winter weather rollercoaster, signs of spring are beginning to appear in the residential real estate market. We are starting to see increasing numbers of new listings coming on market.

Inventory is still problematic, with a continuing reduced supply of homes available for sale priced below \$500,000. It is still a Seller's market for moderately priced homes. The opposite is true for homes above \$500,000, where there is more supply than demand and it continues to be a Buyer's market.



Staging your home is a wonderful way to help your home sell more quickly! Buyers are more motivated to consider purchasing a home that suits their family size, budget and location requirements, but also one that appeals to their senses. What will a buyer see, smell, hear and touch when they first see your home?

Staging doesn't have to be expensive. Sure, you can hire a decorator or invest in new furniture or renovations. But, if you're like many sellers we work with, high-end staging may not be in your plan or budget. That's why we put together detailed, room-by-room, personalized staging tips for our clients. Here are a few tips that may be helpful to you.

Low-Cost Home Staging Tips

- ✚ **Say Goodbye to Clutter!** The most important thing you can do to prepare your home for sale (and for your move) is to get rid of clutter. Take a hard look at what you have and ask yourself what you can live without.
- ✚ **Curb Appeal** – Be sure the entrance is clean and well-maintained, no weeds, no cobwebs. First impressions count.
- ✚ **Potted Plants, Fresh Flowers** – Plants, small or large, are an easy and inexpensive way to create visual appeal. Flower arrangements in vases you already own look beautiful and will smell naturally fresh.
- ✚ **Home Fragrance** – Gentle odors, such as lightly scented candles, sprays, and plug-in type fragrance gadgets in delicate scents, can work wonders.
- ✚ **Baskets, Decorative Containers** can help organize scattered items and eliminate clutter.
- ✚ **Light Bulbs and Dimmer Switches** – Brighten dark areas and rooms or soften harsh light with dimmers and the newer soft light bulbs. Have working bulbs in all sockets.
- ✚ **Paint over** unusual colors or update stark white walls with a contemporary neutral tone.
- ✚ **Clean the Mechanicals Area** of the house thoroughly. Eliminate dust and debris from your water heater and furnace. Let the prospective buyers know you pay attention to maintaining your home. 🌱

Editor's Note: Don and Barbara Alcorn are RealtorsSM serving Macomb, St. Clair and Oakland Counties and the Grosse Pointes, and are part of an international network of realtors. They are affiliated with Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel, the #1 Coldwell Banker in Michigan. You can reach Don and Barbara at (810) 278-6654 or -6655 or dalcorn@cbwm.com or balcorn@cbwm.com.

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JOHN S. BEAGLE SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

Submitted by Tatilia Y. Burroughs

Applications are being accepted for the John S. Beagle Scholarship established by the Genesee County Bar Foundation to assist students from Genesee County, Michigan, with financial support while in their second or third level of law school. It is through the generosity of the late John S. Beagle and his family that the scholarship has been established.

John S. Beagle was a distinguished member of the Genesee County Bar Foundation and Genesee County Bar Association. He was affectionately known as "Legal Beagle," a man of irreproachable character and good will who had a passion for justice. He was also a man who recognized the struggles of those less fortunate and thought that economics should not be a barrier to attending law school. Those fortunate enough to be the recipient of a John S. Beagle Scholarship will never have the opportunity to know this eminent attorney, but his memory will be embraced by those he helped.

A minimum scholarship of \$5,000 will be awarded. The application deadline is May 1, 2018. For those interested in learning more about the Genesee County Bar Foundation and the John S. Beagle Scholarship, information can be found at www.gcbalaw.org or by calling the Foundation at (810) 232-6000. 🌱

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The Kettle Corn Trail

By Rita
MacDonald
ThumbPrint News
Columnist

A trail of kettle corn between the kitchen and living room was hard to miss when I came home after my son had been here yesterday. There was a time when I would have given my kids grief about not cleaning up after themselves, but this time was different. This time,

I just smiled to myself and thought, "This will always be home."

In the current season of life, with my sons grown and out of the house, there are often days when I reflect back to my parenting years. I wonder if I'm the only one who does this. I think of the things I would do differently if I could go back in time. I go over and over the mistakes I've made (not healthy), always evaluating and reevaluating – knowing there are no "re-dos" in this life.

This morning when I packed my lunch for work and there were nothing but tiny crumbs left in the once full bag of kettle corn, I was reminded again of when the kids were young, but I found myself so glad to think that my son still stops by and that he is still just as comfortable to open the cupboard and help himself to whatever he wants. I do hope that never changes!

I worked from our house when the kids were growing up. Their friends, whose parents worked outside the home, would come here after school. Since I could stop working and leave in a moment's notice for emergencies, I was the parent who had a key to many houses, and was the emergency contact at schools for several

neighborhood kids.

My kids' friends came to my house. They played at my house. They ate at my house. I never, ever, ever worried about not having enough. There was ALWAYS enough. There were enough popsicles, meatballs, chocolate chip cookies, macaroni and cheese – you name it! And I cannot think of anything more satisfying than seeing your kids and their friends devour your cookies, to hear them brag to their friends about MY meatballs being the best, or just watching them feel comfortable opening the fridge and sharing whatever we had with their friends – without even thinking twice about it.

There's also nothing more inviting, welcoming and loving than asking someone to sit at your kitchen table and share a meal, even if it's an unexpected guest. Getting a visitor and sharing anything at all while sitting at the kitchen table is still something I enjoy so much!

There was always enough during my single parenting years, and there will always be enough in the future. God has always provided for me in every season of parenting – and often at the very last minute! Sharing some of those provisions is definitely something I look back at and never regret.

I'm thankful today for that trail of kettle corn through my kitchen. It reminds me that there are some things I may have done well! A welcoming kitchen was one of them.

I hope today that YOU get an unexpected guest, that you welcome them into your home, and pull a chair up to your kitchen table, where certainly you have something to share. And if, by chance, you wind up at my kitchen – you'd better come hungry, because I'm feeding you!

But only my kids are allowed to leave kettle corn trails! 🌽

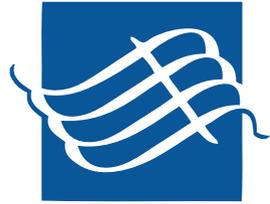
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