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SOME SILENCE IS GOLDEN

The Gift of Remembrance

A HISTORICAL JOURNEY

By **Brenda L. Williams**, *ThumbPrint News* Guest Writer

When it comes to researching the local history of St. Clair County, Michigan, you never know what you might find or encounter. As a historical writer, I am often tempted to share my research process with my audience. There are some who might believe this makes for tedious reading. I apologize to those who feel this way. Personally, I am more of the belief that in sharing my process, I can highlight my appreciation for the donors, educational institutions, societies, museums, interest groups, writers, media specialists, and private individuals who make up our historical community. We are so lucky to have such a rich and colorful history. We are also fortunate to have a great historical community dedicated to preserving and sharing that history. Without them, I could not do what I do.

I wanted to share with you a historical journey that started with a portrait and ends with a man whose private homage to the fallen soldiers of his generation eventually found its place in our history. Personal experience, donative efforts, historical institutions, and local history writing paved my path. This piece is dedicated to those whose actions collectively led me to Mr. J.W. Benedict's story. We all join with you to honor and remember our brave soldiers who gave their lives for our liberties and freedoms this month as we approach April 12th – a day that will forever mark the beginning of the Civil War.

THE LADY IN THE PORTRAIT

One rainy day in the fall of 2017, I was looking over some genealogical documents on the McMorran family at the Port Huron Museum. While studying the files, I came across a collection of photographs. I was drawn to the face of a woman all dressed up in crimson and

white set inside a delicately carved wooden frame. There was an innocence about her that held me. The photograph was accompanied by an identifying nameplate, which read, "Elizabeth Murphy, photograph from original painting by Wilhelm Fuchs painter. Donated by Marjorie Benedict Schultz."

Being fond of the picture, I wanted to find out more about this Elizabeth Murphy and her possible connection to the McMorran family. I asked Veronica Campbell, the Director of Exhibits and Collections for the museum at the time, for a digital copy of the photograph. I felt certain she was probably a relation to Andrew Murphy, Henry McMorran's son-in-law.

When I arrived home, I immediately set to work on researching Elizabeth. I investigated Andrew Murphy's roots in Ohio but could find no information about an Elizabeth Murphy linked to his family. After many weeks, my research of her was dead in its tracks. I put her away in a file and moved on.

ELIZABETH MURPHY MOORE

During the summer of 2018, I spent a long weekend in Detroit. On my visit, I went to the John King Bookstore. While looking over their massive local history collection, I came across a pamphlet published in 1973 by Rosamonde H. Earle. The hand-drawn sketches throughout the book were so charming; I could not resist the purchase.

When I returned home, I sat down and read the pamphlet. It contained a small story on a home called "Belle Reve", which is French for "beautiful dream." I learned Belle Reve was built in St. Clair by Congressman Justin R. Whiting in 1892, who sold it to a George Gordon Moore in 1910. As I continued reading, I discovered



Elizabeth Murphy, date unknown (Photo courtesy of Port Huron Museum)

See *GIFT* Page 10



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"THE LAST CAMP"

We have met in the camp where our heroes are resting,
Who stood by that flag that floats o'er their graves,
Though their faces are hid we shall never forget them,
Nor our voices keep silent in accents of praise.

How ready and willing when the nation was calling,
They put on the armor the union to save,
Through the storm clouds of fire that round them were raging,
They fought bled and died neath our flag that still waves.

Their deeds so heroic in effulgence are shining,
To their names all immortal pure homage we bring,
In token of honor we have gathered together,
To strew o'er their graves the flowers of Spring.

No power on earth can awake them to battle,
They have conquered through death the greatest of foes,
They will suffer no more from earths trials and conflicts
In these graves they are taking their final repose.

Here victory and peace in silence commingles,
Here beauty and fragrance doth richly abound,
Here! Here! Lies the martyrs who will ne'er be forgotten,
In these dark lonely cells neath these grass covered mounds.

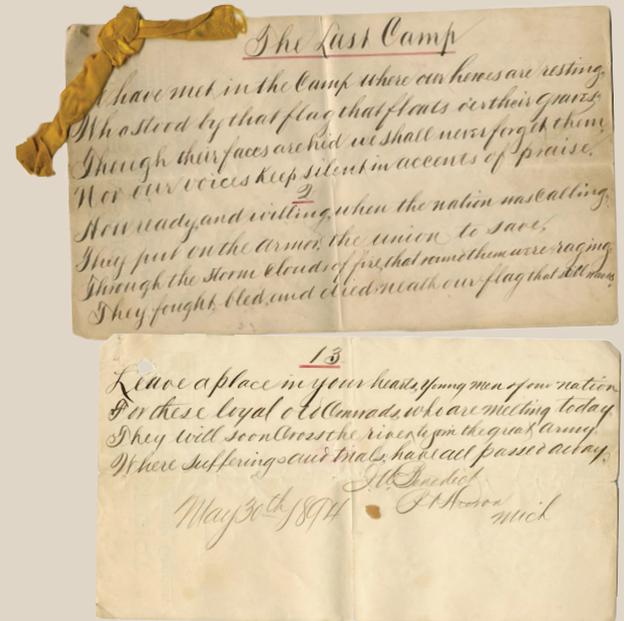
Go cover their tombs with the sweetest of flowers,
Come sing o'er these loved ones your requiems low,
May we feel in our hearts pure gratitude flowing,
For those heroes who died with their face to the foe.

How many in prison under vandal oppression,
Found death by starvation their only relief,
We can freely forgive but never forget them,
Whose cruelty doubled our burden of grief.

Aye! Well can America boast of her freedom,
Unequaled in liberty, wealth, and renown,
She was bought with a price that equals her value,
It's the lives of our heroes in the graves we stand round.

May peace like the sun, shine over our nation,
And hope and prosperity lighten the gloom,
Till the glorious reunion in the eternal kingdom,
Where all shall awake from the earths sorrowing tomb.

J. W. Benedict's poem referenced in this month's cover article, "The Gift of Remembrance" by Brenda L. Williams. Seen below are the first and last pages of the poem, included to show style and hand-writing sample. (Photos courtesy of The Henry Ford website.)



TWENTY-TWO YEARS LATER

The years have fled by like a bird on the wing,
And our comrades grown aged and gray,
They are fast passing over to join the dead heroes,
Where no one can tell the Blue from the Gray.

Thence mighty army's great chieftains departed,
Together with many as true and as brave,
Our memory still clings to their names and their glory,
Tho absent they speak to us now from the grave.

Fraternity sounds the glad words of reunion,
And comrades greet comrades like brothers again,
God bless the grand Army of this mighty nation,
True patriots, staunch heroes, and bravest of men.

Leave a place in your hearts, young men for our nation,
For those loyal old comrades who are meeting today,
They will soon cross the river to join the great Army,
Where suffering and trials have all passed away.

Signed by J.W. Benedict
Port Huron, Michigan, May 30, 1894



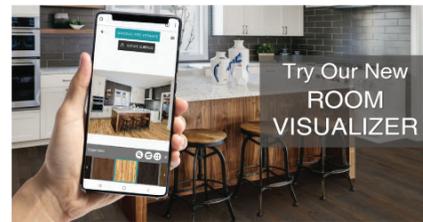
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A TALE OF SIX BROTHERS

By David Gillis
ThumbPrint News Columnist

Imagine how the parents of a son feel when that offspring enlists in the Army during a devastating war. Certainly, there is a heightened level of stress and anxiety, if not fear. Now, think about how they might feel if two of their sons made that same decision and went off to battle. Let us take this growing scenario to a higher level. Suppose there was a family of 16 siblings, ten daughters and six sons, and all the boys enlisted within a short period of time and went to fight for their nation. Are you feeling some emotions as you mentally digest the story? I know as a parent and military veteran, I can.

On a wall adjacent to my desk hang several framed items of memorabilia, many of which recognize ancestors I would like to have known. Within those glass-covered enclosures rests many stories, some I have learned, but others I have never been told and will probably never know. They are of many members of my family who can now only be found captured on my family tree and under fading stones in area cemeteries.

More than a decade ago I wrote an article for the *ThumbPrint News* about two great-great-grandfathers who never knew each other and were enlisted members of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Each marched or, as was the case, rode into many battles of the Civil War, this nation's horrific internal conflict that sometimes would pit northern family members against southern relatives.

My story here relates to a paternal lineage that draws me back to that time in our nation's history and to the specific surname of Montney. It is a name that may still be recognized in the Thumb area's communities of Memphis, Yale

and Algonac. Certainly, you will find the name on grave markers in local cemeteries.

To tell this story and how it relates to Thumb area history and, more specifically, to my family, we need to leave Michigan. In Montgomery County, and later in Jefferson County, in the state of New York, lived Joseph Montney, Jr., my great-great-great-grandfather. He was a descendant of a Revolutionary War Army officer and was himself a veteran of the War of 1812, in which he was wounded in battle. Joseph later immigrated to Ontario, Canada, and, following the Civil War to Michigan, settling in Armada and later in St. Clair, Genesee and Ogemaw Counties, working as a farmer. Together with his wife, Sarah Jane, he raised 16 children, the last of which *Joseph Montney, Jr.* was my great-great-grandfather, Byron.

Grandpa Byron was born in 1847, while his parents were still residents of Canada. In December 1863, at the age of 15 (yes, he falsified his age at enlistment), he had the burning desire to join his brothers to fight for the "Union Blue". He enlisted in Company I, 14th Regiment, New York Heavy Artillery Volunteers, which later became part of the Infantry Division. During his enlistment, he fought in 22 battles and attained the rank of corporal. I am told that a favorite tale of his was having been only a few yards from and witnessing the negotiated surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee to Union General Ulysses S. Grant. What is astounding to me is that he and his five other Union

soldier brothers, each a member of separate Army units, all fought in the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863, and all survived to return home.



Joseph Montney, Jr.

After being discharged from the GAR, Byron returned to what was now his father's home in Memphis, Michigan. There in neighboring Armada, he met and in 1868 married Jane Scribner, the daughter of Solomon and Ursula Scribner. Together they had nine children, the fifth of which was my great-grandmother, Grace. Byron died in October 1938 and is buried in the Memphis Cemetery.

This story could move in several directions and create still more stories since many of the brothers relocated to other areas of the state, as well as the nation. Of special interest to the residents of Memphis, Yale and later Algonac, however, is the name Charles L. Montney, Byron's third oldest brother and my great-great-uncle. He was the first of the brothers to enter the Grand Army of the Republic in 1861, and he was promoted to First Lieutenant three years later. His military records show that he fought at the second Bull Run, Sabin Crossroad, Gettysburg and Antietam. During those battles, he had five horses shot from beneath him. After his re-

enlistment, he achieved the rank of Captain and was finally discharged in Texas in 1866.

Charles settled in the Yale area with his wife Charlotte. In his later years, he resided with his grandson Winslow in Algonac. Winslow fought in the Spanish-American War and is buried in Algonac. Charles was a farmer and worked in a woolen mill in Yale, served as a member of the Yale School Board and the local Soldiers' Widows Relief Fund. For 25 years he was the sheriff in Yale.

As I return to the wall of framed memorabilia, I find evidence of family members I never knew but have great respect for. There is a framed certificate of my membership in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and below it another framed certificate of hereditary companionship in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

This brief tale of Grandpa Byron and his five brothers could surely grow into other stories. With their ten sisters, the Montney siblings produced 60 children, each creating branches of a growing family tree and each offering additional chapters to an expanded commentary. I sometimes wonder where I fit in that ever-growing tree and how my ancestors have impacted my life. Maybe I am able to have a better understanding by examining a quote of American poet and novelist Sylvia Plath: "I am but one more drop in the great sea of matter, defined, with the ability to realize my existence." 🇺🇸



"Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat."

Laura Ingalls Wilder



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TIME FOR
AN ANNUAL
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April 7th is World Health Day, a great time to focus on one of the most neglected areas of our health, our auditory system. It is such a noisy world out there! With all the noise that surrounds us daily – airplanes, construction, emergency vehicles, motorcycles, fireworks, loud music – we are all at risk for some level of hearing loss in the future. According to the Hearing Loss Association of America, approximately 48 million Americans (20 percent) report some degree of hearing loss. That's why it's so important to have our hearing checked regularly, especially as we get older. Hearing loss is dangerous if left untreated, so it is imperative to address the condition as early as possible. Hearing loss has been linked to other health conditions such as: dementia, Alzheimer's, emotional strain, fatigue, depression, social isolation and increases in one's risk of falling.

It's always important to be proactive about your health and take advantage of your local hearing care providers that offer free hearing screenings. Screenings help detect the start of hearing loss and prevent further hearing issues. Do you feel like you should schedule a hearing test, but feel curious what the visit entails? It's normal to hesitate on taking the first step, but rest assured, there's nothing to worry about and you'll be thankful you did!

THE OFFICE VISIT – STEP BY STEP

First Step: Lifestyle assessment. Understanding more about your lifestyle and hearing priorities helps a specialist provide individualized care. Are you outdoorsy? Do you frequent restaurants and public places? Do you enjoy television, music, movies and lectures? All of these kinds of things and more play into the development of hearing loss and the type of hearing aids right for you, if should you need them.

Second Step: Review of your general health and hearing history. Many people are surprised by how much our overall health and the medications we take can impact our hearing. Several common conditions can adversely affect our ability to hear.

Third Step: Hearing evaluation. A hearing evaluation includes several tests that measure how well you hear a variety of sounds, such as tones and speech. It will consist of a visual examination of your ear using an otoscope, an air and bone conduction test and word discrimination test.

Fourth Step: Hearing test results. After your hearing evaluation, your specialist will review your results on an audiogram, which is a visual representation of how well you are hearing. Based on the findings, either your hearing is in tip top shape and you should repeat testing once a year, or you will proceed to the fifth step.

Fifth Step: Diagnosis and treatment plan. If a hearing loss is found and hearing aids are able to treat your loss, the specialist will give a comprehensive diagnosis and suggest a wide range of hearing products to fit your hearing care needs, lifestyle and budget.

Editor's note: Beltone Skoric Hearing Aid Center has been serving the hearing-impaired community in Michigan for over 30 years. They have made it their mission to educate about the negative effects of untreated hearing loss. For more information, please visit their website www.beltoneskorichearing.com or call to schedule a free hearing exam at one of their 38 locations: (810) 356-0559.

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ONE SMALL THING CAN HELP UKRAINE OR YOUR NEIGHBOR

By Patricia Cosner Kubic, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Do one thing. Do one thing, even if it's a small thing. Do one small thing to help make an unimaginable situation less awful. I'm not suggesting a goal of altruism. I'm just repeating what so many before me have said: no effort to comfort is ever considered small by those receiving the relief.

It's interesting how events on the other side of the globe can cause our hearts to miss a beat. For years, decades probably, the word "Ukraine" never crossed my mind, let alone my heart. Now that word, those people are all I can think about. I check my newsfeeds before I even get out of bed, hoping that the headline tells me that Russia has withdrawn its forces. As I write this, things are so bleak. But, maybe by publication date, there will be a reason to feel optimistic? For now, I worry while I bow down to the stout response of the Ukrainian people.

Watching their indefatigable pushback can't be all I can do. But, I can't help but think that nothing I can do can make a difference. Not only am I wrong, but I'm also possibly lazy. Kindness toward strangers is one of the best ways to spend our energies. On one of my recent newsfeed scrolls, I saw a picture of a row of strollers. Honestly, I thought it was an ad for a coffee shop encouraging stay-at-home parents to stop in for a yummy cup of brew. My assumption was wrong; it was actually a line of donated strollers that people left at the Ukraine border for parents who were forced to leave their country carrying their kid(s). There was a simple sign: FREE STROLLERS. Can you imagine the relief these parents, mostly women because so many men have stayed behind to fight, felt by being able to put their child in a stroller and stop carrying them? I wonder which relief was more potent: relaxing their arms or exhaling, knowing some much-focused help came from strangers.

While it would be difficult for anyone in the southeastern Michigan area to leave a stroller at the border, gratefully, ideas are popping up all over. We just have to do one small thing. My suggestion for that one small thing could be a bag of dog or cat food. The IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare; www.ifaw.org) has set up animal shelters for pets that had to be left behind after their owners fled Ukraine. I can't imagine the courage and dedication it takes for the volunteers to stay in such dangerous areas to take care of abandoned animals. As I write this, the IFAW is begging for pet food. And, if I had to guess,

by the time this goes to press, the animals will still be homeless and hungry. I don't say this to lay on a guilt trip. I say this because doing one small thing can indeed make a difference.

With that one bag of food, seemingly one small thing, so many tummies will get filled up. And when hunger is not yelling at someone, including a furry someone, the day is easier. And in a country where easy days feel like something too big to hope for, one small thing in Ukraine or in your neighborhood can make that hope seem possible. 🇺🇦

You can reach Patricia at pckubic@gmail.com





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SENIOR PETS

CATS AND DOGS IN HUMAN YEARS

By Dr. Elizabeth Gray, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Keeping Your Senior Pets Healthy

As our pets age, their daily needs can change. As you can see by this chart from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), both dogs and cats are in the equivalent of their “50s” at the age of 7. By 15 years old, pets are well into their “70s”.



CAT YEARS	HUMAN YEARS
7	54
10	63
15	78
20	97



DOG YEARS	HUMAN YEARS (small to very large dogs)*
7	44 to 56
10	56 to 78
15	76 to 115
20	96 to 120

Age: Estimated Human Equivalents for Older Pets
 *Small: 0-20 lbs; Medium: 21-50 lbs; Large: 51-90 lbs; Very large: >90 lbs

Just like us, pets require more frequent medical care as they age. Because pets age much faster than humans, some geriatric pets can benefit from increasing wellness exams to every six months. This can help detect problems sooner, allowing proper treatment.

Some examples of these common issues include dental disease, arthritis/lameness, eyesight changes, and lumps or masses.

Dental issues can arise quickly and cause pain. Look for subtle changes in appetite or eating behavior. As most of us know, dental issues can be sensitive or painful. This can make your pet hesitant to drink water or chew properly. Regular dental care, especially for geriatric pets, can help keep your pet’s quality of life top-notch.

Arthritis is a major concern for our aging pets. Some signs of arthritis include not jumping up on furniture, not asking to go outside as frequently, or stiffness when rising or laying down. One of the best ways to prevent or combat arthritis is maintaining a proper weight. Less weight means less stress on the joints. There are also several options for supplements to support joint health for both cats and dogs. Ask your vet if one is right for your pet. Over-the-counter options can be beneficial but take care to read the labels. While some formulations may seem less expensive, they may contain a fraction of the active ingredient your pet needs to see the benefits. Sometimes our pets need more than supplements for joint health. There are many options to safely relieve arthritic pain that your vet can help with. From traditional pain medications such as NSAIDs, to therapeutic laser sessions, there are many ways to help your pet maintain mobility.

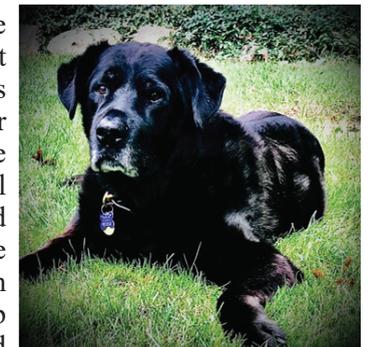
Eyesight can become an issue for geriatric pets as well. Issues such as glaucoma and cataracts can arise, especially if your pet’s breed is predisposed. Eyesight loss can be difficult to detect, as dogs and especially cats can adapt extremely well to vision loss. If you have any concerns with your pet’s vision, ask your vet. When caught early, some causes of sight loss can be managed, extending eyesight for your pet.

Lumps and bumps are a common issue for aging pets. Some lumps are of little concern and can be merely a cosmetic issue. Others, however, can be cancerous. It is best to have any new masses or changes in masses checked out by your veterinarian. If deemed necessary, your vet can take a sample from the mass or remove a suspicious mass completely. Once removed, testing can tell us exactly what the mass is, and if any further treatment is necessary. The earlier a mass is removed the better. Smaller masses mean smaller incisions, lower risk of complications and shorter anesthesia time. If you find a lump, don’t wait!

Even if your pet doesn’t show any signs of aging, annual wellness blood work is a great way to start off your pet’s geriatric years. It usually requires only a small sample of blood and gives valuable information about the internal function. This information includes kidney function, liver function, and blood sugar to name just a few. Next time your pet is due for an exam, consider adding this additional testing. Many disease processes can be treated or managed, especially when detected in the early stages. If your pet requires long-term medications, this blood work can also help ensure their body can process it properly and minimize unwanted side effects.



Furio, age 14



Mordy, age 12

Editorial note: Dr. Gray serves the St. Clair County area with In The Pink Mobile Veterinary Services. She is based out of Goodells, Michigan. To reach out to Dr. Gray, please call (810) 985-3011 or visit her website at inthepinkpetcare.com.

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By **Pamela Lynn Hayes**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

We are well on our way to that glorious time in Michigan, thawing Earth and warm spring days!

This is the time I start planning what landscaping I am going to refresh around the cottage and see what survived the harsh cold and wind around the place.

Weekend trips to the cottage become more frequent and checking the weekly weather forecast in the area is a daily occurrence before planning a road trip.

However, I did find a way to be able to keep an eye out on not only the weather but the area surrounding the cottage as well, outdoor cameras.

Oh, the things you see in the middle of the night up north! I now know I have a family of feral cats that take shelter on my porch, and they use it as a staging area before a fight. Raccoons waddle by and glance up the windows and a few opossums skitter about. This summer the late-night animal activities will be even busier, I'm sure!

Now I don't have to rely on the ever-changing weather forecast or bother my neighbors who live up there full-time about how much snow is on the ground. Gone are the days of wondering if I should chance a drive up with my car, not knowing if I'd even have a place to park without getting stuck in the drifting snow piles.

I highly doubt I will spot the Thumb Area Sasquatch walking around my place, but I love knowing I can check out what is happening at any given moment.

This May makes 10 years I have owned my piece of tranquility. How crazy it is to think it's been a decade already. I still feel like it's so new to me. I still remember the day my kids and I walked in to look at the place before making the seller an offer, I knew it was the place we wanted.

It's taken some time and work to make our seasonal home close to being perfect - even though in my eyes it already IS perfect. I have never once regretted the purchase of it. And now I can always keep an eye on the place thanks to modern technology! I don't know why I didn't do this sooner. 🐣

Goodbye, Winter! Spring has Sprung, ThumbPrint News Readers!



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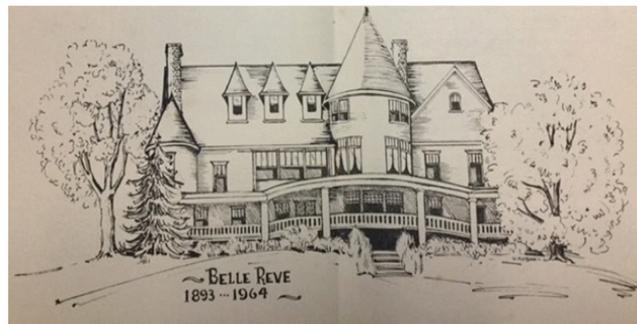
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GIFT, Continued from Page 1

a paragraph that read, “Wilhelm Fuchs, a famous portrait painter from Berlin, moved in for an entire season and painted Mrs. Moore, who was a most exquisite beauty and Virginia their daughter.” Knowing the artist of my favored portrait from the museum was Wilhelm Fuchs, I realized I had found Elizabeth Murphy!

After the Moore’s assumed ownership of Belle Reve, the house underwent an elaborate remodel with no expense spared. Unfortunately, Elizabeth and George divorced in 1917, whereby Elizabeth was awarded the home in their divorce proceedings. George cut his losses and moved out to California to live quite an extraordinary life. Elizabeth eventually remarried Michigan Supreme Court Judge, Flavius L.



Sketch of Belle Reve (Photo courtesy of Life and Times in Early St. Clair, Michigan by Rosamonde H. Earle, 1973)

Brooke, and they resided in the home.

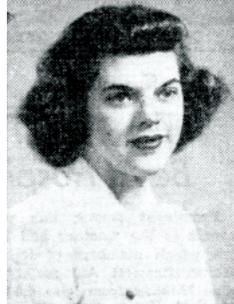
Elizabeth lived in the home after Flavius died for about 15 years. In 1936, she sold it to Russell Feldman, an eastern industrialist. In 1955, it was purchased by William Bayer, a Detroit hotel owner. Sadly, Belle Reve is not standing today. Sometime after 1955 and before 1973, it was demolished. Before it was torn down, a section of the English Red Oak Paneling purchased from England by George Moore was preserved and donated by Bernard Kuhn and Carl Lasher to St. Clair County Community College (SC4). The college in turn donated it to the Port Huron Museum. It was displayed for many years in their McMorran Room. In 2018, the museum donated the paneling to the St. Clair Museum.

THE PORTRAIT DONOR

After I discovered who Elizabeth Murphy was, it made sense how her portrait could have found its way into the McMorran family documents. It is my guess the original painting hung in the McMorran Room along with the paneling from her home. This room also held McMorran family items.

The more I researched the Moore’s, the more intriguing the story grew. This led me to want to find out more about the person who donated the portrait. I figured to have made the donation, this Marjorie Benedict Schultz must have known a thing or two about the Moore’s, and more than likely she came from St. Clair herself. I soon found out her family had an interesting story to tell too.

Marjorie Benedict Schultz grew up in St. Clair. She attended Port Huron High School. In May of 1941, in her junior year, she was awarded a musical scholarship for her piano playing. Her father, James W. Benedict, Jr., was an attorney who practiced locally. Marjorie appears to have



Marjorie Benedict, 1941 (Photo courtesy of The Times Herald)

experienced an idyllic childhood growing up in St. Clair with her two brothers. Her family loved sailing and often participated in the annual Mackinac Races. Her brothers were obsessed with planes. They would make paper ones and fly them down at Palmer Park. The family even named their dog Lindy, after the super cool pilot, Charles Lindberg.

Marjorie’s grandfather was James Wesley Benedict. For more than 30 years, he was the proprietor of the Benedict Grocery. His storefront was in the Benedict Block on the

In 1919, it was sold to Dr. William B. James of Marysville.

Mr. Benedict died in 1922, when Marjorie was a toddler, so she never got to know her grandfather in her lifetime. Her interest in him was peaked when her family found a handwritten poem he penned on the back of his grocery stationary titled, “The Last Camp”. His family attributes his experience as a teenager during the Civil War and his desire to pay tribute to Civil War Veterans as the motivating factors to his writing the poem. The poem contains 13 stanzas, in which James wrote the first nine stanzas in 1872. He wrote the last four in 1894, 22 years later.

After the family discovered the poem in 1994, Marjorie learned her grandfather read his poem at the Memorial Day Ceremony in Pine Grove Park in 1894, and she was amazed the poem lay unnoticed in his receipt book for 100 years.

According to the family, the poem has been read at the Henry Ford Museum, and a copy was sent to the Smithsonian’s Division of Military History and Diplomacy for preservation. Today you can find a digital copy of

J.W. Benedict’s grocery stationary. (Photos courtesy of The Henry Ford website)



Military Street, 1908. Benedict Grocery Building is the first building on the left-hand side of this photo. The store sign is displaced on the side of the building. (Photo courtesy of Shorpy.com)



J.W. Benedict, 1922 (Photo courtesy of The Times Herald)

corner of Military and Pine Street. Perhaps you have seen a picture of his building in old photographs of Military Street in downtown Port Huron. This building later housed the Maxine Theatre, operated by Henry Goseline.

The Henry Ford website. The original is being held in The Henry Ford Collection, gifted in memory of James Edward Benedict and Patricia Wightman Benedict. The Henry Ford Collection summary for “The Last Camp” Poem Collection reads: “This poem, written by J. Wesley Benedict, was read at a Memorial Day gathering in Port Huron, Michigan, in 1894. Benedict expressed gratitude for the sacrifices made by those who had fought the Civil War. The first

nine stanzas, written in 1872, reflect the hardship of war and cost of freedom. The remaining four stanzas, added twenty years later, focus on reconciliation.”

I’ve transcribed the poem and you can find it on page 2 of this issue.

PINE GROVE PARK – SOLDIER’S MONUMENT

It is here I will offer a speculative guess as to why Mr. Benedict added the last 4 stanzas of his poem 20 years after he started it. As I mentioned earlier, one of my research interests is Henry McMorran. In his lifetime, Henry McMorran had a good friend, Henry Batchelor. Henry and his father, Jacob Batchelor, were in the lumber business together. When Jacob Batchelor died in January of 1892, he left in his will a \$10,000 bequest to the City of Port Huron to erect a Soldier’s Monument to honor those lost in the Civil War. Henry McMorran served as the Administrator for his estate.

From the summer of 1892 until 1894, the talk of the town centered around the Soldier’s Monument and honoring the local soldiers who fought in the war. The site of Pine Grove Park was decided and construction began in the fall of 1892. A dedication ceremony took place on November 16, 1893. Ironically, after the monument was built, the city passed a resolution on March 20, 1894, “to authorize the city clerk to ask Congressman Whiting to use his influence to secure several government cannons to place around the Soldier’s Monument.” Congressman Whiting was not successful. This would be the same



Soldiers Monument, Pine Grove Park, Port Huron, Michigan, circa 1905. (Photo courtesy of Detroit Publishing Company: Detroit Publishing Photograph Collection – Library of Congress)



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Chief Executive Officer Ashley Lowe approved the content of this message.

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QUILTING DREAMS

By **Theresa Nielsen**, *ThumbPrint News* Guest Writer

As I sit here working on the repair of this antique quilt before me, I wonder about the person who created the quilt. Did she do it alone or did she have help? As I cut and sewed new fabrics over the torn parts of the quilt I also wondered, was I covering up pieces of history, this person's memories of days long gone. Happy times or sad times.

This quilt is over 100 years old, so I don't know the owner. Women and sometimes men quilted, most of them they made quilts to keep the family warm. Other times, women gathered together to help each other make quilts, they would have a "Quilting Bee" sitting together around a large frame.

When I look at the star pattern of this quilt, I imagine the ladies around the quilt frame chatting with one another while hand quilting. The children are under the quilt frame, little girls with their dolls and boys with a book.

Back when these women made these quilts, they were meant to last a lifetime, to hand down from one generation to the next. A lot of these quilts were made from scraps of wool, feed sacks and old dresses or aprons. If you were lucky enough to get one of these quilts handed down, you were blessed with a treasure. That much-loved quilt might be worn or faded but it was a family heirloom for sure.

At a time when we have become a throwaway society, many of those much-loved quilts from long ago would be tossed aside. Think of today's televisions, radios and vacuum cleaners. They aren't built to last, it makes more sense to buy new instead of paying for a repair. So, the same is true for the old quilts. Those quilts of our past generations were pieces of our history, along with other things we should have saved and didn't.

Now as we age, many of us are thinking of downsizing and decluttering. Our children don't want the things we have been saving. I ask myself, "What about my own quilts? Who will take them, where will they end up?"

When someone calls me about repairing a quilt, I always tell them I will try. I know how much these quilts mean to the people who made them, I hear it all the time from my fellow quilters. We love our quilts.

Which makes me wonder about something else. I wonder, if like me did those quilters from back in the 1930s and before, did they have a stash? The answer must be yes, no scrap of fabric was too small. I just can't throw away a scrap of fabric, it goes in the scrap bin with the other scraps. These pieces come in handy for not only making a scrap quilt but for mending a quilt. The scrap bin is the first place I go to when mending a quilt, I know I should be able to find it there.

As I continue to patch and repair this quilt and others along the way, my mind wonders about something else. Spring will be here soon and I'm anxious to get out in my garden. Will I have this quilt done? I want to plant vegetables and tend to the roses.

Then someone nudges me, what about the spring cleaning?
 "Oh, never mind that," I tell them as I take another stitch in the never-ending world of quilts. There will always be another window to wash or a closet to clean, but nothing as exciting as my quilts. 🌱

Close up of damage

Almost completed quilt

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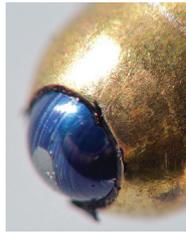
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THUMBPRINT NEWS CONTEST

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 12th 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, and announced in our January 2023 issue!

For our March contest, we asked our readers to identify what is being pictured to the right. Of the readers submitting the correct answer, Shirley Hoard of Applegate, Michigan, was randomly chosen as March's winner. Shirley identified that what is being pictured is a magnified tip of a ballpoint pen.



According to Wikipedia:

This type of pen “dispenses ink (usually in paste form) over a metal ball at its point, i.e. over a “ball point”. The metal commonly used is steel, brass or tungsten carbide. The design was conceived and developed as a cleaner and more reliable alternative to dip pens and fountain pens, and it is now the world's most-used writing instrument; millions are manufactured and sold daily.” Celebrate National Ballpoint Pen Day on June 10! Interesting Pen Facts, according to pens.com:

- Each second of every day, more than 125 ballpoint pens are sold
- An average ballpoint pen will write approximately 50,000 words – or about 100 pages of text
- 4.3 pens are used, on average, by each person in the United States each year
- The first ballpoint pens sold in New York (1945) cost \$12 each – or about a day's wages (1945 US dollar value, about \$180 in 2020 dollars)
- 3.4 billion ballpoint pens are imported into the USA each year

- 56% of individuals own a logoed or customized ballpoint pen
- 95% of the time, when a person receives a new pen, the first word they write is their name



For our April contest, we are asking our readers to identify who this famous person, born in April, pictured to the left is. Visit our website www.thumbprintnews.com if you know the answer. 🍀 Good Luck!

Native American Words of Wisdom

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“When you see a rattlesnake poised to strike, strike first.” - Navajo - Diné (Dee-nay) Proverb



Navajo Red Rug
c. 1880-1920



Navajo women weave a blanket outside a hogan. Photo: Ben Wittick, circa 1890. Photo: Courtesy of Western History/Genalogy Department, Denver Public Library.



Several Navajos stand near an unhitched wagon in Shiprock, New Mexico, around 1900. Photo: H.S. Poley. Courtesy of Western History/Genalogy Department, Denver Public Library

The Navajo's history is linked to the Grand Canyon. Archaeological evidence places them in the Grand Canyon area by the late 1600s with the earliest tree-ring date from a Navajo hogan ruin being from 1541 in northern New Mexico. It is believed they traveled west from there.

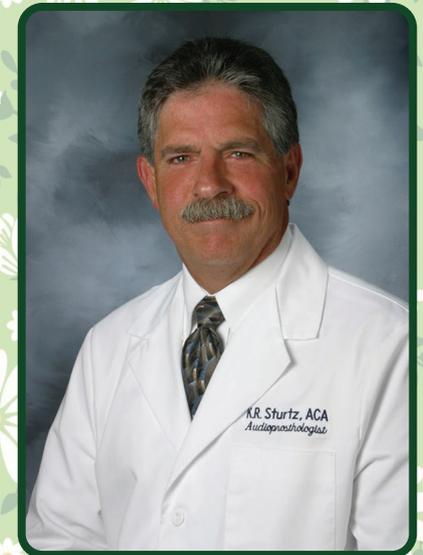
<https://grcahistory.org/history/native-cultures/navajo/>

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VOCABULARY VOYAGE

Compiled By Laura Irwin, *ThumbPrint News* Staff Writer

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”
~ William Butler Yeats

enervate en·er·vate | \ e-nər- vāt

A verb meaning 1: to reduce the mental or moral vigor of, 2: to lessen the vitality or strength of. First known use: 1603, as defined at sense 1, from Latin *enervatus*, past participle of *enevare*. *Ex. The surgery enervated me for weeks afterwards.*

lackadaisical lack·a·dai·si·cal | \ la-kə- 'dā-zi-kəl

An adjective meaning 1: lacking life, spirit, or zest : LAGUID, 2: without interest, vigor, or determination; listless; lethargic; lazy. First known use: mid 17th century Middle English from “lackaday” which was used to express sorrow and disappointment, shortened from *alack* (alas/woe) the day, coined through the addition of the suffix - *ical*. *Ex. Teachers do not approve of a lackadaisical approach to homework.*

phlegmatic phleg·mat·ic | \ fleg- 'ma-tik

An adjective meaning 1: resembling, consisting of, or producing the humor phlegm, 2 : having or showing a slow and stolid temperament. First known use: 14th century, as defined at sense 1, from Middle English *fleume*, from Anglo-French, from Late Latin *phlegmat-*, *phlegma*, from Greek, flame, inflammation, phlegm, from *phlegein* to burn. *Ex. Today's society as a whole needs to work on being more phlegmatic and less emotionally volatile and reactive.*



A good vocabulary is a powerful tool, making communication simpler, so we will continue our quest for unusual words and their meanings. Readers can join in our learning journey by submitting underused, misused or uncommon words they've discovered to thumbprintnews@comcast.net.

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PESTERING PROBLEMS

Informational Tips and Advice on Common Household Pests from Nicole Szymczak, President, ABC Home & Commercial Services

Spring and Spiders

With spring officially here, we have much to look forward to. Who doesn't love the smell of blooming flowers and the sound of chirping birds in the morning? The sun shines a little brighter over the lengthening days, the grass begins to turn to that lush shade of green, and cute critters start to appear, looking for a nice leafy snack. Along with all of these wonderful elements, I'm sure you're aware that spring also brings quite a few not so enjoyable things with it – specifically those eight-legged, creepy crawlers. Not to mention those giant invisible webs I know we've all walked through first thing in the morning.

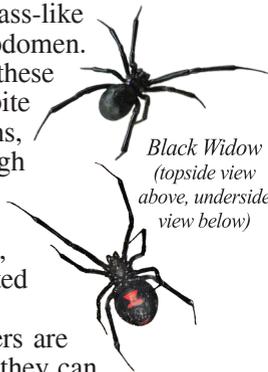
As the weather warms, spiders seem to come out of the woodwork, invading our homes, inside and out! Several of these spiders we encounter are species native to Michigan; however, some non-native ones can be crafty hitchhikers that make their way into our fine state. Knowing more about the species found all over North America can help you and your loved ones. Some just cause a nuisance in our lives, while others can cause severe allergic reactions and medical conditions to people, as well as physical damage to our homes. It's important for you to know the difference as you begin to see them emerge. Right now, I want to teach you a little more about two extremely feared and frequently discussed types of spiders – black widow and brown recluse.



Brown Recluse

First of all, you should know how to identify these spiders. The brown recluse is unique because of the violin-like shape found on the cephalothorax. The black widow can be recognized by the red hourglass-like shape on the underside of their abdomen.

Secondly, you should know that these spiders are ones to be cautious of. A bite from either of them can cause serious medical conditions, which may require professional medical attention. Although the black widow is not likely to bite for no reason, they will bite when picked up or pinched between our skin and another object. The venom of the black widow is very toxic, making their bite one of the most dangerous in the United States.



Black Widow (topside view above, underside view below)

Despite extensive effort from many homeowners, spiders are commonly found inside homes. Like I mentioned earlier, they can be crafty! They can enter through holes in screens, cracks under doors and around improperly sealed wires or pipes. They can also come in on grocery bags, pets or even on our children's backpacks. Once inside, they start to multiply quickly, making their presence known inside our nice and comfy homes. They love to take up residence in the areas we don't frequent, such as attics, basements and even behind drywall. Pesticide applications on the interior of your home will help to reduce the number of invaders, but because of their hitchhiking abilities, interior treatments are recommended on a monthly basis.

Now, I know there are some out there who actually like spiders, since they can be beneficial by eating other pesky insects, as well as inspiring some pretty awesome superheroes. They can also cause extensive damage to the exterior of our homes. Spider droppings are highly acidic, and when not cleaned up for extended periods of time, the marks can become impossible to remove. These droppings will stain vinyl siding and can even cause pitting in the material. The best way to stop this damage is a preventative pesticide application. Even if a spider isn't hitching a ride on your dog, they can just as easily web in from surrounding trees, shrubs or nearby structures, making complete elimination impossible. However, regular pesticide treatments will greatly reduce the spider population in and around your home.

ABC Bees, a division of ABC Home & Commercial Services, is an all around home service company that can help you combat interior and exterior spiders! As the weather gets warm and sunny, the presence of spiders will increase – it is best to get an early preventative treatment, instead of waiting until you have a heavy infestation. The products we use have no negative effects on people or animals and there is no need to leave your home during treatment. Call ABC Bees today to speak with one of our friendly customer service representatives and schedule your appointment at (810) 794-5678. 🐝



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Notes from our Readers

A few months back, I read an article in your paper called "Eat the Soup". All this time it has stayed on my mind. When I find myself in difficult situations as a mother-in-law, I say "just eat the soup", and it has helped me immensely. I would like to thank the author who wrote the article, which, by the way, made tears come to my eyes.

– Katherine Wirth

Dear Patricia,

I loved your recent column about hobbies. I can only relate to the word hobby, but I'm glad you found some. I have lots of interests, but they have grown into much more than a hobby for me. I'm a writer, I sew and quilt, I took up watercolor painting, and I have lots of pets. So, I keep busy. But I do have friends without any hobbies, so I understand completely.

Thanks for sharing your story. Looking forward to more of what you have to say.

Sincerely,
Theresa Nielsen, Royal Oak, MI

Editorial note: That article referenced in the Note from Theresa was written by Rita MacDonald and can be found in the November 2021 issue on page 11. The second Note is about Patricia's column "What's Your Hobby?" and can be found in the February 2022 issue on page 7. You can find digital copies of every ThumbPrint News issue on our website at www.thumbprintnews.com/past-issues. Theresa has also joined us at TPN as a guest writer this month! Her article "Quilting Dreams" can be found on page 11.

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THE SAME OL' STORIES

By Rita MacDonald, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

My dad used to tell the same jokes over, and over, and over, and over. No one ever seemed to mind though. In fact, most people enjoyed my dad so much that they just let him tell them again and again, and they would laugh as if they'd heard the joke for the very first time. I miss my dad's jokes, and I miss my dad.

It turns out I inherited that trait, but instead of jokes, I have a story that I'll tell over and over. I'm not so sure people enjoy hearing it over and over, but I tell it anyway. Just because.

Mum used to drop me off early for kindergarten at Ashcroft Elementary because I loved playing Duck, Duck, Goose outside the school before class started. She and my brother would watch me get out of the car and walk until I was safely under the awning with the other kids, and then Mum would leave to drop Larry off at St. Robert's for 2nd grade. After school, my brother would tease me and tell me I walked like a penguin. And every single time I have walked with anyone through snow or ice, for the last 50+ years, I tell the story of my brother saying I walked like a penguin.

And I do, actually. I'm scared to death of falling. Always have been. And so, I wobble on the ice.

This weekend, I took Mum to see the musical *Mary Poppins, Jr.*, and she had to walk on uneven asphalt to get to the car after the play. The ground was cold and wet (and yes, I was wobbling like a penguin). I spotted a worm and stepped over it. My mum began to laugh. When I asked her what was so funny, she said she remembered that I have always avoided stepping on worms. I'd leap over them, walk around them, do anything I could to avoid them. Still do. She said she'd see me walking home from school, and watch as I leaped over puddles to avoid stepping on worms after a rainstorm. I guess some things never change because I still can't stand looking at them, and try to avoid squishing the poor little things. (Imagine my disgust when Ian brought me a handful he'd dug up outside our house when he was about three or four years old!)

I have a new story to tell over and over now. Not only do I still wobble like a penguin, I still leap over worms too! Wanna know the best part? I'm a 58-year-old grandma, who still has her 85-year-old mum to share them with, and I think that's nothing short of *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!* Don't you? (Thanks, God!) Happy Birthday, Mum! 🎂



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MARKET MATTERS



Happy Spring! You know it's spring in Michigan when the daffodils start blooming and more houses for sale appear on the market. We are anticipating a strong spring season in this continuing Sellers' market with a hopefully improved supply of homes available for sale along with pent-up buyer demand.



Inflation continues at 40-year high levels and 30-year fixed residential mortgage interest rates are bouncing up and down around 4% in a rising trend.

At 3.3% the national delinquency rate for first-lien mortgages is almost even with pre-pandemic levels and near the record low set in January 2020. 🌱

National Association of Realtors® 2021 Profile of Home Buyers*

This was the 40th Anniversary of NAR's annual Profile report and, as always, it yielded some interesting results.

NAR reported: The last year is especially distinctive as home buyers have entered a housing market with historically low housing inventory and historically high year-over-year home price gains. Buyers have continued to enter, despite the competition in the marketplace, and purchase homes.

The pandemic changed how our homes are used, as well as the location in which we bought homes. There was a jump in buyers who noted a top factor for their neighborhood choice was the proximity to friends and family.

Home Buyer Characteristics

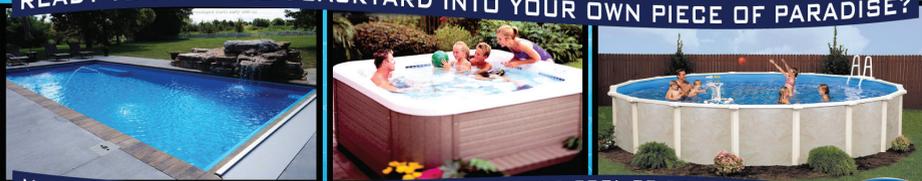
- **First-time buyers** accounted for 34% of all home buyers, up from last year's 31%. The typical first-time buyer was 33 years old.
- Among all buyers, 31% paid the asking price for the home, while 29% paid more than the asking price.
- The typical repeat buyer was 56 years old.
- 11% of buyers purchased a multi-generational home to take care of aging parents, because of children over the age of 18 moving back home and for cost-saving.
- 28% indicated the primary reason for purchasing a home was the desire to own a home of their own. For first-time buyers, this number jumps to 65%.

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Home Buyer Process

- **The first step for 41%** of recent buyers was to look online at properties for sale; 19% of buyers first contacted a real estate agent.
- Buyers typically searched for eight weeks, looked at a median of eight homes and viewed three of these homes only online.
- **87% of buyers** purchased their home through a real estate agent or broker; 7% purchased directly from a builder or builder's agent.
- **Having an agent to help them find the right home** was what buyers wanted most when choosing an agent at 52%.
- **90% of buyers** would use their agent again or recommend their agent to others.
- **The typical home** that was recently purchased was 1,900 square feet, had three bedrooms and two bathrooms, and was built in 1993.
- **Convenience to family and friends** was the second most important factor in influencing neighborhood choice after the quality of the neighborhood, surpassing convenience to jobs and affordability, which were more important last year.

Financing the Purchase

- **87% financed their home purchase.** First-time buyers typically financed 93% of their homes compared to repeat buyers at 83%.
- **For 61% of buyers, the down payment came from savings; 56%** cited using the proceeds from the sale of a primary residence, while 28% of first-time buyers used a gift or loan from friends or family.

* National Association of REALTORS®

Editorial note: Don and Barbara Alcorn are Realtors® serving St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland Counties, & 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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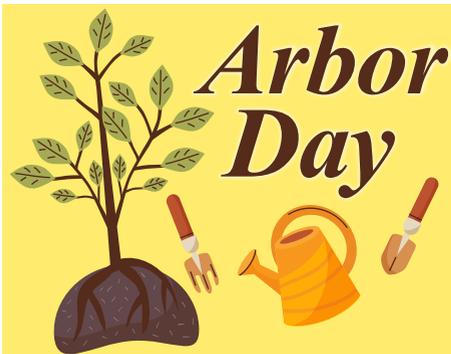
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Arbor Day

This **April 29th** marks the sesquicentennial anniversary of the tree planter's holiday, Arbor Day, but Arbor Day was not always celebrated globally, as it is today.

It's beginnings are rooted in the Nebraska Territory when pioneers were discouraged by the lack of life-sustaining trees. One local citizen, J. Sterling Morton, began planting trees on his own property, later lobbying the state to create a holiday that would encourage his fellow Nebraskans to do the same. The first American Arbor Day celebration was held in Nebraska on April 10, 1872 with prizes offered to residents, groups and counties who properly planted the most trees. There was an estimated one million trees planted that year throughout the state. It became an official state-recognized holiday in 1885. By 1920 more than 45 states were participating and today all 50 states celebrate this holiday on the last Friday in April.

The Arbor Day Foundation was founded in 1972 with a simple mission: to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. In the 50 years since the Foundation was established, they have planted over five million trees, globally.

The Arbor Day Foundation maintains a 260-acre area as a conservation and educational space housing Mr. Morton's mansion, a hotel, dining options, walking paths, interactive adventures and, of course, trees! Visitors are welcome.

The best way to celebrate – PLANT A TREE! You can order one from ArborDay.org. Other ways to take part: take a hike on a forested trail, get a tree identification book from the library and take it along for some added fun and education. If you can't make it outdoors, try some online nature learning or do some nature-based crafts.



By **Bethany Wolf**
ThumbPrint News Staff

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE IS FROM PARAGUAY CHIPA

Thus far with this column, we've visited Trinidad, Japan, Uruguay, South Africa, Romania, Latvia, Wales, Scotland, Norway, Sudan, New Zealand, Canada, India, Switzerland, France and Ireland. We're looking forward to trying new dishes from even more countries around the globe.

We invite all of our readers to submit recipes from any country that hasn't yet been shared – whether you've made the recipe or you think we should try it!

Recipes can be submitted to thumbprintnews@comcast.net in Word Document form. If you have a photo you took of the dish you made, include it as well in high-quality jpeg format. We'll be sure to share some of these recipes in future editions so that we may all take a journey around the world through the recipes that are shared.

This month, we are traveling to Paraguay for their cheesy bun, Chipa.

According to tasteatlas.com: "Although, chipas are eaten all year round in Paraguay, they have a significant importance during the Holy Week, so they are often prepared and eaten during the Easter festivities."



Interesting Facts about Paraguay and Chipa:

- Paraguay is a land-locked country located in South America.
- During the War of the Triple Alliance (1864-1870), the people of Paraguay fought against the allied forces of Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.
- A large number of the male population died during this war. (Every source we found had different estimates of how many casualties there actually were, from 150,000 to 500,000.)
- Paraguay is full of wildlife such as: porcupine, armadillo, chinchilla, tapir, bear, jaguar, opossum, marsh deer, monkeys, anteaters, otters, wild boars, ocelots, bats, and the coypu (a large, herbivorous, semiaquatic rodent).
- Guaraní is the name of the indigenous people, the currency and one of the official languages.
- Chipa has been around since the 18th century, originally made according to an ancient Guaraní recipe. The original ingredient was solely cassava starch seasoned with ash and baked in hot embers, sometimes wrapped in a banana leaf. Cheese was added after the Spanish Jesuits arrived bringing livestock.
- It is often sold in street-side stands and on buses by vendors carrying large baskets with warm chipa wrapped in cloth.

Author's note: The ground anise seed was difficult to find, but we were able to find the liquid form – though it is stronger, so the internet recommended using half the called for amount. Following the recipe exactly, I found the dough did not form as the recipe said it would, it was indeed too dry. I researched other recipes for chipa and ended up modifying by adding an additional egg and a tablespoon or two additional milk. This recipe says to knead for 5 minutes, but I actually had to knead for almost 30 minutes and barely had the texture of playdough. I could not get round balls to form so settled instead for rounded patties (12). They came out of the oven very hard but softened up once stored in an airtight container. Because the recipe said they are best eaten hot, we warmed them in the microwave for 15-20 seconds. The taste is cheesy and the buns are dense. Those of us who ate them thought the flavor was good but felt dipping them in marinara sauce would be the best. While I sitting there kneading, I decided I won't be making them again, but my co-worker, who is gluten free, is more likely to give it another chance.



PICTURE FROM RECIPE



HOW MINE TURNED OUT

INGREDIENTS

- ¾ cup queso fresco
- ¾ cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- ¾ cup shredded Pecorino Romano cheese (could substitute with Parmesan)
- ½ cup blue cheese (could substitute with sharp white cheddar)
- 5 cups cassava flour (it is gluten free)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground anise seeds
- ¼ cup lard, at room temperature (could substitute with butter)
- 1 egg
- 1 cup whole milk



DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 450°F and grease one baking tray.
2. In a small bowl, mix all four cheeses. Set aside 1/3 cup of this cheese mixture, to use for a topping.
3. In a big bowl, add cassava flour, salt, anise seeds, lard, egg, milk and the cheese mixture.
4. The mixture might look too dry, but using your hands, bring the ingredients together until you get a uniform dough.
5. Place the dough on a flat surface and knead for about 5 minutes. (This dough has the texture of playdough.)
6. Divide the dough into 10 equal portions. Roll each portion into a ball between the palms of your hands. Flatten the ball slightly.
7. Place chipas on the baking tray. Top each chipa with some reserved cheese mixture.
8. Bake for 25 minutes at 450°F.
9. Let it cool for 5 minutes before eating. Chipas are best eaten while hot.

There are at least 70 different ways of making chipa.

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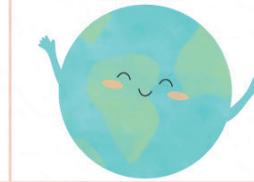
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April

WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY?



<p>3 On this day in 1973, the first mobile phone call is made in downtown Manhattan by Martin Cooper, a Motorola employee.</p>	<p>4 On this day in 1850, the city of Los Angeles is incorporated.</p> 	<p>5 On this day in 1923, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company starts producing inflatable tires.</p> <p>Firestone</p>	<p>6 On this day in 1930, Hostess Twinkies are invented by bakery executive James Dewar.</p> 	<p>7 On this day in 1827, English chemist John Walker invents wooden matches.</p> 	<p>8 On this day in 1974, Discovery Island opens at Walt Disney World in Florida. The attraction closed 25 years later on this same date in 1999.</p>	<p>9 On this day in 1833, the first U.S. tax-supported public library opens in Peterborough, New Hampshire.</p> 
<p>10 On this day in 1953, the first color 3-D movie, <i>House of Wax</i>, premieres in New York.</p> 	<p>11 On this day in 2015, President Barack Obama and President Raúl Castro meet in Panama, the first meeting of U.S. and Cuban heads of state since the Cuban Revolution.</p>	<p>12 On this day in 1988, Harvard University patents a genetically engineered mouse, a first for animal life.</p>	<p>13 On this day in 1970, <i>Apollo 13</i> announces, "Okay, Houston, we've had a problem here", as the Beech-built oxygen tank explodes en route to the moon.</p>	<p>14 On this day in 1996, the Detroit Red Wings set an NHL record for most wins during a regular season winning 62 games.</p>	<p>15 On this day in 1955, Ray Kroc opens the first McDonald's Inc. fast food restaurant in Des Plaines, Illinois.</p>	<p>16 On this day in 1958, English chemist and co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, Rosalind Franklin, dies of ovarian cancer at age 37.</p>
<p>17 On this day in 1924, Metro Pictures, Goldwyn Pictures and Louis B. Mayer Co. merge to form Metro Goldwyn Mayer (MGM) Studios.</p>	<p>18 On this day in 1934, the first "washateria" (laundromat) opens in Fort Worth, Texas.</p> 	<p>19 On this day in 1824, Lord Byron, influential poet and leading figure in the English Romantic movement, dies at age 36.</p>	<p>20 On this day in 1862, the first pasteurization test is completed by Frenchman Louis Pasteur and Claude Bernard.</p>	<p>21 On this day in 1959, Alf Dean, using a rod and reel, hooks a 2,664-pound, 16' 10" great white shark off the coast of Ceduna, Australia.</p>	<p>22 On this day in 1970, the first Earth Day is held.</p> 	<p>23 On this day in 1965, the single "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie Honey Bunch)" is released by the Four Tops. It wins the <i>Billboard</i> Song of the Year 1965.</p>
<p>24 On this day in 1184 BCE, the Greeks enter Troy using the Trojan Horse.</p>	<p>25 On this day in 1954, Bells Labs announces the first solar battery made from silicon. It has about 6% efficiency.</p>	<p>26 On this day in 1989, Lucille Ball dies at age 77 of a heart attack.</p> 	<p>27 On this day in 1965, RC Duncan patents the disposable diapers Pampers.</p> 	<p>28 On this day in 2004, Shrek the sheep from Tarras, Central Otago, New Zealand, after six years of avoidance, is finally shorn on live TV. The fleece weighed 60 pounds.</p>	<p>29 On this day in 1922, the first official International Weightlifting Federation Championships take place in Tallinn, Estonia.</p>	<p>30 On this day in 1989, the World Wide Web (www) is first launched in the public domain by CERN scientist Tim Berners-Lee.</p>

Editor's note: This calendar's purpose is to provide entertainment for our readers and to mention lesser-known historical events. We are aware that there also may be well-known events that have happened on these days, and not listing them does not indicate that we are unaware of their importance.

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SPRING CLEANING

Spring is officially here, and as we all start to emerge from our winter hibernation one of the things on many of our to-do lists will be spring cleaning. The start of this new season presents a good opportunity to declutter your home and start fresh, but have you thought about decluttering and safeguarding your online presence?

Spring is a great time to do a digital spring cleaning, in addition to the spring cleaning some may be doing around their home and office. It is so important to take the time to update your computer software and make sure your privacy settings on your social media and email accounts are up to date. These types of things are just another means to protect your personal information online.

Better Business Bureau® Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula shares these steps you can take when giving your online presence a good spring cleaning:

- **Lockdown your login:** Security is critical to protecting accounts being used for work and for home. Ensure passphrases for each account are lengthy, unique and safely stored. Enable 2-factor authentication on all accounts that offer it.
- **Update your system and software:** Avoid procrastination! Having the most current software, web browsers and operating systems are some of the easiest and fastest ways to protect your most sensitive assets.
- **Back it up:** Protect your personal and workplace data by making electronic copies – or backups – of your most important files. Use the 3-2-1 rule to help guide you: 3 backup copies, 2 different media types and 1 offline in a separate location.
- **Clean up your online presence:** When was the last time you used all the apps on your phone or tablet? Do you know what the settings are on all your social media accounts? Check up on all your accounts. Then, control your role by making sure you know who has administrative access to your accounts. Keep all your passwords private.
- **Be careful what you share:** Quizzes on social media are fun and keeping in touch is a necessity these days. However, questions on social media might give away too much information about you, your location or your family.

It's never a bad time to ensure your software and personal information are protected. For more tips on how to protect your online presence, visit bbb.org.

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 bbb.org.



Melanie Duquesnel

"Easter is the only time of year when it is safe to put all your eggs in one basket."
★ Unknown



GIFT Continued from Page 10

Congressman Whiting who sold Belle Reve to George and Elizabeth Moore.

Jacob Batchelor and Mr. Benedict shared commonalities. Both men were unable to fight in the war. One too old, the other too young to serve. Yet both felt the deepest respect for every man who did fight for the Union cause. It is obvious this battle left a deep mark on both men, which they carried for the remainder of their lives. Both left behind a gift of remembrance, each in their own way. I believe the talk of building the monument and the expressed sentiment of Batchelor's gift to "perpetuate the memory of the soldiers of St. Clair County, living and dead, who fought in the war of the rebellion" was the trigger that prompted Mr. Benedict to finish his poem in 1894. While we will never truly know, at the very least, the timing is worth consideration.

THANKFUL

In researching this story, I encountered a historical journey that filled my heart many times over. After the journey was over, I was left with the reminder of how wonderful it can feel to be part of something bigger

than yourself. How bonding with others through the shared experience of community has the potential to impact and change the course of our lives. I hope this story will fill your heart too or maybe make a difference in how you see or experience your community.

May God Bless our fallen heroes, Mr. Benedict, Mr. Batchelor and their families, as well as all of those in our community that dedicate their lives to further our remembrances and preserve the remembrances of those who came before us. I am truly grateful for and appreciative of all of you.



Brenda L. Williams was born and raised in the Port Huron area and is currently a law librarian in Dayton, Ohio. She is working on a pamphlet series featuring personal history stories about the early pioneers of St. Clair and Wayne Counties. You can check out her blog at tappingroots.com.

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SOME SILENCE IS GOLDEN

By **Bob Jones**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

When I was brought up in the late 1940s and early 1950s, we were taught to be “seen and not heard”.

I have pictures of my hands behind my back whenever I would visit my grandparents. “Look, but don’t touch,” was the mantra of the day. I could play in their sunroom if I sat quietly and attended to a board game, a puzzle or to read a book.

There was no need to grandchild-proof their home in any way. Even with my two other brothers and sister over for a visit, there was still no need to childproof their place.

Now, my wife and I have three grandchildren, albeit one only a few months old. They are much more active than I was with their handheld computer games and wanting to play with LEGOs, monster trucks and other assorted toys we have gathered for them. Nonna also has many craft activities for the little ones.

While well-mannered, they are much more verbal than we were and more prone to want to go from one activity to another more quickly than me and my siblings were in our growing-up years.

Nonna childproofed the drawers, cupboards and electrical outlets. We keep an active vigil on their mirth and merriment, watching them constantly.

One problem has arisen time and again: the dropping and/or slamming down of the toilet seat. It seems as if when one grandchild has to go, they all have to go. Alas, what to do? Leave it to Nonna to solve the problem. She discovered a silent toilet seat whereby a spring mechanism the seat does not slam down but lowers gently, ever so gently to rest on the porcelain base.

We love our grannies dearly, but now as Chamberlain once proclaimed, “We have peace in our time.”

Play to your hear’s content, we say to our grannies – through the miracle of modern engineering though we no longer have to hear cymbals crashing when our grannies address their most biological of needs.

Nonna and Gramps would like to thank this “mother of inventing” for making this part of our “some silence is golden” moments come true. 🌱

Editorial note: Bob Jones is a resident of Washington Township. This article originally ran in the February 2013 issue of Senior Living – Macomb.

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If you have an event in May that you would like listed in the May issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by April 12, 2022. 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.

Editorial 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

April 7, 14 & 21 – Otisville Divorce Care Adults, DC4K (Divorce Care for Kids) and GriefShare for Adults, Richfield Church, 7524 E. Mt. Morris, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. This is a 13-week study that runs concluding on April 21. Workbook cost is \$20. For questions call Sherry at (248) 802-3127.

LAPEER

April 9 – Metamora Buffalo & Boar Wild Game Dinner, Metamora Lions Club, 3790 N. Oak St., doors open at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m., event ends at 10:00 p.m. This annual fundraiser, open to the public, is hosted by Lions Bear Lake Camp. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$360 for a table of 8. Tickets include dinner, three drink tickets, an event favor and are entered into hourly drawings. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are limited to the first 300 people. Grab your tickets today at www.bearlakecamp.org, Hunters Den or the Metamora Golf & Country Club. For more information call (810) 245-0726.

April 29 & 30 – Lapeer 36th Annual Spring Auction to Benefit Lapeer County 4-H, Lapeer Center Building, 425 County Center St., on Friday, April 29, from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday, April 30, the event starts at 8:00 a.m. Both auctions will have silent bidding and a live auction. Friday will be an Autographed Items Auction with lots of celebrity items, photos, books, sports stars and movie stars. Saturday will have new merchandise, food, business services, entertainment, collectibles, trips, hotels and restaurant certificates and gift cards! Saturday's Silent Auction begins at 8:00 a.m. with graduated bid closings from 9:05 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. The live auction begins at 11:00 a.m. All proceeds benefit the Lapeer County 4-H program. Join us on Facebook by searching "Lapeer County 4-H Fundraiser Auction". For questions or to make a donation, call the Lapeer County MSU Extension office at (810) 667-0341 or email msue.lapeer@county.msu.edu.

MACOMB

All Month Long All of Macomb County Woman's Life Chapter 855 Bottles and Cans Drive, helping those in need in our community. Make a difference today by donating. For larger donations, we have a pickup service. Call (810) 392-5136 for pickup or drop off places in Memphis, Richmond and Chesterfield.

April 1, 8 & 15 – Memphis Lenten Cod Fish Fry Fridays, American Legion 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., call ahead ordering and reserving starting at noon, and dine-in and pick up are both available, but a time needs to be scheduled to help keep the line moving as fast as possible. We'll be serving 9 oz. of fish, scoop of homemade mac-n-cheese, choice of baked potato or fries, choice of corn or green beans, choice of dinner salad, coleslaw or applesauce, choice of roll or cornbread, topping it off with a choice of homemade dessert (selections provided day-of). Cost for adults is \$15, cost for children is \$7.50 (all ingredient prices have gone up tremendously). For questions call (810) 392-3237.

April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Memphis Friday Night Euchre, American Legion 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., doors open at 6:15 p.m., games begin at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$10. All are welcome. Come join the Friday night games! There will be pop and treats available. For questions call (810) 392-3237.

April 5 – Richmond Woman's Life Chapter 855 Meeting, Lois Wagner Memorial Library, 35200 Division Rd., 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. We are a friendly group of women who enjoy doing charitable acts for those in need in the community. We are looking for new members to help us in our cause. For questions, please call (586) 872-3867.

April 6 & 20 All of Macomb County Confident Communicators Club Toastmasters Meetings,

via Zoom, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. CCC provides a fun, safe and encouraging setting where members can practice speaking and try out new techniques. Register at confident-communicators-club-meeting.eventbrite.com. For more information contact vpm-1196053@toastmastersclubs.org or visit the CCC website at bit.ly/ccctoastmasters.

April 6, 13, 20 & 27 – Memphis Wednesday Night Bingo, American Legion 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Games begin at 6:30 p.m. and there will be a 15-minute dinner break at 7:30 p.m. Every week a small, light dinner is made by the Auxiliary for a small fee. Concessions of water, pop, candy and chips are available. This goes on all year, every Wednesday, with progressive games that grow until someone wins it all! For questions call (810) 392-3237.

April 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 & 30 – New Baltimore The Grand Pacific House Museum Now Open! 51065 Washington St., open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, noon – 2:00 p.m. Guest are welcome to visit with board members available as guides. Stop by and be in awe of the facility. For more information call (586) 725-4755.

April 9 – Harrison Township Save Our South Channel Light's Annual Meeting and Pizza Party, Total Sports, lower room, 40501 Production Dr., 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. If you're ready for social gatherings, if you're ready to kick-off the 2022 boating season on Lake St. Clair, if you're ready for some fun, JOIN US! You can come and meet our team, we'll have a Keeper presentation, election of new directors, a membership drive, a 50/50 raffle and more. For more information visit SOSChannelLights.org.

April 11 & 25 – New Baltimore St. Clair River Club with Toastmasters, MacDonald Public Library, 36480 Main St., 6:30 p.m. This meeting is Hybrid, so it can be attended either in person or through Zoom. Open to all interested parties. Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. For more information call Paul Burger at (734) 837-5807.

April 14 – Shelby Shelby Gardeners Club, Shadbush Nature Center, 4101 River Bends Dr., 1:00 p.m. Join us for the free presentation "Comfort, Ease and Simplicity". Two Women and a Hoe support working smarter, not harder in our yards. Gardens should be our love, not a labor of love. For more information contact Ivy at ivysfitnet@comcast.net.

April 28, 29 & 30 – New Haven From Trash to Treasure Rummage Sale, First Congregational Church, 58801 Main St., 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. all three days. Come! Your treasure is waiting for you! Bake sale items will be available too! Proceeds will go toward the building fund. For more information call (586) 749-9857.

OAKLAND

April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 – Oxford Friday Fish Fry, American Legion Post 108, 130 E. Drahner Rd., noon – 8:00 p.m. Average cost is \$10/person. We have walleye, cod and shrimp, combo plates and have carry out available. Every Friday! Building is sanitized daily. For more information call (248) 628-9081.

April 2 – Oxford Gun Show, American Legion Post 108, 130 E. Drahner Rd., 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. \$5 admission, children under 13 are free. Rent a 6-foot table for \$20. Building is sanitized daily. For more information call (248) 628-9081.

April 24 – Bloomfield Hills Steinway Piano Recital, Cranbrook House & Gardens, 380 Lone Pine Rd., 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., doors open at 2:45 p.m. Enjoy the sounds of Coleridge-Taylor, Lysenko and Chopin performed by Arthur Green on the Cranbrook House 1929 Steinway and Sons Concert Grand Piano. The recital will run for about 60 minutes. Proceeds support the preservation of the Cranbrook House & Gardens. Registration is required in advance online by visiting housegardens.cranbrook.edu/events. Registration will close Friday, April 22 at noon. Tickets are \$50 per person. Face coverings are strongly encouraged, but not required. Disposable coverings will be available at the door. For more information call (248) 645-3149 or email houseandgardens@cranbrook.edu.

ST. CLAIR

April 5 – All of St. Clair County National Library Week Celebration with a Virtual Presentation by Mary Doria Russell, via Zoom, 1:00 p.m. The St. Clair County Library System (SCCLS) is celebrating National Library Week with Michigan Humanities' choice for the 2021-2022 Great Michigan Read book's author Mary Doria Russell. She will be doing a virtual presentation on her book *The Women of Copper Country* is a riveting account of 25-year-old Annie Clements as she stood up for the miners and their families during the 1913 copper strikes in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The SCCLS is partnering with Michigan Humanities to distribute free books as well as supporting educational materials in St. Clair County. To register for this



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event or for more information go to StClairCountyLibrary.org.

April 6 – St. Clair

St. Clair Kennel Club General Meeting, Drifter's Restaurant and Lounge, 201 N. Riverside (located in the southeast corner of north side of mall, formerly Achatz Restaurant), 7:30 p.m. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at an area restaurant. Come to see what we're all about! Future dates, times and other events can be found on our website stclairkc.org. For more information email stclairkennelclub@gmail.com.

April 6, 13, 20 & 27
Marysville

Knights of Columbus #9526 Wednesday Bingo, 1195 Gratiot Blvd., 6:15 p.m. start time. (Doors open 2 hours prior.) For more information call (810) 300-4891.

April 7 – Port Huron
"Summer Nights at Last"

Dinner for Kids' Sake, Blue Water Convention Center, 800 Harker St., 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. The St. Clair County Child Abuse & Neglect Council invites you to their annual fundraising dinner. The event will offer a full dinner, cash bar, raffles and auctions. The evening will conclude with one lucky winner holding the key that opens the door to an all-inclusive, catered party for up to 30 people, on one of the best rooftops around this summer! Tickets are \$50 each. Please join us for a great night of fun and to support our belief that "It shouldn't hurt to be a child." For more information or to register to attend email info@sccstopchildabuse.org or call (810) 966-9911.

April 9 – Casco
Back to the '80s Night Benefitting

Blankets With Care 501c3 Charity, Michigan Meadows Golf & Little Camille's By The Green Restaurant, 4575 County Line Rd., 6:00 p.m. Our small five-person charity makes and disperses "Blessing Bags" to the homeless and "Bundles of Care" to the elderly and veterans in Macomb and St. Clair counties. Tickets are \$40 which includes a buffet dinner and cash bar. We'll have '80s music, dancing and trivia, also an '80s ensemble contest! You can learn more about our charity by visiting Blanketswithcare.com or searching for us on Facebook. For more information call or text (586) 219-5015 or email blanketswithcare@yahoo.com.

April 9 – Marysville

Craft Show, The Knight Club, 1195 Gratiot Blvd., 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The Marysville Knights of Columbus Council #9526 Ladies Auxiliary is having a craft show and bake sale! Admission is free. For questions call or text Evelyn at (810) 990-9718 or Gio at (248) 635-7011.

April 16 – Kimball

Easter Egg Hunt, G. Lynn Campbell, 1955 Allen Rd., 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! We will have candy and crafts galore and a very special visit and photo op with the Easter Bunny! All children attending must be registered in advance. Registration closes on April 13th. This is an outdoor event, so make sure to dress for the weather. If your child has any food allergies and for any questions, please contact us at (810) 982-9171.

April 20, 21 & 22 – Marine City
Friends of the Marine City Library
Annual Book Sale, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, open during

library hours: Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Thursday 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Get books for spring and summer! Proceeds support the children and adult programs at the library. We'll also be having \$2 Bag Days on April 25 and 26. For more information call Deb at (810) 765-8487.

April 22 – Kimball
Kindergarten Round Up, New Life Christian Academy, 5517 Griswold Rd., noon – 5:00 p.m., but appointment must be made in advance. Accepting appointments throughout the month leading up to the event. Child must be 5 years old by September 1st. For more information and to make an appointment, call (810) 367-3770 ext. 100.

April 23 – Port Huron
Port Huron Recreation Department's CPR, First Aid and AED Training, Palmer Park Recreation Center, 2829 Armour St., 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. American Red Cross certification course for Adult and Child CPR, First Aid and AED. Upon successful completion of the class, you will obtain certification which is valid for two years. This course is open to people ages 15 and older. The course rate for a resident of the City of Port Huron, Butchville Township, Clyde Township, Fort Gratiot Township and Port Huron Township is \$75, and \$125 for non-residents. Registration for the course closes on April 22. Find more information call (810) 984-9760 and to register online visit porthuronrec.com.

April 29 & 30 – Goodells
20th Annual Earth Fair, Goodells County Park, 8264 County Park Dr., 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Friday and 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. After a two-year hiatus, the Earth Fair,

Michigan's largest Earth Day event, is back! This two-day extravaganza offers a unique opportunity for dozens of exhibitors to connect with thousands of visitors interested in healthy, sustainable and green living. For more information, contact Sarah Nelson at (810) 364-5477, earthfair@sccresa.org or EarthDayFair.com.

SANILAC

April 9 & 23 – Sandusky
Thumb Dance Club,

NEW LOCATION Knights of Columbus, 145 W. Wedge Rd., (1 1/2 miles south of downtown on M19) and **NEW TIME 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Dances are always on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Please bring a snack to share for the scheduled break. Cost is only \$5 and you get to dance to polkas, waltzes, country, line dancing or request a song. This is a smoke and alcohol free environment. Hope to see you there! For more information call (810) 310-2715.

April 22 – Port Sanilac
Reiki and Crystal Singing Bowls, Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum, 228 S. Ridge St., 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Try something new! The event is by donation only, donations will support the Sanilac County Historical Society. Jen, our local Reiki practitioner, will be leading three 30-minute sessions every half hour during the event. Sheri will be leading the Crystal Singing Bowl sessions, one at 6:00 p.m. and one at 7:00 p.m., with only 12 participants per session. Reservations are required for both the Reiki and Singing Bowls. Visit bit.ly/SCHVM-RCSB to view the Facebook event where you can find the reservation links. For more information call (810) 622-9946.



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