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MAY 12th

"A mother's love is new every day." -Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis **MAY 2019**

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SPOTLIGHT ON NOVI

Long Time Novi Resident was a Beloved Sportscaster

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

While a majority of the memorable individuals in the sports world are found on the field, one man was able to become a household name in Major League Baseball without playing a single professional game. Ernie Harwell was born on January 25, 1918, in Washington, Georgia. The game of baseball became the love of his life at a very young age, and when he wasn't playing the sport, he was usually listening to play-by-play coverage on the radio. It wasn't long before everyone in his town was aware of his love affair with the game, which prompted a local drug store owner to suggest Harwell announce the Atlanta Crackers' game for those in his store. Despite having a speech impediment as a child that made it difficult to pronounce the letter "s", his broadcast was a hit – shortly after, his parents sent him to speech classes to correct the issue. In 1934, Harwell walked into his first MLB stadium while visiting family in Chicago, unaware at the time that a place like this would consume a majority of his working life. Following his return home from Illinois, Harwell was able to secure a job covering baseball in a paper called *The Sporting News*. At just 16 years old, he wrote a letter expressing interest in covering Atlanta baseball because it was his

Ernie Harwell – WJR one of a kind



See *NOVI* Page 8



The Arlington for Four-Legged Veterans

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

For the brave men and women who give the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country, a special spot is reserved as their final resting place with military honors in the cemetery of their choosing. While many soldiers are accompanied by a four-legged companion with its own special role to fulfill in the war effort, places for these canine heroes to be laid to rest are much harder to come by. Back in the 1930s, John

Elkow, a Lyon Township veterinarian, used part of his land at the corner of 11 Mile and Milford Roads for people to bury their beloved pets. They called it Happy Hunting Grounds Pet Cemetery and they welcomed every type of beloved companion to be interred on the property, which included birds, dogs, cats, mice and even a horse. Over the years, the property has become home to many prominent animals, such as Admiral Dewey's parrot that accompanied



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LETTER from the EDITOR

I recently had the pleasure of spending nine days at my second home in Florida with one of my sons. We had a great time fishing, barbecuing and trying out new, quaint little eateries. We sat in the tiki hut in the evenings and talked about all sorts of things. We laughed and enjoyed each other's company. My feeling that family is so important was reinforced even more.

However, a few days before we were set to fly back to Michigan together, I came down with that nasty cough and chest cold that seemed to plague a large percentage of the population this winter. I felt like I had been run over by a truck. I mainly wanted to sleep – and take more DayQuil™ and NyQuil™. I probably wasn't the best company the last few days of my son's visit.

The last thing I wanted to do was board that airplane and head back to cold, damp Michigan. I was only going to be in Michigan a couple of weeks, and then would be returning again with my husband so my other son and his family could come and visit. My husband suggested rather than coming back to Michigan for the two weeks, I stay in Florida and rest up and get feeling better. It didn't take much to convince me.

I drove my son to the airport and spent the next couple of days resting and doing nothing. After a few more days, I could tell I was on the road to recovery, though the cough hung on a little longer than I had hoped. I managed enough energy to clean the house, do the yardwork and stock up the refrigerator with items that had been depleted during my son's visit.

That was when it finally hit me. I had nothing I had to do now and no one that I had to do anything with. I was truly alone. That is something that doesn't happen too often either here in Florida (where one visitor after another hopes to get away from the long, cold Michigan weather and enjoy some Florida sunshine and warmth) or back in Michigan, when I am involved with family activities, working at the restaurant and editing this newspaper.

My first thoughts were that I should be doing something. But I slowly came to realize that I didn't need to be doing anything but enjoy the solitude.



I was visited by a young squirrel who has been gracing me with her presence for the past two years. I put a few peanuts out for her every day on the table by which I am sitting and she will eat in contentment only a few feet away from me.

A new visitor surprised me as well – a small barn owl who, for a few days, slept contentedly in the rafters of the tiki hut in daytime and took off, I supposed, on a food-gathering expedition each night. It made the softest cooing sound each time that it woke up.

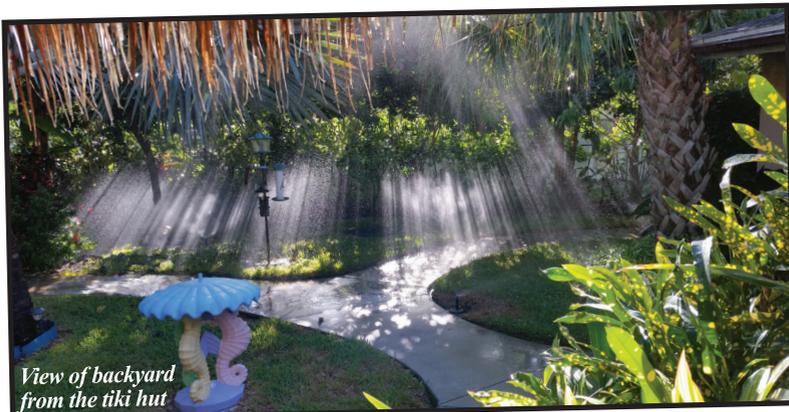
Later, I looked through my hordes of clipped recipes and chose one that sounded yummy. It was for parmesan pudding (called sformato in Italian) and I decided to make it. It was a little time-consuming, but in the end so worth it, and I regrouped to the tiki hut to enjoy it with a small crostini. Normally, if alone, I would make a quick sandwich or have a bowl of cereal, but it was fun splurging on a gourmet bite just for me.

What followed then was a nap in the hammock, with that sweet, gentle breeze blowing. I needed that solitude. It regenerated my body and soul.

Loneliness is, like, when you wish someone else was there, and solitude is when you enjoy being alone. I don't always wanna be alone, but I definitely like pockets of solitude to recharge and come back to myself. I think that's so important for everyone.
— Jonathan Van Ness

I am now feeling better. I am recharged. I learned that solitude can be wonderful. I am now ready for the next round of visitors and will enjoy every moment they are here with renewed energy. 🌱

— Diane Kodet



View of backyard from the tiki hut

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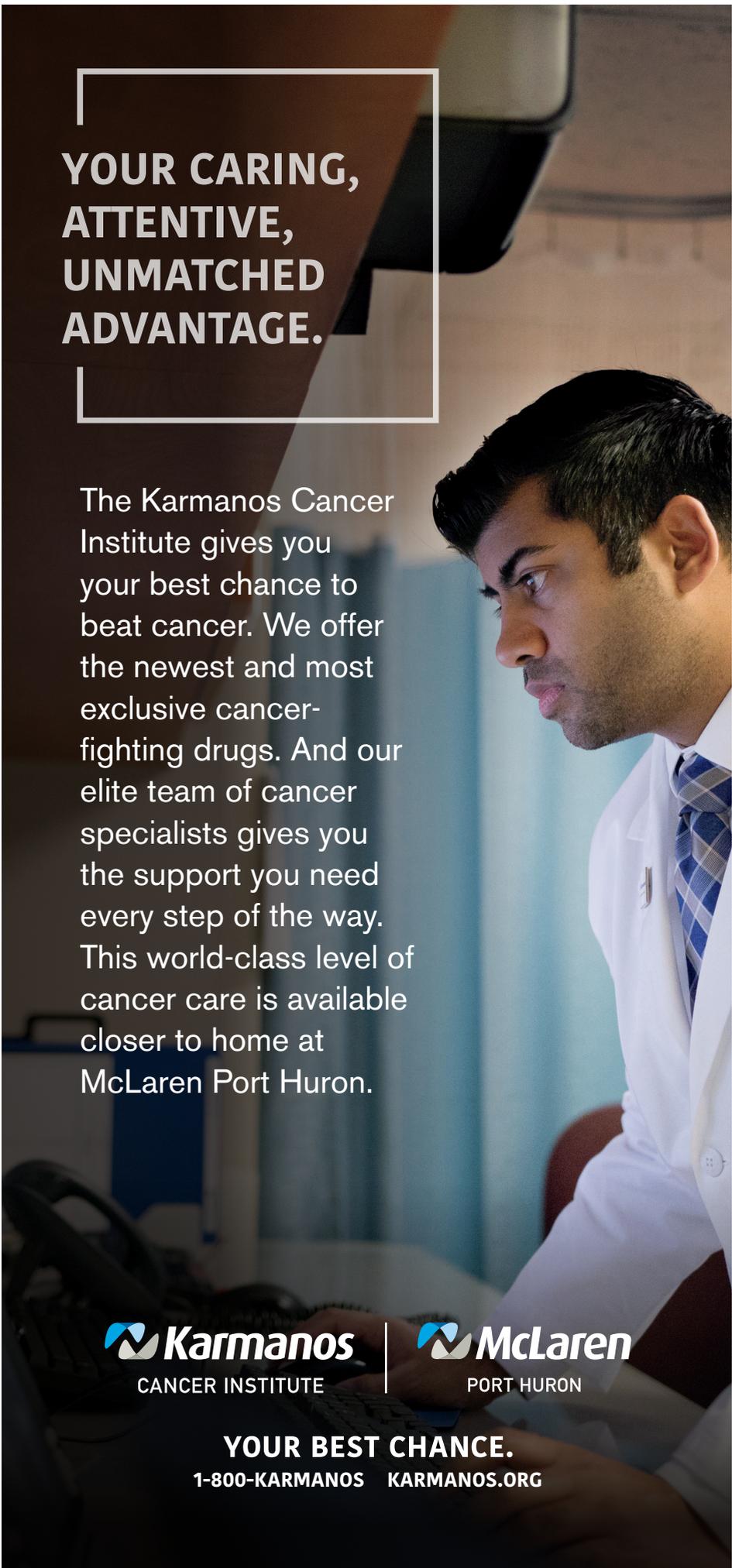
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So Long, Season!!!

By Rita MacDonald
 ThumbPrint News Columnist

Life is a series of seasons. That's what I've come to think...

This past winter was exceptionally cold, exceptionally snowy, and miserably long. I'm not superstitious, but I'll admit I was afraid to take my shovel down to the basement for its retirement for the few short months we enjoy summer here in Michigan. I certainly didn't want to have to bring it back up the stairs!

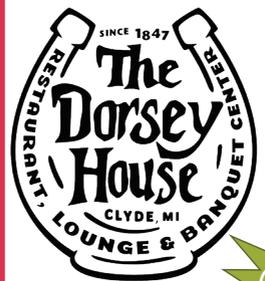


There have been seasons in my life too, that have seemed exceptionally cold, dark, miserable and long. But this week, I've gone without a coat on my long walks by the lake, and have not been able to miss the tulips, the daffodils and other perennials blooming. Nor have I been able to miss the sun shining through the windows of what seems like both sides of my home the past few mornings, and the birds that are singing have made the sweetest sounds as I struggle to peel open my eyes.



Today is the last day of my nine-day vacation, and all signs are pointing to a new season. The snow shovel is now in the basement, the humidifier retired until fall, and I'm convinced a long, cold, dark, snowy season has finally ended. Goodbye snow shovel! You served me well, but I'm glad to tuck you away!

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." - Isaiah 55:10-11



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Hearing Loss Prevention and Treatment for Better Hearing & Speech Month

Contributed by **Amber Deegan**, Marketing Director for Beltone Skoric Hearing Aid Center

Better Hearing and Speech Month was founded in 1927, by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and on May 21, 1986, hearing impaired President Ronald Reagan designated May as Better Speech and Hearing Month. May gives us all the opportunity to self-reflect and raise awareness about the causes and treatments of hearing loss, speech impediments and communication disorders. These conditions affect everyone. Either we are personally struggling or someone close to us is, and we owe it our ourselves and our loved ones to seek treatment for a better quality of life!

Aging and noise exposure or a combination of both are the two most common causes of hearing loss. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 40 million Americans have noise-induced hearing loss. Noise-induced hearing loss is caused by long-term exposure to sounds that are either too loud or last too long. We can prevent noise-induced hearing loss by limiting our exposure to loud noises and environments. However, because we can't stop the aging process, even if we'd like to, staying in overall great health and limiting our intake of ototoxic medications will help with the longevity of our hearing health. The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders states that approximately one in three people in the United States between the ages of 65 and 74 has hearing loss, and nearly half of those older than 75 have difficulty hearing. When left untreated, hearing loss can lead to worse problems in the future, so prevention and early treatment is critical!

SOME OF THE BEST WAYS TO PREVENT HEARING LOSS ARE:

- Limit your exposure to loud noises, such as music, machinery, etc.
- Wear protective gear, such as earplugs/earmuffs, when in loud environments.
- Avoid taking ototoxic medicine where hearing loss is a possible side effect.

SOME OF THE BEST FORMS OF EARLY TREATMENT ARE:

- Get a thorough hearing examination to evaluate your current status.
- Use assistive medical devices, such as hearing aids, to amplify sounds.
- Continually monitor your hearing health by getting regular checkups.

WAYS TO PREVENT NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS (NIHL)



This May let's make a pledge to first know where we personally stand with our own hearing health and educate ourselves about the warning signs, condition and treatment options for hearing loss. Next, let's reach out to friends and loved ones that we think might be battling with some degree of hearing loss. If someone is constantly asking us to repeat ourselves in conversation or they listen to the TV or radio much louder than normal, these are great indicators that they may have some degree of hearing loss and could benefit from a comprehensive hearing exam to diagnose the problem. Lastly, let's raise awareness in our local communities by participating and sharing events that support the efforts to shine light on hearing loss and related conditions, treatments and solutions. 🌱

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 35 locations: (810) 356-0559.

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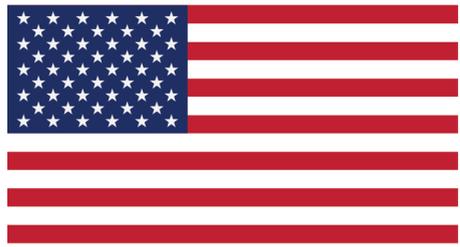
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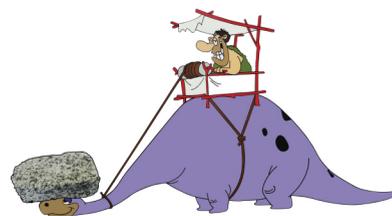
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By Pamela Grey-Pugliese, ThumbPrint News Columnist

COTTAGE LIVING

The official Michigan cottage season is here! Our summer holidays are about ready to start. So much needs to be done around my place, but this doesn't bother me, as at least I'll be up at my little happy place while I do it all.

I really don't want to spend the entire weekend indoors and cleaning, but I try to get a head start by getting my list in order with dusting at the top. It is time for the lawn furniture to be put out on the deck and for the ceremony of opening all the windows to allow the fresh spring breeze to blow throughout the place and breathe life into the four walls.

Even though I tend to be on a mission to get my chores done before I have to turn around and leave for the trip home, it's totally okay if I get distracted by a neighbor stopping in to chat and to catch up with them, or if I just take a sitting break and listen to nature; in fact, I prefer both of those distractions!

First thing to do outside is a walk around the place and check for any loose siding, shingles or anything that has been affected from the mighty winds that blow off of Lake Huron. Usually my solar lights have been victimized from the harsh temperatures and strong winds of a Michigan winter. Most likely they will need to be replaced for the summer. Motion light batteries are replaced as well.

My American flag is ready to be displayed upon my arrival to the place, as long as it is not tattered in any way. The hummingbird feeder will be filled and monitored each weekend visit and be ready for the flurry of summer activity. I did notice a small casualty of the brutal winter temps while up for a quick visit recently. Just a small pipe in the shower succumbed to the cold temps after surviving the Michigan winters for seven years now - an easy fix and a small price to pay for owning my little cottage.

Now we start to notice that delicious smell of freshly cut grass and the earthy spring thaw aroma - the scents that I have waited for since January! Finally the screen doors can be left open during the day and the windows open a bit at night. Yes, spring is here, and I for one am a very happy cottage owner!

It's time for bonfires and conversations around the fire pit! I am so ready; bring on the hot weather, fun and outdoor living.

Boating season is here, too! My family has just purchased a boat this spring and we look forward to fishing, sunning and making great memories! This is what Michigan summers are all about. I thought it would never get here! 🐸 **HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY, THUMBPRINT NEWS READERS!**

Bill MacDonald

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NOVI

Continued from Page 1

opinion that there wasn't enough space contributed to Georgia baseball in the publication. In an attempt to conceal his age, Harwell signed the letter "W. Earnest Harwell" and the paper was so impressed by his writing that they asked him to become a consistent contributor.

Towards the end of his high school career and continuing throughout his time at Emory University, Harwell was employed by the *Atlanta Constitution* in their sports department. Shortly before finishing school, Harwell made a step toward his dream job after landing a radio station gig at WSB, which allowed him to interview some of the greatest athletes at the time, such as Ty Cobb and Jack Dempsey. After graduating from college in 1940, Harwell married Lulu Tankersley, and together the two went on to raise four children. Soon after the country became involved in WWII, Harwell joined the Marines and began working for the Marine newspaper *Leatherneck*. While still serving the following year, Harwell was given the opportunity to cover the play-by-play for the Atlanta Crackers by owner Earl Mann, as long as he donated his pay to the Red Cross. Unfortunately, this didn't last long because some people expressed concerns over letting Marines broadcast baseball games – Ernie was no longer allowed to cover the games, but Mann told him as soon as he was discharged, he could have the job back because he was so impressed by him. Harwell served until 1946, when he received an honorable discharge, and after returning home, Ernie was once again announcing games for the Atlanta Crackers.

By 1947, it appeared Harwell would be moving to New York to announce games for the Giants, but because issues arose with a sponsor, the deal fell through. The following season, the Brooklyn Dodgers found themselves in need of a temporary broadcaster because Red Barber was set to cover the summer Olympics. Ernie stepped up to fill the position, and continued on for some time when Barber suffered a bleeding ulcer and was unable to return to his normal position. The Dodgers wanted to keep Harwell on their staff permanently, but ran into trouble. He was still under contract with the Crackers, leading the two clubs to start negotiations. In a deal that has never been repeated, the Crackers released Harwell for catcher Cliff Dapper – Harwell officially became a member of the Dodgers on August 4, 1948. The following year Harwell took on a new responsibility of splitting television broadcasting with the other two announcers, in which one man would be on TV, while the others covered the radio.

The 1950 season brought more changes for Harwell as he moved to his new home with the Giants. During this time he also spent much of his downtime announcing football games for the Baltimore Colts, and later for Michigan State. His second year with the Giants marked what Ernie later explained as his "most thrilling season of his broadcasting career". The Giants were tied with his previous club, the Dodgers,

in a three-game series to decide who would play in the World Series. This would be the first time in history that a sporting event was broadcast across the nation, and for the deciding game in the series, Harwell got the nod to cover the game for NBC. This was one of the biggest games in baseball history, with Ernie being given the distinction of being the only announcer to cover the game on television. The competition ended in exciting fashion with the Giants winning from a walk-off home run by Bobby Thomson. Unfortunately, as a result of the times, Ernie's reporting of the moment, often referred to as "shots heard 'round the world" was overshadowed by Russ Hodges' famous announcement, "The Giants win the pennant!" Later in life, while accepting one of his many awards, Harwell explained that at that time in history, games weren't recorded for future viewing and that his wife was the only one who remembered he'd covered that historic moment.

After the 1953 season commenced, Harwell joined the newly formed Baltimore Orioles and became the teams' first broadcaster. The Orioles struggled throughout their first few years, as most teams do while they try to build a franchise. In 1957, Ernie was fortunate to work with the teams' third baseman George Kell, who was recovering from getting hit with a baseball. Kell, a former Detroit Tiger, found that he enjoyed broadcasting with Ernie, and went into broadcasting full-time back with the Tigers after retiring from the game. A few years later, the relationship between the

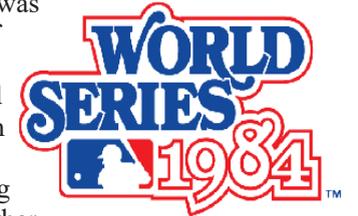
two proved beneficial when a sponsor of the Tigers wanted a new voice to represent their company. Kell hadn't forgotten that it was Harwell who got him into the booth and recommended Ernie for the job. Although Ernie was secure with his position in Baltimore, he was a fan of Detroit and decided to join the team during the 1959 postseason. For the next three years, Harwell and Kell shared airtime on both the radio and television until 1963, when Kell stopped radio broadcasting.

Harwell began his exclusive work with radio starting in 1965, and while he worked with a handful of other broadcasters, his longest standing partnership began in 1973. Paul Carey and Harwell teamed up, splitting the games up in three-inning intervals – for the next 19 seasons the duo provided Tigers' fans with play-by-play commentary. During the postseason, Harwell was frequently asked to cover All-Star games for NBC, American League Championships for CBS and even provided coverage for the World Series in 1963 and 1968. Beginning on August 2, 1981, Harwell started receiving recognition for his contribution to baseball when he was presented with the Ford Frick Award from the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He was just the fifth announcer to ever accept the distinction and the only one who was given the award while still alive. During his acceptance speech which showcased his modesty, Harwell said, "I know that this is an award that is supposed to be for my contribution to baseball. But let me say this: I have given a lot less to baseball than it has given to me. And the greatest gift that I've received from baseball is the way that the people in the game have responded to me with their warmth and their friendship." Just three years later, Harwell was fortunate enough to broadcast the Tigers throughout their playoff run, eventually winning the 1984 World Series 4-1 over the San Diego Padres, a feat they haven't been able to repeat since.

Ernie continued to work with the Tigers and was loved by baseball fans all over the country, but issues between Harwell and the club started after the 1990 season. While he was interested in extending his contract for three more years, the Tigers, along with the radio station WJR, only wanted him to cover games for one more year, after which he would announce his retirement. On December 19, 1990, a press conference was held to release the news to the world. Harwell was quoted as saying, "I wanted to go on longer, but they decided they didn't want me to go on longer. Bo was very forthright. He told me, 'We don't want you to come back.' I have no bitterness. I was surprised when the one-year deal came up. My health is fine." Bo Schembechler, who was the Tigers' president and former University of Michigan football coach, explained

that they believed Harwell was nearing retirement, and to avoid him leaving in the middle of a season and having to scramble to find a replacement, it was best to end the partnership. The announcement enraged people throughout the state and was a disaster from the start, often referred to as one of the worst public relation decisions ever made in professional sports – his partner Paul Carey announced his retirement the same year.

Although Ernie was saddened by the decision, he wasn't the type to hold grudges and eventually found work elsewhere. He covered 14 games on the radio for the California Angels, as well as the Game of the Week for CBS, but he missed following the same team all season. The Tigers' owner Tom Monaghan, who already wasn't seen in a very favorable light by the fans, lost what little bit of respect he had left due to his decision to let Harwell go. This led to the sale of the ball club, in which the current owner Mike Ilitch purchased the team in 1992. With Ilitch now in charge of the team, one of his first orders of business was to try and get the beloved announcer back. Harwell agreed to return for the 1993 season, intending on retiring after the year was over, but he decided to return to television broadcasting for the Tigers in 1994, remaining in that position for four years. Following his stint on TV, Ernie went back to the radio waves for Detroit's final season at Tigers Stadium before they moved to Comerica Park. Near the end of the 1990s, Harwell

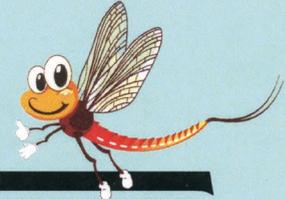


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INFORMATION

SUNNY FIELDS BOTANICAL PARK HAS MICHIGAN'S LARGEST COLLECTION OF LILACS

The third week of May is most often peak blooming time for over 300 lilac bushes at Sunny Fields, Inc. Botanical Park in Emmett Township, Michigan.

You can see all 16 registered genuses in all seven colors (white, violet, blue, lilac, pink, magenta and purple), as well as over 144 varieties of flowering crabapples, 120 varieties of daffodils and many rare trees, shrubs and perennials while traversing the grassy hiking trails throughout 30 acres of the private park.



The park, located at 5444 Welch Road in Emmett Township, is open Friday through Tuesday, April 1st through October 31st, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Admission and parking are free, but donations are appreciated. You can choose to hike around on your own (trail maps available) or arrange a guided tour by calling (810) 387-2765. Environmentalists, conservationists, forestry and horticultural professionals, as well as garden clubs, school, Scouts and 4H groups and other organizations are welcome and encouraged to visit by scheduling a group tour. Special events can also be accommodated. (Visitors under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.)

It is the mission of Sunny Fields to promote balanced wildlife stewardship, tranquil recreation and education in horticulture and the environment. It is also the perfect place for photography and wildlife enthusiasts. There is a small picnic area and you will find benches sporadically along the trails. An outdoor restroom facility is also available.

Bill Horman is the current executive director and head steward of the park. The idea for the park was embarked on by Bill in 1962, when his parents, Elmer and Jane Horman, purchased the property and began converting the acres of grain fields to orchards and gardens. Bill was 18 at the time and became inspired to build a park to benefit the environment and the community. He began gathering and planting woody ornamentals, as well as rare and native plants, and has continued this dedication in the 50 years since. "It is my philosophy, and I was raised to believe, that if you have the ways and the means to make the world a better place, that is what you should do," said Horman.

If you're looking for a place to spend a day outdoors in a gorgeous setting, grab your hiking shoes, put on some comfortable clothes, pack a picnic and spend the day strolling along the trails, enjoying nature and the culmination of over five decades worth of hard work put in by Bill, his staff and occasional volunteers. 🌱

PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS OF THIS UNIQUE PARK TO OTHERS!

Editor's note: If you are interested in getting your hands dirty and helping out at the park or need more information, please give Bill a call at (810) 387-2765 during the season, April through October, or at (313) 886-9342 during the off-season. Sunny Fields, Inc. is a 501c3 public charity, making your donations an important part of continuing day-to-day operations. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and will be used to help maintain the park and keep it open to the public. If you would like to mail a donation, please use the mailing address of P.O. Box 414, Emmett, MI 48022. For information on how to become a member, visit the website, www.visitsunnyfields.org.

Excerpt from their website: "Bill spent 30 years (1964-1996) as an employee of the City of Detroit Recreation Department, Forestry & Landscape Division, Floriculture Unit. He worked to grow, maintain and display tropical foliage and flowering plant material from the greenhouses on Belle Isle in Detroit, Michigan. He became the city's senior horticulturist, and in 1987, he became a co-founder of the Belle Isle Botanical Society, for which he still volunteers."





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- Linda D.

Love this place! Great place to bring family from out of town.
- Robert S.

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- Stacey K.

Great place to have an outstanding dinner. Friendly service makes you feel like you're at home.
- Jim S.

Amazing broasted chicken! Every meal we have had here has been great. Even the owners are friendly and down to earth. Love this place!
- Dawn S.

Amazing food, remarkable atmosphere. Such a great time with friends and family.
- Diane B.

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- Shelby D.

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See more customer comments at facebook.com/FoxfireFixinsRestaurant.

WAR DOG

Continued from Page 1

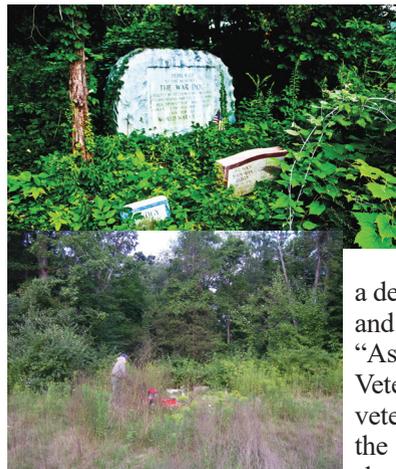
him on his Spanish-American flagship, as well as Blizzard, a sled dog that was part of Admiral Byrd's first expedition in Antarctica.

After the conclusion of WWII, the pet cemetery began to expand and following the efforts of local citizens, work was funded for some improvements. When residents heard of the great sacrifices that military dogs made during the war, they decided to honor the war dogs by installing a 16-ton memorial for the fallen comrades – the project cost was \$3,700, which today would equal over \$50,000. A short time later, the first military burial was held for Sergeant Sparks' Doberman pinscher, who served on four different islands as a messenger. Sadly, after surviving numerous battles and returning home with his handler, his dog was poisoned outside his home just a year after the monument was unveiled. At the request of his owner, the K9, who was part of the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion 1st Marine Raider Regiment, surviving battles in Guadalcanal, Guam, Okinawa and Bougainville, was laid to rest at the base of the shrine.

Canines have long held a place in war efforts – during WWI they were referred to as Ambulance Dogs, which were trained to find wounded soldiers. By the time the United States became involved in WWII, the military dogs' roles expanded to include delivering messages, scouting, tracking and sentry. During the Vietnam War, dogs were used to detect both booby traps and explosive devices, which the military said saved approximately 10,000 lives just during the engagement in Vietnam. They continued to serve a similar role while troops were deployed in Iraq, and when the SEAL Team killed Osama Bin Laden, military dogs were used to patrol and search the area for IEDs and other dangers.

Burials on this site continued into the 1970s, but following the death of John Elkow, no one was left to maintain the property – as years passed, the once beautiful pet cemetery that now contained the remains of more than 2,100 animals, was forgotten and left to return to nature. It wasn't until 2010, when Phil Weitlauf and his beloved German shepherd Cody heard of the site and decided to see it for themselves. What they found was years of neglect, with very few items poking out through the knee-high grass. Lombardo Homes owned the plot of land by this time, but agreed to gift the site to Lyon Township and soon work began to return the site to its former glory. "That's when we decided to form a detail in the attempt to clean up this hallowed ground and bring it back to its former grandeur," Weitlauf said. "As a member of the American legion and American Veterans (AMVETS) I put out a call to my fellow veterans and K9 supporters and set a date to start the cleanup mission. On that day, over 55 volunteers showed up and the cleaning process started."

AMVETS Dog Cemetery Pre-Clean-up (both photos contributed by Jane Purslow)



The site was dedicated in November of 2011, and the following year the non-profit organization The Michigan War Dog Memorial Incorporated was created.

Due to federal laws and restrictions, veteran canines are not allowed to be buried in national cemeteries. With only a little more than 35 war dog memorials throughout the country and nowhere for police canines to be laid to rest, the newly formed organization wanted to honor those heroes as well. Pito, a War Dog, is laid to rest at the MWDM after spending multiple years on security for the Andrews Air Force Base, secret service detail for the president and vice president, as well as being deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. With the \$40,000 raised by the non-profit, a massive black granite wall was erected at the site to honor the 4,234 military dogs deployed in the Vietnam



AMVETS War Dog Cemetery (both photos contributed by Jane Purslow)



AMVETS MWDM K9 Vietnam Wall Installation (contributed by Jane Purslow)



K9 Vietnam Wall (contributed by Jane Purslow)

War, including their names and tattoo numbers. According to the American Humane Society, each military canine will save approximately 150 to 200 lives throughout its service by detecting otherwise undetectable weapons and explosives.

In 2017, while playing music for patients at the Veterans Hospital in Detroit, the MWDM was mentioned to Kenny Lang in passing. After doing some of his own research, Lang found himself thinking about the project frequently. He came up with the idea to write a song honoring the canine veterans, but he found the term War Dog too harsh for his song. "I went to bed one night and woke up in the middle of the night and it hit me 'four-legged hero', so I had to run to my music room and write it down before I lost it," Lang said. "My German shepherd Emmylou, who was named after Emmylou Harris, of course (an American singer, songwriter and musician), was my inspiration for the song."

Kenny wasted no time before writing the song honoring the fallen K9s and going into the studio to record it. "Shortly after I finished the song, I emailed it to Phil Weitlauf (who is the president of the MWDM) and he called me back five minutes later saying he and his wife Barbara loved it," Lang said. "They just happened to



Kenny Lang playing at Foxfire Fixins

be dedicating the Vietnam K9 Memorial Wall soon and asked me to perform it at the event." Lang paid for all of the production costs for the song and 1,600 copies, which he donated to the foundation to sell. He continues to sell the single, "Four Legged Hero", for \$3 a piece, donating all of the money to the MWDM. Kenny Lang, who has been entertaining crowds for 50 years, continues to play more than 400 shows a year throughout southeast Michigan – if you're interested in seeing Lang perform or would like to get a copy of the song "Four Legged Hero", be sure to visit Foxfire Fixin's Restaurant at 7200 River Road in Marine City, where he plays every Friday night (www.foxfirefixins.com).

With the effort of the Michigan War Dog Memorial volunteers, every four-legged veteran receives a full military service burial, escorted by eight German shepherds with full color guard and bagpipers. Instead of a 21-gun salute, the escorts pay their respects by all letting out a howl to honor their fallen comrade. Included in the service is the presentation of a flag to the dog's owner or handler and an engraved headstone is provided, all at no cost to the owner. Today the organization has more plans for the site, which include turning the area into a park-like setting with landscaping, walkways and fencing to deter vandals. They have also been working to erect additional memorials for other wars military dogs served in, including the Korean, Afghanistan and Iraq Wars, as well as a monument for the Oakland County Sheriff's Office K9s.

"As of today, we have held interments for 18 K9 heroes with full honors and we continue improving the site with support from many individuals and corporations," Weitlauf said. "Our mission statement from the beginning was to develop a park setting and maintain that setting and we will stay on course." 🇺🇸

Editor's note: If you're interested in more information on the Michigan War Dog Memorial or would like to donate please visit www.mwdm.org. You can visit Kenny Lang's website at www.kennylangsongs.com.

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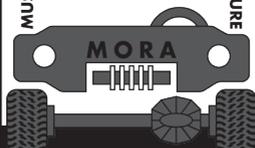
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FELINE HYPERTENSION

By **Dr. DiBenedetto**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Hypertension is the medical term for high blood pressure, which is a common health issue in people, and is now being recognized as a common condition in older cats. Feline hypertension is frequently found as a complication of other underlying medical conditions (called “secondary hypertension”), although primary hypertension (hypertension without any underlying disease) may also be seen. The most common causes of secondary hypertension in cats is chronic kidney disease and hyperthyroidism.

Hypertension can be damaging to the body. It can cause rupture and bleeding of small vessels within the retinas of the eyes, leading to complete and permanent blindness. If the vessels in the brain bleed, there can be neurologic symptoms such as behavioral changes or gait abnormalities or even seizures. Over time, high blood pressure damages the kidneys and may increase the risk of kidney failure developing. In cats that already have existing kidney disease, the hypertension is likely to make the disease significantly worse. Increased blood pressure can also cause damage to your cat’s heart muscle. This could eventually lead to congestive heart failure. Therefore, early recognition of hypertension is important in order to minimize the severe and often permanently damaging effects of persistently high blood pressure on the eyes and other organs.

Cats present with a variety of symptoms that are more related to the underlying diseases than the hypertension itself. For example, hyperthyroid cats generally present with hyperactivity and weight loss, even though they have an increased appetite. Cats that are in kidney failure usually are drinking and urinating excessively along with losing weight. Many cats with hypertension can appear depressed, lethargic and withdrawn, and many owners notice an improvement in their cat's behavior once the hypertension has been successfully managed.

To be able detect hypertension early, regular blood pressure checks are recommended in cats older than seven years of age. Initially these may be done once a year, but as the cat gets older these should be done a minimum of twice a year ideally. Various techniques and equipment are available to measure blood pressure in cats. The blood pressure equipment used is often like that used routinely in people, with an inflatable cuff placed around one of the legs or the tail. Measuring blood pressure only takes a few minutes, is completely pain-free and is extremely well tolerated by most cats.



When hypertension is diagnosed, management has two phases: the first is to lower the blood pressure with anti-hypertensive medication and the second is to identify and also treat any other disease processes that are found. In cats with primary hypertension (where there is no underlying disease that has caused the high blood pressure), it is usually possible to manage the hypertension and prevent future complications. In cases of secondary hypertension, the long-term outlook is very dependent on the nature and severity of the disease that has caused the high blood pressure. It is important in all cases of hypertension that the patient is monitored as accurately as possible on a regular basis in order to avoid any complications.

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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View the Great Lake's LIVING FOSSIL. On Board the *Huron Lady* Sturgeon Cruise

Submitted By Sheri Faust

On June 1, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., thousands of visitors will have the opportunity to experience a close encounter with the Great Lakes' iconic lake sturgeon at the Blue Water Sturgeon Festival held at the Fort Gratiot Light Station County Park. Organized by Friends of the St. Clair River, the festival is an annual celebration providing dozens of hands-on activities, workshops, a live sturgeon touch tank, adopt a sturgeon program and exclusive *Huron Lady* Sturgeon Cruise.

Affectionately known as the "Gentle Giant of the Great Lakes" given its large size, lake sturgeon are a threatened species in Michigan; however, the St. Clair River supports the largest and healthiest sturgeon population in the Great Lakes, making Port Huron an ideal location for this event.

Huron Lady Sturgeon Cruise tickets are available now at www.HuronLady.com for cruises at 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and only 300 tickets are available. Cruises take place rain or shine and begin and end at the *Huron Lady* dock on the Black River. During the one-hour cruise, guests watch lake sturgeon swimming in the St. Clair River via live video by Gregory A.D. scuba divers.

The Blue Water Sturgeon Festival was hatched in 2014, after a group of divers, environmentalists and scientists wanted to highlight the fascinating story of this ancient fish – a mascot for the Great Lakes and their recovery. The festival draws thousands to get up close and personal with these giants, ask questions to those who study them, and learn about stewardship of the world's largest freshwater ecosystem.

Funds raised from the Sturgeon Cruise support Friends of the St. Clair River's education, outreach and stewardship programs. For more information, visit www.SturgeonFestival.com or contact Sheri Faust, president, Friends of the St. Clair River at (810) 730-5998 or email her at info@scriver.org.



GREATER ROCHESTER HERITAGE DAYS



This will be a weekend of family fun, so mark your calendars. The dates are Saturday, May 18, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 19, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The location is Rochester Park at Ludlow Street. All of the activities will be family-friendly and the food will be abundant.

A pancake breakfast will be served at the Community House both Saturday and Sunday for a modest price and after you have enjoyed the great meal, step out into the park and see the beautiful cars sponsored by the Rochester Lions Club. On Saturday, enjoy the Heritage Rod and Custom

Car Show and on Sunday, the Annual Festival of Cars. As you wind your way through the park, you will see the Children's Pioneer Playground, reenactors, including those from the Michigan 10th Volunteer Infantry, which served in the American Civil War, and others. In the Heritage area, there will be demonstrations of spinning, weaving, quilting, caning and other crafts of long ago. The Oakland Township Historical Society will be selling their beautiful plants once again.

There will be music to entertain and food to tempt you. All of this is presented by the tireless work of volunteers who have given their time for all to have a little taste of old Rochester. Our local nonprofits have the opportunity to show off their pride in our wonderful community and at the same time raise funds to help others.

Remember the dates, May 18 and 19, to come have fun with us!

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VOCABULARY VOYAGE

We continue on our quest for new words to increase our vocabulary. Why would we want to do that? – To speak more eloquently, to better understand others who are speaking or writing, and just for the fun of learning something new. Perhaps you already are familiar with these three words – and perhaps not. Here are this month's three words:

"You're never too old to start learning, and you're never too young to aim high and achieve great things." – Asa Hutchinson

By Laura Irwin, *ThumbPrint News* Staff Writer

deracinate [de-rac-i-nate | \ dih-ras-uh-neyt]

A verb meaning (1) UPROOT, (2) to remove or separate from a native environment or culture, especially: to remove the racial or ethnic characteristics or influences from
Ex: *Native Americans were forced to deracinate from their ancestral lands.* First known use: 1599, as relating to meaning (1)

edacious [eda-cious | \ ih-dey-shuh s]

An adjective meaning (1) archaic : of or relating to eating, (2) VORACIOUS
Ex: *Most teenage boys are edacious eaters.* First known use: circa 1798, relating to meaning (1)

fipple [fip-ple | \ fip-uh l]

A noun referring to a plug stopping the upper end of a pipe, as a recorder or a whistle, and having a narrow slit through which the player blows. Ex: *A flute employing a fipple-type mouthpiece assembly permits the flute to be more easily mastered.*

First known use: 1620 - 1630; perhaps special use of dial. fipple – loose lower lip, pouting lip; compare Old Norse flipi – lower lip of a horse, Norwegian flipe flap, lappet.

YOUR WORDS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME! 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, or mail them to us at the address located on page 2 of the paper. Without all the requested information, we will be unable to use your submission.





PROPERTY POTPOURRI

Don Alcorn, GRI and Barbara Alcorn, GRI

MARKET MATTERS

Year-over-year unit residential sales in St. Clair and Oakland Counties were down in March 2019, compared to March 2018. However, the number of residential houses sold in Macomb County increased by more than 10% for the same period.

Year-over-year median sales prices rose in all three counties, with the greatest increase in St. Clair County at 7.5%, 4.1% in Macomb and 3.8% in Oakland County.

Average days on market increased slightly in Macomb and Oakland Counties to 42 to 43 days, and declined in St. Clair County from 64 to 56 days.

The ending inventory for the first quarter in these three counties was down about 9% from the prior year.

Mortgage rates continue to appear to be stabilizing, and the Federal Reserve announced in March that it foresees no interest rate hikes in 2019. This should bode well for the spring market.

* * *

HOME BUYERS GENERATIONAL TRENDS 2019

Who's driving the market, downsizing, trading up and why?

The National Association of REALTORS® (NAR)'s 2019 study reveals the generational percentages of purchases:

- Millennials (born 1980-1998) at 37%
- Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964) at 32%,
- Generation Xers (born 1965-1979) at 24%
- Silent Generation (born 1925-1945) at 7%
- Gen Z (born 1998 or later) at <1% (just starting to join the ranks of homeowners)

Some other interesting info from this study...

- First-time buyers made up 33% of all home buyers, a decrease from last year at 34%.
- At 26%, buyers 29 to 38 continue to be the largest generational group of buyers with a median age of 34, followed by buyers 39-53 at 24% with a median age of 45.
- Buyers between the ages of 39-53 had the highest household incomes of any generation at \$111,100 in 2017, followed by buyers between 54-63 that had a median income of \$102,300.
- 63% of recent buyers were married couples, 18% were single females, 9% single males and 8% unmarried couples.
- 37% of all buyers had children under the age of 18 living at home.
- 12% of buyers purchased a multi-generational home to take care of aging parents, for cost savings and because children over the age of 18 were moving back.

GENERATIONAL

Millennials – the most active buying segment for the 6th consecutive year are now broken into 2 segments:

Younger (1990-1998) – 11% of recent home buyers; 40% consider commuting costs very important; 71% say convenience to job influenced neighborhood choice.

Older (1980-1989) – 26% of recent home buyers; 42% have student loan debt; 52% were first time home buyers; 81% found their home with mobile app.

Gen X – (1965-1979) – 16% bought a multi-generational home; looked online for properties as a first step; 56% bought in a suburb or subdivision.

Baby Boomers –

Younger (1955-1964) – 18% of recent buyers,

Median 12 weeks home searching; 35% heating and cooling costs very important.

Older (1946-1954) – 14% of recent buyers, 47% buy due to retirement; 19% bought in a suburb or subdivision; median miles moved between new and prior home – 30.

Silent Generation – 27% purchased to be closer to family, friends, or relatives; 29% purchased senior-related housing; 34% will never move, as they are in their forever homes. 🏡

Editor's Note: Don and Barbara Alcorn are Realtors® serving St. Clair, Oakland, Macomb 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 (810) 278-6655 or dalcorn@cbwm.com or balcorn@cbwm.com.

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May

WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY?

<p>5 On this day in 1891, Music Hall (later renamed Carnegie Hall) opens with Tchaikovsky as the guest conductor.</p> 	<p>6 On this day in 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs the Civil Rights Act of 1960.</p>	<p>7 On this day in 1824, Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony" premieres in Vienna.</p> 	<p>1 On this day in 1931, the Empire State Building opens in New York City.</p> 	<p>2 On this day in 1946, prisoners revolt at California's Alcatraz prison.</p> 	<p>3 On this day in 1845, Macon B. Allen, the first African American lawyer, is admitted to the bar in Massachusetts.</p>	<p>4 On this day in 1715, a French manufacturer debuts the first folding umbrella.</p> 
<p>12 On this day in 1926, the airship <i>Norge</i> becomes the first vessel to fly over the North Pole.</p> 	<p>6 On this day in 1913, Igor Sikorsky flies the first four-engine aircraft.</p> 	<p>7 On this day in 1944, George Lucas, creator of the <i>Star Wars</i> and <i>Indiana Jones</i> franchises, is born in Modesto, California.</p>	<p>8 On this day in 1895, China cedes Taiwan to Japan under the Treaty of Shimonoseki.</p>	<p>9 On this day in 1754, Benjamin Franklin created the first editorial cartoon published in an American newspaper.</p>	<p>10 On this day in 1869, the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads meet in Promontory, Utah.</p> 	<p>11 On this day in 1573, Henry of Anjou becomes the first elected king of Poland.</p> 
<p>19 On this day in 1780, near total darkness descends on New England at noon. No explanation is found.</p>	<p>13 On this day in 1916, in 1917 and in 1918, the town of Codell, Kansas gets hit by a tornado.</p> 	<p>14 On this day in 1790, Paris is divided into 48 zones.</p> 	<p>15 On this day in 1886, Emily Dickinson dies in Amherst, Massachusetts, where she had lived in seclusion for the previous 24 years.</p> 	<p>16 On this day in 1986, <i>Top Gun</i>, directed by Tony Scott and starring Tom Cruise, premieres.</p>	<p>17 On this day in 1630, Italian Jesuit Niccolo Zucchi sees the belts on Jupiter's surface.</p> 	<p>18 On this day in 1652, a law is passed in Rhode Island banning slavery in the colonies, but it causes little stir and seems unlikely to be enforced.</p>
<p>26 On this day in 1941, Betsy Ross' house is given to the city of Philadelphia.</p> 	<p>20 On this day in 1916, in 1917 and in 1918, the town of Codell, Kansas gets hit by a tornado.</p> 	<p>21 On this day in 1790, Paris is divided into 48 zones.</p> 	<p>22 On this day in 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition officially begins as the Corps of Discovery departs from St. Charles, Missouri.</p>	<p>23 On this day in 1864, Union General Ulysses Grant attempts to outflank Confederate Robert E. Lee in the Battle of North Anna, Virginia.</p>	<p>24 On this day in 1930, Amy Johnson becomes the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia.</p>	<p>25 On this day in 1935, Jesse Owens sets six world records in less than an hour in Ann Arbor, Michigan.</p>
<p>26 On this day in 1941, Betsy Ross' house is given to the city of Philadelphia.</p> 	<p>27 On this day in 1961, the first black light is sold.</p> 	<p>28 On this day in 1953, <i>Melody</i>, the first animated 3D cartoon in Technicolor, premieres.</p>	<p>29 On this day in 1922, the U.S. Supreme Court rules organized baseball is a sport not subject to antitrust laws.</p>	<p>30 On this day in 1536, English King Henry VIII marries Jane Seymour, his third wife.</p> 	<p>31 On this day in 1879, New York's Madison Square Garden opens its doors for the first time.</p>	<p><i>Editor's note:</i> The purpose of this calendar is to provide entertainment for our readers and to mention lesser-known events that have happened on any given day. 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.</p>

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Melanie Duquesnel

BENEFITS OF THE BBB

BBB Serving Eastern Michigan is a non-profit organization with the purpose of promoting an ethical marketplace and creating a community of trustworthy businesses and charities.

Better Business Bureau is known for providing information about businesses to consumers, helping to resolve complaints and delivering consumer information, but the services BBB provides go far beyond that.

We want our consumers to know that we are more than just complaints. Consumers can use BBB as a resource to help them find ethical businesses, while avoiding fraud and scams.

Better Business Bureau has several methods of fulfilling its vision of an ethical marketplace where buyers and sellers can trust each other.

Dispute Resolution: BBB offers several different dispute resolution programs and options to consumers and businesses with the aim of resolving marketplace conflict. When BBB receives a customer complaint, it is then forwarded to the business for visibility and to give businesses the opportunity to address any and all complaints. This business will have the opportunity to disclose any pertinent information about the transaction. Sometimes, it's that no transaction took place and the complaint needs to be transferred to another business. Our team members will act as a non-biased party in hopes to resolve the business and consumer issues. We also offer arbitration services with another non-biased party who will make the final decision, if the consumer and business are unable to agree. This is free of charge to accredited businesses.

Customer Reviews: BBB provides consumers with the opportunity to write customer reviews on both accredited and non-accredited businesses or other not-for-profit organizations providing a business service. The consumer writing the review must have had a marketplace interaction with the business which is being reviewed.

Advertising Review: BBB reviews local business advertising and challenges any potential false or misleading ads to control the advertising claims made by businesses. We encourage businesses and consumers to bring these ads to the BBB for our review. To submit an ad challenge, please visit <https://bit.ly/2KnPnrm>.

BBB Scam Tracker: This tool provides consumers across North America with a place to report scams and fraud. This will in return warn others of malicious or suspicious activities. Consumers will be able to see the popular scam plaguing their area by visiting bbb.org/scamtracker.

BBB Education Outreach: BBB uses community outreach to promote its vision of an ethical marketplace where buyers and sellers trust each other. The mission of Education Outreach is to educate consumers to recognize and avoid scams, provide ethics training and educate businesses on ethical best practices.

Your BBB provides its services free to the public in its service area that spans the eastern half of the Lower Peninsula from Jackson County, north through central Michigan to Alpena and includes the entire Upper Peninsula. For more information, please visit bbb.org or call (866) 788-5706. 🇺🇸



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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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 will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a wonderful surprise gift at the end of the year! On December



16, 2019, one winner will be drawn out of all the monthly winners and the lucky person will be notified.

For our April contest, we asked our readers to identify what the item pictured to the left is and for what it is used. Of all of those submitting the correct answer, Joann Gorkowski of Bad Axe, Michigan, was randomly chosen and will be entered into the year-end drawing.

Joann identified that the object is a pair of vintage boiled egg scissors. This model is from 1903, and was intended to cut off the top of a soft-boiled egg.

Here are some interesting facts about eggs:

- Hens are born with only so many eggs in their system. They will not lay eggs until they die. They will lay them until they run out.
- If the eggs are not collected in a timely manner, the hen will eat her egg. She will like it, too, and she will continue to eat her eggs.
- Chicken eggs can be frozen up to one year!
- An old egg will float up in a pot of boiling water; fresher eggs will remain at the bottom of the heated pot.
- The United States will produce about 75 billion eggs a year; that is about 10% of the world's supply.



For our May contest, we are asking our readers to identify what famous person is shown as a child to the right. Go to our website www.thumbprintnews.com if you know the answer. Good luck! 🇺🇸

NOVI, Continued from Page 8 moved his family from Farmington Hills to Novi, where he remained for the rest of his life.

In 2002, at the age of 85, Ernie Harwell decided to finally retire from announcing the game he loved, but this time it was on his own terms. Interestingly, the catcher who Harwell was traded for, Cliff Dapper, was the one who presented the tribute video for Ernie, which was said to be the first time they ever met. At the end of his final game, he gave a speech to the fans in the stadium saying, "It's time to say goodbye, but I think goodbyes are sad and I'd much rather say hello. Hello to a new adventure. I'm not leaving, folks. I'll still be with you, living my life in Michigan – my home state – surrounded by family and friends." Out of the 55 years Harwell spent broadcasting baseball for fans throughout the country, 42 of them were spent with the Tigers, and although he wasn't born in Michigan, the state became his home. After his retirement, he made a handful of guest appearances in the press box for games, such as the AL Division Series in 2006, when the Tigers faced the Yankees. Out of the more than 8,300 MLB games he covered, he only missed two in more than half of a century – one in 1968 for his brother's funeral and the other when he was inducted into the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association Hall of Fame. In an attempt to save a portion of the original Tigers Stadium, Harwell agreed to donate his \$2 million memorabilia collection to the Detroit Public Library, as long as a section of the field would be preserved for a museum.

In 2009, Harwell announced to the world that he was battling incurable cancer and didn't have long to live. Shortly after he revealed the news to the public, the Tigers showcased another tribute to Ernie, looking back at all the memories of his time with the club – speaking to his significance in the broadcasting world, Harwell was named the 16th greatest announcer of all time according to the American Sportscaster Association. He even holds the distinction of being named "baseball's most enduring announcer", authenticated by the *Guinness Book of World Records*, covering more games than any other sportscaster. "In my almost 92 years on this earth, the good Lord has blessed me with a great journey," Harwell said. "The blessed part of that journey is that it's going to end here in the great state of Michigan." Ernie's active lifestyle played a huge part in his life and he was said to work out until just before his passing. On May 4, 2010, Harwell passed away in his Novi home at 92 years old,

with his wife of 68 years and their four children by his side. He was set to receive the Vin Scully Lifetime Achievement Award, but passed away just before the ceremony – Al Kaline accepted it on his behalf.

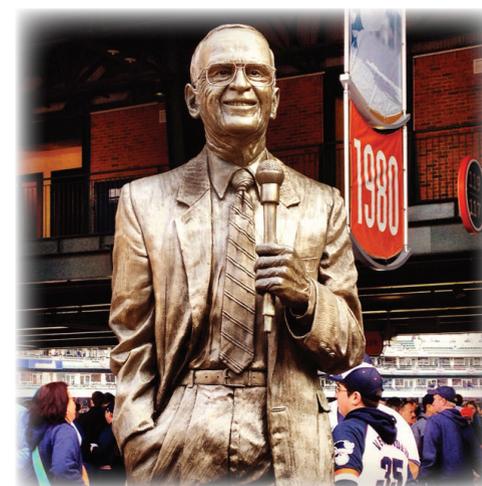
Due to his immense impact not only on the city of Detroit, but the game of baseball as a whole, a viewing was held at Comerica Park on May 6. More than 10,000 fans flocked to the field to pay their respects to the cherished man.

During the team's next home game on May 10, the day was deemed Ernie Harwell Day at the park, with uniforms adorning his initials and his longtime partner Paul Carey throwing out the first pitch. Throughout his life, Harwell was inducted into nearly every hall of fame for sports announcers in existence, as well as being elected for many other high honors. The year before retiring, he was awarded the distinguished Ty Tyson Award for Excellence in Sports Broadcasting from the Detroit Sports Broadcasters Association and was named the Michigan Sportscaster of the Year 19 times throughout his career.

Today his legacy is remembered at the stadium in the form of a statue outside Comerica Park, as well as the press box being renamed the Ernie Harwell Media Center – even the Cleveland Indians honored Harwell by naming their visitors' broadcasting booth after him. Harwell will forever be remembered as much for being an extraordinary human as a cherished sportscaster, but his famous catch phrases, such as "that one is long gone!", will forever echo throughout the city of Detroit, as well as the rest of the Mitten State. 🇺🇸



Ernie Harwell patch worn by the Tigers in 2010



Harwell statue – Comerica Park

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ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world with our faithful readers ever since it's beginning, over nine years ago. We usually have a backlog of photos and stories from our readers, some of whom had to wait months to see their photos appear, but these past few months, our travel folder has been empty and our little travel bug has fallen asleep.

WE ARE SEARCHING FOR PHOTO SUBMISSIONS FROM OUR READERS

If you plan a trip for business or pleasure, please consider taking a copy of *ThumbPrint News* with you and photographing it with yourself in front of a point of interest for that location. Please submit good quality .jpeg photo(s) to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net and include a paragraph about your trip. When your photo or photos appear in the paper, we will be sure to send you a complimentary copy, so please include your full name and address with your submission.

We are also adding an additional lure...
Be the first to submit a photo of yourself and a famous or semi-famous person, with *ThumbPrint News*, and you will win a \$25 gift certificate to Foxfire Fixin's Restaurant.
www.foxfirefixins.com

Travel Bug Needs Your Help!

~ *ThumbPrint News Staff*

WITHOUT ANY CURRENT READER SUBMISSIONS, OUR TRAVEL COLUMN MAY BE GOING ON HIATUS.

Happy Mother's Day!

THE FOX 99.9 FM

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the Power of Money

By **Patricia Cosner Kubic**
ThumbPrint News Columnist

Sometimes warmer temperatures aren't the only reason there is an extra spring in our steps this month. For many people, something extra comes in the mail (if you are old school) or there is an extra line item on the e-statement of your bank account. It's the coveted income tax refund. Suddenly, our chest grows and our posture improves.

That's what happens when we get a little windfall, or for some, even a larger-now-I-can-get-new-carpeting windfall. Or, the opposite happens. We have to write a dreaded check (or two!) and the new carpeting becomes a distant idea.

Those two reactions may be opposite, but they sure are equal in strength. The reactions are even physical. Getting some extra dough causes our heart rate to increase, but writing checks causes our stomach to churn. Both reactions provide evidence to the power of money.

When we have it, or get some extra, we instantly make a mental list of all the things we can do. We can finally go to a few of the restaurants we've seen in shiny ads or get that new carpet. Or, we can make a larger than usual donation to our favorite charity. Oh, what a wonderful moment it is when I've been in the position of writing that happy, larger check to charity! I think I loved it more because it's not something I always get to do.

Then there is the opposing side of not having some extra coinage. Paying those two tax bills is the exact opposite of a romantic dinner, new carpeting and being able to help our favorite organizations. Everybody feels the angst of less money.

Luckily, I've been in both positions over the years. And I use the term "lucky" with purpose because both situations came with loud messages. When I had my own business, I had years when I felt like a pseudo-Rockefeller and years when there was a lot of empty space under the Christmas tree. Both situations showed me the impact money has on our lives. When we have it, we can have a lot of fun, improve our homes and do some good – some real good. When we don't have money, its power stays with us because we don't have much fun, we aren't adding to our home, and we can't help out organizations that are dear to us.

So, what to do? I know that money is a personal, even controversial subject. But money's power is a certainty. So all we can do is ride its wave. When we have some extra money, take a minute to really enjoy that dinner, admire those new floors and think about the people and animals that are being helped because you made the loving choice to give some of that new-found money a second life. And when there isn't much left at the end of the month, we'll just have to realize that, while not having enough money impacts many, many parts of our lives, it can't scratch every part of our lives. When my business was tanking, minuscule paychecks were horrible, but they were not an all-inclusive description of my life. I made myself make a plan – a plan for a different kind of fun, a new rug for the house and I volunteered my time. Sure, I had many dark moments; that's what happens when you feel deep disappointment. But, not giving every moment to money woes and giving dedicated thought on how to handle extra cash, well that's some impressive power!

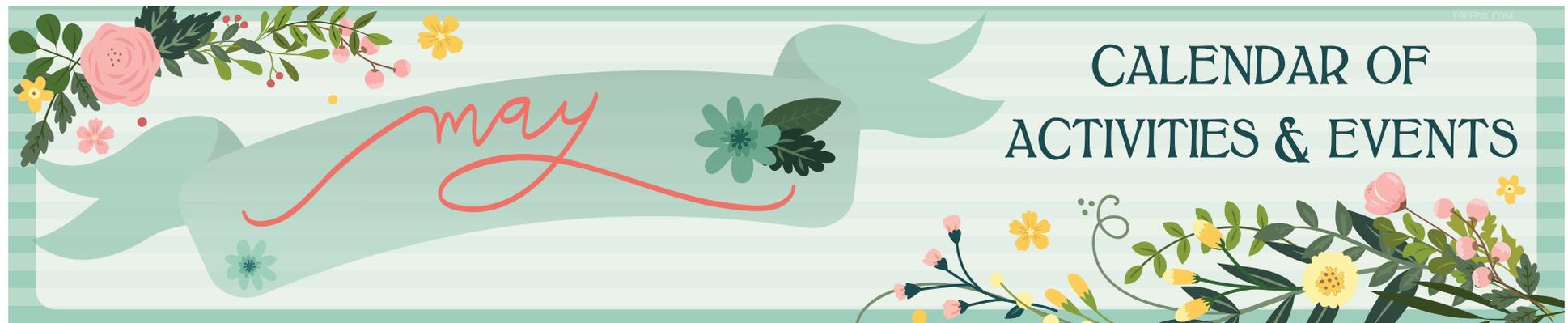
You can reach Patricia by emailing her at pckubic@gmail.com.

Native American Words of Wisdom

Brought to you by Foxfire Fixin's

"The Great Spirit is in all things. He is in the air we breathe. The Great Spirit is our Father, but the Earth is our Mother. She nourishes us. That which we put into the ground she returns to us."

Big Thunder (Bedagi) Wabanaki, Algonquin late 19th century



If you have an event in June that you would like listed in the June issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by May 12, 2019. 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

Port Austin - May 2

Presentation on the Great Thumb Fires of 1871 and 1881 by Author Alan Naldrett, Port Austin History Center, 1424 Pte. Aux Barques Rd., 7:30 p.m. For more information email Alan at alannaldrett@yahoo.com.

LAPEER

North Branch - May 3 & 4

2019 Spring Sale, North Branch Masonic Center, 4058 Huron St., 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on May 3 and 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on May 4. Crafters and vendors wanted! Both days \$35 for two spaces or \$25 for one space. 8' tables available to rent for an additional \$5 each. Concessions available on site. For more information call Shannon at (810) 688-2784.

Lapeer - May 7

Spaghetti Dinner, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 4:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. \$7 per person, \$6 for seniors, \$4 for ages 4 - 7 (under 4 free). Public welcome. All proceeds go towards Lapeer Community Schools' scholarship fund. For more information contact americanlegion16@gmail.com.

Lapeer - May 14

Taco Night, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. For more information contact americanlegion16@gmail.com.

MACOMB

Washington Twp. May 1, 8 & 15

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.

Memphis - May 3, 10 & 17

Euchre, Memphis American Legion Hall, 34330 Bordman Rd., 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$10. Euchre is played the first three Fridays of every month. For more information email merrickpotterpost566@yahoo.com.

New Baltimore May 5, 12, 19 & 26

New Baltimore Farmers Market, downtown on Washington between Main and Front Streets, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The market will run every Sunday through October 20. On opening day (May 5) free, re-usable shopping tote bags will be given out to the first 500 shoppers. Face-painting and live music as well. May 26 is our Spring into Summer Market, with plants and flowers, a free family planting activity, face painting and live music. For more information call Debra at (586) 215-7484.

Richmond - May 7

Woman's Life Chapter 855 Meeting, Lois Wagner Memorial Library, 35200 Division, 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information email Kathy at kathyorkisz@comcast.net.

Fraser - May 9

Presentation on the Lost Car Companies of Michigan by Author Alan Naldrett, Fraser Library, 16330 E. 14 Mile Rd., 6:30 p.m. For more information email Alan at alannaldrett@yahoo.com.

Richmond - May 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 & 26

Carrie: The Musical, Richmond Community Theatre, 69619 Parker St., doors open at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays (shows start at 8:00 p.m.) and at 1:30 p.m. on Sundays (shows start at 2:00 p.m.) Based on the book

by Lawrence D. Cohen, lyrics by Dean Pitchford and music by Michael Gore. Adapted from Stephen King's novel *Carrie*, *Carrie: The Musical* focuses on an awkward teenage girl with telekinetic powers whose lonely life is dominated by an oppressive, religious-fanatic mother. Ticket prices are \$17 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students. For more information call (586) 727-9518 or visit RichmondTheatre.com.

New Baltimore - May 19

New Baltimore Interfaith Choir Performance, Lighthouse Bible Church, 52260 Washington, 2:30 p.m. The forty-six voice ensemble will welcome guests with a variety of selections that the audience will recognize and enjoy. The church offers comfortable seating and ample parking. For more information contact Betty at (586) 725-8051.

Center Line - May 22

Presentation on Michigan's C. Harold Wills by Alan Naldrett, Center Line Public Library, 7345 Weingartz St., 6:00 p.m. Wills was the right hand man of Ford. His history covers the early days of the Ford Motor Company. For more information email Alan at alannaldrett@yahoo.com.

Memphis - May 25

Euchre Tournament, Memphis Lions Club, 34758 Pratt Rd., 7:00 p.m. \$10 per player. Prize money for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Snacks available. For more information contact Frank at memphismichlions@yahoo.com.

OAKLAND

Rochester Hills May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Coffee, Cake and True Islam, Masjid Mahmood-Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Center, 1730 W. Auburn Rd., 7:00 p.m. Every Thursday stop by and ask questions, get answers and learn. Completely free! For more information call (248) 677-1316 or email tabligh.det@ahmadiyya.us.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Rochester - May 18 & 19

Greater Rochester Heritage Days, Rochester Park at Ludlow St., 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. All of the activities will be family-friendly and the food will be abundant. For more information contact Sue at sue@dinosaurhill.org. (See press release on page 18 for a complete description.)

ST. CLAIR

All of St. Clair County All Year Long

Woman's Life Chapter 855's Bottle and Can Drive. Funds support those in need as we continue to fight hunger and homelessness in our community. Make a difference today by donating! For a drop-off point or a pick up for large donations call (810) 392-5136.

St. Clair - May 1 - June 1

Ticket Sales for St. Clair High School Classes of '73, '74 and '75 Combined Reunion. Will be held Saturday, July 20, 2019, from 6:00 p.m. - midnight. Dinner at 7:00 p.m. St. Clair K of C Hall. \$25 per person; BYOB. Tickets are available in advance only. Call or text your class representative before June 1.

Class of '73: Stella at (269) 569-1160
Class of '74: Gayle at (810) 334-3661
Class of '75: Cathy at (810) 300-2364

Capac - May 2

Vera Bradley Designer Bag and Accessories Bingo, St. John's Lutheran Church, 109 E. Kempf Ct., doors open at 6:00 p.m., Bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Tickets at the door are \$25. and include 10 rounds of Bingo and Grand Finale Bingo. Door prizes, complimentary coffee, tea and water. BYO snacks or soda. Additional bingo cards and dabbers available for a donation. Each round played has a corresponding bag or accessory for a prize (prizes cannot be substituted - two prizes per round.) RSVP to Lori at (810) 395-7889.

Marine City – May 2 & 3
Friends of the Marine City Library
Bi-Annual Book Sale, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. From May 6 through May 8 books will be \$2 a bag. Get your summer reading books now! Proceeds support the children and adult programs at the library. For more information contact Susan at susanw12@comcast.net.

Memphis – May 2
Senior Craft: Painted Book Spine Brick, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 6:00 p.m. Celebrate Senior Citizen Month at the Memphis Library. Paint a cement block to look like a book spine. All materials supplied. For more information call (810) 392-2980.

Port Huron – May 2
National Day of Prayer Noon Prayer Service, Port Huron MOC Auditorium, 100 McMorran Blvd., noon – 1:00 p.m. The National Day of Prayer was established as an annual event in 1953 by a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. All Americans are encouraged to gather publicly to worship and pray for our land. Various pastors will be leading times of prayer for specific areas. Open to all. Special music will be provided by the New Life Christian Academy Choir. For more information call (810) 966-8660 or visit NationalDayofPrayer.org.

Marysville
May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
11th Annual Farmer's Market, Marysville Park waterfront (across from the old boat launch), 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Vendors wanted – all are welcome. Hosted by Marysville Knights of Columbus #9526. Market is open every Friday from May through October. For more information contact Matt at (810) 364-6800 or (810) 824-7435.

Port Huron Twp. – May 3, 4 & 5
Blue Water Area Humane Society
Giant Charity Indoor Yard Sale, 4100 Griswold, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Household and kitchen items, collectibles, home décor, toys, books, outdoor furniture, craft supplies, garden supplies and much, much more. Drawing for the Money Tree is Sunday, May 5, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the shelter or at the yard sale. Need not be present to win. For more information or to donate tax-deductible items contact Judy at (810) 794-7906 or (586) 201-0593.

Algonac – May 4
A Spring Tea Party, St. Catherine Activity Center, 1103 Washington St.,

doors open at 11:00 a.m., lunch at noon, program to follow. Bring your own teacup. The program will be Community Quilting by Piece to Peace Quilters. Tickets are sold in advance and are \$20. For more information contact Mary at (810) 794-9214, Dovia at (810) 765-4610 or Joan at (810) 326-0754.

Port Huron – May 4 & 5
Tunnel City Railway Show, Blue Water Convention Center, 80 Harker St., 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Cost of admission to the show is \$7 for a 1-day pass or \$10 for a 2-day pass. Children 12 and under are free. Parking is free. For more information visit phdrailroad.com, email contact@phdrailroad.com or call (810) 984-4134.

Memphis – May 5
25th Anniversary Celebration of St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church, 775 Kinney Rd., divine service at 3:00 p.m., catered dinner at 4:30 p.m. Please RSVP. For more information contact Pastor Rev. Ronald Roland at (586) 749-9804 or misskaroon@yahoo.com.

Yale – May 6, 13 & 20
Teen/Adult RPG, Yale Library, 2 Jones St., 3:00 p.m. Teens and adults, ages 13 and up, join us for an afternoon role-playing game. Registration is requested, but not required. For more information call (810) 387-2940.

Kimball – May 8
Flower Power, Kimball Township Library, 1955 N. Allen Rd., 3:30 p.m. Roses, dahlias, lavender and more. Learn to create dazzling or delicate paper blooms – just in time for Mother's Day! Registration requested. Ages 3 – 12. For more information call (810) 982-9171.

Marine City – May 8
Crafty Ladies and Lads, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, 6:00 p.m. Unleash your creative side as we decorate flower pots for a home herb garden. Materials are provided. Registration is requested by calling (810) 765-5233.

Marysville – May 9 & 23
Family Fun Nights, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 5:00 p.m. Games for all ages will be provided – some old favorites, along with something special planned for a night or two! Bring your family and bring your friends. We'll have the popcorn ready. For more information call (810) 364-9493.

Capac – May 11
Snack and Show: LEGO Movie 2, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 1:00 p.m. It's been five years since everything

was awesome and the citizens are facing a huge new threat: LEGO Duplo invaders from outer space, wrecking everything faster than they can rebuild. Rated PG – library card must reflect movie rating. Snacks and drinks provided. For more information call (810) 395-7000.

St. Clair – May 11
Euchre Tournament, St. Clair Masonic Temple, 1800 St. Clair Hwy., hosted by Cornell Marysville Chapter 93. Doors open at 1:00 p.m., playing begins at 1:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 per player. Public is welcome. There will be door prizes and a 50/50 drawing. Refreshments are provided. For more information call Diane at (586) 337-2729.

Algonac – May 13
Christian Fiction Book Club, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. Meet kindred spirits as you share your thoughts on the Christian novel of the month. Registration is recommended. May's selection is *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate. For more information call (810) 794-4471.

East China – May 13
13th Annual Concert of the East China Community Concert Band and the St. Clair Community Singers, Performing Arts Center, 1585 Meisner Rd., 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information contact Bob at (810) 765-1296.

Port Huron – May 13
Bad Art, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorran Blvd., 6:30 p.m. This is a freestyle art event. The library will provide a range of art and craft materials. Come and see what ridiculous or wonderful art you can create. Fun music and inspired bad art will be projected during the program. Ages 6 – 12. Registration required by calling (810) 987-7323 ext. 2500.

St. Clair – May 16
St. Clair Library Presents "Travel with Friends to Italy", 310 S. Second St., 3:30 p.m. Discover the beauty and joy of exploring Italy. For more information call (810) 329-3951.

Fair Haven – May 17, 24 & 31
Family Storytime, Ira Township Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd., 10:00 a.m. Stories, music and crafts for children 0 – 5 and their caregivers. For more information call (586) 725-9081.

Marysville – May 17
Presentation on Michigan's C. Harold Wills by Alan Naldrett, Wills Sainte Claire Automobile Museum, 2408 Wills Dr., 7:00 p.m. Wills was the right hand man of Ford. His history covers the early days of the Ford Motor Company. For more

information call Mary Ellen at (586) 808-2953 or email Alan at alannaldrett@yahoo.com.

St. Clair – May 17 & 18
Attic and Bake Sale, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 123 S. 7th St., Friday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tons of amazing baked goods! Shop for books, toys, furniture, glassware, holiday décor, plants and more! Proceeds benefit many church and local community needs throughout the year. For more information call (810) 329-2174.

St. Clair – May 17
Chicken Dinner Buffet, American Legion Post 382, 1322 Clinton, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Adults \$10, kids 5 – 11 \$5 and kids under 5 free. Includes chicken, stuffing, potatoes and gravy, vegetable, salad, rolls and desserts. For more information call (810) 329-2871.

Marysville – May 19
The Chairman of the Board Meets the King of Rock, American Legion, 299 Huron Blvd., 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Be our guest! Take a musical journey down memory lane. Enjoy the toe tapping, feel good music of Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley. Special dance performances by Swing SLAM! Refreshments and resource information provided. Sponsored by the Dementia and Alzheimer's Resource Committee. This fun, family-friendly special event is free to those living with dementia and their families and/or caregivers and has been created especially for all to enjoy as they walk through the dementia journey together. Registration is required by calling (810) 990-9558.

Memphis – May 19
The Pantry Project, Holy Family Activity Center, 79780 Main St., noon – 6:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser to help feed the hungry and homeless in St. Clair County. Proceeds will benefit Woman's Life Chapter 855 to purchase 4-H animals and donate to local food banks in St. Clair County. A portion of the proceeds will be matched by the Society. Food, raffles, face painting, music, photo booth and more. Adults \$10, seniors (65+) \$5, students \$5, children (under 5) free. For more information contact Maggie at (586) 873-2406.

St. Clair – May 19
AYCE Breakfast Buffet, American Legion Post 362, 1322 Clinton, 8:00 a.m. – noon. Adults \$7, kids 5 – 11 \$3 and kids under 5 free. Includes two kinds of scrambled eggs, sausage, potatoes, pancakes, Belgian waffles with strawberries and whipped cream, sausage gravy with biscuits, coffee and orange juice. For more information call (810) 329-2871.

Marysville – May 23
St. Clair County Family History Group Meeting, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware Ave., 6:00 p.m. Our program is "Bootlegging and the Purple Gang". Our meetings are open to the general public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information contact grannyfran21@sbcglobal.net.

Lakeport – May 29
Karaoke Party, Burtchville Township Library, 7097 Second St., 1:00 p.m. Come and enjoy singing karaoke songs. Popcorn and beverages will be provided. All ages of adults welcome. Registration requested. For more information call (810) 385-8550.

Marine City – May 30, 31 & June 1
Neil Simon's Play The Gingerbread Lady, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. Presented by the Algonac Community Theatre. Tickets \$10 at the door. For more information email Mary at mandsadkins@gmail.com.

SANILAC
Marlette – May 5
Presentation on the Lost Towns of the Thumb by Author Alan Naldrett, Marlette Depot, 3325 Main

St., 3:00 p.m. For more information email Alan at alannaldrett@yahoo.com.

Sandusky – May 11 & 25
Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m., with a meal break at 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Cost is \$7 for non-members. You are asked to bring a snack to share (chips, pretzels, etc.). On May 11 we are celebrating Mother's Day with Dick Hedrich and Son playing music from the '50s in addition to their regular music for couples' dancing (swing, waltz, etc.). There will be a contest for best '50s outfit. May 25 will be our Memorial Day remembrance for all of those who died while serving our country. Lighthouse 3 will play all your favorite country music for couples' dancing (swing, waltz, etc.). The monthly birthday cake will be served at meal break. Both dances will have line dancing and square dancing as well. For more information call Nancy at (586) 663-5306.

TUSCOLA

No events were submitted for Tuscola County this month.

WAYNE

No events were submitted for Wayne County this month.

PEST
PROBLEMS

CAPTURING CRAFTY CRITTERS



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



Spring is in full swing! As we start venturing outside more, there are some animals that are venturing inside, looking for a safe place to build their summer homes and have their babies. Have you been hearing noises coming from your attic, wall voids, crawl space or under your deck, shed or porch? An unsettling scratching, scurrying or squeaking? It's very possible some new residents have moved in without your consent!

This is the time of year when we see more raccoons, opossums, groundhogs and skunks running around outside, and when we're not looking, they are sneaking into our homes. Just like us, they all need food and shelter to survive some place away from predators and a safe place for their babies. Your attic, wall voids and crawlspaces make excellent safe havens for these critters, but they are unruly tenants and you can expect some sort of damage, or worse.

These animals are incredibly smart and can find their way into homes through the smallest and most unlikely of openings. Common entrances are loose flashing or siding, vents, the openings under eaves and soffits and even down chimneys.

An effective way to deter animals from taking up residence in your home is to keep your yard clean. You should do your best to eliminate all obvious sources of food and shelter. Remove all garbage, debris and wood piles from around your home and property. If a raccoon, opossum, groundhog or skunk has a reason to be in your yard, they'll be more likely to want to set up permanent lodging. The best way to help prevent a home invasion is to seal and cover any openings on the house with things like hardware cloth, steel wool, screening, sheet metal, caulk and expandable foam.

However, if you haven't yet had the chance to take these precautions and find that one or more of these animals has already taken up residence, there is a good chance some damage has begun. It is their nature to move and to ruin insulation, chew on wiring and leave droppings everywhere. Aside from that, they are disease carriers and can transmit those diseases to humans. This is why caution is needed when trying to remove them from your home.

The most humane way to deal with these critters is to set up a live trap and relocate the animal. It is also important not to seal up any openings until you are sure the animal(s) have been removed. Using a live trap will allow you to safely get them out of the house and relocated to the great outdoors. Once you are certain they are all out, you can proceed with sealing up any points of entry you've discovered. Remember, if you do use a live trap, it needs to be checked a couple times a day to see if you've caught anything. You do not want the animal in the cage suffering for days. You also need to be aware of the possibility of babies! Spring is when these animals are having their offspring. If you remove the mother from the home without finding the babies, they will end up dying somewhere inside your home, not only creating an awful stench but also the need to search out and remove the carcasses.

ABC Home & Commercial Services always uses live traps and performs humane release. We will not harm or kill the animal(s). Whether you have a squirrel, opossum, skunk, raccoon or groundhog, etc., ABC wildlife specialists will know exactly how to handle the situation safely and humanely for all involved! Once removed, ABC can locate how the animal(s) were getting in and seal up those areas to prevent other critters from getting inside. If you've heard those unsettling noises, call ABC Home & Commercial Services at (810) 794-5678 to set up an inspection and get the removal process started. 🐾

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