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ThumbPrint News

An imprint of places and people at work and play in the Thumb of Michigan

JUNE 2010



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Mom and Pop Hardware Stores

Unparalleled Customer Service

By Diane L. Kodet
ThumbPrint News Editor

Hardware stores were among the earliest retail establishments in colonial America. At the beginning, most of the tools that were sold were imported from England. In all likelihood, the first American manufacturer of hardware was probably John Ames, who was a blacksmith in Bridgewater, Massachusetts. In 1774 he established a factory for making shovels, which were widely used by American settlers.

Paul Revere, who is best remembered for his ride from

Boston to Lexington, Massachusetts, at the start of the American Revolution to warn that the British were coming and for his expertise as a silversmith, also ran an early hardware store.

During the early 1800s, manufactured goods became increasingly available and general stores often stocked basic hardware. In the rural areas, hardware was often sold by travelling peddlers.

By the late 1800s hardware stores were basic retail establishments in



Entering Daniel Orr Sons hardware today is a step back in time.

most towns and cities and were most often small, family-owned businesses. Like the barbers, grocers and

See **HARDWARE**, Page 36

Spot Light on a Small Town – Grindstone City

By Louise Allen
ThumbPrint News Staff Reporter

In the 1955 postcard reprinted here on the right, grindstones from one and a half feet to six feet in diameter line the beach in Grindstone City, a small town on the very northern tip of Huron County, on the shore of Lake Huron. Grindstones are revolving stone disks that were used for grinding, polishing, or sharpening tools.

Grindstone City was the nation's grindstone capital for almost a

century, from 1835 until 1938, producing some of the world's finest grinding stones in two factories and shipping them to markets in Egypt, Russia and other countries around the globe. Some streets, such as Jefferson and Woodward, were made from the first grindstone shipped from this area.

Captain Aaron G. Peer was the founder of Grindstone City and was one of the earliest settlers of Huron County. He was born on February 27, 1812, in Dundas, Ontario.



A 1955 postcard shows grindstones lining the beaches.

See **GRINDSTONE CITY**, Page 24

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Just the other day I was looking through an old dusty box of treasures from my childhood. There was a white sailor's hat that the Brownie Troop I belonged to wore to every meeting, complete with the round cloth badges I had so diligently earned and sewed to the brim. There was a scrapbook of all kinds of memorabilia – postcards from vacations, tickets from concerts I had attended, brochures from school plays in which I had a part. There was my gold graduation cap with its matching tassel that I remember throwing like a Frisbee from the bleachers with the rest of the very first graduating class of Herbert Henry Dow High School in Midland, Michigan, back in 1971.

These items and the other things I sorted through all brought back memories almost forgotten, but none as much as the small crimson autograph book I found hidden in one of the bottom corners of the box.

I remember getting that autograph book from one of my best friends on my tenth birthday. Autograph books were all the rage back then and everyone I knew either had one or wanted one. We proudly carried the books to school to get all of our friends to sign. We felt special when we could get our teachers to add their thoughts to our pages. Of course, each

person in our families had a special page too. Occasionally someone would actually get a relatively famous person to sign their autograph book and that signature became the envy and future goal of us all.

As I read the silly, childish verses, such as the ones following, I smiled and remembered each friend who had written it . . .

*Yours till Niagara Falls
U R 2 Good 2 B 4 Gotten
I beat the baker, I beat the cook, I
beat everyone to the back of the book
But then I came to this one:
One ship sails east and another west
With the self-same winds that blow.
Tis the set of the sail and not the gale
Which determines the way they go.*

My father wrote that. I had given him my book to write something in and it took him a whole day and a half before I got it back. He said he wanted to think about what he was going to write. I remember thinking at the time I got my book back that those words were an odd thing to write in my autograph book, especially alongside all of the great stuff my friends were writing (at least I thought they were great). Plus, I really didn't understand what he was trying to say at that time.

It was only now, many years later, as I sat reading my autograph book that I realized what a profound verse

that was. I would like to be able to credit my father for the enlightening words, but I Googled them and found out the words are the first half of a poem written by the American poet and writer, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, who lived from 1850 to 1919. My dad may not have created the words but he gave enough thought about what he wanted to tell me, his daughter, by writing them in my autograph book.

My dad was telling me that it was up to me to follow my heart, my own convictions, my dreams, my goals and to keep on course even when unforeseen circumstances, people or events threatened to blow me in a different direction. For the most part, I think I have been able to do that in life and much of it has been with my father's continued guidance.

With Father's Day fast approaching, I am thankful that I am still able to gain wisdom from my father's 92 years as he spends his remaining time here on earth as a part of our household. I will have to show him my old autograph book when I get home tonight and ask him if he remembers writing those words and if he has any more thoughts on life that he can share with me. Happy Father's Day, Dad – and I plan on still keeping my ship on course!

DIANE KODET
Editor, *ThumbPrint News*

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Clay Township Girl Scout Troop Creates Rain Barrels for Water Conservation

By Laura Irwin

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Girl Scout Troop 50258 of Clay Township, along with their leaders, Sherry Appleton and Lisa White, researched and participated in the Rain Barrel Public Water Conservation Art Project.

Rain barrels are barrels used as a cistern to catch rain water from down spouts or from roofs. The water can then be recycled to hand-water plants, flower beds and gardens, to keep compost bins moist, to rinse off gardening tools and vehicles, to maintain bird baths and to replenish water in a water feature when evaporation occurs.

The benefits of rain water harvesting are that it decreases the high demand for domestic water in residential areas. Water conservation is becoming an increasing concern and summer brings higher than normal demands for water usage, due to lawn and garden needs. Using a rain barrel may also result in lower water bills. The water collected is also untreated, which makes it great for the environment.

The overall mission of the Rain Barrel Public Water Conservation Art Project was to promote water conservation while educating the public about the importance of storm water “best management practices.” Janice Littlefield, Program Manager of the Conservation and Restoration Network, a non-profit organization, provided this brief synopsis of the project from the grant that was written for funding:

“A survey by the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation found that 78 percent of the American Public does not understand that runoff from

agricultural land, roads and lawns is now the most common source of water pollution; and nearly half of Americans (47 percent) believe industry still accounts for most water pollution.

Rain barrels have turned into an incredible tool for storm water education, which is extremely important now – more than ever – as urban areas are separating their sewer systems. Everyone knows it’s important to prevent the sewage overflows, but now that sewer separations are in place, the public needs to understand that when it rains, storm water is now directed to the nearest waterway (also known as our drinking water source), completely untreated.

By collaborating with Studio 1219 in this Public Art Project, which will consist of blending the creative and educational process, we believe that an almost lost art will also be revived – the art of community discussion around a community issue! Also, by including our youth theatre in a production of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (with a new twist of conservation added!) the project also embraces the younger generation as part of the community dialogue.”

The partners involved in the project were:

- The Conservation and Restoration Network
- Studio 1219 in Port Huron
- Coca Cola Bottling of Detroit
- St. Clair County Community Foundation

“All of the proceeds from this project go towards grant writing for restoration projects for the St. Clair River,” states Janice Littlefield. It is also one of her goals to unite the different townships with a common link through conservation. She also



Rain barrels waiting to dry at Studio 1219 in Port Huron as Troop 50258 of Clay Township work on their rain barrel plans.

feels that support for arts in the Blue Water area is vital. “I feel that the beauty of the Great Lakes area intrinsically has influenced the arts in our area and we should be fully supporting more development.”

Janice was on hand the day that Girl Scout Troop 50258 from Clay Township came together to create their rain barrels. Janice, a former Girl Scout who still remembers her troop number, showed a brief PowerPoint presentation on rain barrel installation and then asked her troop members how much they thought a full rain barrel would weigh. The girls’ guesses ranged from 50 to 300 pounds. The correct answer, according to Janice, is 400 pounds, which makes a sturdy base for a rain barrel a necessity. An elevation of 24 inches is ideal, so a bucket can be placed under the spigot when water is needed.

Artist and art teacher, Jason Stier, assisted the girls in preparation,

design and techniques needed to create their rain barrel. He first had the girls cut a large rectangle of paper the size and circumference of the barrel and then instructed them to design in pencil before adding permanent colors. When the design was what they would like to create, colors could be added. Next, the designs were applied to the pre-primed and sanded rain barrels using latex paint and a clear coat sealer.

Jason also showed the Girl Scouts some artistic brush techniques and reminded them of their previously acquired knowledge of colors and how to mix them.

One of the rain barrels completed by this troop will be used at the Clay Township Park to water the community garden that they are creating. They have chosen a waterfall design for their barrel and have tentatively named their

See RAIN BARRELS, Page 15

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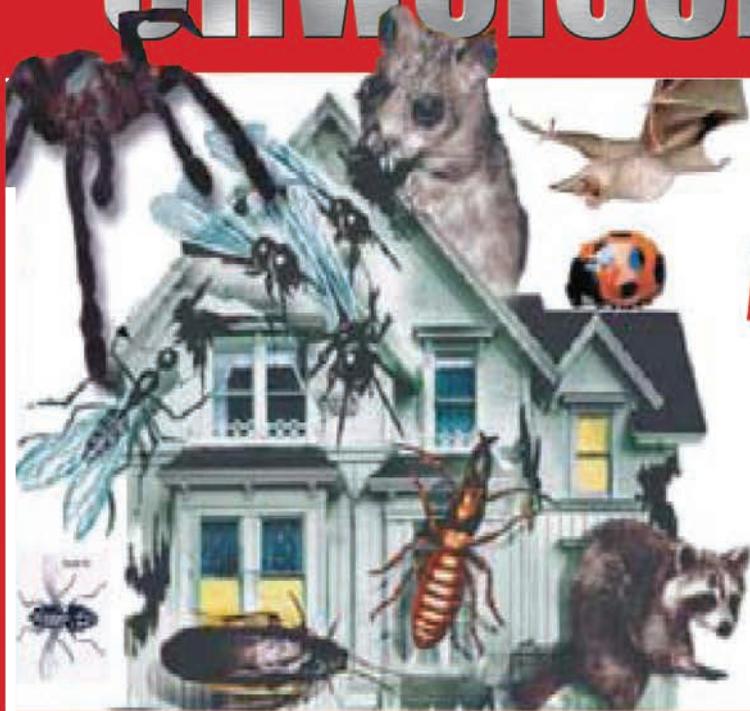
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Tim Burns

the loan off quickly. The Federal Trade Commission recommends looking into a short term loan from your bank, contacting your current creditors quickly to explore payment options, working with a credit counseling center or, at the very least, shopping around for the best interest rate and terms. If you are going to use a payday loan service, try to find a local brick and mortar location that you know will be regulated by the Michigan Office of Financial & Insurance Regulation.

Look for the red flags. Unscrupulous online lenders often wave the same red flags, including not being forthcoming about their location or contact information. Also be cautious of any lender that doesn't ask you for any background information other than your bank account number.

Research the lender with BBB. Always check a payday lender's BBB reliability report before you hand over any bank account information. Reliability Reports are available for free at www.bbb.org or by calling (248)223-9400 and will tell you how many complaints BBB has received, how the company responded to these complaints, and provide an overall letter-grade rating for the business.

Editor's Note: Tim Burns is the Public Affairs Director for the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan. BBB 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 visiting www.bbb.org.

Be Cautious of Online Payday Loan Lenders Who Claim the Law Doesn't Apply to Them

By Tim Burns

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Payday loans are supposed to be simple transactions where borrowers get a short-term cash advance at an elevated interest rate. Normally these loans are for a few hundred dollars to help someone catch up with expenses or pay an unexpected bill and are meant to be paid back in two weeks when the borrower gets his or her next pay check. That is how the name "payday" loans originated.

The Better Business Bureau has noticed an escalating trend of complaints against Internet-based payday loan providers. Hundreds of people have complained to BBB after signing up for payday loans on sites like OneClickCash.com, 500Fastcash.com, rbtloans.com and Ameriloan.com. A common pattern in these complaints is that consumers agreed to what they believed was a one-time payday loan – typically a few hundred

dollars to be paid off in two weeks. In most cases the borrower wasn't required to provide the lender with any qualifying information other than a valid bank account number. They supplied their bank account information to the lender and the money was promptly deposited. It appeared to be an easy and convenient arrangement.

Unfortunately, according to many complaints, these arrangements quickly turned into a debt spiral. Often times, payment plans setup by these online payday lenders went only toward interest and finance charges and never toward principal. As a result, people reported paying two and three times the amount of the original loan and still having the same amount of principal to pay off. One consumer complaining to the Better Business Bureau about an online payday loan stated that she made over \$1,700 in payments to pay off a \$225 loan. Another borrower

claimed he was subjected to a 547 percent interest rate on a \$300 loan.

Many borrowers have been surprised to learn that their online lender was not licensed by the state and charged interest rates well over what was allowed by usury laws. When responding to complaints, many of these lenders typically contend they don't have to follow state or federal laws – often claiming that they are based in another country or on Native American reservations.

The bottom line here is that if you are providing your bank account information to get a payday loan without doing your research, you are setting yourself up to pay hundreds and even thousands of dollars more than you bargained for. When looking for a payday loan keep the following points in mind:

Consider all of your options. Payday loans can be extremely expensive if you are unable to pay

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Dad Finally Gets His Day!

By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Although Mother's Day was declared to be a national holiday starting in 1914, it was not until 1972 – 58 years later – that fathers finally received their much deserved day of recognition when President Nixon made the proclamation declaring Father's Day to be a national holiday.

The idea for Father's Day is generally attributed to Sonora Smart Dodd of Washington, who arranged a special tribute to her father in Spokane. Back in 1909, while listening to a Mother's Day sermon at her church, she decided that fathers also needed a special day of remembrance. Sonora's own father, William Smart, held a special place in her heart. He had been a Civil War veteran and had also cared for his six children by himself after his wife (Sonora's mother) had died.

In 1910 Sonora, along with members of the Spokane Ministerial association and members of the local YMCA, went to church wearing roses. A red rose honored a living father and a white rose honored a father who was deceased. Sonora then travelled through the city in a carriage carrying gifts to fathers who were shut-ins. Sonora chose June 19 as the day of the celebration as her own father had been born in June.

Even though Sonora actively pursued her idea and received support from the YMCA and area churches, elsewhere the notion of a special day for fathers received little backing. In fact many people

made fun of the idea thinking the suggestion was frivolous.

In 1916 a national day for fathers finally received support from President Woodrow Wilson who spoke in Spokane at a Father's Day celebration and supported a bill that had been introduced in 1913. However Congress did not accept the idea, thinking the holiday would become too commercialized. Eight years later, in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge also recommended the recognition of the holiday, but with no success. In 1926, a National Father's Day Committee was formed in New York City.

For the next 30 years nationally there was little success in getting any bill passed to establish Father's Day as a recognized holiday, although groups in various parts of the country continued to support the idea and to celebrate on a local level.

In 1957 Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine wrote a proposal for declaring a national holiday for fathers and, at the same time, accused Congress of singling out just one of a person's parents – the mother – and ignoring fathers. In 1966 Lyndon Johnson proclaimed the third Sunday of June to be Father's Day but it didn't finally become an official national holiday until 1972, with President Nixon's proclamation. Dad finally received the recognition he deserved and got his special day!



Sonora Smart Dodd originated the idea for Father's Day in 1909.



Central United Methodist Church in Spokane, Washington, where Sonora Smart Dodd held the first Father's Day celebration.

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A Special Tribute to Fathers from ThumbPrint News Readers



Steve R. Low and son Ryan of Marysville.
Daddy, your heart and love is immeasurable. I know you will always be there to teach me to fly and catch me if I fall.



Kelly Whitmore-Schneider of St. Clair Township and her dad Robert H. Whitmore
My dad is special to me because he has always showed me the value of hard work. He had the right blend of discipline and love. He would take us camping and to Cedar Pointe every summer. I always looked forward to that and I appreciate him.

*What Makes a Dad?
 God took the strength of a mountain,
 The majesty of a tree,
 The warmth of a summer sun,
 The calm of a quiet sea,
 The generous soul of nature,
 The comforting arm of night,
 The wisdom of the ages,
 The power of the eagle's flight,
 The joy of a morning in spring,
 The faith of a mustard seed,
 The patience of eternity,
 The depth of a family need.
 Then God combined these qualities,
 When there was nothing more to add,
 He knew His masterpiece was complete,
 And so, He called it... Dad.*

Author unknown

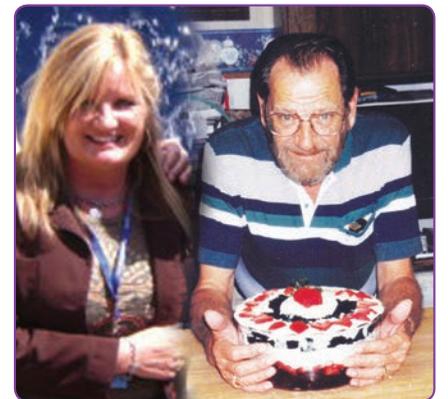


Above photo taken by Gretchen Probst Minx of Snap Happy Girl Photography, www.snaphappygirl.com.



Newell Ray Johnston and Michelle Patterson of Marysville.

You are gone, dad, but not forgotten. Thank you for teaching me the truest meaning of unconditional love. I miss you deeply.



Tena Rick of Algonac with her dad Warren "Scoop" Baslee of Samsula, Florida.

My dad was an amazing journalist. He was an accomplished newspaper editor for the Daytona Beach News Journal. He was a state editor for the Orlando Sentinel Star and also an aid to Senator Welborn Daniels. My dad passed away in January 2003, but lives on in my wonderful memories and heart forever! Happy Father's Day! You are loved and missed by all!



Derek Irwin of Cottrellville (left) with his dad Robert (Royal Oak), and his son Zain.
Fishing buddies, best friends, Dad (Grandpa) is greatly missed.



William Earl Birch Sr. (left), III, Jr. and IV (front row).
Thank you Great Grandpa for my Grandpa. And thank you Grandpa for my dad.

Father's Day Trivia

- In 2007, the world's oldest father, Nanu Ram Jogi, a farmer from India, fathered his 21st child at the age of 90 with his fourth wife.
- Father's Day is the fourth-largest card-sending holiday in the United States, with almost 95 million cards given last year.
- Sons and daughters send 50 percent of the Father's Day cards to their dads. Nearly 20 percent are purchased by wives for their husbands. The rest go to grandfathers, sons, brothers, uncles and other special persons.
- Neckties top the list as favorite Father's Day gifts to give.
- In the United States, there are estimated to be 64.3 million dads.
- In the United States last year, it was estimated that there were over 147,000 "stay-at-home" dads who cared for their children while their wives worked outside of the home.
- Of the children younger than six in the United States, 53 percent eat breakfast and 71 percent eat dinner with their father every day. That compares to 58 percent and 80 percent with mom.
- Pampers (the diaper company) paid \$50,000 to have their products mentioned in the movie *3 Men and a Baby*.



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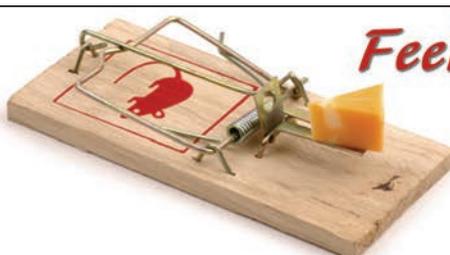
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The Last Remaining Lincoln Flag Pole is Right in Our Own Thumb Area!

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

Traveling along M-81, through Juniata Township in Tuscola County in the Thumb of Michigan, a traveler could blink and miss the village of Watrousville. There are only a couple of businesses there at the corner of M-81 and Ringle Road. It is an unincorporated community. But it does have something that no other place in the whole United States has, as far as anyone has been able to determine, and that is a Lincoln flag pole that is still standing in the same place as it was back in 1864 when Abraham Lincoln was president.

Outside of the Watrousville Museum on M-81, a historical sign reads:

Aaron Watrous and his crew of loggers came here in 1852 to cut the virgin pine of the Cass River Valley. In 1860 he platted the town naming it Watrousville, and a few years later constructed this building as a general store. The flagpole in front is thought to have been erected during the 1864 presidential campaign. Watrous died in 1882 and the building became the Juniata Township Hall. Since 1972 it has been a museum of the Watrousville-Caro Area Historical Society.

According to the Watrousville Museum, the wooden flag pole was erected during Abraham Lincoln's second campaign for the presidency. The pole was 80 feet tall and made out of red cedar. At the top of the pole, a maul was fixed to represent the kind that Lincoln used to split logs as a boy. Mrs. John Walton sewed a thirty-five star American flag that was flown from the pole. The flag was 5x8 feet and was made of a strong woolen material. It was last flown at the dedication of a



Home built by Richard C. Burtis in 1879 in Watrousville.

new courthouse in Caro in 1933. (That flag is now in the Watrousville Museum.) At one point in history, the township board decided the pole was dangerous so it was lowered. In 1928 when the pole was re-examined and found to be in good condition, the Veterans of the Civil War raised it once again, embedding the base in a block of concrete with the inscription "For Abe Lincoln 1864". The pole today has been shortened to 48 feet tall and the top 10 feet is encased in sheet metal.

The first settler in what is now Watrousville was Daniel G. Wilder, who was born in 1824 in Massachusetts. He moved to Vassar, Michigan, to be a school teacher. In 1849, while teaching in Vassar, he bought 120 acres of land in Watrousville. He gave up teaching and moved to a log cabin on his property. Four years later he married Louisa Pratt of Genesee County and had a daughter with her.

In 1866, Daniel sold 40 acres of his land to Josiah Armstrong who two years later resold it to Richard C. Burtis. Richard began to build a home on the land in 1879. Today that home is still standing on Ringle Road in Watrousville and is one of the finest examples of Second Empire (Victorian) style architecture in the Thumb area.

Another early settler of this community was Aaron Watrous from whom Watrousville takes its name. In 1852 he traveled from Connecticut to Juniata County with a crew of men looking for timber to cut. He ended up settling in the area and built a steam sawmill and a log boarding house and store. The intersection where M-81 and Ringle Road cross today became a center for trade in the area.

By 1856, Watrousville had two hotels – The Buddington House and the Exchange Hotel. Stagecoaches would leave daily from the hotels to Saginaw and Pine Run and weekly to Unionville and Sebawaing. The area at one time was densely wooded, but as the timber was harvested, people started farming the area. Aaron Watrous built a mill for grinding grain. He also became the first postmaster.

On May 23, 1860, Watrousville published its first newspaper, the *Watrousville Democrat*. Some of the businesses advertising in it were A. Davidson Groceries, A. Burdick Dry Goods, A. Watrous Steam Flouring

Mills, John Walton, Wagon and Carriage Maker, O.W. Leonard, Surveyor, T. Baldwin and D. M. Black, Notary Publics, R. D. Black, M.D., Physician and Surgeon, J.R. Pattee, Architect, the Watrousville Hotel and the Juniata House.

In 1866, the first Tuscola County Fair was held at Watrousville and remained the base for the fair for the next five years. By 1880, Watrousville was in the midst of its hay-day. Four doctors were needed to service the needs of the community, as were four blacksmith shops, a foundry, and several livery stables for horse and buggy travelers. Many other businesses made Watrousville their home.

Lumbering continued at its peak in the area until 1873. Four years later it had practically ceased. A newly constructed railroad bypassed Watrousville. Residents and businesses started moving to Caro. With the invention of the automobile people could travel to larger cities to obtain the goods and services they needed. By the end of World War I, Watrousville's prosperity had greatly declined.



The Lincoln Pole outside of the Watrousville Museum

Today the few residents who still live in Watrousville mainly work in larger cities, such as Caro, Saginaw, Bay City and Flint. Gone are many of the businesses that once prospered. However, one thing remains that no other community can claim and that is the last remaining Lincoln Flag Pole in the nation. It is worth a person's time to drive to Watrousville to be able to say that one has had the chance to view such a piece of America's history. 🇺🇸

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Motley Que Does Barbeque

By Shari Nowicki

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Every spring our hearts turn to warm weather, flowers, swimming, boating and . . . barbecuing! Families look forward to their favorite meats and veggies prepared on back yard grills. Some people are taking it one step further and are traveling around the country participating in BBQ competitions.

Have you ever heard of the "Motley Que?" This is not the band, Motley Crew, but a unique BBQ team. The five men who originated the team met for the first time when they were attending a special BBQ class seven years ago put on by Dave Klose, the manufacturer of the "pits" that the men had built for their homes. This class was only offered to purchasers of the Dave Klose BBQs and was taught over a week's time. The famed BBQ chef, Dr. BBQ, participated in the class they all attended and is the person responsible for the team's unusual chosen name.

The first day that Dr. BBQ came to the class and saw the eager students he remarked, "What a motley crew!" The five men ended up forming a tight bond over the days that they were in class.

After the class was over, the five men decided to participate together in BBQ competitions, under the team name "Motley Que." The original team consisted of Mike Zeminick from Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan (Mikey Z), Matt Sprouls from Champagne, Illinois (Mustard), Robert Riley from Kansas City, Missouri (Riley), Ronald Walker from New Orleans, Louisiana (Onion), and Guy Fiero who is now from Santa Rosa, California (Guido). Fiero has appeared on several shows on the Food Network.

The original members were joined by three associate members, Robert Anderson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Bill Fobare of Princeton, New Jersey, and John Trexler of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan (T-Rex).

Trexler is the owner of Anchor Bay Bicycle Shop in New Baltimore, Michigan. He graciously shared all kinds of information about barbecuing and about his experiences as a part of Motley Que. John said, "The Father of BBQ is considered to be Johnny Trigg, who started out about 40 years ago. He won so many world competitions that a television crew was set up to follow him through an entire season, filming his outstanding and entertaining life in the BBQ world. However, BBQ has basically come into its own just during the last 20 years."

Barbeque competitions take place across the nation. They usually begin in June and go through September. The Motley Que competed last year in the Michigan and Ohio regional competitions, and in New Orleans, Louisiana as well as in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Entry fees range from \$100 to \$500. The prize purses are then set by the quantity of competitors in each event. The competitions are sanctioned by the Kansas City Royale BBQ Society, to which all the team members belong. Each time a team places in the competitions during the BBQ season there are points awarded according to where they placed in the various competitions. At the end of the season the points are added up and the team with the highest total receives the title of "Grand Champion" with the runner up being given the title of the "Reserve Champion." Both of these winners are awarded

large purses and many accolades for obtaining these prestigious titles.

There are also invitation only competitions, such as the American Royale in

which a team must have won a state or a national title. The most prestigious competition is called the Jack Daniels Invitational held in Lynchburg, Tennessee. Only invited teams can participate. Teams even travel from as far away as Europe and Australia. Mikey Z of the Motley Que was invited and participated in this prestigious competition!

In the world of barbeque competition, the grills are called "pits" and are either wood burning types or charcoal types. The wood burning pit is called an "offset firebox pit" and allows the smoke to travel over the meat to give it added flavor. Charcoal pits are called "grilling pits." John states that some of the pits are ordered especially built for catering companies and restaurants and can weigh from 1,000 to 8,000 pounds. Mikey Z had to build a 4x4 trailer just to haul his pit around. Some pits can be as large as a bus.

The Motley Que began the 2010 season by participating in the "Smoke on the Water" competition in Little Rock, Arkansas in March.

When it is time for Motley Que to participate in a BBQ competition, they head out from their individual homes to meet in the state where the competition will take place. The team member who lives closest to the competition brings the pit, gets the meats from his supplier, and becomes "head cook" for that competition.

They then meet at the location, in the morning on the Friday of the competition. They start setting up their camp, which consists of pop-up tents and cots. Some other teams have RVs and special traveling buses. The barbeque pits are set up and lit. They can't touch their meats until the official start time, so they pop their beers and start visiting with all of the other competitors.

Once it is time to begin, the team removes the meat from the cooler and starts preparing it by seasoning and rubbing. The meat is added to the pit. Around midnight, the men go to bed and, starting at 3:00 a.m., take turns throughout the night monitoring the pit as the meats are barbecuing all night long and the heat must be regulated.

The team is up at 6:00 a.m. to do the ribs and chicken which need



Members of the Motley Que

only one or two hours of cooking time, as they have less mass and are cooked at a lower temperature. At noon the "first turn in time" in each of the meat categories commences. Thereafter, every half hour they turn in their next BBQ to be judged. The judges have strict criteria for presentation and judging. Enough meat must be prepared for all six judges. They put their BBQ in a "presentation box" with a number on it and walk it to the judging tent. The organizers then change the number on the box before it is given to the judges so the identity of the cooks will be concealed. The judges, in an enclosed tent, judge on presentation, taste and tenderness.

While the judging is taking place, the teams start breaking up camp, packing up, and are essentially ready to go immediately after the final results are announced. That time is usually between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. and everyone meets for the Awards Ceremony.

As the Motley Que members head back to their respective states they have many stories to tell their families when they get home. Although the team takes the competition very seriously, they also have a lot of fun when on the road. "We have a ball," says John. "We can't wait until the next competition."

Motley Que, has acquired enough ribbons during BBQ competitions to make them the envy of backyard barbequers everywhere! 🍖

Editor's Note: If the readers of ThumbPrint News would like to see Motley Que in action, along with other competitors in the world of barbecuing, they will be participating in the Auburn Hills Barbecue Cook-Off for the State Championship on June 25 and 26. Call Shawn Keenan at (248) 364-6926 for more information.

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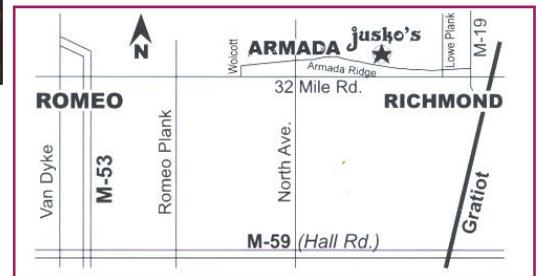
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It is the Climb That Counts, Not the View

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Throughout history, the month of June has given us many things to think about, but how much do we remember?

Do we recall, for example, that it was during the month of June that George Washington became the commander in chief of the Continental Army or that two years later during the same month the Continental Congress adopted our first flag? I don't think most of us keep that kind of information stored for instant recall.

How about some major events in time that dramatically shaped the future of our nation?

June is a significant month for the clashing of swords and rumbling of cannons. It was during this month that the United States declared war on Great Britain, thus commencing the War of 1812. June also marks the anniversary of the Allied Force's capture of Okinawa during World War II, the D-Day landing in Normandy, the start of the Korean War, the Battle of Bunker Hill and the massacre at Little Bighorn. These were all events significantly influencing our country, but do you remember them? I will assume you probably do not.

If, however, you were asked to remember your high school graduation, my guess is that your reply would be a resounding yes. June may be best remembered by many as the time of year one journey ended and the gateway to another opened. Of all the events mentioned thus far and for many others, high school graduation is likely the best recalled because it is so personal.

Most of us might agree that the days we spent in high school were certainly the best of our lives. It was there that we made our first friends, competed to excel academically, hoped for a place on the athletic teams, and learned many of our first real lessons about life. I know that now, but did not at the time. I suspect that many of this year's graduating class may feel the same.

My memories are of how anxious I was to reach graduation day and escape that period of my life that I thought prevented me from discovering the world. Oh, how ready I was

to independently explore the future and so I did. It was only five days following graduation from Algonac High School that I found myself sweltering in the hot summer days of Texas as a new recruit in Uncle Sam's Air Force.

I often think back to those times and of all that has occurred in my life since then. I remember our class motto, which didn't seem to have much meaning to me. It was a briefly stated proverb that simply said, "The higher we climb, the broader the view." I gave it little thought at the time. Like most of the precepts presented to us during our lives, they are better understood when examined in retrospect.

I have often thought if I ever had the opportunity to address a high school graduating class I would focus my presentation on the class motto I have now come to understand. Possibly, this is that opportunity.

It took me many years to fully realize that, from the class phrase, the key word was not "view." I seemed to always be concentrating my exploration of life on what the results might be. I saw success as the conclusion, not fully understanding that real accomplishment was in the journey.

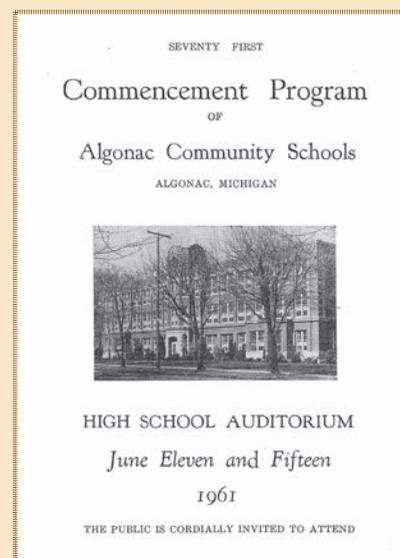
The key word of the saying is "climb." It is the concept that reminds us that the route to real achievement is always an ascent that demands energy and effort. It is a continuous journey that requires focus and determination. It is a path not absent of challenges, but offering great rewards and

introducing revelations with each step taken.

"Climb" tells us that there is a place and opportunity to roll up your sleeves, engage yourself, and work towards a better future and a desirable way of life, which is the "view" in the motto. It declares to the remainder of the world that you can raise yourself to a higher level.

It's been 49 years since I graduated from high school. I find it difficult to remember as much about that time as I would like to. However, one of the best lessons from that period in my life is that the higher we climb, the broader the view.

To the graduating class of 2010, I wish you all the luck and success you strive for in the future. My best advice is for you to keep your eye on the climb and the view will take care of itself. 🍀



"The higher we climb, the broader the view," was the motto for the 1961 graduating class of Algonac High School.

Local Boy Scouts to Serve on Mackinac Island

“It’s totally different than any other scouting experience.”

By **Caleb L. Gordon**

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Each summer, Mackinac Island is a destination for millions of tourists across the state and around the globe. One of America’s most visited attractions is also the home of a group of dedicated local scouts. Mackinac Island Service Troop 168 (M.I.S.T. 168 for short) is just that. One of many Michigan-based Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, Port Huron’s 168 serves as Governor’s Honor Guard for one week on the island. This August will be the 29th year of service for the troop.

The 55 membered service troop is responsible for raising and lowering the flags on Mackinac Island as well as serving as guides. The Governor’s Honor Guard works three hour shifts as guides at historic buildings downtown and also in Fort Mackinac. They work hand in hand with Mackinac Island State Park employees throughout the week. Each troop is evaluated on how well they execute their duties, and only the best of the best are allowed to serve as the Governor’s Honor Guard.

Gerald Ford was once a member of this elite group of honor scouts. At that time, a small group of Eagle Scouts worked and lived on the island for the whole summer. Now it’s open to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. They serve for only one week, but their mission remains the same. A picture of President Ford along with his fellow scouts sitting atop arch rock hangs in the scout barracks. The same barracks that housed a former president is still used today, and reminds the scouts of the opportunity they have been given.

“It is the most unique trip that I

have ever gone on,” according to Eagle Scout Eric Stocker. “I suggest that if you’re a scout, you should try to come up to the island, even if it’s only for a week,” he added.

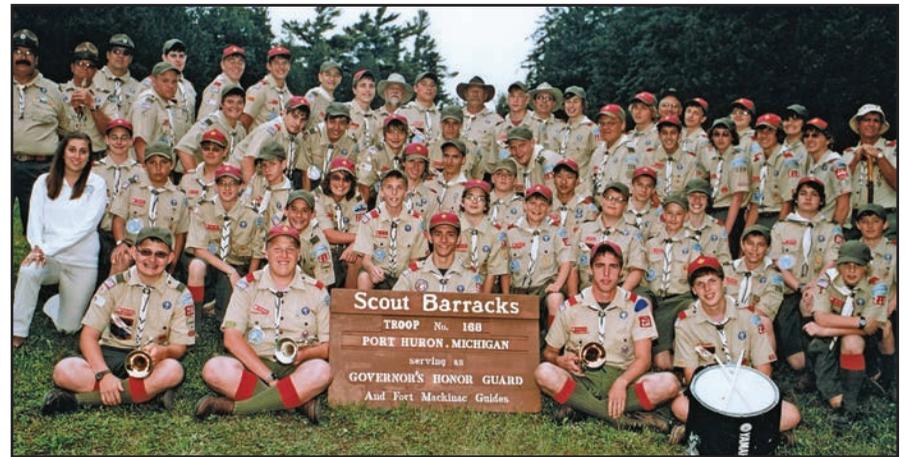
Serving as a member of the honor guard is certainly a privilege, and it takes dedication. But it’s not all work and no play. Scouts play sports, cards and horseshoes. They can go on walks and bike rides, and spend plenty of time buying fudge. There is no doubt that the Mackinac trip is one of the most fun experiences a scout could have.

“The Mackinac Island Service Troop is not just a neat thing for scouts, but the adult leaders as well,” said Scoutmaster Kirk Seibert.

The unique experience brings adults and scouts alike back to the island time and time again.

Adult leader and troop cook Steve Down recalled one of his most memorable moments on Mackinac Island. “I once watched a carriage smash into a large sign post out back behind the scout barracks,” he said. “It was amazing how fast the scouts rushed to help out and assist the people in the carriage.”

Scouts who serve on the island range from 12 year old tenderfoot scouts to 18 year old Eagle Scouts. It is rare to have a scouting activity that attracts scouts of so many different ages. In the troop, there is a Senior Patrol Leader, and two Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders. These boys have spent many years with M.I.S.T. 168 and set an example for fellow scouts. The remainder of the troop is broken down into patrols of five to seven each. One of these is the patrol leader, and is responsible for their



Mackinac Island Service Troop 168 in summer 2009

day to day duties around the island.

“It is totally different than any other scouting experience,” according to Tom Philp, 6 year Mackinac scout and an Eagle Scout. He was also the Senior Patrol Leader for M.I.S.T. 168 last year.

Tom shares that his favorite time was spending the Fourth of July on Mackinac Island. “We worked two shifts,” he said. This included folding the largest flag on the Island in the center of Fort Mackinac. “Hundreds of people were watching and clapping for us.”

After 29 years of service, the troop has accumulated many memories. These include spending the week on the island during the 2003 blackout, “Bike Night”, numerous sports and activities, meeting the Governor of Michigan, working in Fort Mackinac, and the scout’s flag retirement ceremony and campfire at the end of the week.

“As an adult leader, my favorite event is the flag retirement ceremony. The scouts always do an excellent job with that,” said Paul Denean, a scout leader for M.I.S.T. 168.

A part of the scout’s duties on the island is to honor our members of the armed forces, from those who died at Fort Mackinac to our current day conflicts. Scouts and adult leaders retire old and tattered flags at the closing ceremony. They also lower the flag at Mackinac Island’s Post Cemetery, one of only four sites where the American Flag always flies at half-staff. The other three locations are Gettysburg, Arlington Cemetery and Pearl Harbor.

“My best memory was playing “Taps” in Fort Mackinac after dark. I was honored to be a part of the service troop,” said Eric Stocker, former Mackinac scout and troop bugler.

A lot of responsibility is put on these scouts, and every year they always meet their expectations.

“They all do a good job, always smiling, always working hard,” said Scoutmaster Kirk Seibert. The over 20 year experienced Mackinac leader, and Scoutmaster for the past two years has summed up the service troop in three simple words, “Duty, Respect, and Honor.”

“Duty to the State of Michigan and to Mackinac Island; respect to our country, flag, and others; and honor for our troop.”

After spending 18 years with the troop, Steve Down, the troop’s cook, has seen many young leaders come and go in the Governor’s Honor Guard. He has a slightly different view of the troop from the kitchen, he says.

“The Mackinac Troop is an ultimate challenge for the scout’s leadership skills. I’ve seen hundreds of boys in this troop, and each one comes up to the island as a boy, and leaves as a man.” 🌿

Editor’s Note: Caleb Gordon is a current scout in Mackinac Island Service Troop 168, and has served for the past four years. More information about the Governor’s Honor Guard can be found on the Blue Water Council’s Website – www.bwcbsa.org. This year the troop will be serving on the Island from August 14th-21st, 2010.



Scouts lowering flags at Fort Mackinac.

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Rain Barrels

Continued from Page 4



Janice Littlefield watches Troop 1219 work on their plans.

community garden “Making the World a Better Place.” The design for their garden is mirrored after their Girl Scout “Bridge” badge, which is a rainbow. The garden should be completed by June 1.

Emily and Breanna, who are sisters, and their fellow troop member Morgan selected to do a modified impressionist style representative of Monet’s Water Lily for an additional barrel that was to be used at Emily and Breanna’s home.

All in all, the girls spent a wonderful day at Studio 1219 in Port Huron creating their rain barrels. They learned about water conservation and gained further artistic experiences. The rain barrels are on display along Main Street in Port Huron until the end of June for the public to enjoy and, for those

who missed the opportunity this year, Janice Littlefield says there are plans in the works to do it all again next year, not just with painted barrels, but possibly with barrels using all types of art mediums.

For those who are interested in still purchasing an unpainted rain barrel to use this year, they are available for \$50.00 each from the Conservation and Restoration Network at 923 Michigan Street in Port Huron. The phone number to reach them is (810) 985-4841. Residents can use them unpainted or try their hand at an artistic creation of their own. The Conservation and Restoration Network will even assist in putting residents in touch with local artists if they wish to have their rain barrels painted but don’t want to do it themselves. 🌱



Bella, Carmella and Ashley (from left to right) of Clay Township, discuss the design for their rain barrel.

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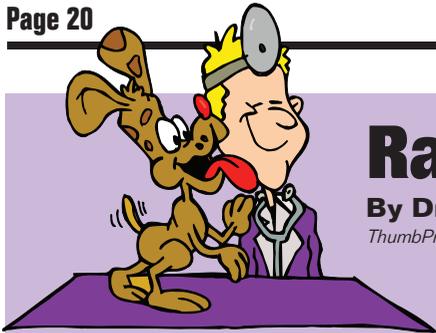
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Rabies Update!

By Dr. DiBenedetto
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Rabies is a viral infection that attacks the central nervous system of mammals including humans. If a wild animal or domestic pet exhibits symptoms of rabies after it is infected, treatment to cure the disease is not possible and death is inevitable. If a human develops symptoms of rabies after being infected, a cure is unlikely and usually leads to death. Post exposure treatments, however, are available for humans to prevent the infection from progressing after exposure to a known rabid animal, or even suspected rabid animal. In the United States today, wildlife species of bats, raccoons, skunks and fox are the primary carriers of rabies virus. Small mammals such as squirrels, rats, mice, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, hares and rabbits have not been known to cause rabies among humans in the United States and are usually not considered a risk of rabies, but laws concerning bites to humans can differ between municipalities.

A bite from any animal represents a potential exposure to rabies and is therefore reported to public health authorities. Eighty percent of human rabies cases are bat-associated strains, but only 5 percent of those have had a confirmed bite from a bat. For that reason, bats may represent a special concern. Bats have very small teeth, and many bat bites go undetected. Bats are frequently found inside people's homes. If you find a bat inside your home, DO NOT DISCARD IT. Instead, you should safely collect the bat until the need for rabies testing has been determined. The incubation period, the time between exposure to the disease and the onset of symptoms, varies from a few days to several months or more. The rabid

animal may appear healthy while incubating the rabies virus before showing any clinical symptoms and spreading this fatal disease.

Michigan has confirmed strains of both bat and skunk rabies virus. Rabies in bats occurs throughout the state, and the skunk strain of rabies occurs in counties of southeastern Michigan as well as the Thumb area. They transmit the virus through bite wounds to other wild animals such as fox and coyote or unvaccinated domestic cats, dogs, horses, cattle and sheep. Bats are the species most often tested for rabies in Michigan, followed by cats and dogs. In 2009 in Michigan alone, 67 animals tested positive, and the bat-associated strain was identified in 53 of the 67 cases.

Another strain of rabies, known as raccoon rabies, is not currently in Michigan, but is an epidemic in the eastern United States. Raccoon rabies has reached as far west as northeastern Ohio, but an extensive oral rabies vaccination program of wild raccoons temporarily slowed further spread of this strain. In some eastern states, this disease has spread significantly due to translocation of raccoons between states and is now widespread in Alabama, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

What can you do to protect yourself, your family and your pets from rabies?

- You can begin by vaccinating your pet dog, cat or ferret for rabies as directed by your veterinarian. Rabies infects indoor pets too. In fact, cats are the most commonly infected domestic animal in the United States and should have their vaccinations up to date.
- Any livestock that may have frequent contact with humans (e.g., in petting zoos, fairs, and other public exhibitions) and horses traveling interstate should

be currently vaccinated against rabies as well.

- Prevent your pets from coming into contact with wildlife by spaying and neutering your pets and not allowing them to roam freely.
- Keep all cats and ferrets strictly indoors.
- Do not leave garbage or pet food outside that may attract wild or stray animals. Keep your chimney covered so bats are not able to enter your house.
- NEVER approach or try to pick up a wild animal or an unfamiliar domestic animal. This is especially important to teach children. A rabid animal may appear tame or even friendly.
- If you see a wild animal acting strangely, report it immediately to your city or county animal control department.

What should you do if you or someone in your family is bitten or scratched by an animal – domestic or wild ?

- Immediately wash the wound

with lots of soap and water.

- If possible, capture the animal for rabies testing. Find out if the animal has a current rabies vaccination.
- Do not delay seeking medical advice.
- A physician may prescribe anti-rabies serum for cases of severe exposure (e.g., bites on the head and neck), whereas milder exposures will respond favorably to a post exposure prophylactic vaccine. Generally, combined serum plus vaccine gives the best protection possible. Contrary to common belief, vaccine reactions are rare due to improved manufacturing techniques and are not a cause for undue concern or fear. 🐾

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

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Memoirs from The Restless Retiree Garden Lady

By **Gabriel Jones**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Let me tell you about my wife of 52 years. Yes, that's right – married for 52 years! Hard to believe, but there are others like us out there. In today's society, it seems that many marriages don't last too long. People today, seemingly don't believe in giving their lives to one person for life. Oh, well . . .

My wife is going through some hard times with her knees. They seem to bother her when she needs to go up and down steps. She now uses a cane to help her

get along when she feels this way.

But . . .

Let me tell you, she likes to work in the back yard.

You see, she is a registered "Master Gardener" (taking classes from Michigan State).

At times, I will help her get to the back yard (large steps from the family room onto the patio). But as soon as she hits the bottom step . . . WHAMO! She becomes MAMA, TARZAN OF THE GARDEN!

She'll swing from plant to plant, shrub to shrub, tree to tree and you couldn't help her if you tried. (You're getting in her way!)

LOOK OUT! HERE SHE COMES WITH HER TROWEL AND SHOVEL!

"GET OUT OF THE WAY!" she shouts as she pushes the rubbish container that contains weeds that she has already pulled from their lair.

"Where are more weeds?" She grumbles as the weeds seemingly hide between the flowers with terror knowing that they soon will be pulled out when SHE comes!

"I WANT MORE WEEDS!" Again the weeds cringe and wilt from their anticipation of being "yanked from their homes."

But then, the mission is over.

A transformation comes over the area . . . all is quiet. There is peace and the garden is again beautiful. There is not a weed to be seen . . .

MAMA, TARZAN OF THE GARDEN, slowly changes back into my beautiful wife of 52 years and wanders back into our home asking for my help in putting away the tools of her trade. She's back!

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🍀

Editor's note: Follow the adventures of the Restless Retiree every month in ThumbPrint News!

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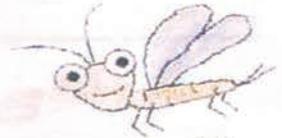
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Grindstone City

Continued from Page 1

In 1834, while traveling in his schooner the *Rip Van Winkle*, he was forced to take haven on the shores near where Grindstone City is today during a severe storm. While he was anchored there, he recognized the quality of the grindstone rock and took samples of it back home with him to Port Huron. Later that year, he returned and purchased 400 acres of land in the area, including the grindstone quarries.

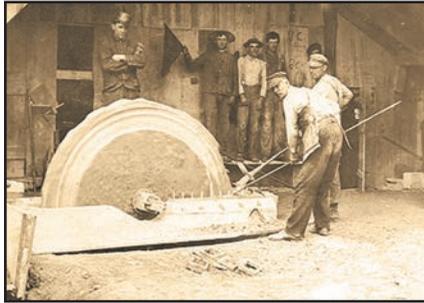
Captain Peer then proceeded to set up the first engine used to manufacture grindstones and produced the first grindstone on it. Along with his brother, James, he supervised the construction of a schooner of which he took command to operate a transportation

business between Grindstone City, Port Huron, Detroit and Buffalo.

In 1840, James took over the command of the schooner. Two years later it was lost in a fierce gale and James, along with a crew of six men, perished.

Captain Aaron G. Peer then built several other schooners to use in the transportation trade. One of those, the *Crispin*, sank in Lake Huron just opposite Grindstone City. He abandoned a long and eventful career in 1861.

The first Grindstone City School was organized about 1865. It was a log building about fourteen feet square and was chinked with mud and plaster. Boys in the school gathered wood for the flat-topped cordwood stove which heated the building. Sometimes in winter, it was still



Workers from the factory truing up a three ton stone



The early days at Grindstone City, Michigan

cold enough inside that mittens and scarves would be left on to conserve some warmth. The floor of the school was clay to which long benches were secured. The schoolmaster at the beginning was a Mr. Jones. In exchange for his teaching, he was given room and board and also food and shelter for his horse at different homes of his students.

The two factories continued a thriving business until around the time of World War I when other materials became more prominent in grinding operations and the business for grindstones waned. The two factories subsequently closed.

Today, not much remains of Grindstone City. Perhaps a maximum of twenty homes and businesses are still occupied, each with a large old grindstone planted somehow on the property. The buildings are centered around a small marina. The grindstones that once lined the beaches are mostly gone, having been hauled away by thieves and souvenir collectors.

The waters of Lake Huron just out from Grindstone City are part of the Thumb Area Underwater Preserve. Divers in these waters can still see remnants of the grindstones that were so much a part of the industry and history of this area in the past, now lying in their underwater graves attracting schools of colorful game fish.

The highlight of Grindstone City today is a stop at the Grindstone General Store, where visitors come from miles around for the giant helpings of ice cream. A "double" ice cream cone there has four scoops! The store is also a miniature museum of Grindstone City's past, with local artwork, ceramics, cookbooks, history books and even mini grindstones for sale.



The good old days at Grindstone City, Michigan



Workers process grindstone on the shores of Lake Huron.

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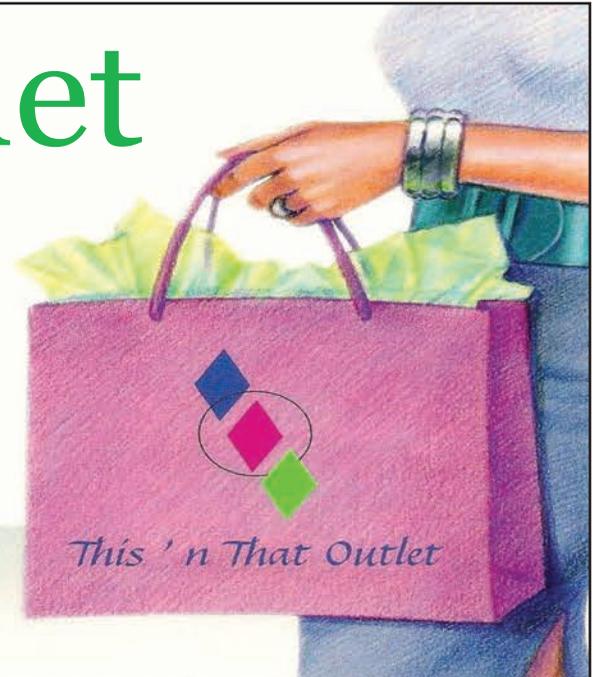
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I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for



By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

One of my favorite summertime memories as a child was playing in the yard barefoot with my friends and suddenly hearing the distinctive sound of the ice cream man coming down the street. Some years it would be the brassy tinkle of a bell, some years it would be a recording of a particularly happy sounding children's song of which I no longer remember the name. But I do remember how all of the children, including myself, would race down the sidewalks to their own houses to beg a dime from their mothers. Of course, the moms would be there, cooking lunch, canning or cleaning the house, as I grew up in a time and place where very few mothers

worked outside of the home. Most of us would be given that precious coin and we would race back out of the house, with the screen doors slamming, hoping that we would be able to catch the ice cream man before he turned on to another street.

Boy, did that ice cream taste good on a hot summer day. The challenge was to eat it slow enough to enjoy it and quickly enough so it wouldn't melt before we could!

The story of how ice cream first was made begins over 3,000 years ago in China. The emperors at the time were served a delicious treat made from snow from the mountains. Mixed in with the snow was fruit, wine and honey. This was a predecessor to the ice cream of today, more like a flavored ice.

Snow ice cream was also served to Roman Emperor Nero in 62 A.D. Nero sent his slaves up into the mountains to bring back snow and ice so his cooks could make it for him using basically the same types of ingredients as the Chinese had used.

Marco Polo, in 1295, has been credited by many for first introducing milk into the ice cream recipe. On one of his adventures to China, he brought back the idea of mixing yak milk into the snow to give it a creamier texture. This caught on quickly in Italy and the more affluent were soon enjoying this tastier version.

From Italy, the new recipe spread to France when, in 1533, Catherine de Medici of Florence, Italy married the French king, Henry II and took her fondness for this sweet treat with her to the new country. The cooks of France embraced this new found delicacy and it spread quickly throughout the country. It was in France that one of the first ice cream shops was opened and where flavors such as chocolate and strawberry were first introduced.

From France, the recipe spread

to England with Charles I, who had visited France in the 1600s, and took the recipe back to his own country when he returned. From England, the recipe spread to what is now the United States in 1700 with Governor Bladen of Maryland who was originally from England. In 1776, the first ice cream parlor in America opened in New York City. It was the American colonists who first used the term "iced cream," which later became shortened to ice cream.

Before the development of modern refrigeration, ice cream was a luxury and was served mostly by the well-to-do on special occasions. In order to make ice cream, ice was cut from lakes and ponds during the winter and was stored in ice houses that were insulated by straw. A large

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The ice cream truck is a favorite childhood memory of the author.

bowl was placed inside a tub that had been filled with ice and salt. The ingredients were added and stirred by hand until ice cream was made. The whole process was quite laborious.

Today ice cream has become one of America's favorite desserts or any time treats. Similar products such as frozen custard, frozen yogurt, sorbet and gelato are also available. In the United States the government regulates commercially what products can be labeled "ice cream" based on the quantities of each ingredient that was used in producing the product.

Whether we enjoy our sweet ice cream in a cone, in a dish, as a sundae, as an ice cream bar, in a malt, shake or soda, or as a scoop over a piece of hot apple pie, it is truly a wonderful invention. I still get that excited feeling inside when I hear an ice cream vendor turning down the street in the neighborhood. I still want to shout out, as I did as a child, that old rhyme "I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream!" 🍦

Editor's Note: Although I remember vividly saying the "I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream" rhyme as a child, I only recently learned that this phrase came from an actual song that was recorded in 1929 by a group called Waring's Pennsylvanians. It is printed below for our readers' enjoyment:

ICE CREAM

by Johnson, Moll, & King

*In the land of ice and snow
Up among the Eskimo
There's a college known as Oogie-wawa.
You should hear those college boys,*

*Gee, they make an awful noise
When they sing their Eskimo tra la la.
They've got a leader, big cheer leader,
oh what a guy!*

*He's got a frozen face just like an
Eskimo Pie.*

*When he says, "Come on, let's go!"
Though it's forty-five below*

Listen what those Eskimos all holler:

*I scream, you scream, we all
scream for ice cream!*

*Rah, rah...Oogie de wawa
rah rah rah!*

*Tuesday, Monday, we all
scream for Sundae!*

*Sis, boom, Aurora
borealea, bah!*

*Boola boola Sasparoola
We've got the chocolate,*

I'll take vanoola

*I scream, you scream,
we all scream for ice
cream!*

*Rah, rah, ice cream soda or gingerale
pop!*

*Father mother sister brother
When they've had one at lion*

They want another

Colleges may come and go

But the world will never know

Any other place like Oogie-wawa

Oxford, Cambridge, Eaton too

Football teams would all turn blue

When they played a game with Oogie-wawa

Those Eskimos looked mighty tough

when they took the field

And people said, Ah, they're the team

that never will yield

Then with gore and flying fur

Just to show how tough they were

All those Eskimos began to holler

Iceberg, Lindberg, Sol Berg and

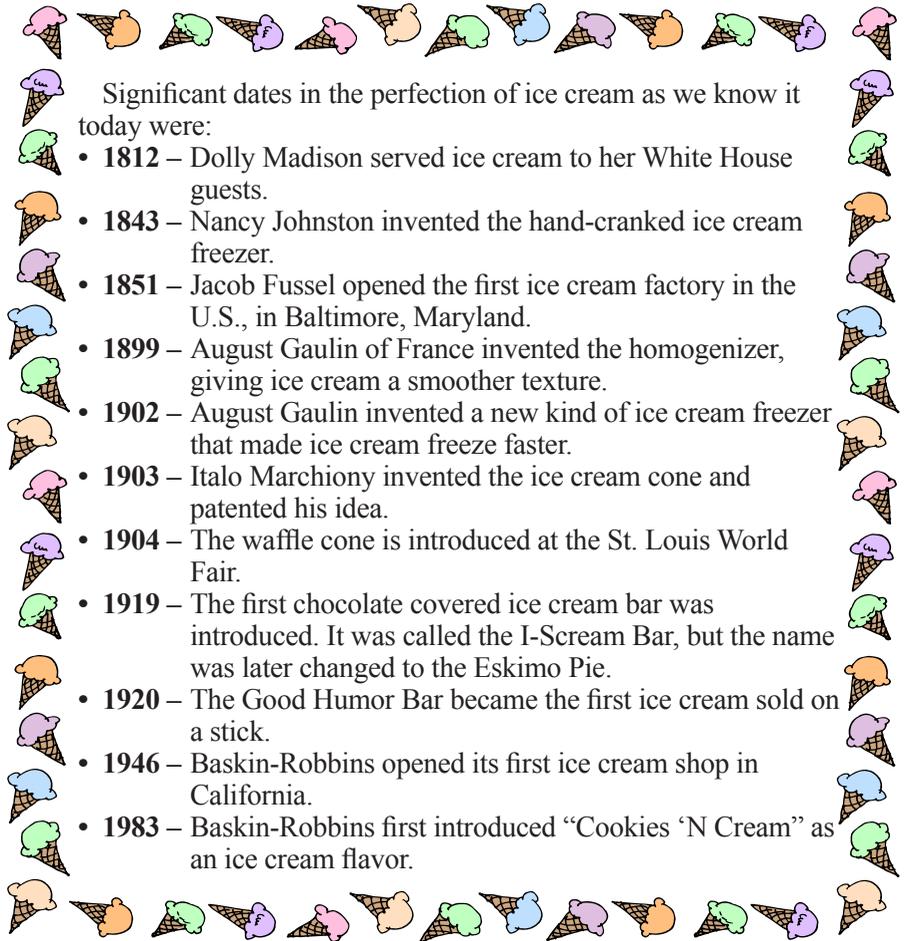
Ginzberg,

Ice cream Cohen.

I scream, you scream, everybody wants

ice cream.

Rah, rah, raaazberry!



Significant dates in the perfection of ice cream as we know it today were:

- **1812** – Dolly Madison served ice cream to her White House guests.
- **1843** – Nancy Johnston invented the hand-cranked ice cream freezer.
- **1851** – Jacob Fussel opened the first ice cream factory in the U.S., in Baltimore, Maryland.
- **1899** – August Gaulin of France invented the homogenizer, giving ice cream a smoother texture.
- **1902** – August Gaulin invented a new kind of ice cream freezer that made ice cream freeze faster.
- **1903** – Italo Marchiony invented the ice cream cone and patented his idea.
- **1904** – The waffle cone is introduced at the St. Louis World Fair.
- **1919** – The first chocolate covered ice cream bar was introduced. It was called the I-Scream Bar, but the name was later changed to the Eskimo Pie.
- **1920** – The Good Humor Bar became the first ice cream sold on a stick.
- **1946** – Baskin-Robbins opened its first ice cream shop in California.
- **1983** – Baskin-Robbins first introduced "Cookies 'N Cream" as an ice cream flavor.

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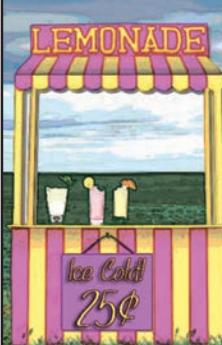
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Summertime Fun For Kids

Home Made Ice Cream in a Coffee Can

What you'll need:

2 clean metal cans, both with lids (make one can larger than the second – two different sizes of coffee cans work well)

- 1 cup of very cold milk
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla
- Ice
- Salt
- 1 teaspoon of chocolate syrup (optional)



How to make it:

Place all ingredients, except for the ice and salt, in the smaller coffee can (make sure it's clean) and seal with the lid on tightly. (If you want chocolate ice cream include the chocolate syrup. If you want vanilla, leave it out.)

Place the smaller can in the larger can. Pour the ice and salt around the smaller can making sure it is more or less in the center.

Seal the larger can with its lid tightly and roll it around for about a half hour. It is fun for friends to do together because they can roll it back and forth between them on a flat floor or outside on the driveway.

Take the smaller can out of the can that is filled with ice and salt. You will have made ice cream in the smaller can! Eat and enjoy! 🍃

Here is some interesting trivia about ice cream:

- The most popular flavor of ice cream is vanilla, followed by chocolate.
- The favorite ice cream topping is chocolate syrup.
- Ice cream is an \$11 billion retail industry.
- The biggest ice cream sundae ever made was 12 feet high and was made with 4,667 gallons of ice cream and 7,000 pounds of toppings in Anaheim, California in 1985.
- Michigan is the fifth in ranking for the states that produce the most ice cream. California is number one.
- Each American consumes a yearly average of 23.2 quarts of ice cream and other commercially produced frozen dairy products.
- Ice cream is America's second favorite dessert, according to a Nielson survey of supermarket sales. Cookies are the first.
- The United States is the top ice cream consuming country in the world!



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The Penfield Restaurant

LOCAL RESTAURANT REVIEW

By Diane L. Kodet
ThumbPrint News Editor

It was the perfect warm spring day for a drive in the country a few Sundays ago. My husband and I headed north on M-19 with no real destination in mind, other than exploring the wonderful Thumb Area. Around 1:00 p.m. we decided that we were both getting hungry, as we hadn't yet had breakfast. A nice Sunday brunch sounded good about now.

We had already gone through Yale so the next town was Peck. With only a population of around 600 people, we figured the choice in dining would be quite limited, and it was. Driving down the main street of town, we came upon the Penfield Restaurant, located at 27 W. Lapeer Street. Set in a quaint but tidy looking gray-sided house, a simple sign hung outside that said, "Food." We walked inside.

Both of us were expecting a typical "sandwich with a few entrées" menu – just something that would let our hunger pangs subside. What we

didn't expect was a gourmet dining experience. The person behind the creative menu is Chef Brian Peters.

Brian originally is from Yale, but later moved with his family to Peck. After high school, he went south to join the military. It was not until after his military stint was over, that he decided to pursue his dream of becoming a chef. Brian attended the culinary program at Opryland and was also awarded the opportunity in 2001 to cook for the International Film Festival in Cannes, France.

In November of 2009, Chef Brian returned from Nashville to Peck, Michigan. The Penfield Restaurant had been a well-known restaurant in town for many, many years having been run by Leona McCullough, with the help of her twin sister, Leoda. As Chef Brian says, "The time and place was just right and I was able to take over the Penfield."

Chef Brian kept the menu the

same at the beginning, but also slowly started to incorporate his special touches, such as baby back ribs and pulled pork barbeque that he perfected while at Opryland. He is also a saucier, and his delectable sauces grace many of the dishes offered.

The Sunday brunch offered on the day that we were there should more rightly be called a feast. Served buffet style for only \$12.95 it includes roast beef, fried chicken, pulled pork BBQ, thick cut bacon, Tennessee sausage gravy and biscuits, a salad bar, gourmet desserts, a choice of drink and about a dozen other items.

Chef Brian says that his cooking is "more function than fancy", but don't let him kid you. What he has done for the Penfield menu is a lot more than the simple sign "Food" hanging outside would lead potential customers to believe. But, that seems to suit Chef Brian just fine. He is content to be



The Penfield Restaurant in downtown Peck

back in his home town of Peck. There is something to be said about the small town life. Chef Brian knows that here is where he was meant to be. 🍀

Editor's note: If you are a restaurant owner in any of the counties that the ThumbPrint News covers and would like us to review your restaurant for possible inclusion in a future edition, please call Diane at (810) 794-2300 or send an email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net.



Chef Brian Peters added gourmet selections to the Penfield menu.

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All-Inclusive Resorts are Everyone's Perfect Choice

By **Mary Kromer**

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

School is almost out and it's time to think about the perfect vacation destination. Summer doesn't just mean family vacation time. It also is the season when honeymooners will be seeking the most romantic spots. Moms and dads get a chance to vacation alone together while the kids bond with grandparents. Many wedding guests will be heading south for destination weddings overlooking the ocean.

The perfect vacation for families, the ideal vacation for couples, the perfect vacation for relaxing or for activities, the perfect vacation for EVERYONE is an all-inclusive resort. With all meals, beverages, entertainment and many activities included, guests can enjoy a worry-free vacation without ever pulling out their wallets after the vacation begins. The resort industry has never seen anything like the recent explosion in popularity of these all-inclusive resorts.

Several areas in Mexico and the Caribbean have become synonymous with all-inclusive resorts, including Cancun, Riviera Maya,

Cozumel, and Puerto Vallarta in Mexico, Jamaica and Punta Cana and Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic. Set along some of the most inviting beaches in the world and some of the most popular resort towns, there are great things to do outside of the all-inclusive resorts as well.

With so many all-inclusive resorts to choose from, there's something for every vacationer and every budget. From the moderately priced resort to the luxury resorts, from family resorts to romantic couples-only resorts, a wide range of vacation experiences are offered. All guests will have a wide array of room categories to choose from to help make their stay unforgettable.

Families love all-inclusive resorts. They offer kids clubs for children with activities all day long so parents can have some time to enjoy the beach or take part in the many activities for adults. Many of the resorts have a separate pool for young children and a safe disco just for teens.

If sitting and relaxing by the pool is not enough, there are always many activities. Tennis courts are

golf. Guests can keep in shape by working out at the fitness center, by participating in a yoga class, by taking diving lessons or doing water aerobics.

For those who are competitive, they can join a team for volley ball in the pool or on the beach. All-inclusive resorts also include non-motorized water sports such as kayaking, windsurfing, body boards and paddle boats.

Couples love all-inclusive resorts. There are many resorts that are for couples only. It is the perfect romantic setting for couples in love whether they are on a honeymoon or are just rejuvenating with some time away from the kids.

Singles too enjoy all-inclusives. There are fabulous resorts for adults only. Enjoy quiet time on the beach during the day and fine dining in the specialty restaurants at night, followed by first rate entertainment and fun in the disco until the wee hours of the morning.

What could be more romantic than a wedding on the beach at sunset with palm trees towering above? All-inclusives have become a favorite choice of couples for their destination weddings. While the happy couple begins their life together in a beautiful tropical setting, their family and friends enjoy the wedding combined with an unforgettable vacation. Many all-inclusives offer free weddings and the services of the resorts wedding coordinator to help with catering,



Iberostar All-Inclusive Resort near Cancun, Mexico

music, photos, license and officials.

Vacationers who want to pamper themselves will find some of the best spa facilities in the world in the Mexican and Caribbean all-inclusive resorts. They can refresh and rejuvenate mind and body with hot-stone massages, facial and skin clinics and body treatments. Romantic couple's massages on the beach are also offered with the soothing sound of the ocean in the background.

Outside of the resorts vacationers will find lively cultures, natural paradises and rich histories. Excursions, at an additional cost, can provide unique opportunities and experiences.

Vacationing is all about getting away from it all and relaxing. It is also about seeing and doing things one enjoys. Whatever those things may be, an all-inclusive resort provides the perfect opportunities for everyone. 🌴

Editor's Note: Mary Kromer is the manager of Anchorville Travel located at 9836 Dixie Highway in Anchorville. Call her at (586) 725-1780 for any questions about all-inclusive resorts or to get help in planning a vacation.

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a standard sight at all-inclusive resorts. Many all-inclusive resorts have their own golf courses and guests can choose a plan that includes

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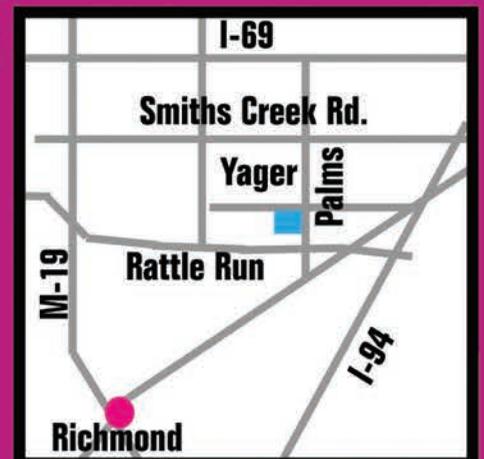
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I Have Better . . . I Have Friends With Boats!

By Shari Nowicki
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Mike Passmore was raised in the Lake Leelaneau/Grand Traverse area in Michigan. As he grew up in that area, it was normal to be boating and swimming regularly. Little did he know that he would move away with no lakes in sight!

Mike went to Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant and graduated in 1992 with a degree in psychology and a minor in English. He thought his future would be in teaching, but that wasn't to be. While in college, Mike met his future wife, Lisa. They married and relocated to Madison Heights, MI.

While Mike and Lisa were pursuing their careers, they also added to their family a daughter, MacKenzie (now 13) and a son, Jimmy (now 9). Mike's career path

went from being an auditor for a hotel from 1992 to 1995, to working in an independent brokerage company and learning the business from the ground up. He then went to a school for management training for a large banking organization. Shortly thereafter he became a part of a home loan company based out of Tennessee. Mike says that during the years that he was learning all of the various job skills, one single thread ran through the employers that he worked for; they were all based on a business culture that had high ethical standards. He said "they do the right thing even if it's not the easiest thing." That's why he joined Edwards Jones. He said "Edward Jones avoids the pitfalls competitors didn't in financial investments."

Mike opened his Edward Jones office in Chesterfield, MI in 2008.

He sincerely enjoys helping others with their financial investments and helping them achieve their goals, whether it be retirement or short term investments. In addition, he says he gets all of the ambience of the lake area daily. When asked if he had a boat, Mike replied, "I have better . . . I have friends with boats!"

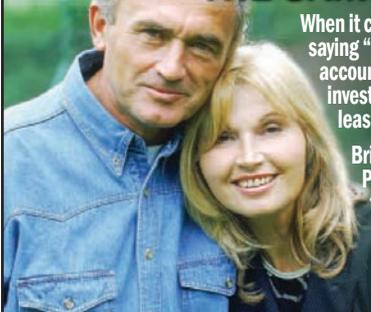
During the time that Mike was moving forward in his career, he made time to participate in the Anchor Bay Rotary Club and the Anchor Bay Chamber of Commerce. He also took an active role in the Relay for Life program and many fundraising projects in the Anchor Bay area. Mike was missing the "lake" part of his life (even the fish flies!), so Mike and Lisa relocated to Clinton Township as the best mid-way point between their jobs. I asked him why he considered



Financial advisor Mike Passmore of Edward Jones

Clinton Township closer to the lake and he replied, "It's closer than Madison Heights!" (even if there aren't any fish flies). 🐟

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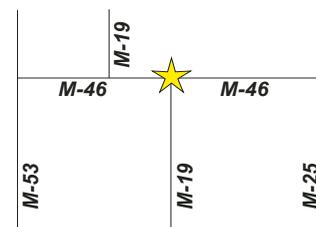
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Hardware: A Step Back in Time

Continued from Page 1

other independent business owners, they formed close relationships with their customers and were indispensable to the community. Besides being a meeting place, these stores carried the items that were needed to first build our country's ranches, farms and towns.

In 1885, Frank S. Carlton of Calumet, Michigan, wrote to other hardware retailers throughout the state with the idea that they should get together and organize a hardware association. As a result of his campaign, on July 9, 1895, 19 hardware store owners met and started what would later be the Michigan Retail Hardware Association.

It was just ten years earlier on January 1, 1875, when Daniel Orr first opened his hardware store in North Branch, Michigan. His customers came in horse and buggies for the things they needed. Daniel Orr's hardware store moved to 4003 Huron Street in 1907. Five generations later, Daniel Orr's

descendants continue to run Daniel Orr Sons hardware store as a family business. It is the oldest hardware business in Lapeer County.

Walking into Daniel Orr Sons today is like a step back in time. The pressed tin ceiling is the same one that graced the business when it first opened over 100 years ago. The old, creaky, maple floors greet each visitor. As Tom Orr, who is the great great grandson of Daniel, says, "If this floor could talk about everyone who has come through these doors, it would talk for years!"

The ceiling is about 14 feet from the floor and shelves tower above the customers' heads. To access the top shelves, an antique wooden sliding ladder, like you would see in old libraries, is utilized. There are old-fashioned barrels of nails, bear traps, corn knives, crocks for making sauerkraut and baked beans and everything else imaginable. "If you can't get it here, you can't get it anywhere," says Tom.

The store itself is a mini-museum, with coal oil lamps, Model T lamps, antique chainsaws and other decorations that were originally



Jim Smith, owner of Yale Hardware, assists as employee Sonja rings up a customer.

similar to items that were sold in their store. More impressive, however, is the North Branch Village Orr Museum which was officially opened on September 13, 1975, coinciding with the 100th year of the Daniel Orr Sons hardware store being in business.

Many pieces in the museum's collection came from the Orr family. Others were contributed by neighbors, friends and the community. The Museum is divided into six areas: Hardware, Blacksmith, Woodworking, Plumbing, Tinsmith and Household. There are also many horse drawn vehicles, farm implements and antique cars. The museum is open from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. from June through August and provides visitors wonderful glimpses into how life was lived in the past.

Yale also has a hometown hardware store and it has been in the same location for more than 30 years. Changing owners several times, in 2001 it was purchased by Jim Smith who now runs Yale Hardware Store with the help of his son and daughter-in-law. It is located at 124 S. Main Street. Jim decided to go into the hardware business as a second career, having spent over 23 years running a dairy and commercial hay farm.

Jim believes that his business is successful today because he tries to plan his business around the needs of the community. In addition to hardware, many other items are available. Jim says that his store is an updated version of an old general

store. He offers small engine repair and basic installation of plumbing and electrical. His daughter-in-law, Amy, is an architectural engineer and interior designer. Amy helps local customers with designing needs for their homes. The store is open seven days a week for convenience of its customers, but the owners will even come down and open up for a regular customer at a time when they are normally closed if the customer is desperately in need of something to finish a project. "We don't mind," says Amy. "We are only a couple of miles down the road and we don't want our regular customers to have to drive to another city to get something they need." Now that is customer service at its highest! Ricky Debruycker, a local Yale painter agrees. "I come to Yale Hardware because of the friendly service and because they usually have everything that I need."

Convenience, outstanding customer service, friendliness – these all seem to be recurring comments made by customers shopping in any of the small town hardware stores on the days that *ThumbPrint News* was visiting. Russ Bassett of Columbus Township had come into Wise Hardware at 1309 Clinton Street in St. Clair for that very reason on the day that we were there. The current owner is Andy Wise, who tries to diversify his products to fit what his customers want. Live saltwater fish, koi, paintball supplies and radio control toys are some of the more unusual finds in his store. Every

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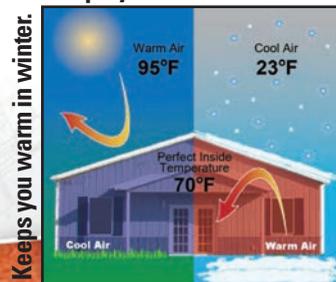
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Russ Bassett (right) of Columbus gets everything he needs from Andy Wise, owner of Wise Hardware in St. Clair.

square inch and then some is filled to overflowing. "I've got everything in here but room," laughs Andy. Andy has owned the business with his father for the past nine years, though a hardware store has stood in this location for over 40 years.

Helen Wendling of Emmett is in the minority as a woman owner of a hardware store. Her store, Emmett Hardware, is located at 3147 Main Street. She started the business in 1979 in a building once used by her father as a hardware store and by her grandmother in the 1800s as a general store. Helen says that she

knew little about the business when they started it. However, when her husband was killed in an unfortunate farm accident, out of necessity she learned quickly. Today she employs mostly women in her business who, like herself, come to her knowing very little, but are forced to quickly learn!

Emmett Hardware is a basic no-frills hardware store. Again, the customer service is what Helen feels makes people choose her store over a larger chain store. "It is easy to get in and quick to get out. There is always someone here to greet a customer when they come through the front door and always someone knowledgeable to help them out," says Helen. She stocks her store based on the local needs of her customers, not on national trends and she feels that has helped her business to grow.

Today, with the establishment of so many chain stores in larger cities, which carry a wide range of building supplies including hardware, many of the smaller hardware stores, sometimes called "mom and pop" operations, are going by the wayside. However, every time one closes, the town or city that it was in loses an integral part of its past. It is therefore refreshing to see that, in the Thumb area, there are quite a few small town hardware stores that are hanging in there despite the economy and that are still providing the residents of the communities with unparalleled customer service. *ThumbPrint News* gives a Thumbs Up to our small town hardware stores! 🍀



Tony Arnold is the only male employee at Emmett Hardware.

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Ditto Means the Second Time Around

By Shari Nowicki

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Shannon and Jim, the owners of Ditto Consignments and Design in New Baltimore, met just by chance in the winter of 2005 at The Raft Restaurant in Clay Township. Shannon was with some friends who were looking for property in the area. Jim was in his snowmobile gear with his buddies having a burger. Their tables ended up being together, and the rest is history.

Shannon and Jim now live in Algonac with Shannon having

relocated from Clarkston, Michigan. Jim was from originally from Algonac. They have two business locations – one in each city. Shannon has been an interior designer since 1985 when she opened her first design store, Plum Hollow Home Decor & Design,

in Clarkston. In 2005, Shannon opened a store in New Baltimore on Washington. She relocated Plum Hollow to Ditto Consignments and Design in November, 2008. Their 6,000 sq. ft. store is located on Green Street (M-29) in New Baltimore. Jim brought to the business his past experience as a supervisor and foreman in various businesses and his handiness in all kinds of areas.

Together Shannon and Jim came up with the name “Ditto Consignments and Design” based on the movie *Ghost* in which Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore say to each other “I love you” and the other replies “Ditto.” Shannon and Jim felt that “Ditto”

summed up their business as it was the “second time around for furnishings and decor and thus they are repeating their lives.”

Ditto Consignments offers quality home furnishings and accents on their second time around, as well as brand new furniture and decor items. Consignors find it a great way for them to place their belongings for sale without having to wait by the phone or to be inconvenienced by having to hold a garage sale.

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members are always there for the interested buyers and are willing to work at getting the price the consignor wants for their merchandise. Consigning is a way to immediately take care of removing furniture and accessories when moving into assisted living, when downsizing, taking care of belongings of a

loved one who has passed away, combining households, dealing with foreclosures, or moving out of state. It also stimulates the economy in that consignors get a check and buyers get good deals on nice merchandise. Everything received into consignment and sold is clean and in good condition, and everything coming in on consignment has to go through a selective process so the quality is always of a high caliber for the shoppers. Consignments are accepted on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each week and there is a 90 day layaway policy available to shoppers. 🍀



Shannon and Jim are the owners of Ditto Consignments and Design.



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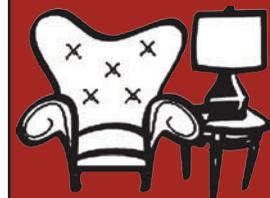
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Thank You, Grandpa, For My Vocation

By Shari Nowicki

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

When Lisa Bont was growing up in Richmond, Michigan, she spent many happy hours with her grandfather, Ferdinand Baitinger and her grandmother, Grandma Anne. Grandpa was a joyful person – he did things that didn't quite fit his image – like putting fish in Grandma's prized fountain. He spent many hours with Lisa teaching her how to swim, ice skate, fish, ride a bike and many intangible life lessons.

Additionally, Lisa's family spent many adventures in Canada boating, canoeing and fishing. On one of their canoeing trips, Grandpa Ferdinand fell out of the canoe and got turned around in the water thinking that up was down and down was up. When the family tried to help him, he was disoriented and fought them thinking they were taking him down in the water

instead of up. He was rescued, but he was diagnosed with Menieres Disease, which involves the inner ear and results in hearing and balance problems.

Grandpa Ferdinand found he couldn't do the many things that he had done before, even simple things. He was fitted with two hearing aids but was unable to communicate satisfactorily and Lisa felt like she had lost her best friend. Grandpa had trouble conversing with the outside world, but he could understand Lisa and her mother, Carol, better than anyone else due to the "pitch" and "articulation" of their voices. Lisa saw her Grandpa withdraw from everyone around him and he wasn't the Grandpa she had known growing up. Lisa couldn't understand why someone couldn't "fix" Grandpa.

Lisa went on to college to become a pharmacist, but after two years, she felt it wasn't what she really



Audiologist Lisa Bont

wanted to do. She consulted with her college counselor who knew about Lisa's grandfather, and she recommended that Lisa go to a school for the deaf to see how they work with the students. Lisa went and was amazed at how the students learned with and without hearing aids. That was the deciding factor – she was going to pursue helping others with hearing problems.

Lisa enrolled at Western Michigan University and received a degree in Audiology. Shortly thereafter, she went to work in Port Huron for a hearing aid manufacturer which allowed her to meet with her grandparents for lunch almost daily. At one of these lunches her grandparents began arguing, which wasn't normal. Lisa became the referee and then it all blew over. It was later discovered that Grandma Anne had early onset dementia and Grandpa was covering for her with others.

Lisa recalls with fondness how Grandma Anne loved musicals and Grandpa Ferdinand made sure that she went to them, even though he never liked them and could no longer hear them.

One afternoon her grandparents had another argument (due to the dementia) and Grandma Anne

was working outside in the garden and Grandpa wanted to make up to her so he took out her tape recorder with her music on it and put it by her in the garden and went inside. Later, they found him passed away. Lisa says that as an audiologist, her grandfather's essence lives on with her every day. Lisa says, "Thank you, Grandpa, for my vocation." 🍀

Editor's Note: When Shari Nowicki was interviewing Lisa Bont for the above article, Shari asked Lisa if she had any funny stories related to her practice. Lisa told Shari that one "common" occurrence is that patients are "usually brought in by their spouse!" Lisa told a story about a baby boomer husband (who was extremely reserved) who was brought in for a consultation and hearing test by his wife. She had the grandchildren with her and took them outside. Then, before the results had been compiled, she stood in the room with her arms folded and said to her husband "Well, are you going to do something about your hearing problem?" He emphatically replied "NO, I can hear exactly what I want to hear!" And that's how that consultation ended!

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ThumbPrint News Book Review: *Grandloving*

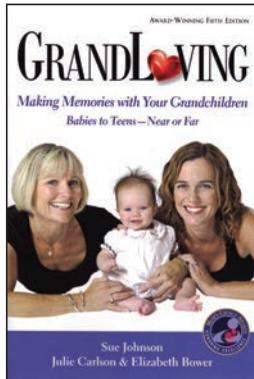
By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

ISBN #978-0-96735349-7-8

With summertime just beginning and school out for a couple of months, many children will head out to spend some time with their grandparents. Grandparents are always looking for low-cost, fun activities to do with their grandchildren and the award-winning fifth edition of *Grandloving* is the perfect book for that.

This book is a family project, written by Grandma Sue Johnson, her daughter-in-law, Julie Carlson and daughter Elizabeth Bower. All are mothers and former teachers so they have a wealth of ideas to share. There are activities that will suit every grandparent and every child, including art projects, cooking ideas, outdoor fun, building, games, music, science and discovery, and more. An-



other great section includes hundreds of ways to stay in touch across the miles when grandparents and grandchildren are apart.

In addition to the ideas from the authors, more than 350 families worldwide contributed their best ideas to *Grandloving*. An excellent comprehensive resource guide on everything from favorite books to share to technology tips rounds out this well-written book. Teachers, mothers, aunts and uncles would also find this book a treasure as well as to use in their dealings with children.

An added bonus is the website the authors have put together with all kinds of additional activities for every season and holiday, www.grandloving.com. With *Grandloving* as part of your home library, this will be the summer your grandchildren will always remember. 🌱

Here is a COOL idea from the *Grandloving* website for a hot summer day:

Ice Cube Painting

This activity is suitable for children ten months to five years.

You'll Need:

Ice cube tray and freezer
Washable paint or food coloring (but beware – food coloring can stain!)

Construction paper, coffee filters, or paper towels

Here's How:

Mix water and paint or food coloring to make different colors.

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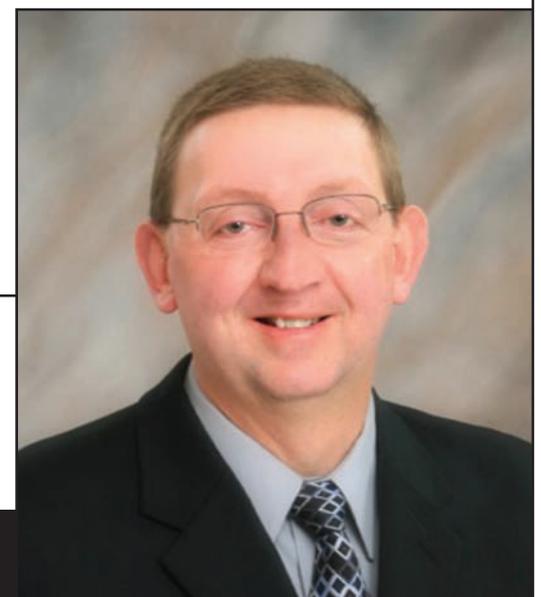
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PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT!

Tick-borne diseases are on the rise in the United States – Lyme Disease in particular. If you live in Michigan, you likely know someone who has had Lyme Disease or another tick-borne disease . . . you may have had one yourself.

Health officials believe that in more than 70% of reported cases, the disease was contracted from deer ticks found on residential properties. Chipmunks, squirrels, mice and rats are more likely to harbor ticks and keep them close to your home increasing your chance of infection.

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EXPERIENCED FLORIST for high-volume floral shop open seven days a week. Need to be able to make funeral arrangements, corsages, every day arrangements and holiday pieces. Only highly motivated individuals need apply. Room to grow into a management position. Foxfire Farm Floral Shop, 8061 Marsh Rd., Clay Twp. (810) 794-5108. Salary based on experience and will be discussed during interview process.

EXPERIENCED SALESPERSON wanted for selling ads and classifieds for ThumbPrint News. Position requires both days on the road and days in the office. Need reliable transportation as person that is hired will be using own vehicle when on the road. 8061½ Marsh Rd., Clay Township. (810) 794-2300.

WANTED: NEWSPAPER BOYS OR GIRLS, twelve years and older with parent's consent for the cities of Richmond, Capac and St. Clair doing walking routes for monthly publications. For more information call (810) 794-2300.

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Thumb Area Activities & Events for June 2010

If you have an event in July that you would like listed in the July issue of *ThumbPrint News*, please email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by June 12, 2010. There is no charge for the listing.

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

Genesee County

Flint – June 12 & 13

Art Fair, Flint Institute of the Arts, 1120 East Kearsley Street. Become one of the many thousands of people each year who look forward to the second weekend in June for one of the premier events our community has to offer. Listen to local music by some of our area's best musicians. Stop by our concessions tent to enjoy a soda or bratwurst. For those 21 or older quench your thirst with an "adult" beverage at the Sidewalk Cafe. Call (810) 695-0604.

Flint – June 25-27

Fiesta Mexicana, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, G-2316 West Coldwater Rd. Experience our proud Mexican heritage and the many cultural activities. The three days of fun will include arts and crafts, kids games, chalupa (Mexican bingo), live entertainment, folklorico dancers and plenty of delicious authentic Mexican food. Call (810) 787-5701 or visit fiestamexicana.catholicweb.com/index.cfm.

Huron County

Port Austin – June 5

CarFest, downtown area. Main Street will be closed from 2-8 p.m. for car displays. There will also be a "Street Fest" with a DJ, drawings, live music, a beer tent and all new vendor displays. Trophies will be awarded between 6 and 7 p.m. Call (989) 738-7600.

Sebawaing – June 17-20

Michigan Sugar Festival, Main Park, 222 North Center St. Fun for the entire family, including a carnival, midway, professional entertainment, a grand parade, a crowning of the Michigan Sugar Queen, a chicken BBQ, fireworks and more. Call (989) 883-2150.

Caseville – June 25-27

2nd Annual Caseville Country RibStock, Caseville County Park Amphitheater. This is a fun filled country weekend, with live music, a rib tasting contest and much more. Call (989) 856-3818 or visit www.casevillechamber.net/Ribstock.htm for the schedule of entertainment.

Lapeer County

Lapeer – June 3, 10, 17 & 24

Summer Concert Series, downtown area, 6:30 p.m. Varying musicians and genres of music are planned for each week. Contact Gary Dixon at (810) 441-9075.

Lapeer – June 24

Ice Cream Social, downtown area, Courthouse Square, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The Lapeer County Bank & Trust thanks the Lapeer community with free ice cream sundaes served by friendly bank staff. Contact Nancy Sommerville at (810) 664-2977.

Macomb County

Armada – June 6

Country Cruisers 1980s Thumb Classic Car Show, Swap Meet & Car Corral, Armada Flea

Market, located one mile east of Armada and 7 miles west of Richmond on Armada Ridge Road. Registration is from 7 a.m. until noon and is \$15. Trophies will be awarded at 3 p.m. There is food on site. Call Stan at (586) 243-4652.

Richmond – June 9

Home Repair and Equity Scams Presentation, Lois Wagner Memorial Library, 35200 Division Road, 11 a.m. 30 minute session will be conducted by a presenter from the Attorney General's Senior Brigade Program and followed by a 20 minute question/answer session. (586) 727-2665.

Shelby Township – June 13

Jamie's Smiles "Family Fun" Fundraiser, Riverbends Park, Bittersweet Pavilion, 4550 River Bends Drive, 3-6 p.m. Join us for family fun, food, children's activities, a bounce house and a silent auction with sports memorabilia, including a signed Steve Yzerman jersey. \$25 per person, \$40 per couple or \$10 per child ages 4-11. Children under age 4 are free. (586) 909-5305.

Romeo – June 16

Michigan Military Moms, VFW Hall, 70455 McVicar Rd., 6:30 p.m. We are a support group for moms with sons and daughters serving in the United States Military. Come on out and see what we are all about! Go to www.michiganmilitarymoms.org.

New Baltimore – June 22

TasteFest 2010, downtown New Baltimore, Main and Washington Streets, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Tasting tempting tidbits, delectable delicacies and bountiful beverages are presented by local restaurants in the big tent at Bay-Rama's "First Tuesday." Adults are \$25, children ages 10-16 are \$5 and under 9 are free. (586) 725-5124.

New Baltimore – June 23-27

Bay-Rama Fishfly Festival, downtown area. A full week of laughter, games, rides, great food and family fun for everyone to enjoy. Call (586) 725-5148 or visit www.bay-rama.com for a full schedule of the week's events.

Oakland County

New Hudson – June 5

Lyon Township Kite Festival, James F. Atchison Memorial Park, 58000 Grand River Avenue, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The festival will feature kite flying of all types for all ages. Kite kits will be available for kids to decorate and assemble. Kites will also be available for purchase. In addition, the festival will have inflatable moonwalks for kids, and there will be a stand selling food and beverages. Admission and parking are free. Rain dates are scheduled for Sunday, June 6th or Saturday, June 12th. Over 2,250 people were in attendance at last year's festival. Call (248) 437-2240.

Farmington – June 5 & 6

Art on the Grand, Grand River Ave., which is the main street downtown. Hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sunday. This is a juried fine arts fair with fine artists and crafts persons from across the country, working in various media, including paintings, sculpture, fiber, ceramics, glass, photography and more. Other activities during the fair will include hands-on activities for children, wine and delectable food, live music, and much, much more. (248) 473-1856.

Oxford – June 6

Michigan Military Moms, Oxford American Legion, 130 E. Drahnner Rd., 1 p.m. We are a support group for moms with sons and daughters serving in the United States Military. Come on out and see what we are all about! Go to www.michiganmilitarymoms.org for more information.

Waterford – June 26 & 27

Log Cabin Days, 4490 Hatchery Rd., Hatchery Park, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Parking at Pierce Middle School. Sponsored by the Waterford Historical Society. Tour and exhibits in the 1920s Hatchery House, Log Cabin, Playhouse, Drayton Plains Depot, Caboose, Print Shop, Hardware Store, Jacober's Store, Bakery, Millinery, Doctor's Office, Dentist Office and Barber Shop. Activities include lace making, rope making, spinning, wood turning, quilting and knitting, caricature portraits, live entertainment, historic encampments, a strawberry social, a kids' tent, pony rides, a white elephant tent, and Stars and Stripes Gymnastics. Call (248) 683-2697 or visit waterfordhistoricalsociety.org

St. Clair County

St. Clair County – June 21

Summer Reading Program, St. Clair County Library System. Starting today children in pre-school through fifth grade can pick up a reading log at any branch of the St. Clair County Library System. "Make a Splash – READ!" is this summer's theme. Children will explore the world of water and water fun through stories, songs, games and other activities! Participants will receive prizes for signing up and reading in two hour increments. Call (810) 987-READ, ext. 140.

Kimball – June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Holy Cross Bingo, Marysville Knights of Columbus Hall, 4521 Ravenswood, 10:20 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There are progressive jackpots, breakfast specials, outdoor smoking breaks, and pizza and hot dogs for purchase. There are 21 games in all, ranging from \$25-\$600, depending on attendance. The proceeds go towards paying the Holy Cross Activity Center debt. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Call Bob Thompson at (810) 765-8751.

Kimball – June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Bingo, Marysville Knights of Columbus Hall, 4521 Ravenswood, 6:30 p.m. Doors open two hours prior to the start of Bingo. (810) 364-6800.

Smiths Creek – June 4

Fish Fry, American Legion Post #525, Smiths Creek Rd., 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m. All you can eat baked or deep fried Alaskan pollack, baked potato, rolls, deserts, coffee or tea. Tickets are \$6.60 per adult. Soft drinks are available for purchase.

Marysville – June 6

All You Can Eat Bacon, Egg and Pancake Breakfast, Masonic Center, 1569 Michigan Ave., 8 a.m.-noon. Adults are \$5, children four and under are free. Call Al Johnson at (586) 907-7125.

Kimball – June 4, 11, 18 & 25

Farmer's Market, corner of Range Rd. and Ravenswood. All are welcome. (810) 364-6800.

Port Huron – June 12 & 13

Free Fishing, Vantage Point, Great Lakes Maritime Center, 51 Water St., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Poles and bait are provided, no fishing license is needed. Call (810) 985-4817.

Marine City – June 10

KOOJ from Sox Appeal, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Come out and enjoy dancing and refreshments. Tickets are \$7 each or \$12 for couples. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Call the center at (810) 765-3523.

Marine City – June 13

VG's Shopping for a Cure, Relay for Life, Oak Room Grille, 7200 S. River Rd., 4 p.m.-8 p.m. \$20 to play, light snacks will be provided and a cash bar. There will be prizes and a 50/50 drawing. Seats must be reserved by June 6. For information or to

reserve a spot call Dawn Vermette at (810) 765-3062 or email her at dawnvermette@yahoo.com.

Algonac – June 19

Dad and I Day, Foxfire Farm Country Store, 8061 Marsh Rd., 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Father's Day is June 20. Boys and girls bring your dads down to Foxfire Farm Country Store today and enjoy a special time together playing some old-fashioned board games and card games. There will be prizes for the winners of each game. Light refreshments will be served. This event is FREE, however we do ask that attendees call ahead by June 15 to let us know how many will be coming. Dads who attend this event will receive a special 25% off coupon to use that day on EVERYTHING they wish to buy in the store! (Excludes items already on sale and cannot be combined with any other special offer.) Call (810) 794-5108 to reserve a spot.

Port Huron – June 23

St. Clair County Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. This month's topic will be "Roundtable Discussion on Using State Census for Genealogical Research". Members will share their tips and questions. Guests and new members interested in local history or researching their family tree are welcome. (810) 989-0399.

Port Huron – June 26

Annual Acheson Ventures Fireworks, along the St. Clair River, southeast of the Y. Starts at dusk and usually lasts about one hour.

St. Clair – June 26 & 27

St. Clair Art Association's 38th Annual Fine Arts Fair, Palmer Park, alongside Riverside Avenue and the riverfront boardwalk and throughout Riverview Plaza. Hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call (810) 329-9576.

Sanilac County

Sandusky – June 25 – 27

Michigan Thumb Festival. Activities are community wide including, a town wide garage sale, book sale, kids activities, entertainment, fireworks, tournaments, camping, refreshments, golf outings and more. Go to www.misandusky.us/thumbfest.html for a full schedule of events and to download a map of where all of the locations are for each event.

Sandusky – June 25

Lawn Chair Music Series, Sanilac County Courthouse lawn, 7:00 p.m. This is the first night of the event that will continue on July 2, 19, and 16 also. Tonight The Jay Williams Singers Showcase launches the season. Call Rick at (810) 837-0132.

Tuscola County

Caro – June 4 and 5

Cars and Crafts Weekend, downtown area. Call (989) 673-5211.

Bad Axe – June 11-13

Hatchet Festival, city wide events, including garage sales, a craft show, food concessions, a 5K run, entertainment, a beverage tent, live bands, a petting zoo, horse and pony wagon rides, a hot dog and hamburger tent, a book sale, a hatchet throwing contest, a car show, inflatable games, video game stations and tournaments, a pirate/magic show, pure pro wrestling, a mobile animal exhibit and much, much more! Call (989) 269-2630 or visit www.badaxe-hatchetfestival.com for a full schedule of events for each day.

Hogs in Ministry Gather in Holly

By **Ralph McKinch**

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

On a recent spring road trip in the Thumb Area of Michigan, I decided to stop in the town of Holly to look for a small café to get a bite for lunch. I didn't know that the entire downtown area would be filled with bikers for the H.I.M. Bike Show and Blessing in Holly.

H.I.M. stands for Hogs in Ministry. It started twelve years ago with a small group of Harley riders who held a Biker Sunday at Faith Church in Waterford. All of the handful of riders in attendance were riding Harleys. All loved riding motorcycles and attending motorcycles rallies and events, but also had deep religious convictions. In spite of the reputation some bikers have had, this original group

felt that biking and ministry could complement each other well.

Since that original service, attendance has grown phenomenally for Hogs in Ministry Events. This recent H.I.M. Bike Show and Blessing in Holly had hundreds and hundreds of bikers in attendance, not only riding Harleys but other bikes as well.

Hogs in Ministry now has Michigan chapters in Atlas, Fenton, Kalamazoo, Holly, Troy, Oxford and Waterford, as well as several out of state locations. The main website for H.I.M. is www.H-I-M.org to find out more out about their ministry or for information about one of their many events. You can also email crossroads3@comcast.net.

On June 27, 2010, at the Springfield Oaks Activity Center on the 4-H Fairgrounds at 12450



Bikes belonging to H.I.M. members line the downtown area of Holly in May.

Andersonville Road in Davisburg there will be the 13th Annual H.I.M. Biker Sunday. Registration takes place at 11:00 a.m. and at 1:00 p.m. will be the Biker Worship Service.

Non-bikers are welcome also. There will be a free hog roast, rodeo bike games, a bike show and a free t-shirt given out to bikers (for the driver only). 🍀

Explore History at the Village

June 27, 2010 ~ Noon - 5pm

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I was at the doctors yesterday when I suddenly realized I desperately needed to pass gas. The music was really, really loud, so I timed my gas with the beat of the music. I started to feel better, but I noticed that everybody was staring at me... then I suddenly remembered that I was listening to my iPod.

What Happened On This Day in History?

By Diane L. Kodet
ThumbPrint News Editor

June

1. On this day in 1880, the first pay telephone was installed.

2. On this day in 1928, Velveeta Cheese was created by Kraft.



3. On this day in 1851, the first baseball uniforms ever were worn by the New York Knickerbockers, who wore straw hats, white shirts and blue long trousers.

4. On this day in 1789, the United States Constitution went into effect.

5. On this day in 1907, the automatic washer and dryer were introduced.

6. On this day in 1850, Levi Strauss made his first blue jeans.



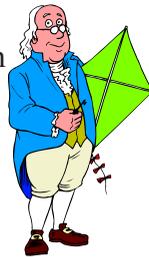
7. On this day in 1953, the first color network telecast took place in compatible color, in Boston, Massachusetts.

8. On this day in 1786, commercially made ice cream was first advertised, by Mr. Hall in New York City.



9. On this day in 1822, Charles Graham patented false teeth.

10. On this day in 1752, Ben Franklin's kite was struck by lightning.



11. On this day in 1971, the United States ended the ban on trade with China.

12. On this day in 1839, the first baseball game was played in America.

13. On this day in 1888, Congress created the Department of Labor.

14. On this day in 1775, the United States Army was founded.

15. On this day in 1916, the Boy Scouts of America was formed.



16. On this day in 1884, on Coney Island in New York, the first roller coaster began operating.

17. On this day in 1856, the Republican Party opened its first national convention in Philadelphia.

18. On this day in 1812, the War of 1812 began as the United States declared war against Britain.

19. On this day in 1910, Father's Day was celebrated for the first time, in Spokane, Washington.



20. On this day in 1819, the 320 ton *Savannah* became the first steamship to cross any ocean – the Atlantic.

21. On this day in 1948, the 33 1/3 RPM LP record was introduced by Peter Goldmark of Columbia Records.

22. On this day in 1847, the doughnut was created.

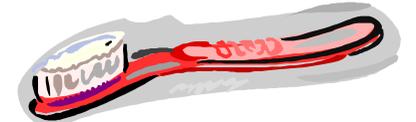


23. On this day in 1860, the United States Secret Service was created.

24. On this day in 1901, Pablo Picasso, at the age of 19, opened his first exhibit in Paris, France.

25. On this day in 1867, barbed wire was first patented by Lucien B. Smith of Ohio.

26. On this day in 1498, the toothbrush was invented.



27. On this day in 1893, a great stock crash took place on the New York Stock Exchange.

28. On this day in 1894, Labor Day was established as a federal employees' holiday.

29. On this day in 1891, the National Forest Service was organized.

30. On this day in 1906, the Pure Food and Drug Act and Meat Inspection Act was adopted.

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Family Fun

Visit a French and Native American Camp from the Mid-1700s on June 12 in St. Clair

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

The coureurs des bois (or rangers of the woods) led an exciting, but dangerous life that was full of hardships as they followed in the footsteps of the missionaries and fur traders who came to the territory that is now Michigan in the 17th century. Typically, the voyageurs were French Canadian and spoke mainly French. They would travel deep into the uncharted areas of Michigan and Canada by canoe to trade for furs directly with the Native American and First Nation tribes, without the permission of the French authorities.

In the book, *When Michigan Was New*, printed in 1906, the author, Hulda T. Hollands describes the coureurs des bois as such:

“They had acquired the habits and superstitions of their savage associates and wore the dress of the Indian and French ancestors. They decorated their hair with eagle feathers and daubed their faces with vermilion and soot. Their red flannel shirts were open at the neck to give their muscles full play and were belted at the waist with a gaudy woolen sash fringed with horse hair. They wore buckskin shoepacs and a bright colored skull cap with a long tasseled point hanging at one side.

Their minds were filled with the superstitious beliefs of the natives. They whistled through the wing bone of an eagle to drive away the thunder and they threw the tails of rattlesnakes in their bullet pouches to protect them from evil spirits and they were guided in all important undertakings by their dreams.”

Later, in the late 1600s through the mid 1700s, a limited number of permits were issued to coureurs des bois, who became known as voyageurs. These men were often employed by fur trading companies from France, Canada or later, Britain. The expeditions were managed by an agent who accompanied the voyageurs on all of the journeys in pursuit of furs.

On Saturday, June 12, at the BP Nature Trail in St. Clair,

Michigan, visitors will have an opportunity to visit a recreated French and Native American camp from the mid-1700s and to take a free, short canoe ride in a 28 foot canoe on the Pine River. Visitors will have the opportunity to ask questions about the fur trading industry from the participants.

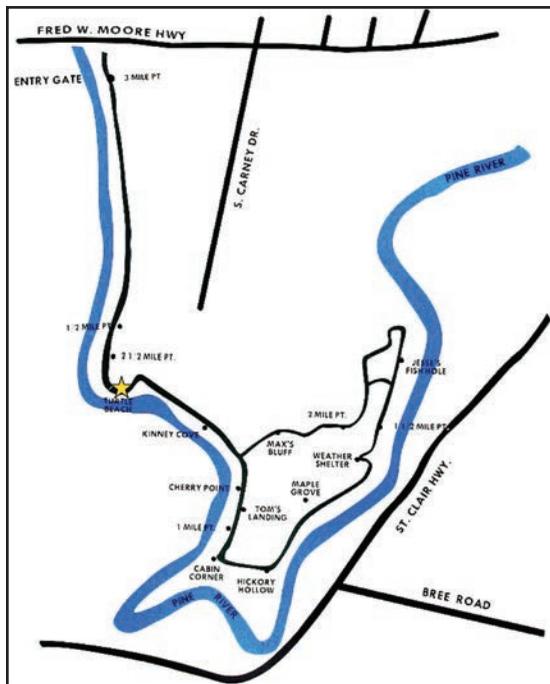
The entrance to the BP Nature Trail is on Fred Moore Highway across from the Seaway Community Bank in St. Clair. The trail was set up and is maintained by BP’s Dome Petroleum Corporation. The property consists of beech-



Ron Pinson guides a canoe down the Pine River in St. Clair.

sugar maple and floodplain forest, oak-hickory forest, grasslands and marsh areas. BP’s wildlife team is restoring habitat in the area and also works to maintain the character and healthy flow of the Pine River. The trail is open to the public, has approximately a 2½ mile trail, a porta potty and a picnic table. Wildlife, such as reptiles, fox and wild turkey, have been spotted. Native plants and flowers line the trails.

From the entry gate, it is approximately a one mile walk along the trail to where the 1700s camp will be set up (Turtle Beach). For those unable to walk that distance, a shuttle will be available to take them to the camp. Further information can be obtained by calling (810) 329-4703. 🌿



Map of the BP Nature Trail



A recreated scene from the 1700s fur trade

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A Native Plant to Know - the Common Milkweed

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Nature lovers in the Thumb area of Michigan treasure the common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) because it is a crucial host plant for the monarch butterfly. Many farmers, on the other hand, consider it a nuisance weed. Some believe that cows can become extremely sick or even die from ingesting milkweed, though many experts believe that other species of milkweed, not *Asclepias syriaca*, could be the culprit. However, despite the pros and the cons, the milkweed is one of the most useful of our native plants.



The floss of milkweed is buoyant and lightweight.

The common milkweed has thick stems and grows upright to between three and five feet tall. The elliptical

leaves are wide and grow from four to nine inches in length. The flower buds are pinkish-purple and have a similar look to broccoli florets. The stem of the plant is hairy. The seed pods before becoming dry are green, elliptical in shape, about one to four inches in length and have a pointed tip. Inside the pod countless seeds are attached to parachute-like fluff. Milkweed is native to the United States and to Canada.

Milkweed was used traditionally by Native Americans as both a medicine and as a food. Some books on wild edibles still suggest that the early spring stalks can be eaten and have a taste similar to asparagus. However, many authorities say this is not recommended as there are some toxins in minor amounts in the milkweed plant that could cause problems with the heart if ingested. Since it can easily be confused with other plants that are toxic, such as dogbane, it is probably best to avoid it as a food.

Milkweed seeds are incased in white, wispy hairs that are referred to as "floss." In nature, when the seed pod cracks open this floss helps the seeds parachute through the air when strong winds blow, ultimately distributing them to new and fertile locations where the seeds can eventually germinate and grow. This floss is extremely buoyant and lightweight. Because of these properties they became an important plant material during World War II when the floss was used in stuffing flight jackets for airmen and for lifejackets for sailors in the armed forces.

Prior to the war, most of the lifejackets were stuffed with kapok from the tropical kapok tree which was imported from the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia). When the Japanese gained control of this area, the United States no longer could get this needed material. Lifejackets were critical to the war effort, since so much of the war was fought on or over the seas. That was when the United States turned to milkweed to provide an acceptable substitute for kapok.

Because the time from planting a milkweed seed until it reaches maturity and the floss can be harvested is three years, commercial production on farms was not an option for the war effort. Instead the United States government called for the collection of milkweed pods wherever it grew wild. School children of all ages were enlisted in the cause. Often onion sacks were distributed and children gladly spent time after school and sometimes even during school as a class project collecting the floss. They were paid 15 cents for each bag collected, with an additional five cents if the pods were dried. It took two bags full of floss to stuff one life jacket. Over two million pounds were collected in all, enough to fill over a million life jackets!



In this undated photo from World War II school children point to milkweed floss they have collected for the war effort.

If a stem of milkweed is broken or cut, a white sticky substance will exude from the opening. The milkweed is in the same plant family as the rubber plant and the substance is a natural form of latex. (If a person is allergic to latex they should avoid contact with the milkweed sap as a similar allergic



Common Milkweed is a useful native plant.

reaction could occur.) During the war, because of the shortage of rubber, experiments were done to create a substitute for rubber from the milkweed sap.

The stems have been used in the past for making homemade string for mats and rugs. The long fibers can be used for emergency fishing line. After a special processing procedure, the stems can also provide material for making natural paper.

The dried pods collected in the fall make wonderful additions to floral arrangements and individual pods can be used in all sorts of craft projects.

Today, the Natural Fibers Corporation in Ogallala, Nebraska, is still using milkweed floss in stuffing comforters and pillows. The floss is hypoallergenic and has a higher thermal rating than goose down. Other companies are exploring the milkweed's potential uses in latex production, nematicide applications and cosmetics. Several mid-western universities are researching the possibility of local farmers growing milkweed as a perennial crop that would provide annual returns with minimal care. The research into the potential additional uses for the common milkweed makes this native plant one to know and one to be able to recognize in the wild. 🌱



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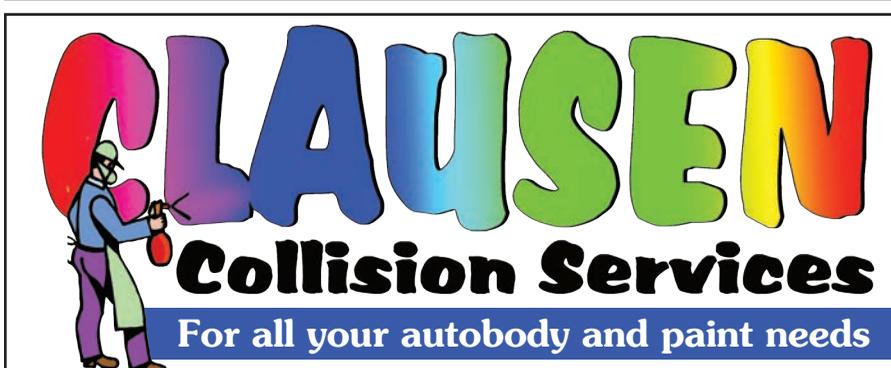
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Cybercrime Victim? Three Telltale Signs and What to Do

(ARA) – Nearly 10 million people in the United States were victims of identity fraud last year and, over the past two years alone, Americans have lost \$8.5 billion to online con artists. When online criminals are so convincing, how do you avoid becoming a victim? And how do you know if you've already become a victim of a cybercrime and do you know where to go for help?

Recently an Oregon woman lost nearly half a million dollars of her family's retirement savings in a cyberscam. Her saga started when she used a genealogy Web site to track down her family history and ended with a cybercriminal stealing information about her and her family members.

"Criminals are relentless when it comes to trying to access your personal information, credit and bank accounts. We call it H*Commerce or hacker commerce," says Pamela Warren, cybercrime strategist at McAfee, the world's largest dedicated security technology company. "The sad news is that consumers sometimes lose hundreds of thousands of dollars or sometimes their life savings to these cybercrooks."

Warren shares best practices and telltale warning signs that you have been the victim of a cybercrime, and what to do about it:

Telltale sign 1:

You find unexplained charges or suspicious activity on one or more of your financial accounts.

What to do:

Contact your financial institutions immediately and report the crime to law enforcement agencies. If you find the transaction was fraudulent, consider placing a fraud alert on your accounts with the three credit reporting agencies.

How to keep it from happening to you:

Cybercriminals are incredibly savvy at creating legitimate looking Web sites, including sites requiring financial information. To be sure you don't fall victim, download a safe search tool that will alert you if



you're about to click on a dangerous site.

Telltale sign 2:

Your computer suddenly slows down and/or you start seeing numerous pop-up ads.

What to do:

Sudden changes in your computer's performance can be a sign that it's infected with spyware, viruses and other forms of malicious software. Install and update your computer security software.

How to keep it from happening to you:

Make sure the subscription to your security software is current, and you have adequate protection. As cybercriminals evolve their tricks, you can rest assured that you're safe.

Telltale sign 3:

You responded to an e-mail or Web site request for personal information and now think it might have been a scam.

What to do:

It's possible you are now the victim of an online fraud that uses e-mails and Web sites looking like legitimate businesses to solicit personal or account information. Check your financial accounts. If you notice unusual activity, notify the appropriate financial institutions.

How to keep it from happening to you:

Never follow links in e-mails from businesses or people that you do not know.

If you have become the victim of an online scam, you are not alone. Tens of thousands of Americans fall prey to clever cybercriminals each year. 🍀

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mpg

3.5L Duratec V6 engine for performance and fuel efficiency. 6-Speed automatic transmission ensures smooth launch and acceleration. High-Performance AM/FM stereo/single CD-player with MP3 capability. Dual chrome exhaust tips. 17" Painted aluminum wheels.

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EPA estimated
23 city / 34 hwy
mpg

2.5L Duratec I-4 engine. A smooth shifting, quiet-operating 6-speed automatic transmission. Flexible comfort levels with a 6-way power driver's seat. High-Performance AM/FM stereo/single CD-player with MP3 capability and 6 speakers. Single exhaust with dual chrome tips for smooth handling.

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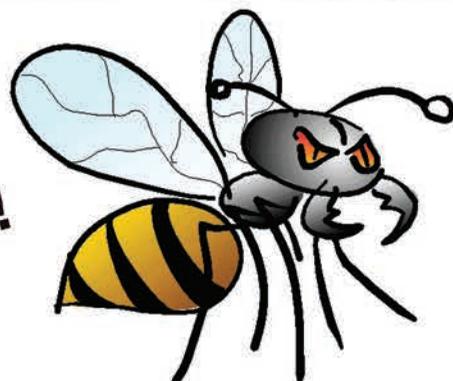
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ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers



to identify. If you think you know the answer, email us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Contest" in the subject line. All correct answers received by the 15th of the month will be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township (you can apply it toward the delivery of a floral arrangement, also). The winner will be announced in the July edition as well as information about the object. The photo above is of last month's object. The winner is Carolyn Clinton of Lexington who correctly identified the photo as a flower frog.

Flower frogs are used to hold flower arrangements in position, usually inside of a container holding water, though some fancier varieties are stand alone pieces. They have been made from metal, such as the one here, or glass, porcelain, clay or many other materials. They were most popular in the United States during the

1920s and 1930s, though they can be traced back in history to the 16th century in Europe. No one is really sure why they are called a "frog." They have also been referred to as flower blocks, flower bricks, flower holders and floral arrangers.

Today, flower frogs are used rarely, as Oasis, a porous substance that holds water and supports the stems of flowers in arrangements, has replaced them as the choice of florists in most floral shops.

This month we are asking the question, "Where is it?" Identify where you can find the business pictured below and the name of the business. Send an email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net if you think you know the answer. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are the winner of the random drawing for a gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store. Good luck!



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- crabgrass control and fertilizer between April 15th and May 1st
- weed controls and fertilizers mid-June through the end of July
- Two Ringer Lawn Restorer applications to help prevent drought damage and summer diseases
- a grub control application mid-summer to help prevent serious fall damage to your lawn
- a fall application to prepare the lawn for winter and early spring green-up

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Our Environmental Commitment

At Ink & More, recycling is real. In fact, it is at the very center of what we do and who we are.

Ink & More (formerly Rapid Refill) is founded on the idea that we could turn used, empty inkjet and laser toner cartridges into useable products for our customers, all while saving them money. This was a great idea then and an even better idea today. While our business has certainly grown to many new products, services and stores spanning across the country, our belief in recycling is still put to work every day.

Each Ink & More store collects used, empty inkjet and laser toner cartridges, saving them from reaching landfills. Many cartridges that aren't returned to companies like Ink & More for recycling end up incinerated or placed in landfills around the world — destroying a large amount of fully reuseable products and negatively impacting our environment.

Recycling is more than a slogan; as part of our mission to promote environmental responsibility Ink & More stores use recycled materials wherever possible. Our product retail slat wall is made from recycled wood products, the countertops are made from crushed sunflower seed shells, and we use recycled paper whenever possible.

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A septic tank is a holding tank that is designed to accept the waste produced by a household (800-1500 gallons average per tank depending on the tank size). The liquid is the most important part of a tank function. The liquid is energized with billions of rich anaerobic (good) bacteria that live, breed and feed on the solids that come into the tank from your home.

If a tank is pumped completely out, you are removing all the good liquid, and in less than a week, the tank will be filled again from standard household use (shower, toilet, laundry, dishes, etc.). The state of Michigan estimates that a person will use 60 gallons per person per day. If a four person household uses 240 gallons a day multiplied by seven days, that equals 1,640 gallons. A tank will, on average, fill back up in less than one week. Only a small amount of liquid goes to the field each day. The rest remains constantly in the tank and holds the good anaerobic bacteria that continually eat the solid waste.

If there is a problem with your system, it may be one of five things for 95% of most gravity-fed systems:

- 1) Blockage from the home to the inlet
- 2) Build up of solid material because anaerobic

- bacteria may have been killed off from household chemicals (cleansers, bleach, etc.) that may require more frequent removal
- 3) Blockage or broken baffle from the outlet to the field
 - 4) A plugged filter
 - 5) The field

The field can become oversaturated due to heavy rains or poor drainage, which can cause the tank to fill back up as we are pumping it. This liquid needs to be removed for proper tank function, which will incur an additional charge. A normal working system needs only the scum and solids removed (that the anaerobic bacteria cannot consume), but the option is up to the consumer. If pumped completely, start-up bacteria should be used to help jump-start the system again. This can take a long time. A healthy system needs the billions of bacteria to consume the solids entering the tank. This keeps the tank function working properly.

Call ABC Septic Services at (810) 794-5678 during business hours. After hours, call (810) 614-8034 or (810) 533-4003.

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“Air” On the Side of Safety and Savings

(ARA) - Gas is pretty expensive so you certainly don't want to waste it. But millions of U.S. drivers waste gas by the gallon every day by driving on under-inflated tires.

Fewer than 8 percent of vehicles have four properly inflated tires, according to a Rubber Manufacturers Association-sponsored national tire pressure survey. Worse, at least 20 percent of vehicles were found to have at least one tire under-inflated by at least 8 psi.

Driving on under-inflated tires can significantly affect fuel economy and safety. The U.S. Department of Energy says that properly inflated tires can improve fuel economy by 3.3 percent and help you save 9 cents per gallon at the pump. The National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) estimates

that under-inflated tires contribute to more than 600 fatalities and 33,000 injuries a year.

To help keep your car and tires road-worthy, make sure you check your tire pressure at least once a month and before every long trip (including the spare). Keep tire pressure at the level recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.

Under-inflation creates excessive stresses and heat and may lead to tire failure that could result in vehicle damage and serious injury or death.

Another problem to watch out for is tires and wheels that are out of balance or misaligned, which can cause uneven wear or vehicle problems. Have your alignment checked periodically and rotate tires every 5,000 to 8,000 miles to help get the most miles from your tires.

Be tire smart – play your “P.A.R.T.” That stands for pressure, alignment, rotation, and tread, which are the key elements of monthly tire maintenance.

- **Pressure:** Check tire pressure monthly before you drive with a tire gauge and inflate to vehicle manufacturer's recommended pressure.

- **Alignment:** Misalignment of wheels can cause uneven and rapid tread wear.

- **Rotation:** Rotate every 5,000 to 8,000 miles to help you achieve more uniform wear.

- **Tread:** Bald tires are dangerous. Insert a penny, head first, into the tread groove. If you see all of Lincoln's head, it's time for a new tire.

For more information visit RMA's website at www.betiresmart.org.



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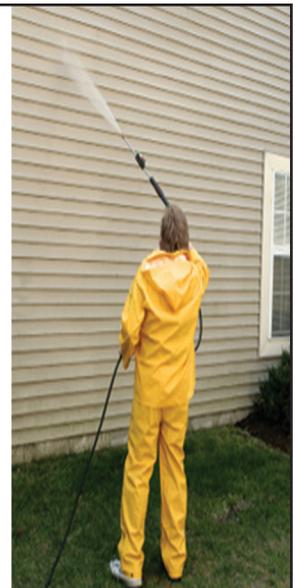
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Before After



Before After



New Kid Camp Offer

Summer on the Blue Water Day Camp

July 12-16

The Port Huron Museum announces the inaugural week of **SUMMER on the BLUE WATER DAY CAMP** on July 12-16, 2010. This program will offer children aged 7-12 years old, an opportunity to have a fun and educational experience, visiting all four of the Port Huron Museum sites during the five days of lesson plans:

- ◆ USCG Cutter BRAMBLE
- ◆ HURON Lightship
- ◆ Thomas Edison Depot Museum
- ◆ Kammer Cabin from 1840

Special \$20 Savings Coupon
Summer on the Blue Water Day Camp

For information, please call 810-982-0891 ext. 114
 Presented by the PORT HURON MUSEUM
 1115 Sixth Street Port Huron, MI 48060

Weekly rate starts at \$160 with lower prices for additional siblings. Coupon expires 6/15/10. Hours are 9 am-4 pm each day with extended hours available. Please call 810-982-0891 for further information.

Offer Expires 6/15/10

Cookin' With Soda Pop

Recipes collected by Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Root Beer Cake

Ingredients:

- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups flour
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ⅔ cup root beer

Directions:

Combine all ingredients in a bowl and blend at low speed for about three minutes. Pour batter into a 9x13-inch baking pan, which has been lightly greased and floured. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean. Frost with your favorite canned or home made frosting.

7-Up Jello Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 package lemon Jello
- 1 package lime Jello
- 2 cups hot 7-Up
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 small can of crushed pineapple
- 1 cup of cottage cheese

Directions:

Prepare Jello according to the directions on the package, substituting 7-Up for water. Let cool to room temperature and then stir in remaining ingredients. Pour into a mold or bowl and chill in refrigerator until it is set. Makes 6 servings.

Coca Cola Barbecue Sauce

Ingredients:

- 1 medium chopped onion
- 2 chopped garlic cloves
- 2 cups of ketchup
- 6 oz. of Coke
- 1 tablespoon of Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon mustard
- 1 tablespoon vinegar

Directions:

Cook the onion and chopped cloves in the butter in a pan until both are soft. Add all of the other ingredients and simmer one hour until thick. Cool and store in refrigerator until ready to use.

Mountain Dew Apple Cobbler

Ingredients:

- 2 green apples
- 2 cans crescent rolls
- 1 cup butter
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1½ cups Mountain Dew

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Peel, core and slice apples into eighths. Wrap each piece of apple in one segment of the crescent roll dough. Place the wrapped apples in a greased baking dish. Melt the butter and stir in sugar until dissolved. Spread over the apples. Pour Mountain Dew over everything but do not stir. Bake for approximately 45 minutes, uncovered.

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How to Make Growing Your Own Vegetables as Earth-Friendly as Possible

(ARA) – There was a time when it was the norm to go out in the yard and pull fresh vegetables up from the soil. At some point over the years, we moved from the goodness of home-grown vegetables toward processed foods and microwave dinners. Now consumers are becoming more aware of the financial value of growing their own vegetables, and how doing so can bolster the health of their families and of the earth.

Vegetable gardening might sound intimidating, but new technologies can make your thumb greener than ever. Combined with good old-fashioned growing techniques, your garden can be healthy and yield a good crop with less effort than you'd imagine – all the while being good for the earth. Here are some tips for a garden that is doubly green.

Water, water everywhere, but not too much

A fine balance needs to be struck when it comes to watering your

vegetable garden, especially during drought conditions. You want your plants to get adequate moisture, but overwatering can be bad for plants and a wasteful use of a precious natural resource. Because it's better for your crops and for the environment, careful water usage is essential to being a truly green gardener.

Installing an irrigation system is a good way to keep water usage at the ideal levels. Plus, you don't have to plan a schedule around when you need to water. Watering timers can also make the job of watering even easier. Keep in mind that it's best to water in the early morning, when the sun is lower in the sky, for 30 to 60 minutes, every other day.

One man's garbage is another's fertilizer

Ever feel guilty about throwing out vegetable and fruit peelings, rinds or scraps? Your intuition might just be telling you that there's a better way to handle those leftovers. Composting is a great way to make use of organic matter that might otherwise just get thrown away.

Building a compost heap is relatively easy, and it will keep on giving back to your garden and the environment. The four necessary ingredients for composting are nitrogen (from sources like grass clippings or those throwaway veggie scraps), carbon (from sources like sawdust or twigs), water and air. Once your compost is



at the ideal level of decomposition (it will be uniformly dark brown and crumbly), spread it on your garden to give plants a nutrient boost.

Get growing - organically

From the moment you start planning a garden, think organic. The most basic – and fun – choice of all is deciding which plants you'll grow. Choose organic seeds and starters so that you know you're buying into an earth-friendly business venture. There's the added bonus of knowing that your plants won't be tainted with harmful chemicals.

When it comes to maintaining your garden, you'll probably need things

other than just compost. Look for products that are recognized as organic by respected organizations like the USDA or the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI). You'll be able to find an ever-growing supply of products like organic pest repellents or soil amendments.

Growing your own vegetables at home has many benefits: it saves money, allows you to control what your food is exposed to and provides a fun and easy activity that the whole family can participate in. And when you follow these green gardening principles, you'll be doing something good for the earth, too. 🌱




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Friday, June 25, 2010 ■ 10:00 a.m. til 2:00 p.m.

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Master of Ceremonies: Norton Schramm
Hosted by: Sanilac County Commissioners & Sanilac County Council on Aging.
Golf Carts provided by Volz

Funding Gratefully Acknowledged From The Sanilac County Council on Aging

Teach Your Children Good Money Management Skills

(ARA) Children learn the basics – math, English and science – at school. But when it comes to learning about saving and spending money wisely, the lessons begin at home.

Helping children understand finances is very important, so that when they graduate and live on their own, they can fend for themselves and be financially secure both in their daily lives and their future. According to a National PTA article on FamilyEducation.com, “money gives people – both young and old – decision-making opportunities. Educating, motivating, and empowering children to become regular savers and investors will enable them to keep more of the money they earn and do more with the money they spend.”

Here are some tips to help you educate your children about good money management:

Help them establish a savings account.

Children accumulate money in many different ways - ranging from birthday presents to jobs they've organized, such as walking a neighbor's dog or mowing lawns. But putting that money into a piggy bank doesn't do anything. Explain about interest, and find a bank or credit union that offers accounts that don't charge monthly fees, don't require a minimum account balance, have good interest rates and are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Company (FDIC) or the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF).

Set a budget – both for yourself and your children.

Children follow by example, and you can make a good impression by showing them how you stay within a budget – whether it's for food, utility bills or fun activities.

Help your kids establish a budget, and explain the differences between needs and wants.

Discuss ways your children can add to their income.

Determine if you want to establish an allowance, or encourage them to be an entrepreneur and start their own business: set up a lemonade stand, wash cars, mow lawns and rake leaves, clean garages, babysit, etc. Helping them develop a good work ethic when they're young will also help them foster excellent employment skills when they join the real world as adults.

Encourage them to contribute back to society.

Children may have an organization close to their heart



or a family they want to support. Encouraging your child to donate time or money will help them to feel good about themselves and about what they are doing to help a person in need or their community.

By talking with your children at a young age about money matters you will help them establish good financial skills before they're ready to enter the world as an adult.

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Kick Off Your Summer At The Croswell Agricultural Society's 126th Annual Fair June 16-19

Admission is \$2 for visitors 6 years old and up. Parking is free!

2010 Schedule. Check www.croswellfair.org for updates and additions to the schedule.

Sunday, June 13

8:30 am	Open Rabbit Show
11 a.m.	Open Goat Show

Wednesday, June 16

1 pm	Sheep Judging in livestock area
4 pm	Farm Petting Zoo opens in livestock area
5 pm	Carnival Midway Opens featuring TJ Schmidt & Company

ALL RIDES \$1 EACH TO RIDE ON OPENING NIGHT! 1 TICKET/RIDE, \$1/TICKET

5 pm	Animal Oasis with Exotic Petting Zoo
6 pm	Goat milking in Livestock area
6 pm	Motor-Sports Madness! Mini-Tractor Pulls! Lawnmower Races! Possible Car and Bus Roll-Over!

Thursday, June 17

1 pm	Cattle Judging in Livestock area
4 pm	Farm Petting Zoo opens in livestock area
5 pm	Carnival Midway Opens featuring TJ Schmidt & Company

UNLIMITED RIDE WRISTBAND \$15 5pm-close

5 pm	Animal Oasis with Exotic Petting Zoo
6 pm	Goat milking in Livestock area
7 pm	Figure 8 Races
All Day	Black River Area Antique Power Club tractor and equipment display

Friday, June 18

1 pm	Carnival Midway Opens featuring TJ Schmidt & Company
------	--

FRIDAY WILL BE KIDS' DAY! UNLIMITED RIDE WRISTBANDS Purchased 1-4 pm \$12 (Good 'til close)! UNLIMITED RIDE WRISTBANDS \$17 AFTER 4 pm

1 pm	Farm Petting Zoo opens in livestock area
1 pm	Animal Oasis with Exotic Petting Zoo
6 pm	Goat milking in Livestock area
6-9 pm	FREE musical entertainment featuring the Denny Ewald Band
7 pm	Demolition Derby & Off-Road Derby featuring Unique Motor Sports

All Day Black River Area Antique Power Club tractor and equipment display

Saturday, June 19

Flat Track Motorcycle Races (Infield Price for Flat Track Races: \$15.00) (Sign up at Noon, Practice at 2 pm, Heats at 4 pm)

1 pm	Carnival Midway Opens featuring TJ Schmidt & Company
------	--

UNLIMITED RIDE WRISTBANDS \$17 1 pm-close

1 pm	Farm Petting Zoo opens in livestock area
1 pm	Animal Oasis with Exotic Petting Zoo
6 pm	Goat milking in Livestock area

Plus Wool Spinning demonstrations, Horseshoeing demonstrations, petting zoos, games, food, rides and fun!



Visit the Croswell Fair and Kick Off Your Summer Fun!





Attention!

Wartime Veterans and Surviving Spouses

Did you know that many Wartime Veterans and their surviving spouses or widows are eligible for a tax-free pension benefit from the Veterans Administration?

The Aid and Attendance (A&A) Special Pension is a benefit that may be available for veterans and/or surviving spouses who are at least 65 years old to assist with the cost of long term care, including in-home caregivers. It is a non-service connected disability benefit, meaning the disability does not have to be service related. Please call for further information regarding the VA A&A pension for yourself or a loved one today!

The Aid and Attendance Improved Pension Benefit

Maximum Benefit for 2010

Beneficiary	Monthly Pension
Married Veteran	\$1,949
Veteran Alone	\$1,632
Surviving Spouse/Widow	\$1,055

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