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Inside This Issue

PAGE **Looking Back**

4



PAGE **Sacrifice Remembered**

10



PAGE **A Graveyard Bash**

23



Spotlight on a Small Town

ROME0, MI

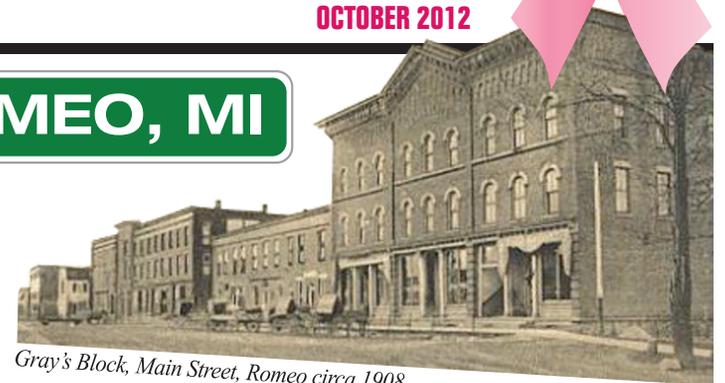
By **Ralph McKinch**

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Romeo, Michigan, is on the northern border of Macomb County. The population was recorded at 3,596 in the 2010 census. One of the village's famous inhabitants is Robert Ritchie, who was born in Romeo and who went on to a musical career under the name of Kid Rock. The village area today consists of two square miles.

Jeremiah Allen of the Washington, Michigan, area, and formerly from Canada, is generally credited as being the first settler to the area that would eventually be the Village of Romeo when he built himself a log house there in 1821. Following shortly thereafter was Asahel Bailey from Connecticut. He traveled to Michigan via New York on *Walk-in-the-Water*, the first steamer on the Great Lakes, and built a log cabin near what is now the center of the village. In January of 1822, Asahel brought his wife and cousin to the Romeo area and went on to become an important land benefactor in the area. He is generally credited as being the first permanent settler.

Not quite a year later, Jeremiah Allen and Asahel Bailey welcomed new settlers, Frederick Hoxie and his family from Vermont. Frederick's son, Job, became the first person to be buried in what is now Romeo in 1827. Near what is now Main Street,



Gray's Block, Main Street, Romeo circa 1908

Frederick built a tavern called the Old Red Tavern. This was a meeting place for the early settlers who followed and was the place where they first heard news from surrounding areas. The tavern burned to the ground in 1848.

As these first early settlers arrived, a post office was established and the area was known as Indian Village through 1826. The name reputedly came about because a band of Chippewa Indians made this area their winter home. By 1828, when a sectional map of the area was drawn, it was called Hoxie's Settlement.

Next to arrive in 1829 was Nathaniel T. Taylor. After purchasing

See **ROME0**, Page 16

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FAMILY FEATURES

This Halloween, why not put a fun twist on pumpkin carving by making some Jack O'Melons? Watermelons carve up boo-tifully, and you can eat the fruit right away, making it easy to scare up some delicious Halloween fun.

The Tiki Mask pictured on the right, along with the Bat Jack O'Melon and Jack O'Melon man (pictured on page 22) can add a frightfully fun touch to a Halloween party – and the whole family can help carve them. To get more carving ideas and instructions, visit www.watermelon.org.

Tiki Mask Table Decoration

- 1 oblong seedless watermelon
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 - Melon baller
 - Paring and kitchen knives
 - Spoon
 - Channel knife
 - Toothpick
- Slice ¼ inch off end of watermelon to provide a stable base.

See **TIKI MASK**, Page 22



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

TGIF. That is what I was thinking as I sat down to write today. It has been a long week. I am so looking forward to the weekend. I am traveling to the other side of the state tomorrow – Grand Rapids – to celebrate the 85th birthday of my only remaining uncle. He just recently moved into an assisted living facility after the death of my aunt and it has been a bit tough on him. Hopefully, having family and friends around him for this milestone birthday will help cheer him up. I am also looking forward to dining out Friday night with my cousin in Rockford at one of the only restaurants I have ever found that has bluegill on its menu.

Weekends – those two wonderful days when many of us can have a reprieve from the eight-hour, five other days of earning a paycheck. (Of course, those persons who have jobs that require them to work Saturday or Sunday probably equally look forward to whatever day or days they have off during the week.)

It is interesting to look at some of the history behind a five-day work week.

Our ancestors, who were hunters and gatherers or who farmed, pretty much followed the cycles of nature – the seasons and the weather. Working from sun-up to sun-down was common place during the most opportune times.

However, looking back even further to the 4th Century A.D., some historians believe that the Romans had even more leisure time than we do now, with a whopping 175 holidays a year!

The six-day work week was essentially

There is little chance that meteorologists can solve the mysteries of the weather until they gain an understanding of the mutual attraction of rain and weekends.

~ Arnot Sheppard

followed since the dawn of Christendom. The Fifth Commandment given to Moses said, "You shall have six days to labor and do your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath of the Lord your God; that day you shall not do any work." Christians chose Sunday as that day of rest, Jews chose Saturdays and Muslims selected Fridays.

Around 1800, excessive work hours and days started to become a real issue when manufacturers during the early days of the Industrial Revolution required their workers, including not only men but also women and children, to work 14-16 hour days to help meet required production quotas.

In an effort to alleviate these unbearable and exhausting conditions, the trade-union movement grew. At first organizers fought for ten-hour days, but eventually this was lowered to eight-hour days.

Although trade-unions certainly played their part in improving working conditions for millions of American workers, it was someone else (who despised unions), Henry Ford, who helped the five-day, 40-hour work week policy become commonplace. In 1926, Ford Motor Company adopted this policy for workers in both its automotive factories and for its office workers. Manufacturers all over the country and the world soon followed Ford's lead.

It was actually Edsel Ford, Henry's son and the company's president, who had begun the decision to move to a shorter work week in 1922. He stated, "Every man needs more than one day a week for rest and recreation . . . The Ford Company always has sought to promote an ideal home life for its employees. We believe that in order to live properly every man should have more time to spend with his family."

I think Edsel was right on. I, for one, need those two days off to regenerate myself, both physically and mentally. Plus, those days give me plenty of opportunity to spend quality time with my husband, children and grandchildren.

Recent movements to change our five-day work week to four days also exist. In 2008, then-Governor John Huntsman

"I think we're seeing in working mothers a change from 'Thank God it's Friday' to 'Thank God it's Monday.' If any working mother has not experienced that feeling, her children are not adolescent."

~ Ann Diehl

of Utah launched the "Working 4 Utah" plan to shift state workers to a 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. four-day a week schedule. His thoughts were that it would increase employee satisfaction and also would increase energy savings. Municipalities in other states have followed suit.

For me, a four-day work week sounds ideal, but I think the more important goal is that companies become more willing to offer flexibility in the work week to its employees to help improve work-life balance for them. In our ThumbPrint News office, we have employees who choose to work 8-hour days five days a week and those who choose 10-hour days four days a week. Both groups know what works best for them in remaining most productive while they are on the job – and that is a benefit to the employer.

What are you going to do on your next day off? I hope you will have a chance to relax and enjoy some down time with your family – not just spend it doing chores that couldn't be done during the week. In the long run, letting yourself rejuvenate for at least a few hours will help immensely when returning to work on the next work day. As Bill Watterson, American cartoonist and author of the comic strip Calvin and Hobbes, once said, "Weekends don't count unless you spend them doing something completely pointless."

DIANE KODET
Editor, ThumbPrint News

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Looking Back



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Description on back of card reads: Boats at dock in the Black River before start of a famous race over a hazardous course from Port Huron in the Michigan Thumb District to Mackinac Island, Michigan. (1953).

WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

By Louise Allen
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

October is the month when many people indulge themselves with the pleasures of being frightened intentionally. Halloween brings monsters, creepy crawling things, creatures from the graveyard, haunted houses, corn mazes and more. For most people, even though the emotions of fear are evoked temporarily, they realize that these objects of terror are not real, so being afraid is an ultimately enjoyable event. For some unfortunate individuals, however, irrational fears become so real to them that they experience physical symptoms, such as panic, rapid heartbeat, shortness of breath, trembling and a strong desire to get away. Medically, these fears are labeled as phobias and are the most common mental disorder in the United States. These anxiety disorders can have a serious impact on an individual's life. Some of the most common phobias are fear of tunnels, highway driving, water,

See *PHOBIAS*, Page 14



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Idealism at Lakeport

By William Easton

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Lakeport State Park is a few miles north of Port Huron on U.S. 25. It consists of two recreation areas, separated by the unincorporated community of Lakeport. The northerly area has 250 campsites, a rustic family cabin, store and office. The southerly one, known as the "Day Use Park," has a 500 vehicle parking lot on the west side of the highway. Access to the bathhouse and beach is via a pedestrian overpass. The State acquired the parking lot and about 250 acres and lake frontage in 1966. The bridge was built for safety for those crossing the busy road. Before that time old M-29 had run closer to the shore, but no longer exists. Through the Lakeport community, the highway is still signed Lakeshore Road.

The recent appearance of activist-author-politician Tom Hayden at St. Clair County Community College reminded old timers in the evening audience of the 25,000 word document known as the "Port Huron Statement." Its call for "participatory democracy" is, Hayden contends, an inspiration for students today. Educated in Royal Oak and at the University of Michigan, Hayden had spent time in the civil rights movement in the South. As the then editor of the student newspaper, he assembled about fifty students and others at the park, then known as the FDR AFL-CIO Labor Center. There, over a period of five days in June 1962, a half century ago, Hayden and the other leaders of the nascent organization, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), crafted what became known as "The Port Huron Statement." Idealistic in all respects, it ambitiously tried to provide solutions to many, if not all, of the nation's ills. When completed after little sleep and little exploration of the woods and beaches along Lake Huron, the document was carried to the nation's capital to be handed to Arthur Schlesinger, President Kennedy's historian adviser. Their "Bible" to change the world reflected their idealism. Kennedy's own idealism was contained in the Peace Corps proposed during a 1960 Ann Arbor speech.

But the Lakeport Park had a history of idealism that began forty years before the SDS meeting. The North American Benefit Association (now the Woman's Life Insurance Society) had established a camp for women there in the early 1920s. Bina

West, an unmarried schoolteacher from Capac, had built that association, originally as an auxiliary of the Maccabees fraternal organization in Port Huron. Her aim was to make life insurance available for previously uninsurable women (still considered property of their spouses) to provide some financial support to those spouses and children in the event of their untimely deaths.

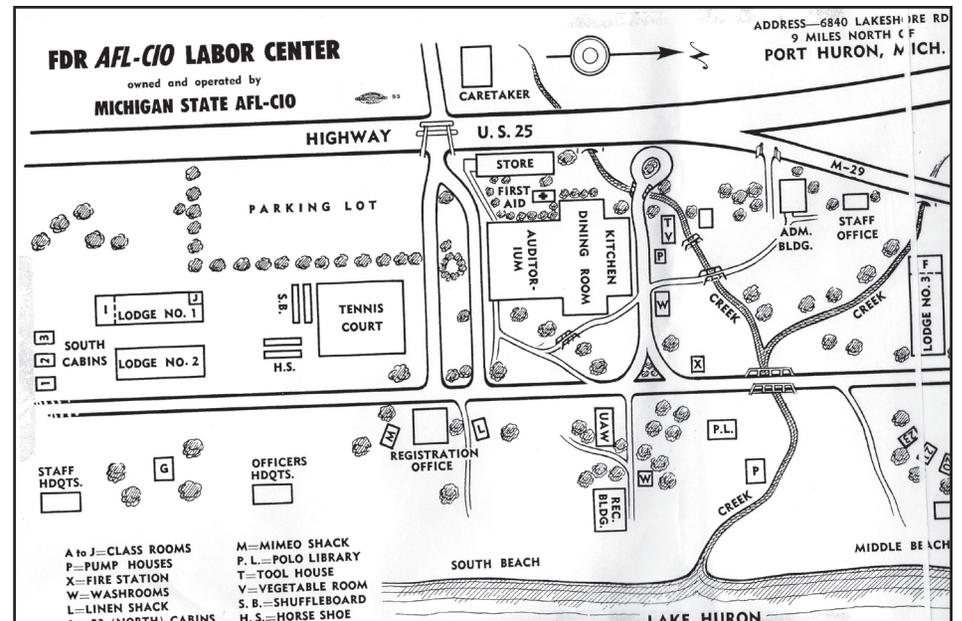


By establishing the camp program, West was following in the large footsteps of Theodore Roosevelt who had advocated for the outdoor life before, during and after his presidency. With his lifelong interest in nature, he had led strenuous activities in the wild. Bina was a shrewd businesswoman and could see that longer, healthier lives would mean delayed insurance proceeds pay outs. She was quoted as saying, "Women stay indoors too much."

The Lake Huron camp program provided one week or longer periods for members and their children. There was a graduated fee scale. The campers were housed in dormitories, double and single cabins. They were afforded healthy meals that included some of their garden's produce. There was a long beach area, as well as pine woodlands to explore. Certainly, use of the camp promoted the Association's goal of good health of its members. Three other camps had been built, including one as far west as the Ozark Mountains. Those did not survive and by the late 1930s West, the Association's Supreme Commander, had to concede that the Lake Huron WBA Camp was losing money.

The property was listed for sale during WWII. Although more than \$150,000 had been invested in the land (200 acres) and buildings, eventually it was sold in 1946 on land contract to the AFL-CIO Michigan Council for \$142,500. In the Association's history, *An Enduring Heritage*, published in 1992, editor Keith L. Yates concludes that "those who participated in the healthy activities helped to shape their lives for the better."

The Union called the camp the FDR AFL-CIO Labor Center. It continued to provide summer outings for its members. The campers could enjoy those same woods and beaches enjoyed by the women and girls for the past twenty years. But, of course, the Union could also educate its members – and prospective members – on the collective bargaining history and future goals. So, in a sense, the idealism strain continued. For instance, Bina West had been an active Suffragette, having demonstrated by her personal example



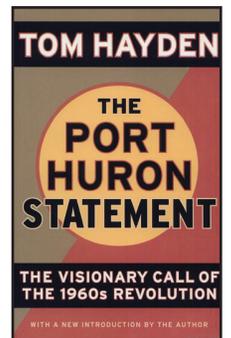
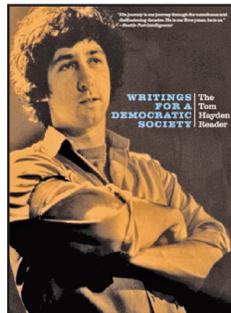
The AFL-CIO Labor Center two section state park layout

that women could run businesses as well as enjoy nature. So, perhaps it was no coincidence that Mildred Jeffrey, the first female department head and a UAW Vice President, who reportedly influenced the selection of Geraldine Ferraro as the first female vice presidential candidate, was Hayden's contact for the SDS use of the camp in 1962. Her daughter, Sharon, was his university colleague. The Union had other camps throughout the state back in its "heyday." One was at Black Lake, near where Jeffrey's friend, Walter Reuther, died in a plane crash.

The DNR has an extensive map of this part of their two section state park layout. It was prepared during the union ownership, showing numerous cabins, lodges and administration buildings, as well as tennis courts, shuffleboard and horseshoe recreation areas. Although undated, presumably some or all of these structures were used by the SDS and remained standing when the state acquired the area. The state acquired the property for \$250,000 and apparently \$700,000 was projected for development. That depended upon amounts from the general treasury and a Parks and Recreation fund

that required voter approval. How much was used to demolish all those buildings (I count at least 30 from the DNR map) is unknown. What is known is that when Hayden returned with a reporter in 1987, all were gone. Reflecting his creative thinking and writing style, Hayden, ever an idealist, found a cluster of trees that he called a "natural chapel" appropriate for writing the SDS Bible, "The Port Huron Statement."

Perhaps the history of idealism at Lakeport is now embodied in the sites for picnics and swimming, along with the remaining woods. The Milwaukee Creek still runs along the shoreline in this part of the park. While the DNR promotes metal detecting to attract campers, it would be appropriate for that organization to erect an historical marker in tribute to these three distinct organizations that have demonstrated their idealism at separate times during the 20th Century.



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MY SCOTTISH HERITAGE

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

A few years ago, motivated by my sister's almost obsessive search for those who formed the genealogical foundations for our family, I too joined the quest. Her years of research laid the groundwork for what has become my compulsive behavior whenever I begin to contemplate the journeys my forefathers took getting to where I am.

The hunting grounds for my pursuit of family decent have introduced me to relatives who fought in virtually every major war my country has been involved in. They have included electronic exploration of France and Spain as well as an actual visit to Scotland. And, they have created some gaps that, frankly, drive me crazy. Only those who have adopted genealogy as an avocation will understand the full extent of that feeling.

For several years I attempted to identify the links in the chain that carried the Gillis surname. In doing so, I would only find a wall behind the fourth generation that came before me. My frustrations would always end in the farmlands of Ontario, Canada.

There was enough evidence to convince me that the name belonged to the Clan MacPherson of ancient Scotland, but I

couldn't prove actual decent. In my desire to qualify for membership in the St. Andrews Society of Detroit, a 163-year old Scottish benevolent organization, my search into history gained greater fervor.

In my personal journey backward in time to find depth in my heritage, I discovered how full communities of Scots settled portions of the Thumb Area of Michigan. Perhaps, I thought, there's a Gillis there.

In the southeastern section of Lapeer County is the small township of Almont, originally a settlement of approximately 200 Scottish families. Somewhere between 1830 and 1860 they arrived, but there appears to be no record of why these pioneers left their native land to become farmers in this thickly wooded area of the new territory of Michigan.

The small enclave of Scots expanded into what is known as Clyde and Berlin Townships in St. Clair County and Macomb County's Bruce Township. I learned that in 1836, Clyde Township took its name from Scotland's River Clyde. The name Almont, I am told, is a Scottish derivation referring to Auld Mound, an early burial ground in Colmonell located in



the Ayrshire region of Scotland.

Several genealogists with a better understanding of their Scottish heritage than I am of mine were of no assistance in my walk back into history. I thought, surely, I could find a Gillis there; but nary a one.

Since my crusade to identify direct ancestors bearing my name always met a brick wall in Canada, I decided to continue my search for family on the other side of the St. Clair River. One of the earliest settlements of Scots was in the early 1830s in Bear Creek on the western side of what is now known as Lambton County. Information available shows that the Scottish male settlers of the Bear Creek area were drafted into military service for a year to serve on the St. Clair River during the rebellion of 1837-38. Although life in the settlement was difficult and the military service requirement enforced, immigration continued from Scotland throughout the 1840s and 1850s. Today, all that remains of Bear Creek settlement is the cemetery and a marker for the location of its first church. Additionally, there's a wealth of Scottish names on mailboxes and in the telephone directories in this area of Lambton. I found McDonalds, McGeans, McKellars, McLeans, McLarens, McAuleys, Murdocks, McKenzies and many others. Not, however, a Gillis among them.

After much reflection on my frustration and numerous attempts to simply abandon

genealogy as a pursuit, with little success I might add, I decided to start over. I had learned that when Scottish immigrants left their farms and journeyed to other countries they almost always congregated with other Scots in the new land. It was a good guess that those from Scottish families or clans would marry other Scots from the settlements. I needed to find some links, and I did.

During previous searches I found the names McIntyre and Murchison intermingled with the names of some of my ancestors. Further study provided proof that I had connecting relatives from both families. In the process, I was able to prove a direct line to Donald Murchison who was born in Bundalock, Scotland in 1687.

My secondary objective of qualifying for membership in the St. Andrews Society of Detroit was met in 2009 as I introduced my Murchison kin. My initial goal to trace the Gillis surname back to the homeland, however, continues to this day.

I will conclude this essay on my historical search with one piece of advice and a special request. The advice is that unless you really desire to become a compulsive-obsessive person, who enjoys frustrating headaches, do not pursue genealogy. My request is that if you do accept the challenges of ancestral search and discover the name Gillis somewhere between Canada and Scotland, please contact me. 🍀

YELLOW JACKET ALERT!



Yellow jackets are often mistaken for paper wasps. **They are aggressive and destructive.** Yellow jackets can be identified by their yellow and black stripes, black antennae, and legs that are tucked up when flying (like a bullet). Yellow jackets can build nests on your home, in a tree or in the ground. The nest is enclosed (no "honey comb" visible) and can be the size of a basketball or larger.

If they build a nest IN your home, they have the ability to chew through drywall causing extensive damage. They do this to enlarge their nest. Never plug or seal a yellow jacket nest from the outside of the home. This will only trap them inside your home and drive them further into your walls, causing them to come into the living space in search of an exit, as well as food and water for their young.

1. Never plug an active yellow jacket entrance on your home.
2. Never use an over the counter liquid yellow jacket product in the nest entrance. This added moisture can amplify the stench of rotting yellow jackets and their larvae.
3. Never touch a soft spot in your ceiling where yellow jackets are eating through. If necessary, VERY CAREFULLY place duct tape over the area. Do not apply a lot a pressure, as you could puncture a hole through the drywall.

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Cluster and face flies are found in homes, churches, hospitals, apartment complexes, commercial and public buildings and other structures. These large, sluggish flies appear on warm, sunny days during late autumn, winter and early spring. They occur in large numbers, especially at windows and in rooms not frequently used. In times of cooler weather, they can commonly be found warming themselves on the sides of buildings (retreating into the cracks and crevices as the weather continues to cool).

These flies make irritating, buzzing noises, spin around and move sluggishly. They can also leave a greasy spot on upholstery, carpets, wood, and other surfaces.

The multi-colored Asian lady beetle has become a nuisance pest to homeowners in North America in recent years because of the propensity of adults to enter houses in search of over wintering shelter. Their tendency to over winter in homes and other buildings, usually clustered in large numbers, can make them a nuisance to many persons. If agitated or squashed, the beetles may exhibit a defensive reaction known as "reflex bleeding," in which a yellow fluid with an unpleasant odor is released from leg joints. This reaction generally prevents predators, such as birds, from eating lady beetles. But in the home, the fluid may stain walls and fabrics. The desiccating bodies of these insects have also been known to cause breathing problems in persons with asthma or related conditions.



The best time to control these insects is before you have a problem with them. An exterior treatment of the home (especially the cracks and crevices) is an excellent pre-emptive step to help prevent an infestation.



PAPER WASPS



European paper wasps are commonly mistaken for yellow jackets. These wasps however have orange antennae while yellow jackets have black antennae. Another difference is that paper wasps generally have a small skinny body while yellow jackets have a bigger more bulky body. Also, paper wasps fly with their legs hanging down while yellow jackets fly with their legs up and look similar to a bullet. The paper nests of paper wasps are built with individual chambers all visible and in a "honeycomb" pattern. The nests generally will look like an upside down umbrella. Yellow jackets, however, will build their nest on the exterior of the home or on a tree branch and will be shaped like a basketball. The paper wasp will also fill cavities such as those in shutters or deck railings.

These wasps are very aggressive.

The common paper wasp is not as common now that the European paper wasp has become the dominant species. This is because the European paper wasp is known to steal the paper and larva from the nests of this species of wasp. This wasp is brown in color and has black antennae but makes a similar nest to the European paper wasp.



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Happy Thanksgiving to our Canadian Friends

By Ralph McKinch
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

October 8 is Thanksgiving Day for our Canadian friends across the border. Each year, on the second Sunday of October, Canadians celebrate this three day national public holiday in ways similar to how Americans celebrate their day of thanksgiving in November.

Schools and public offices are closed, as well as most stores and business organizations. This is a time to spend with family and friends and a special feast is often prepared, including roast turkey, seasonal produce, such as pumpkin, corn and squash, and traditional family favorites.

It is also a time when many Canadians take advantage of the three day weekend for a short autumn vacation, perhaps to visit their cottages for one last time before the cold weather sets in or to go hiking or fishing.

The history of celebrating Thanksgiving in Canada dates back to 1578 when Martin Frobisher, a Canadian explorer, returned from a failed voyage to find a northern passage from Europe to Asia. The voyage was plagued with ice and freak storms and one of his ships was lost. Upon his safe return to Newfoundland, he declared a formal occasion to thank God for surviving the long journey.

After the American Revolution, many immigrants to Canada from the United States who had remained loyal to Great Britain during the conflict, brought the customs and practices of the American Thanksgiving with them.

From 1879 on, the Thanksgiving Day of celebration varied with a special theme each year. Initially it was to show thankfulness for a successful harvest, but then changed to Queen Victoria's golden and diamond jubilees and later to King Edward VII's enthronement in later years. During these years the holiday was celebrated on a Thursday in November.

On Thursday, January 31, 1957, the Canadian Parliament set the theme and the day for future celebrations in its proclamation that said that Thanksgiving would be "a day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed – to be observed on the 2nd Monday in October."

Decorations for Thanksgiving are similar to those in the United States – cornucopias, pumpkins, corn, wheat sheaves and other harvest symbols. Parades and football can also play a part in the enjoyment of the three day holiday. The Canadian Football League holds a nationally televised doubleheader, the "Thanksgiving Day Classic."

It is interesting to note that the day chosen for Canada's Thanksgiving celebration falls on the same day as Columbus day in the United States – the second Monday of October – and both originated from the voyages of a famous explorer searching for new trade routes.

So, to our Canadian neighbors, Happy Thanksgiving and think about your friends across the border who are going to have to wait a little more than six weeks to enjoy their turkey dinners with all of the trimmings. 🍁

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THEIR SACRIFICE IMMEASURABLE

By Dave Belair

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Dave Belair is a lifelong resident of St. Clair County. He is a graduate of Port Huron High School and St. Clair County Community College and is the author of a new local history book, *Their Sacrifice Immeasurable*. It covers St. Clair County, Michigan, and the men from St. Clair County who died in the Vietnam War. Dave served with the United States Air Force from April 1968 through April 1972 at bases in South Carolina, Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, Korea and Okinawa. He retired after serving 17 years with the Michigan Air National Guard.

The St. Clair County Memorial Tablets and the 15 foot obelisk with eternal flame in Pine Grove Park in Port Huron, Michigan, make up the beautiful and hallowed memorial that contains the names of every county person who died in all wars from WWI through today's conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The names of 57 persons are engraved on the Vietnam Memorial for the St. Clair County

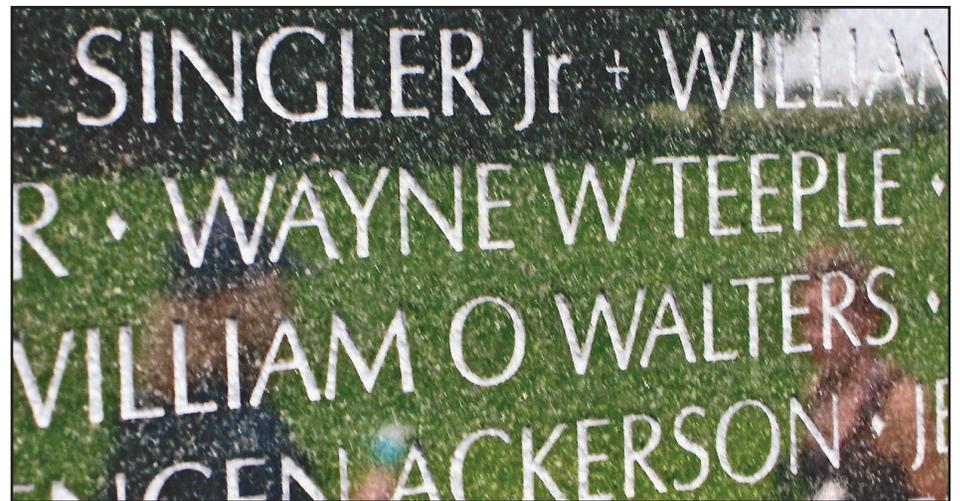


servicemen who died while answering the call of duty from our country. The intention for my new book, *Their Sacrifice Immeasurable*, is to be a historical record of the 57 men, their and their families' sacrifices, and a chronological record of the Vietnam War for future reference. These men are from every part of St. Clair County, from Algonac to Yale, from Port Huron to Memphis, and everywhere in between. The book also contains men from Sanilac and Macomb counties whose names are included on the tablet.

Too often, the American people seem to lose sight of the sacrifices made for our country. The men and women who have fought and died for the United States of America in all wars should always be remembered. Many times it takes a huge national catastrophe to bring these sacrifices to people's minds. The disaster of September 11, 2001, solidified the American resolve and a sense of patriotism swept through our country not seen since December 7, 1941.

It is very difficult to write about deaths, especially young deaths. Teaching and reminding citizens about sacrifices made for our country is what this book is all about, not just from the Vietnam war, but all wars. It has been an emotionally tough experience writing this book, but I am doing it so these men will never be forgotten. While writing this book there have also been several uplifting episodes to help balance the range of emotions. As the title *Their Sacrifice Immeasurable* suggests, there really is no way to measure their sacrifice. They have been gone a long time, but we should always take time to remember them.

These men have been researched thoroughly and it is like they have become a part of me. I wrote a brief biological sketch on each man containing his military service, date of birth and date of death. Each man's death is covered from the first county casualty in Vietnam in 1964 to the last county casualty in 1989, 14 years after



the war ended.

There is no one typical man in this book. They were all ages, from all parts of the county, had all different levels of education, and represented many different religions. Some were married and some were not. Some were drafted and some volunteered. Their military occupations are listed as infantry, medical personnel, cooks and heavy equipment operators. Their deaths were recorded as hostile and non-hostile causes alike, everything from small arms fire, fragmentation wounds, accidents and illnesses and even "misadventure," the military's way of describing friendly fire. A common thread ran through these men, a single thread of dedication to duty for our country.

While writing the book, several interesting facts presented themselves. The facts appear both alphabetically and chronologically. As the chart of panel numbers was assembled for location of the names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., it occurred that many of the men died within a short time frame and through further investigation they died close geographically to each other. Also the names listed in alphabetical order have a number of coincidences, and a number of casualties happened one or two days apart, or even on the same day.

The connections among these men are uncanny. As an example, John Fredrick Anthony is the first man listed alphabetically. He was severely wounded in January 1967, returned home to marry and raise a family, and died of his wounds in 1989. Anthony's name was added to the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and the St. Clair County Vietnam Memorial in November of that year.

John J. Bailey, listed second in the book, has three things in common with John Anthony. They are both named John. They are both from Port Huron and their casualties happened within 21 days of each other in January 1967.

The book was dedicated to Wayne W. Teeple. He was the first person researched for this book and died in a horrible helicopter crash. Before his death, Wayne was awarded two Bronze Star Medals for his

actions in Vietnam. Wayne grew up in Port Huron Township, graduated from Port Huron High School in 1963, and was drafted into the army while living in Roseville. He was one of 23 men drafted, sent to Vietnam and died on the list of the 57 men on the St. Clair County Vietnam Memorial Tablet.

In 2011, the 57th name was added to the St. Clair County Vietnam Memorial Tablet. Gary David Scribner from Memphis died in Vietnam in January, 1968. As I was researching this book and was pouring over documents throughout the State of Michigan, such as those relating to the Vietnam Memorial in Lansing, the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 154 from Mt. Clemens and American Legion post 382 in St. Clair, I found that all listed Gary Scribner from St. Clair County, but his name was not on the St. Clair County Vietnam Memorial Tablet.

The Marine Corps League, Belcher - Lane - Williams Detachment, submitted Gary's name for inclusion on the St. Clair County Vietnam Memorial Tablet in November, 2010. The St. Clair County Allied Veterans Council approved their application and Gary's name was added on Memorial Day, 2011.

Through exhaustive research, there are several names on the tablet that cannot be connected to St. Clair County. One insightful example is Gene Burkell. He was born in Detroit, raised in Pontiac and entered the service from there. His father had retired and moved to Algonac, so when Gene's body was returned home, Gene was buried in Algonac. This might be the case of some of these other men. Their families moved to St. Clair County and submitted the men's names for inclusion on the tablets without any other connection to the county.

The sacrifices made by these men and their families will always be remembered in this book. 🌱

Editor's note: Their Sacrifice Immeasurable is being distributed from Dave Belair's home. For information about purchasing a copy of the book, contact Dave at (810) 982-8749 or at dibelair1@att.net.

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TRASH TO TREASURE

By Cindy Fockler
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Amazing things can be found when you think outside the box!

Supplies needed: discarded wooden chair, white paint, wood glue, sandpaper and craft sealer

Tools needed: hammer, needle nose pliers (for pulling staples if needed) and saw.

Start with an old wooden chair. It can even be wobbly; sometimes that can be even better when you are tearing it apart. Choose the part of the chair that you want to use. In this case I chose the front seat and front bottom legs with rungs. You could also choose to use the seat back and the back of the chair. It is just a matter of your personal preference and whichever parts will be the easiest to separate.

The seat on this one happened to be in four sections so I used the hammer to loosen the glue joints on the seat and on the front legs. Since the chair was wobbly to begin with, this was an easy task. The parts I wanted for this project were the front edge of the seat, the small detail piece under the front, the two front legs and two of the rungs.

At this point I glued the rungs back into the legs. When that was secure enough to work with, I used the square and made sure to cut the rungs at the same angle as the seat top. This was accomplished by laying the short side of the square on the top of the seat section and aligning it straight onto the rungs. Once I had my mark, I cut the excess off. These small pieces will help hold the front away from the wall and keep the seat section flat against the wall.

I lightly sanded the entire thing and then wiped it off with a soft cloth to remove the dust. Once that was done, it was time to

paint. Choose whatever color compliments where you will be hanging this. I am using acrylic craft paint and will final finish it with a coating of craft sealer. You could also choose to decoupage the flat pieces. This will take about three coats of paint, depending on the finish you want. I really like to distress items, so I did only two coats of paint and then let it dry before I started "distressing" the piece. To distress just hit the high spots with your sandpaper to remove some of the paint. This will give it that used appearance.

When you have finished painting, sealing and drying your project, lay it on the workbench face down (that would be the front of the seat and the front legs), then attach two hangers onto the back of the seat back. Each one should be about 2 to 3 inches inches from the outside edges.



Your trash to treasure shelf/towel rack is now finished and ready to hang up and use! I hope you enjoyed the project and start looking around the house for items to use/reuse in interesting ways. 🍀

Editor's Note: Cindy Fockler of Crosswell, Michigan, has been crafting and repurposing items since she was a child. Her favorite mediums include polymer clay, paint, paper and fabric. Many of her creations are pictured on www.facebook.com/CindysCreativeCrafting or www.cindyscraftstore.blogspot.com.

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Protecting Our Seniors

By Phil Pavlov

State Senator, District 25

As State Senator of the 25th District, I look forward to meeting and talking with seniors in our community. Many of you – working and retired – have shared your concerns with me. Getting Michigan back to work seems to be at the top of everyone's list. So I'm pleased to let you know that our state unemployment rate is at its lowest level in four years. It's clear that the reforms we are putting in place are pointing Michigan in the right direction!

Along with working to bring jobs to Michigan, I want you to know that protecting the safety and well-being of our senior citizens is one of my top priorities. I supported new laws to protect seniors and foster care adults by requiring FBI criminal history checks on people who want to own or operate a nursing home or adult foster care facility. The expertise and resources of the FBI will be a big help in safeguarding our most vulnerable adults from criminals. Public Acts 51 and 52 of 2012 step up protections against abuse or mistreatment for seniors who are cared for in these facilities.

When it comes to protecting our vulnerable adults, it's important that the first call is the right call. A new 24-hour,

toll-free number – (1-855) 444-3911 – is now in service to report senior or child abuse or neglect. The Central Intake call center is available to everyone, including the general public and professionals required by law to report suspected abuse, like physicians and law enforcement.

It's hard to imagine someone taking advantage of a senior or vulnerable adult. Yet too many seniors are victims of financial, even physical, abuse or neglect.

The Michigan Senate has championed legislation that will better protect seniors by:

- increasing banking, annuity and insurance protections;
- creating a medical "AMBER Alert" system for missing seniors;
- increasing fines for embezzling money from seniors; and
- establishing requirements to report suspected abuse or neglect.

Our seniors have spent a lifetime working and caring for others. Surely they should be able to trust those they rely on in their later years.

Also, the Senior Project FRESH/Market FRESH program provides eligible older adults with coupons used as cash to buy fresh Michigan-grown fruit, vegetables, herbs, spices and honey from authorized

The Angel Advisor

Losses for Our Elderly

By Jeffrey Johnson

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

According to a study commissioned by Clarity and The Fear Foundation, entitled *Aging in Place in America*, "Senior citizens fear moving into a nursing home and losing their independence more than they fear death." For example, "Death was cited as the greatest fear for just 3% of seniors."

When we consider our elderly citizens, we often think they can handle nearly anything, primarily due to the fact that they have lived so long and experienced so much. Well, to some degree, part of that statement is true – they have experienced so much loss. Yet, that wealth of experience, even though offering much learning, also presents a very real amount of loss that our elderly often find overwhelming; especially when it comes to grief and depression.

Kathleen C. Buckwalter, Professor of Nursing at the University of Iowa College of Nursing, states, "The elderly are less likely to cope as well as young people because of the added years of meaning behind the loss and the fewer years with which to move on."

As we age, all those life experiences and the many, many years of living, offer little hope for successfully coping with the most recent losses, such as the death of a spouse or close friend, the voluntary or involuntary nullification of one's driver's license, moving from one's primary home, etc.

Again, as we age, significant life changes are more and more likely to occur – just part of life. With those life changes come greater opportunities to experience grief and depression. This doesn't mean all older citizens will be depressed or experience significant grief at some point in their later years, however it does offer a greater potential for grief and depression.

The aging process, in general, works at preparing us for loss by exposing us to issues that involve our social, physical, and psychological make-up. For example, www.helpguide.org in a recent article entitled *Depression in Older Adults* and

the *Elderly*, lists the following causes and risk factors that could lead to depression/grief in older adults:

- **Health problems** – illness and disability, chronic or severe pain, cognitive decline, damage to body image due to surgery or disease
- **Loneliness and isolation** – living alone, a dwindling social circle due to deaths or relocation, decreased mobility due to illness or loss of driving privileges
- **Reduced sense of purpose** – feelings of purposelessness or loss of identity due to retirement or physical limitations on activities
- **Fears** – fear of death or dying, anxiety over financial problems or health issues
- **Recent bereavement** – death of friends, family members and pets; the loss of a spouse or partner

A number of facts come into play when considering how our elder folks view their aging world (from www.marketingcharts.com, November 12, 2007):

- 89% of seniors want to age in place
- 53% are concerned about their ability to do so
- Half of seniors are open to some sort of new technology to enable more independence

With so many seniors wanting to remain at home and deal with their losses in familiar surroundings, Professor Buckwalter suggests the following general ideas to assist our elders in coping with these inevitable losses:

- Give them a sense of choice and mastery over their environment and lives
- Offer pre-retirement counseling, activity planning, and volunteer work to reduce the potential for identity crisis
- Help the adjustments to losses go more smoothly by asking your elder how they feel about the loss (listening can offer comfort and support)

Developing strong relationships with our elder folks is a good beginning to helping them get through the losses that will eventually come their way. Life doesn't get easier as we age, but it doesn't have to be more difficult. You can make a difference! 🌱

farmers' markets and roadside stands. To qualify, people must be aged 60 or older with a total household income of \$20,147 or less for an individual, or \$27,214 for a couple. Applicants must live in the county where the coupons are issued. This program helps low income seniors stretch their grocery dollars a little bit further and helps Michigan farmers earn extra money. For more information, please visit www.michigan.gov/marketfresh.

[michigan.gov/marketfresh](http://www.michigan.gov/marketfresh).

I hope this update provided you news on senior protection legislation, as well as helpful consumer information. Please call on me if you have any concerns or questions, or need assistance with any state matter. I can be reached at (517) 373-7708 or at senpavlov@senate.michigan.gov.

May you be blessed with good health and happiness this year! 🌱



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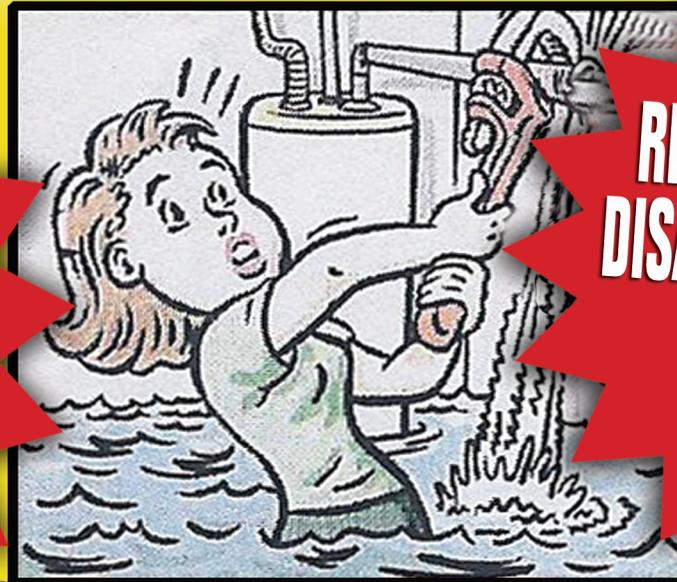
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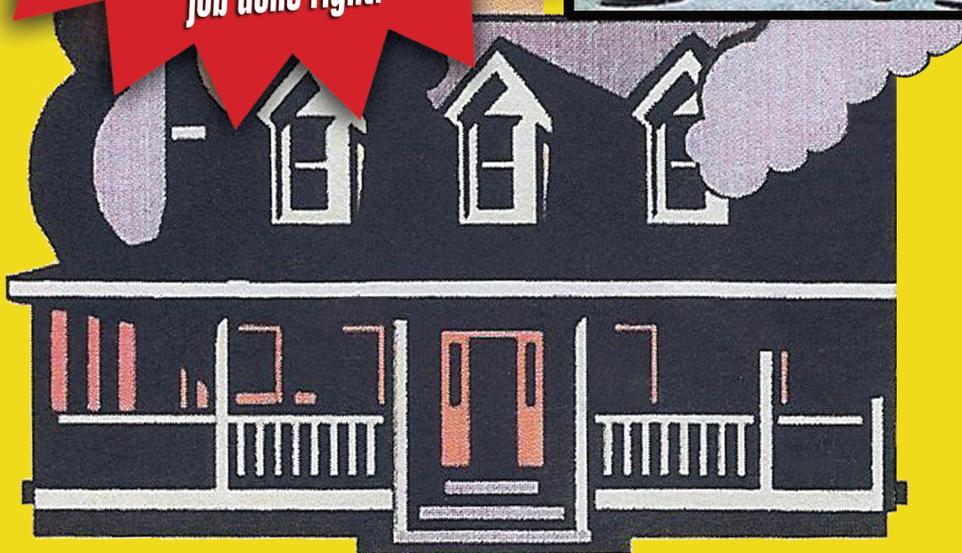
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PHOBIAS

Continued from Page 4

flying, animals and blood.

Other common phobias and what they are called clinically are:

- ☹️ Fear of darkness – achluophobia
- ☹️ Fear of heights – acrophobia
- ☹️ Fear of spiders – arachnophobia
- ☹️ Fear of bats – chiroptophobia
- ☹️ Fear of bees – apiphobia
- ☹️ Fear of cemeteries – coimetrophobia
- ☹️ Fear of a dark place – lygophobia
- ☹️ Fear of dentists – dentophobia
- ☹️ Fear of ghosts – phasmophobia
- ☹️ Fear of loud noises – ligyrophobia
- ☹️ Fear of mice – suriphobia

However, other phobias are not so common and seem almost unbelievable. Yet, for those persons inflicted with these phobias, the fear is real:

- ☹️ Fear of long words – hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia
- ☹️ Fear of washing – ablutophobia
- ☹️ Fear of wine – oenophobia
- ☹️ Fear of teenagers – ephebiphobia
- ☹️ Fear of string – linonophobia
- ☹️ Fear of the color purple – porphyrophobia
- ☹️ Fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of the mouth – arachibutyrophobia

- ☹️ Fear of mirrors – catoptrophobia
- ☹️ Fear of mushrooms – mycophobia
- ☹️ Fear of knees – genuphobia
- ☹️ Fear of gold – aurophobia
- ☹️ Fear of food – cibophobia
- ☹️ Fear of clouds – nephophobia
- ☹️ Fear of books – bibliophobia
- ☹️ Fear of bald people – peladophobia
- ☹️ Fear of belly buttons – omphalophobia
- ☹️ Fear of flowers – anthrophobia

We at *ThumbPrint News* hope that none of our readers suffer from chloephobia – the fear of newspaper!

So, remember, this Halloween if you are afraid, you probably are not alone. Here are a few quotes from famous people who had something to say about being afraid:

“Courage is being afraid but going on anyhow.” – Dan Rather



“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.” – Nelson Mandela



“A woman is the only thing I am afraid of that I know will not hurt me.” – Abraham Lincoln



Halloween Trivia Crossword Puzzle

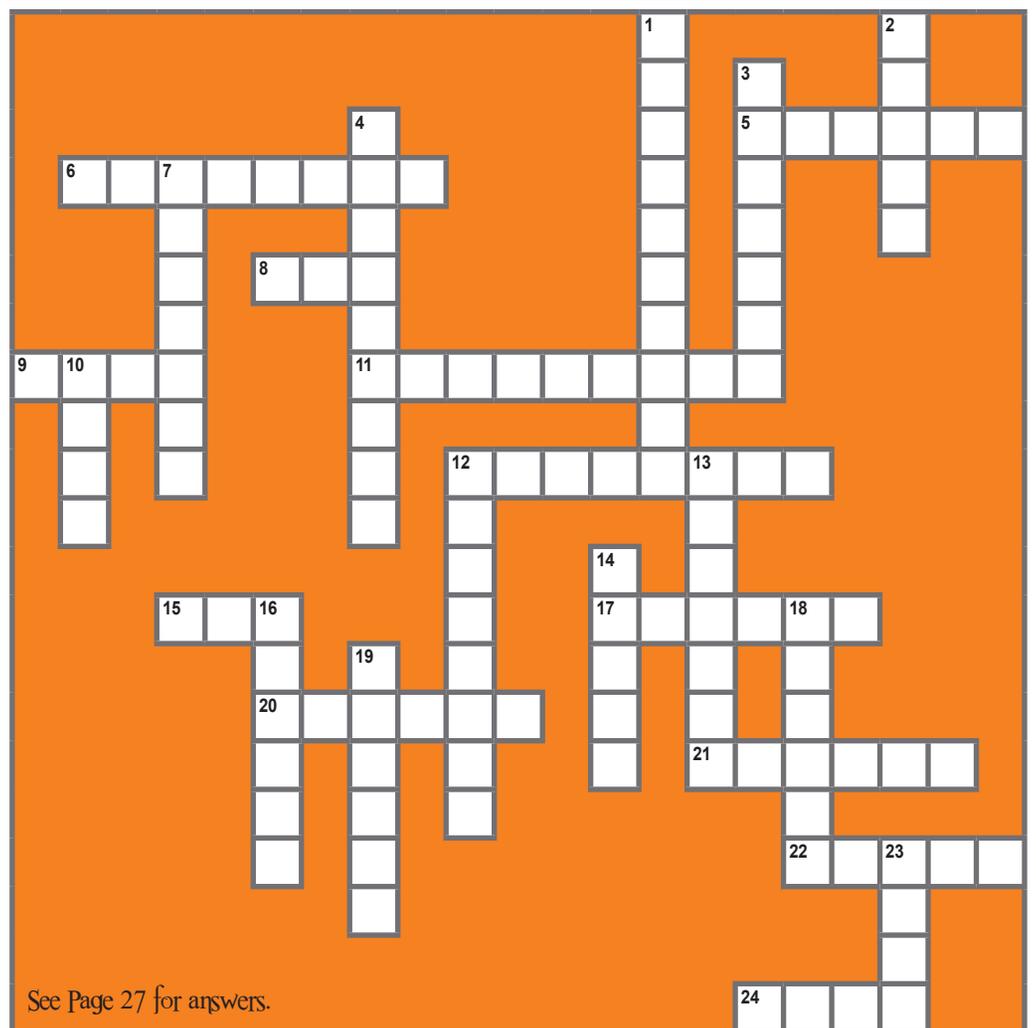
By Louise Allen
 ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Across

5. Halloween is celebrated during what season?
6. Donning these turn ordinary people into all sorts of characters and creatures.
8. Which animal has the ability to ride with a witch on her broom on Halloween?
9. What was the first name of Dracula actor Lugosi?
11. Only very brave souls walk through this at night on Halloween.
12. Creature composed totally of bones.
15. How many billion dollars are spent annually in the U.S. on Halloween candy?
17. What percentage of a pumpkin is actually water?
20. On Halloween, it is traditional to bob for this kind of fruit.
21. Christmas is ranked as the top commercial holiday. Where does Halloween fall?
22. Every year Linus van Pelt waits for the Great Pumpkin to arrive on Halloween. Who waits with him?
24. What spice could you use to protect your home from evil spirits?

Down

1. This sometimes substitutes for a bag for those who expect to collect lots of candy on Halloween.
2. What is a pumpkin?
3. What scary type of house is visited on Halloween?
4. Which symbol is associated with witchcraft?
7. Many of today's Halloween traditions come from this ancient Celtic festival.
10. People carve pumpkins to keep away these kind of spirits.
12. What is the most popular chocolate bar on Halloween?
13. There were no pumpkins in Europe when Jack-o-lanterns were first carved. What was used instead?
14. Which city in Minnesota was the first city in the U.S. to celebrate Halloween city-wide in 1921?
16. Along with black, this is a traditional Halloween color.
18. Traditionally, what must be performed before candy can be received?
19. What type of bug is it lucky to see on Halloween?
23. On what day in October is Halloween celebrated?



See Page 27 for answers.



LANDSCAPING THE THUMB

Sprinkling Early

By Paul Bujak

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Sprinkling early? This kind of sounds like your thinking of spring early. Spring? What? Already? Not quite yet. Even though we are enjoying all the beautiful fall foliage the Thumb has to offer, it's never too early to think spring.

The best way to add early spring color to your yard is to plant bulbs right now. Cooler temperatures offer a great time to plant your favorite bulbs in your garden and landscape. There are thousands of types, but the most popular bulbs are tulips, iris, daffodils and lilies. Those are sure to help paint your landscape with great spring color.

Here are some tips to help you get your planting started:

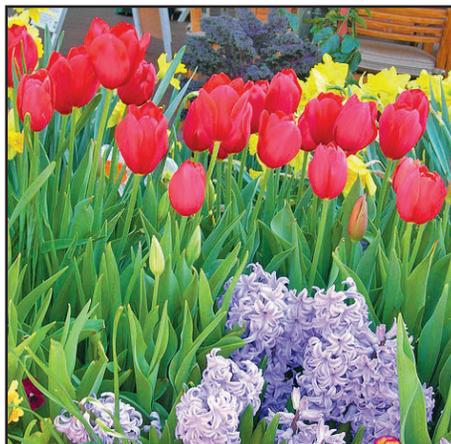
- Plant small bulbs 5" deep and larger bulbs 8".
- Always place bulbs pointy side up when planting.
- Space bulbs 4-6" apart or plant in clusters for a super colorful garden.
- Use compost or add peat moss to the soil for added nutrients.
- Never use bone meal as it encourages pests to dig up your bulbs looking for bones.
- Avoid deep areas where water collects.
- Water bulbs as soon as you plant them.
- After the ground freezes, cover bulbs with a light mulch, straw or pine needles to keep a cool soil temperature.



Bulbs are fairly inexpensive and can be bought at any local home improvement stores, garden centers or online. Get creative by purchasing multiple colors and types of bulbs and planting in bunches (rather than spreading apart).

Read the directions on the bulb packages about the proper planting time for the bulbs you have chosen to give the bulbs time to

start rooting. Spending a few extra hours outside planting bulbs this fall can help you achieve months of colorful excitement come next spring. 🌱



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Romeo High School circa 1909

ROMEO

Continued from Page 1

a piece of land from Frederick Hoxie for \$12.00, he built a store and became Romeo's first merchant. Other settlers soon followed.

In the spring of 1830, Nathaniel T. Taylor, Ashael Bailey and Major Larned, another early settler, hired Col. John B. Hollister to survey the town and the original plat of Romeo was laid out, with Main Street as the main north-south cross street and St. Clair Street as the main east-west cross street. It included a 16-block area, with future side streets laid out at right angles. In this same year, Romeo's first log school opened. It was later known as the North School. In 1835, the Romeo Academy was organized to provide education beyond grade school. It later became a branch of the University of Michigan (in 1843), but eventually closed. By the spring of 1837, Romeo had 200 inhabitants.

By 1837, Romeo had 34 dwellings, seven barns, five stores and one church. Some of these early businesses included A. B. Rawles Store, Linns & Gilbert's Dry Goods store, Judge Giles Cabinet Shop, the Dyer & Shaw Dry Goods store, a tin shop and a blacksmith shop. Other settlers gained their wealth through farming, land speculation and lumbering.

Romeo was incorporated as a village on

March 9, 1838, which was the same year that Michigan became a state. The name "Romeo" was chosen by a Mrs. Laura Taylor, who suggested the name because it was "short, musical, classical and uncommon."

More settlers arrived during the national westward migration, mostly from New England and the Mid-Atlantic states, including Jonas Crisman in 1833, Aaron B. Rawles in 1834, Nathan Dickinson and Samuel Ewell in 1836, Eli Mussey in 1837, Carlton Newbury, Andrew Glover and Carlton B. Newbury in 1840, Charles F. Mallery in 1843 and John L. Benjamin in 1848. In addition to those settlers arriving from the East, others came from Canada, Ireland, England and Scotland.

In 1842, the Village of Romeo purchased one and a half acres of land from Jonas Crisman for the establishment of a public burial ground, the Romeo Cemetery. Later, in May of 1900, the Grand Army of the Republic and the Women's Relief Corps erected a statue in memory of those who served in the Civil War. Canons on each side of the monument were presented to Romeo by the U.S. government and are from the Civil War. Today, the network of roads within the cemetery are named for some of Romeo's earliest settlers.

In 1843, Charles F. Mallery arrived in Romeo and became one of the most



Main Street in Romeo, Michigan circa 1910



The American Hotel circa 1860

successful hardware merchants in town. In addition to his job as a retailer, Charles served as justice of the peace, as a state legislator, and was later the Greenback Party's nominee for Congress, although he was defeated.

Romeo and the surrounding area boasted of rich soil, which attracted growers of orchards. More retailers followed to serve the needs of the surrounding farms. By the 1850s, many of the retail buildings were of brick block commercial construction which was fortunate when, in 1856, a fire swept through downtown Romeo. Only a few early frame buildings were destroyed.

Before and during the Civil War, Romeo was part of the famous Underground Railroad. Many of the homes in Romeo had secret tunnels or hiding places in their cellars, attics and barns where runaway slaves could be sheltered before being taken into Canada.

Romeo was prospering. The brick American Hotel was built in the early 1860s. It was the most well-known hotel in Romeo for many years, undergoing different ownerships and names until it was finally torn down in 1960, when it was known as the Romeo Hotel. The First National Bank was also established around

this time. Many more retailers established businesses. By 1866, the residents of Romeo could buy almost everything they needed right in their own town.

One of the early brick buildings was what was known as the North Brick Block/Ayres block.

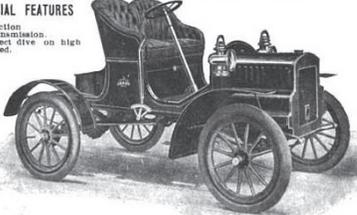
On the lower level it

housed commercial stores and the Romeo Masons used some of the upper floors. In 1867, a hoop-skirt factory was established in this building by Thomas H. Bottomley and from 1870-1884, Ben Cuyler established a photography studio.

The automotive industry also played a part in Romeo's history during the

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The Romeo Savings Bank circa 1914

early years of the century. The Detroit Auto Vehicle Company, based in Detroit, operated a foundry in Romeo from 1905 until 1908. In 1905, the company had three vehicles on sale all with a two-cylinder engine. The 12 hp Crown Runabout, priced at \$750, the 16 hp Delivery Car which had a carrying capacity of 1,500 lbs., and a 24 hp five-passenger Touring Car.

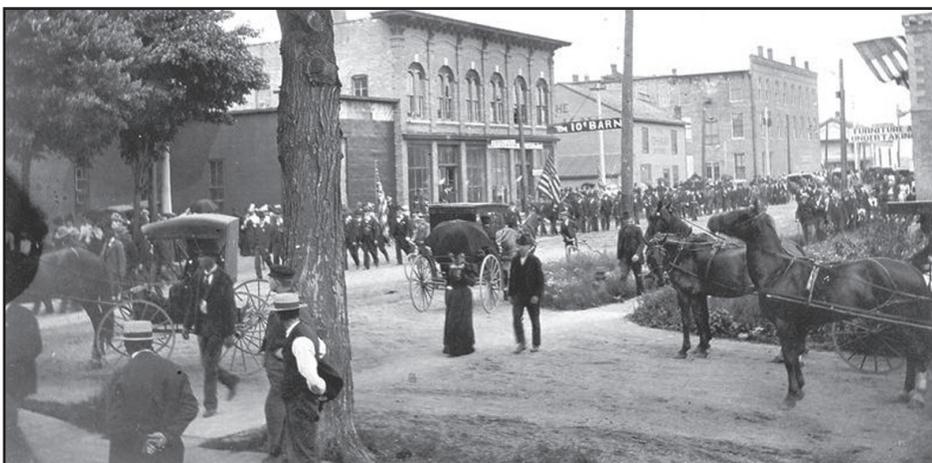
Today, Romeo continues to prosper. The unique downtown area reflects a Victorian charm, as do its historic homes, many of which are large, ornate mansions built during the time that Romeo was the

headquarters for the timber industry in the area and many of the wealthy lumber barons made Romeo their home. In 1971, Romeo was named a National and State Historic District.

In 1994, Romeo began offering a special dual postmark for Valentine's Day cards and letters each year with the community of Juliette, Georgia, as a tribute to the William Shakespeare play, *Romeo and Juliet*.

Since 2002, Romeo plays host to the Michigan Lavender Festival each summer.

See ROMEO, Page 20



Romeo on May 30, 1900, the day the Grand Army of the Republic monument was unveiled at the Romeo Cemetery.

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December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

YUM in the THUMB

By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

This month, *ThumbPrint News* received two reader recommendations for great places to eat in the Thumb of Michigan.

ROSEBUD'S CAFÉ – 9653 Main St., Clifford, MI, (989)761-7438.

Fran Campbell, of Mayville, Michigan, writes:

Have you ever been to Rosebud's Café in Clifford, Michigan? It only holds 29 guests at a time and on a Friday night you had better come early or you'll wait for a table to eat some of the best fish ever. We order ours "dry battered," which isn't quite as crusty as the other. Portions are very generous and it comes with veggies, too and homemade corn muffins. Oh, and the coleslaw: superb! It's not just Friday nights that makes Rosebud's special. They always have a menu board with at least ten homemade desserts on it. I am told that their carrot cake is the best ever (I had to pass because of the nuts and stomach issues). Our sister-in-law (who is a pretty good baker herself) will drive up from Lake Orion just for a piece of that carrot cake. Yes, Rosebud's Café is a jewel in the little town of Clifford, Michigan.

THE PORT HOPE HOTEL – 4405 Main St., Port Hope, MI, (989) 428-4808.

Dorothy Warner of Sandusky, Michigan, writes:

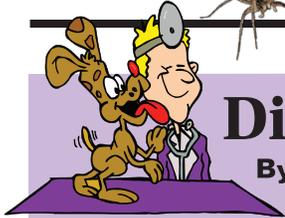
I read your article in the August issue concerning "The Back Roads" of Michigan and eateries that travelers just shouldn't miss. Try the Port Hope Hotel. Their burgers are known across borders. The place has friendliness galore. And, last, but not least, is Leroy (the owner), who himself is VERY unique if you are lucky enough to get to know him and his character. The best meal I have ever had there is a Leroy Burger (an 18 oz. giant burger), curly fries and a beer. The décor of the restaurant is small town unpretentiousness.



Editor's Note: If any of our readers have a recommendation for a great eating place in the Thumb of Michigan, please email us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net. We need the name of the establishment, the complete address and phone number. Tell us about your experience eating there. What were some of your favorite items? Is there something that makes the place unique? The more information you can give us, the more our readers will want to try your recommendation. Our staff reserves the right to edit your submission for spelling, grammar, clarity and length. If you can include a photo of the eatery, in jpg format, that would be even better!



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Diarrhea in Young Kittens

By Dr. DiBenedetto *ThumbPrint News Columnist*

Diarrhea in a young kitten can go from being a mild infection with no other clinical signs of illness present to a severe, life-threatening illness with complications like dehydration, sepsis or hemorrhage in a short period of time, especially in a debilitated, sick or malnourished kitten that does not have a strong immune system. When kittens have diarrhea, they pass more stool than normal. This stool contains more water than normal because the food is moving through the intestinal tract so quickly the body does not have enough time to breakdown and absorb the nutrients and water.

The cause of diarrhea in kittens falls into primarily four categories: dietary, toxic, infectious or parasitic. Dietary causes are generally self-limiting. We see this happen when a new food has been introduced without weaning your kitten off the old food. Whenever changing your kitten's diet, always do a slow transition by mixing the old and new foods together for several days. Another culprit is cow's milk and table scrapes. Contrary to popular belief, even though a kitten takes great pleasure in licking up a bowl of milk or the last little bit of your ice cream, they do not digest milk very easily, thus causing diarrhea. Overfeeding can also cause an increase in stool volume and potentially lead to diarrhea. Always consult with your veterinarian on how much food to feed your new kitten.

Ingesting things like leaves from toxic plants or licking an open container of household cleaner can cause kittens to have not only diarrhea but vomiting as well. If you suspect poisoning make sure you bring the product label to your veterinarian so they know what chemicals may have been ingested.

Because kittens do have relatively

immature immune systems, they are particularly prone to developing viral and bacterial infections. Your kitten may run a slight fever along with the diarrhea if it has a viral infection. Kittens can be exposed to many different viruses. Some viruses are self-limiting with minor symptoms while others like feline leukemia can have a much higher mortality rate. Intestinal infections can also be caused by internal parasites such as roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms or coccidia. Most of these parasites cannot be seen by the naked eye. Your veterinarian can analyze the fecal material and detect their presence through microscopic exam. Depending on the life cycle of the parasite, it can take looking at several different stool samples to be able to detect the parasites.

Many times as part of a treatment plan, we will de-worm a young kitten having diarrhea without seeing any parasites in the fecal material along with treating the other symptoms. Fluids can be given to correct the dehydration and reduce a fever. Antibiotics may also be given to help prevent a secondary bacterial infection. Many times we recommend a bland diet for a few days until stools firm up. Over the counter (human) anti-diarrheal medications are not recommended. Many of these are aspirin-based and can hurt your kitten. Always consult with a veterinarian before giving any medications at home. 🐾

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.

THROUGH Laura's LENS

By Laura Smith
ThumbPrint News Columnist

METERING

This month I will talk about digital metering based on using a 35 mm digital camera. When I was shooting weddings with film and using on-camera flash, I set my F-stop at 5.6 when I took the indoor photos because the photo lab corrected the lighting. Today, the photographer is responsible for editing the photos. When shooting digital you have to set the F-stop based on the distance from the object or person to you. The following are the most common settings I use when shooting indoors:

- I set my ASA at 800.
- Shutter speed for Canon is set at 60. Nikon is 125. Check your camera manual for the setting for the brand of camera you are using.
- In a church with high ceilings: F-5.6.
- Flash photos using the diffuser and bounce flash in a hall with the standard 10 foot ceiling of the cake: F-18 to F-22.
- Full cake table: F-11
- Gift table: F-11
- Table shots of guests: F-8
- In a reception hall with tall ceilings and the subjects doing the cake cutting or couples dancing: F-8.
- Close up face shots of couples dancing in reception hall: F-10
- The garter: F-8
- Wide angle room shot: F-4.

photos, the face color was normal.

When I took photos out in the bright sun light with no shade, I metered manually using the palm of my hand (Zone system). I might not see any definition in the brides white dress but I did not have washed out facial tones.



The other thing nice about digital is that I can change color photos into black and white without having to use black and white film. Back when I was shooting black and white film I used what is known as the zone system. This system was developed by Ansel Adams, a well known photographer whose favorite place to photograph was Yosemite Park. The following is a website I found on the subject that delves into thorough detail: www.luminous-landscape.com/tutorials/zone_system.shtml. Basically, the zone system begins with a zone chart. Zone 1 is pure black; zone 9 is pure white; zone 5 can be described subjectively as middle gray. To obtain middle gray when metering manually indoors or outdoors, you can use anything gray, such as a fence or wall, the palm of the hand, the persons face or as a last resort, brown dirt. 🐾

Laura Smith lives in New Baltimore, Michigan, and is a professional photographer who started her business back in 1990. Laura will be offering tips to photographers of all skill levels – from beginners to professionals. Laura's website is www.photographyplusbylaura.com.



When I was outdoors taking group photos, I used the automatic setting with fill flash in the shade, because what I discovered was that black tuxes can wash out the facial skin tone if I manually meter the camera, and when I would add extra color in my editing, I sometimes ended up with a reddish hue to my facial tones. White wedding dresses are what the camera meters on, hence the photo would be darker. However, when I edited the



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ROMEO

Continued from Page 17

The festival is scheduled to coincide with the prime time for the lavender crop's flowering and fragrance. Activities include such things as education workshops on lavender's history, folklore and uses, garden tours, art instruction, lavender craft workshops, and live music in the garden. An open-air marketplace features more than 40 local area farms and artisans of genuine Made-in-Michigan products.

Romeo is well-known for its apple and peach orchards. No discussion of Romeo would be complete without mentioning the Annual Peach Festival which takes place annually in Romeo over the Labor Day weekend. The tradition began in 1931 as an observance of the area's peach harvest. The idea came from Village President, Edward Jacob, who hoped the event would bring together people from the city and county. He couldn't have predicted the success it would have as it continues – for more than 80 years – as a four-day celebration bringing together thousands of visitors from across the state. The festival today features the Peach queen, a parade, a carnival, sports tournaments, bed races, a beer tent, a 5K/10K run, barbecues, spaghetti dinners, ice cream and of course lots of peachy treats, including pies, tea, fried cheesecake and cobbler.

Later in the fall, Tillson Street in Romeo becomes a Halloween lover's Mecca. It is known for its elaborate Halloween



Photo courtesy of Roberta Socia

decorations and thousands trick-or-treat down this street each year to see the one-of-a-kind displays. Tillson Street is closed to traffic during designated trick-or-treating hours to allow kids to go from house to house safely. On Halloween, the Romeo High School football team (the Romeo Bulldogs, past and present players) volunteers to walk the street in bright safety colors and flashlights to help control the massive crowds. For a map and more information go to www.terrorontillson.com if you would like to see for yourself these unique displays this Halloween.

No matter the season, the village of Romeo offers lots for families to do and the charming village is a great day trip for anyone in the Thumb area to enjoy. 🍂

DREAM INTERPRETATION

By Renae Hardy

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Dreams have been shrouded in mystery throughout the centuries. Commonly defined as “states of consciousness occurring during sleep”, dreams have been the subject of study and investigation for many, many years. Scientific research since the mid-nineteenth century has been conducted in an effort to determine more clearly the nature of dreams.

Every human emotion as well as experience can be reflected in dreams, and within our dreams we create a world where space and time have no limiting power. The majority of dreams are in the form of visual images and through this imagery we are able to explore the human mind. Jung, a noted Swiss psychiatrist once stated, “Visual images have the quality of the human soul.”

Dream interpretations have been recorded on cave walls and woven into the fabric of ancient Assyrian, Babylonian and Egyptian text. Artemidorus compiled his “Oneiro-critica” on this topic and it proved so popular that sixteen hundred years later its first English translation had been printed thirty-two times by the year 1800. Dream

books of many languages are available, however no book on this subject can ever be completely comprehensive. If this were possible, it would have to cover the whole of human experience and knowledge.

Extensive research in numerous institutions such as Harvard University, Walter Reed Institute and Mount Sinai Hospital conclusively proved that everybody dreams. Additionally, these studies concluded that an individual has a minimum of three dreams per night, possibly having as many as nine. Many psychotherapists share the opinion that we can learn to interpret, as well as utilize our dreams, believing them to be an extension of the situation we live in when awake. This theory is interestingly similar to that of the ancient interpreters, who considered not only the dream content, but the personality and social/economic position of the dreamer. More recent investigations of dreams considered to be “precognitive” or “clairvoyant” suggest that some of these dreams have a possible link to genetic coding containing the experiences and/or emotions of one's ancestors within one's DNA and RNA.

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Rev. Renae Hardy
Psychic Intuitive
Spiritual Medium
Cert. Energetic Healer
Reiki M. Tch.



imagery in a journal, sharing them with a proficient interpreter and/or by working with a good dream dictionary. Dream dictionaries may not be on target with every dream, however the information gleaned can be very insightful as well as entertaining. For instance, if you dream of fresh flowers, you can expect a happy occasion; prunes, you'll be changing your residence; pine cones, you'll receive a birth announcement; lotus blossom, love and lasting romance; neatly stacked cords of lumber, prosperity; and so on.

Dreams belong to our most intimate experiences. They interweave our memories, events of the day, fears and desires in phenomenal ways, beckoning our understanding. Embark on a new journey of discovery. Dream on . . . let your dreams reveal all that is you! 🍂

Editor's Note: Renae Hardy is the owner of Radiant Beings, 25962 Knollwood S. in Chesterfield. Renae is a certified energy practitioner and offers many choices for alternative healing. Contact Renae at (586) 949-0112 or (586) 489-8611.



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TIKI MASK

Continued from Page 1

Use pencil to draw the face, making adjustments in scale to your particular watermelon.

Use melon baller to scoop out nostrils; use small paring knife to clean up edges.

Next use paring knife to cut out the inside mouth area, leaving room for the teeth.

Next cut individual teeth, using the same small paring knife, and use a spoon to dig out a large area of flesh for the mouth cavity.

Next carve out eyes, digging a deep cavity in each, for drama. Use a channel knife to carve details.

Use some carved out pieces to cut a “bone” decoration for top of head, and attach with a toothpick.

**Jack O'Melon**

- 1 round watermelon
- Melon baller
- Pen
- Knife
- Toothpicks

Cut a thin slice from the bottom of watermelon to provide a stable base.

Cut circular piece of the rind from the top, big enough to reach into to remove the flesh. Carefully remove that top section and reserve for later to be used as a lid.

Remove the flesh from inside the watermelon using melon baller, reserving melon balls for snacking or a fruit salad.

Once flesh is removed, drain any excess liquid from inside watermelon.

Using pen or knife, draw or scratch the outlines of eyes, nose, mouth, hair, ears or any other feature you want on the side of the watermelon, using a template as a guide.



Then, following the outlines, cut the features into the watermelon and remove excess rind. To create a 3D effect with the features after you have cut them, push gently on the flaps of rind from inside the watermelon. (You can use toothpicks to prop the rind, if you want.)

A safe, battery-operated lamp can be firmly placed inside the watermelon to provide a haunting glow.

Place the circular piece of rind that you reserved back on top of the watermelon and your Jack O'Melon is ready to be displayed.

Bat Jack O'Melon

- 2 round watermelons, preferably yellow, for the body
- Kitchen and paring knives
- Cutting board
- Green dry-erase marker (preferably washable)
- Large bowl and spoon
- Candy corns
- 4 to 6-inch wooden skewers
- Toothpicks
- Candle or light

Wash watermelons under cool running water, pat dry.

On a cutting board, place the roundest watermelon on its side and cut off ¼ to ½ inch of the stem end, being careful not to cut too deep into the white part of the rind. This will provide a sturdy base.

Using dry-erase marker, draw two eyes, an oval for a nose and a smiling mouth that would resemble a bat. Draw two ears and an outline of a forehead, continuing the line around to make the top for the bat that will be removed.

Use a knife to carefully cut away inside of the eyes, nose and mouth and also around the top of watermelon. Remove top and hollow out watermelon with spoon,



reserving fruit to use in a fruit salad or punch.

On the second watermelon, use dry-erase marker to draw 2 bat wings (the top of the wings will have 2 points and the bottom of the wings will have 2 points.)

Use knife to carefully cut wings

out, reserving inside of watermelon to make fruit salad or punch.

Attach wings to side of watermelon bat with wooden skewers, and use toothpicks to attach candy-corn as fangs.

Insert a candle to light up your bat.

**Carving Tips**

- Have the watermelon at room temperature when you carve. The cuts will be easier to make. You can chill the watermelon in the refrigerator after cutting and before serving.
- After you've drawn the design on the rind, insert toothpicks in key places to use as guides for your cuts.
- Use a sharp knife with a pointed tip – the sharper the knife, the easier and cleaner the cuts will be.
- When attaching cut pieces on the watermelon to make your design, use round toothpicks or skewers. Flat toothpicks will often break due to the weight of the piece or the thickness of the rind.

Watermelons are a healthy addition to any Halloween party. They're the lycopene leader among fresh produce, are an excellent source of vitamins A and C, and contain 6 percent of the daily value for vitamin B6 – all of which boost your immune system.

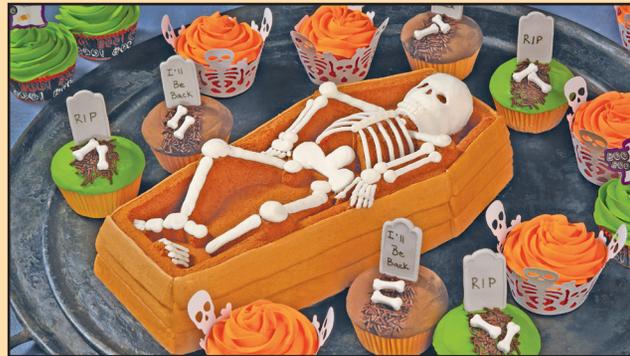




SCARE UP SOME FUN WITH A Graveyard Bash

FAMILY FEATURES

Be the ghostest with the mostest this Halloween, and throw a wickedly wonderful celebration. The entertaining experts from the Wilton Test Kitchen know all the tricks and offer plenty of treats for hosting a bone-chilling blast that will have friends and family shrieking with delight.



Start by scaring up some fun with an array of graveyard goodies. Tombstone and monster-shaped sandwich cookies paired with ghostly graveyard cookies set an eerie scene. Add fang-tastic monster-faced popcorn balls, and a parade of monster pretzels – a breeze to make using a Halloween Candy Kit. Pour melted candy into monster molds, insert pretzel rods and refrigerate until set. They are the perfect hand-held treats for kids and look great on display.

There's no bones about it, a spooktacular skeleton cake will make for a boo-tiful Halloween centerpiece. Using a skeleton casket pan makes this impressive dessert – filled with fall flavors like cinnamon and apples – easy to achieve. Simply decorate with icing and watch as your skeleton comes back from the grave.

For added fright, surround the coffin with Spooky Pop Cupcakes – swirled with brightly-colored icing and things that go bump in the night. Just be sure to pair sweets with a be“witch”ing beverage and you’ll be caught in a web of friends all evening long.

All of these and other terrifyingly-terrific project ideas, supplies and more are available at www.wilton.com.

Back From the Grave Cake

Makes about 12 servings (Pictured above)

- 2¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1¼ cups granulated sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ¾ cups sweetened applesauce
- 1¼ cups diced Granny Smith apple (about 1 medium apple)
- 1 can (16 ounces) White Decorator Icing

Preheat oven to 325°F. Prepare 3D Skeleton Casket pan with vegetable pan spray. In medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt; set aside. In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, and vanilla; mix well. Alternately add flour mixture and applesauce to butter mixture. Spread about ½ of cake batter so that it reaches the first horizontal line inside the pan. Sprinkle diced apples evenly over batter. Top with remaining batter, smoothing out the top.

Bake 58 to 62 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. Cool 15 minutes; remove from pan and cool completely on cooling grid. Decorate cooled cake with tip 5 and decorator icing.

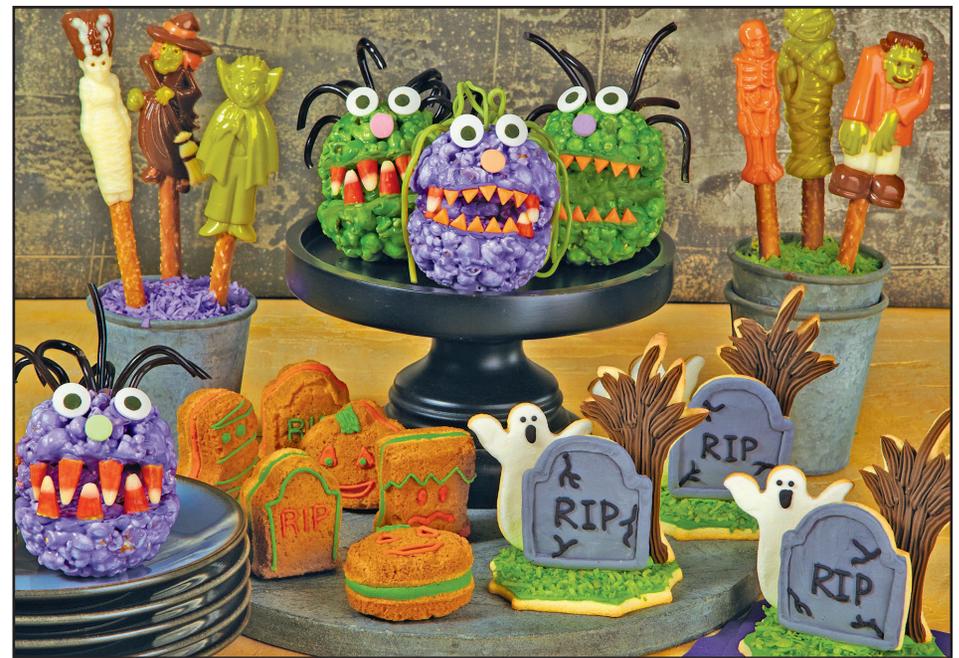
Popcorn Ball Monsters

Each serves 1

- 1 jar (about 7 ounces) Marshmallow Crème
- Violet and Orange Icing colors
- 4 cups popped popcorn, divided
- White Candy Melts Candy, melted following package instructions
- Large Candy Eyeballs
- Animal and People Faces Sprinkle Sets, candy corn, Jumbo Confetti Sprinkles
- Green and Black Candy Strings

Spray Dimensions Multi-Cavity Mini Pumpkin Pan cavities with vegetable pan spray. In large microwave-safe bowl, microwave marshmallow crème 1 minute at 50% power. Remove bowl from microwave and divide marshmallow crème in half; stir icing color into each half (tint slightly darker than how you want your finished treat to look). Stir 2 cups popped popcorn into each marshmallow mixture until evenly coated. Press popcorn treat mixture in bottom cavities only of pumpkin pan to 1½ in. deep; reserve some unrolled popcorn. Let set; unmold.

Attach 2 popcorn ball halves together on one edge, using unrolled popcorn to prop opposite edge open. Using melted candy, attach Candy Eyeballs and sprinkles and candy corn teeth, and Jumbo Confetti nose. Attach candy strings for hair.



Spooky Pop Cupcakes

Each cupcake serves 1

- Graveyard Cupcake Decorating Set, Spooky Pop Cupcake Combo Pack or solid color baking cups
- Favorite cupcake recipe or mix
- 1 can (16 ounces) White Decorator Icing
- Orange, Green or other desired Icing Color
- 1 can (16 ounces) Chocolate Decorator Icing

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line cavities of standard muffin pan with baking cups.

Bake your favorite cupcakes in prepared pan. Cool completely. Place some cupcakes in Skeleton Cupcake Wraps. Tint white decorator icing with icing color. Use a spatula to ice smooth or pipe tip 1M icing swirls on cupcake top. Insert icing decorations or pix from decorating set and combo pack.

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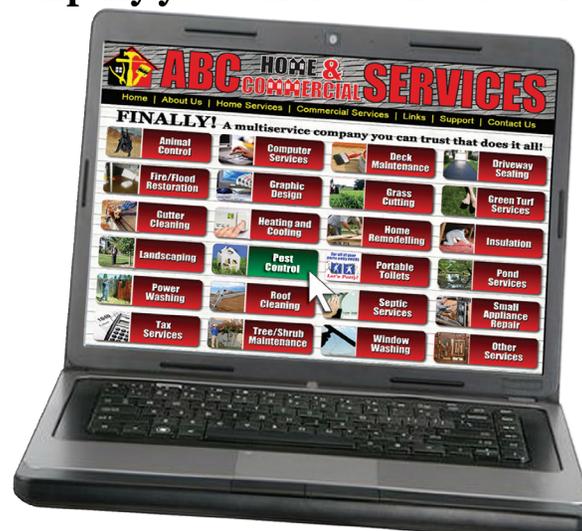
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Memoirs from The Restless Retiree

SENIORS NEED LARGER PRINT!

By Gabriel Jones, ThumbPrint News Columnist

"Gabriel, will you get me my large magnifying glass from the coffee table? I have to read the directions on the label of the medicine that we just picked up."

"Ok, love. But why don't they print the directions in bigger print so that it is easier for people to read? Just yesterday, when I tried to set up my new watch, I had the same problem. I could hardly read from the little booklet that came with the watch."

It seems that every company wants to save money when

printing directions on how to use their product. Why? Don't they realize that more people would buy their brand if they could clearly read the directions?

Wait a minute . . . that's a problem I can solve.

It's coming to me . . . Gabriel is getting an inspiration!

Why don't they just print special big print directions just for seniors?

That's it!

It's so simple.

To reach seniors, just do it with BIGGER PRINT.

It's not a "put down," but just the opposite. Companies

would finally realize that for them to get the Senior Business they should communicate with them with larger print. Seniors would also praise such an effort and would definitely do more business with companies that would do this.

Aha! Another inspiration is hitting Gabriel!

"Senior Shopping Malls!"

Think of it! Senior Shopping Malls that have stores and restaurants catering to seniors. And plenty of "Go-Carts" to ride while shopping.

Oh, I'm on a roll . . . I'm a genius! A Senior Shopping Mall with advertisements and

banners in BIG PRINT. Every item in every store with prices and descriptions easy to read and find.

Oh, it's hard for me to continue . . . these ideas are coming to me too fast!"

The phone rings. Gabriel's wife answers it.

"Hello, who's calling? . . . The doctor's office? . . . What's wrong? . . . The check that Gabriel sent you was refused by the bank? How can that be? We have enough money in our checking account!"

"What's that? The bank said that they won't accept the check because the information that was written on it was so small that they couldn't make it out."

"Gabriel! They want to talk to you."

Another lesson learned by the Restless Retiree. 🌱



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Read my article on page 30!



Halloween Trivia Crossword Puzzle Answers from Page 14

WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY N HISTORY?

By Diane L. Kodet
ThumbPrint News Editor



OCTOBER

- 1** On this day in 1890, Yosemite National Park formed.
- 2** On this day in 1910, the first two-aircraft collision took place (Milan, Italy).
- 3** On this day in 1922, the first facsimile photo was sent over city telephone lines (Washington, DC).
- 4** On this day in 1824, Mexico became a republic.
- 5** On this day in 1912, the Yanks won the final game at Hilltop Stadium. 
- 6** On this day in 1893, Nabisco Foods invented Cream of Wheat.
- 7** On this day in 1913, Henry Ford instituted the moving assembly line.
- 8** On this day in 1873, the first women's prison run by women opened at Indiana Reformatory Institute.
- 9** On this day in 1865, the first U.S. underground pipeline for carrying oil was laid in Pennsylvania.
- 10** On this day in 1780, the Great Hurricane of 1780 killed 20,000-30,000 people in the Caribbean.
- 11** On this day in 1689, Peter the Great became tsar of Russia.
- 12** On this day in 1871, President Grant condemned the Ku Klux Klan.
- 13** On this day in 1947, "Kukla, Fran and Ollie" premiered.
- 14** On this day in 1884, George Eastman patented paper-strip photographic film. 
- 15** On this day in 1860, 11-year-old Grace Bedell wrote to President Lincoln, telling him to grow a beard.
- 16** On this day in 1923, the Disney Company was founded. 
- 17** On this day in 1962, the Yanks beat the Giants for the 20th world championship.
- 18** On this day in 1878, Edison made electricity available for household usage.
- 19** On this day in 1872, the world's largest gold nugget (215 kg) was found in New South Wales. 
- 20** On this day in 1820, Spain sold part of Florida to the U.S. for \$5 million.
- 21** On this day in 1917, the first Americans saw action on the front lines of WWI.
- 22** On this day in 1936, the first commercial flight from the mainland to Hawaii took place.
- 23** On this day in 1760, the first Jewish prayer books were printed in the U.S.
- 24** On this day in 1861, the first transcontinental telegram was sent, ending the Pony Express.
- 25** On this day in 1870, postcards were first used in the U.S.
- 26** On this day in 1900, after four years of work, the first section of the New York City subway opened.
- 27** On this day in 1916, the first published reference to "jazz" appeared (*Variety*). 
- 28** On this day in 1922, the first coast-to-coast radio broadcast of a football game took place.
- 29** On this day in 1929, the stock market crashed, (Black Tuesday), and triggered the Great Depression.
- 30** On this day in 1900, the first-ever U.S. auto show opened in Madison Square Garden in New York City.
- 31** On this day in 1919, the Spanish flu virus killed 21,000 people in the U.S. in one week.

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Thumb Area Activities & Events for October 2012

If you have an event in November that you would like listed in the November issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by Oct. 12, 2012. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some submitted events, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

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

Flint – October 4

Barkey Family Tribute, the Genesee County Bar Foundation is honoring Walter J. Barkey, Brian M. Barkey, and Hon. Jennie E. Barkey. The Barkey family has served the Genesee County community in ways both legal and philanthropic. Tribute will be held at the Flint Golf Club beginning at 5:00 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres, ceremony from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Advanced registration recommended. Tribute supports the work of the Foundation and gives recognition to the family for their tireless work in our community and support of our local bar. Contact Tatilia Y. Burroughs at (810) 232-6000.

Flint – October 20

Star Party, Longway Planetarium, 1330 E. Kearsley St., 6:30 p.m. Head inside the dome and journey to the skies in a star show. After the show, if the sky is clear, staff will take the telescopes outside so guests can look at amazing objects in the sky. Get up close and personal with the moon, planets and star clusters. Feel free to bring your own telescope to this free event. (810) 237-7365.

Huron

Pigeon – October 4

Fall Harvest Celebration, 29 S. Main St. Fall Harvest Bake Sale, 8:00 a.m.-gone, Bean Soup Lunch, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., mum sale. Pumpkin and gourd carving contest at Pigeon Hardware, 7274 Michigan Ave. Sponsored by Pigeon Chamber of Commerce. (989) 453-7400.

Capeer

Almont – October 13

Euchre Tournament, Almont Lions Club, 222 Water St., doors open at 6:00 p.m., play begins at 7:00 p.m. \$15 donation, bring a first time player and you and a friend play for \$10 each. Generous prizes to the top three point scorers. Food and refreshments served. Two sets of five games. Proceeds benefit area humanitarian projects. Call Don at (810) 798-9609.

Brown City – October 13

Extreme MudBog Competition, FreelinMX Facility, 8395 Cargill Rd., 1:00 p.m. For more information call (989) 761-1301 or visit www.FreelinMX.com.

Macomb

Chesterfield – October 4

Haunted Tales of Anchor Bay, Chesterfield Public Library, 50560 Patricia, 6:30 p.m. Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society will have Rich Gonyeau, president of the New Baltimore Historical Society, discussing the many ghost sightings and other haunted information in the New Baltimore/Chesterfield area. Free event. For information email alannaldrett@yahoo.com.

Richmond – October 5

Antiquing for Fun and Profit, presented by Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society, 7:00 p.m. Denny Bolen will present the program at the School House in Historical Village on Park and Beebe Street. For more information call (810) 329-5797.

New Baltimore – October 13

Radiant Beings 2nd Annual Holistic-Wellness-Psychic Fair, Civic Club, 36551 Main St., 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Free gift with admission cost of \$2.

Clinton Township – October 17-21

Used Book Sale, Clinton-Macomb Public Library, 40900 Romeo Plank Road. Members of the Friends of the Library only are invited to shop from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on October 17. (Membership is available at the door for \$15.) The public shops on October 18-20, from 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sunday, October 21, shoppers can purchase a bag of books for just \$5 from 1:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m. Contact Jamie at (586) 226-5013.

Richmond – October 19

Fifth Annual Dinner and Auction Fundraiser for St. Augustine Catholic School, Maniaci's Banquet Center, 69227 Main St., 6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Dinner served at 7:00 p.m. \$30 per person or \$55 per couple (adults only). Only 250 tickets will be sold. Includes family style dinner, dessert, open bar, live and silent auctions, 50/50 raffle and basket of cheer. Auction items include Nook Tablet, Nintendo 3D DS, wine tasting in Traverse City, vacation package to the Great Wolf Lodge and much more. To purchase tickets contact Jennifer at (586) 453-8180.

Port Huron – October 24

St. Clair County Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 1115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. Gene Buel will speak about Marine City his-

tory, his town, and a recently published book, *Images of America: Marine City*, co-authored by his grandson, Scott Buel. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family tree may come to our programs as a guest or become a new member of the group. visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscfgh/ or call (810) 989-0399.

Richmond – October 31

Halloween Treats in the Street, north Municipal Parking Lot, Main St. and Monroe St. next to Maniaci's Banquet Center, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Local participating businesses will have vehicles, trunks and tents decorated while they pass out candy. Entertainment, food and beverages. Contact Kimberly at (586) 727-3266.

Oakland

Oxford – October 5

First Friday, 5 S. Washington St. downtown area. This monthly event features a number of artists who offer quality hand-made art of various forms. This month's theme is German and local restaurants will adopt this theme through a special menu and wine. Contact encapsulate@artcapsule.net or call (248) 628-5398.

Mt. Clemens – October 6

Funeral Tea and Cemetery Walk, Crocker House Museum, 15 Union Street, 1:00 p.m. For more information go to www.crockerhousemuseum.com.

St. Clair

Port Huron – October 4 & 11

Pink Hair for Hope, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Baggot Street Café, 2601 Electric Avenue, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. Pink hair extensions will be provided by hair stylist Rosemary Arnold. For a \$10 donation you can help to benefit the Mercy Pink Ribbon Fund.

Kimball – October 6

Annual Art & Craft Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 4521 Ravenswood, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Bake sale, used book sale. Sponsored by Marysville Knights of Columbus Council #9526 Ladies Auxiliary. Crafters wanted. Proceeds used for local charities. Call Judy at (810) 650-5419 or Joan at (810) 364-4635.

Port Huron – October 6

Breast Cancer Survivor Luncheon, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Baggot Street Café (cafeteria), 2601 Electric Avenue, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Join the Mercy Regional Cancer Center for FREE Breast Cancer Survivor

Luncheon. Enjoy an inspirational discussion by Nora Neruda-Condland, who will discuss how her breast cancer experience has led her to open herself up to new opportunities in life. Program includes the availability of Pink Hair for Hope extensions for a donation of \$10; a light lunch and giveaways. For reservations call, 1-888-MERCYME (1-888-637-2963).

Port Huron – October 11

LUNAFEST, Studio 1219, 1219 Military St. Enjoy a traveling film festival spotlighting the work of women filmmakers with intelligent, funny and thought-provoking themes. It is international in scope and supports short films by, for and about women. Wine and snacks provided from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 and may be purchased at Studio 1219 ahead of time or at the door. (810) 984-2787.

St. Clair – October 12

Motor City Casino Trip, sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 382. Meet at 1300 Clinton Ave. for an 8:45 a.m. departure. Cost is \$30, includes \$25 casino voucher, motor coach travel, and dinner upon return at 4:00 p.m. To reserve a seat contact Todd at (810) 329-4574.

Harsens Island – October 13

Lecture Series, (3rd of 4), featuring Joel Stone, "Committed to the Deep: Exploring Underwater Treasures," Lion's Hall, 230 LaCroix, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society. For information contact Email@hiscfhs.org.

Sauilac

Sandusky – October 13 & 27

Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Bring finger foods (for 9:00 p.m.) and friends. Cost is \$4 for members and \$4.50 for guests (regular dances). On October 13, Lighthouse 3 will entertain for our Sweetest Day Dance. On October 27, it will be Dick Hedrich & Son for Halloween/Pumpkin Pies. For information call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

Tuscola

Caro – October 3-7

32nd Annual Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival, downtown area. This event is the premier fall festival in the Thumb of Michigan, bringing the beauty of fall to downtown Caro with painted and decorated pumpkins from area schools. Our famous pumpkin pies are made by the Carol Knights of Columbus #3224. For list of events go to www.tuscolapumpkinfest.com.

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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. Be sure to include your name, phone number and full address. Of all persons submitting correct answers by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a gift basket valued at over \$100 at the end of this year! On December 31, 2012, one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified. In September's edition, we asked our readers to identify this object:

No one correctly identified the object this month.

The device above was actually a mouth gag, used from the 1880s-1910s. It would be inserted into an anesthetized patient's mouth to keep the airway open.

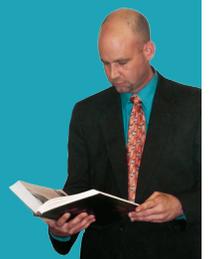


JOE KNOWS CONSIDERING DIVORCE?

A TIP TO EMBRACE WHEN CHILDREN ARE INVOLVED

By Joseph McKoan

ThumbPrint News Columnist



Remember, it is the best interest of the children that rules.

More often than not, the reason divorce is considered is because one partner's needs are not being fulfilled. Perhaps personal conflicts between you and your spouse have become unacceptable and change is believed necessary. The result can be immense stress, hostility and potential dysfunction within the family unit. The acceptance of change is a necessary component in your life if you are going to work effectively with your spouse in the future as it relates to your children.

The largest part of this change is the custody of your children. Remember your children need both parents to be actively involved to become healthy, well-adjusted young men and women.

The primary concern you need to embrace is to think about how, as parents, you will both contribute to the raising of your children during and after the divorce. Do not allow this to be a competition of custody. If you do, those who suffer are your children, not you as parents.

It is essential to work on allocating parenting time for the children's benefit. Remember, parenting time is a privilege. When allocating parenting time, think in

terms of how you can most effectively meet your children's needs, not in terms of losing time with your children.

I leave you with this; The Courts pay particular attention to "... the willingness and ability of each of the parties to facilitate and encourage a close and continuing parent-child relationship between the child and the parent or the child and the parents." MCL 722.23(j).

If you keep this focus, the transition and effect on your children will be minimized and they will maintain the cultivation and guidance of each of you as parents that they desperately need and deserve. 🍀

Attorney Joseph McKoan is the third generation of his family to practice law. The McKoan family has served the Thumb of Michigan for more than 65 years and Joe continues this tradition by helping Thumb area residents with their legal issues. Joe can be contacted by telephone at (888) 818-3446, or email Joe at JMcKoan@mckoanlaw.com.

The information within this article is for general information purposes only. It is not legal advice and should not be relied upon as legal advice. You must not rely upon any of the information provided within this article as an alternative to legal advice from a lawyer.



Melanie Duquesnel

BBB Tips for Buying Health Insurance

Recently the U.S. Supreme Court upheld one of the most controversial aspects of the Affordable Care Act – the individual mandate. This mandate states that every American must buy health insurance, much like how auto insurance works. There are exceptions, such as for those that would pay more than eight percent of their income on insurance. However, this will still require millions to purchase health insurance plans by 2014. Regardless of how you feel about the act, you need to ensure that you are prepared.

If you are someone who will soon be shopping for plans, here are some things to consider:

■ **Understand the language.** Make sure you know what you are reading – there are many terms that can be confusing. For example: A deductible is how much you pay out of pocket before your coverage kicks

in. A co-pay is a fixed amount you pay for things like prescriptions or doctors' visits. Co-insurance is a percentage of the cost that you pay for covered expenses. If the policy you are looking at includes terms you don't understand, ask questions. Here is a link to a glossary of insurance terms that could help: <http://personalinsure.about.com/od/health/a/aa032805a.htm>.

■ **Consider a broker.** If you feel overwhelmed by your choices, consider going through an insurance broker. When hiring your broker, check his or her credentials with the National Association of Insurance Underwriters (nahu.org) or the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (naic.org). Also keep in mind that the brokers sometimes work on commission paid by the insurers, which means they may steer you toward the plan that pays best for them and not necessarily

the plan that is best for you. Ask how he or she is compensated and keep that in mind when getting advice.

■ **Know your priorities.** How much can you afford to pay out-of-pocket in a year? Is there a specific condition you need to be covered? Do you regularly take medication? Insurance plans vary wildly in premiums, deductibles and coverage. If you know exactly what you want out of a plan, finding the right one is easier.

■ **Compare coverage.** This daunting task will be somewhat easier starting in September 2012. Insurance companies will be required to use a standard form to show the costs of each plan, including co-pays and deductibles, in an easy-to-understand format. These forms will also include estimated out-of-pocket expenses for two scenarios – having a baby and treating type 2 diabetes. In addition to costs, look closely at what exactly is covered and what is excluded from coverage.

■ **Check networks.** If you have a regular doctor, check whether he or she is considered in-network on your new plan. Going to an out-of-network doctor can significantly increase out-of-pocket expenses. Look to see what hospitals contract with the insurance provider. Some plans require you to go to a contracted hospital in an emergency.

■ **Consider costs.** Don't just look at premiums when considering the cost of

an insurance plan. Check deductibles, co-pays and co-insurance levels. Many plans also show a maximum out-of-pocket cost as well. That tells you how much you will have to pay in deductibles and co-insurance before your plan starts to cover 100 percent of expenses.

■ **Research customer service.** Though all insurance companies have their fair share of angry customers, look for companies that have high ratings in customer service. Even with the best insurance plans, you may have to dispute a denial or call for clarification about your coverage. Poor customer service only makes these stressful situations worse.

■ **Know your rights.** The Affordable Care Act will be changing many aspects of health coverage in the coming years. Know what you are entitled to and understand how changes affect you and your plan. Consumer Reports posted a quick reference guide to healthcare reform changes that can help you along which can be found here: <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/2012/06/update-on-health-care-reform/index.html>.

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

It's Not Gone!

Think of all the things that go down your drain to your septic tank: grease from your kitchen sink, hair and oil from your shower and washer, body waste from your toilets. We tend to think – or not think – about what happens to all that waste. It doesn't just disappear.

Fats, oils and greases (FOGs) are put into your septic system everyday. Once they reach your septic tank, good anaerobic bacteria start to consume the waste. The FOGs not consumed by the good bacteria become solid waste. They build up at the top and bottom of your tank in the form of scum, often several inches thick. Pieces of these solids break off, and along with the liquid from your tank, go into your field. Much like plaque can clog our arteries and cause a heart attack, solids from your tank can clog your septic field and cause expensive repairs if you don't remove them.

Regular maintenance for your septic system is a must. The old saying "If it's not broke, don't fix it" is not true. Eventually your septic system or field will fail. Fields are expensive to replace.

Proper maintenance and care to your tank and filtering systems should be done on a regular basis based on your lifestyle, the number of people in the home, and usage.

Remember, we drink what we flush. Eventually, your field water enters back into the ground water. You don't want to contaminate our drinking sources. Call ABC Home & Commercial Services Septic Division at (810) 794-5678 if you have any questions about your septic system.

NEVER

- put bleach into the system. Bleach kills the good bacteria.
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ThumbPrint News Travels to South Carolina!

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan (over 980 businesses in eight Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but *ThumbPrint News* has also traveled to the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Utah, and to the countries of Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belize, Bonaire, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Iraq, Jamaica, Kiribati, Mexico, Nigeria, St. Lucia, Spain and Wales. *ThumbPrint News* was even seen on television on the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno*!

When we began inviting our readers to submit photos of where they have taken *ThumbPrint News*, we never expected such an overwhelming response! The newspaper has even traveled to all of the seven continents.

If you are a reader of *ThumbPrint News* and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or if you are able to get a famous person or character to be photographed with our paper, you may submit an email and photo (jpeg) to us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net. Please tell us a little about the photo and include your name, address and phone number in case we have further questions. Please be patient as you wait for your photo to appear in *ThumbPrint News*, as we are receiving a tremendous amount of photos each month! When it does appear, we will send you a complimentary edition.

There are many states and countries where *ThumbPrint News* has not yet been – and lots of famous people to track down. Who will be the next reader to help us in our mission? 🌴



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YOUR INCREDIBLE, EDIBLE BACKYARD

By Stella Otto
ThumbPrint News Columnist

Tips for Winterizing the Fruit Garden

After working hard to produce a harvest each year, fruit trees and berry plants require a period of rest each winter. While the trees may be dormant, wildlife pests are still active and can be a persistent problem throughout the winter. Unfortunately, much of their damage is not noticed until spring, when it is too late to remedy. Prevention is the best protection. To help your trees and berry bushes weather this dormant period, here are a few things you can do:

1. Mow vegetation short around the base of fruit trees and bushes. This will remove attractive habitats for rodent burrows.

2. Wrap the trunks of trees with plastic spiral mouse guards to reduce rodents feeding on the bark. Make sure the guard extends down to but not below ground level. Check the guard annually to ensure that it is not strangling an expanding trunk.



3. Deter deer with scent repellents. Spray on materials, small bags of tankage or human hair, or even small motel size



soap bars tend to make deer wary. Switch repellents every few weeks to keep deer from becoming too familiar and complacent to ignore any one type.

4. Pick up any dropped fruit or "wind-falls" and remove them to the compost pile. This will keep deer from establishing your trees as a direct feeding area. Fruit that is just slightly bruised but still in good shape can be used for cider, apple sauce or fruit butters.

5. Compost diseased fruit and leaves to help remove overwintering larvae or spores and make your pest control job easier next season. Black knot or fire blight infested limbs are best pruned out once fruit trees are completely dormant. Burn the prunings to prevent further disease spread.

6. Sunlight reflected off snow can cause "Southwest injury," a differential heating and cooling of the tree trunk, which leads to splitting. Prevent this problem by painting the trunks with white latex paint. Just wipe on with a car wash mitt up to the first whorl of scaffold branches.

7. When to prune and when not to is a common debate among novice fruit growers. In early fall, fruit trees are still sending reserve food stores to the roots. Once the leaves have fallen and the tree is dormant, this process stops and the trees can safely be pruned without stimulating late season growth. Leafless trees are also simpler to prune as the branch arrangement is easy to see.

8. Autumn is a good time to apply lime if your soil pH is too low. Lime takes months to break down and go to work. To avoid stimulating plant growth when it could succumb to cold temperatures, fertilizer application is best left for late winter or early spring.

Editor's note: Stella Otto is an award winning author, horticulturist, and Master Gardener instructor. Her books The BackYard Orchardist: A complete guide to growing fruit trees in the home garden and The BackYard Berry Book: A hands-on guide to growing berries, brambles, and vine fruit in the home garden are available as signed copies at her website www.stellaotto.com. Also at her website, find The Backyard Fruit Gardener with information and a subscription "Ask the Expert" Q&A resource for all of your fruit gardening needs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I enjoy reading the stories about local history. William Easton must enjoy doing these stories.

One easy to understand mistake appeared in the Gratiot story in the September issue.

In the 6th line, he says the fort was built near the mouth of the St. Clair River. That is wrong. The mouth of the river is at the south end of the river near Algonac and Harsens Island.

The fort was built near the source of the St. Clair River where Lake Huron empties into the St. Clair River.

You could look it up in *Webster's New World Dictionary*, page 888.

Keep up the good work. (Who likes picky readers anyway?)

Ralph Polovich, Port Huron

To the Editor:

First, I would like to say that my husband and I enjoy your paper whenever we can get a copy. As I am sure you have heard by now, Lou Gehrig's record did not happen in 1833. He wasn't born until 1903.

Sincerely,

Lori McColman

Editor's Note: Lori is referring to the article "What Happened on This Day in History" in our August, 2012, edition where it states that on August 17, 1833,

"Lou Gehrig broke the record by playing in his 1,308th straight game." Lori is correct. The date was a typo and should have been 1933 instead of 1833. Thanks, Lori, for bringing that to our attention.

To the Editor:

Thanks for the pdf of your September edition. It's fun seeing pictures of the Palmer area in a Michigan periodical.

I printed up the pdf and brought it out to the Galley so that people can peruse it at meal times.

I also placed the pdf file in a common folder on the computer network here.

I wish we could have managed better weather for the day of the picture, but at least it's fairly accurate of how the weather is here in the winter.

Take care,

Ken Keenan
Winter Site Manager
Palmer Station Antarctica

Editor's Note: Ken is part of the group at Palmer Station, Antarctica, that provided us with a photo of our paper in Antarctica. Thanks again, Ken!



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