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By David Odziana

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Field Reporter

During the first half of the 1900s, innovators all over the world were attempting to build an automobile that would shock the world. Although few went down in history, one man from Capac was able to periodically steal the spotlight from the biggest auto makers.

Born September 21, 1903, on a peppermint farm in Capac, Michigan, Preston Thomas Tucker's relationship with automobiles was love at first sight. His first run in with a car would be enough for most people to keep their distance from the unfamiliar machine, but even as it proceeded to run over his foot on a muddy road in 1912, Preston became infatuated with motors from that point on. Luckily he escaped uninjured because the surface was soft. He learned to drive when he was just 11 years old and spent much of his childhood in repair shops and purchasing cars to fix and resell. He quit school two years later to take a job at Cadillac as an office



boy, which started his career in the automotive industry working for many other car companies as well, such as Pierce-Arrow, Ford, Studebaker and Chrysler. Starting as a test driver and a mechanic, Preston eventually worked his way into sales following his enrollment in Cass Technical High School in Detroit. Even when he wasn't

working in the automotive trade, he took jobs because of the opportunity to be around fast cars. Tucker spent some time as a Lincoln Park police officer because he wanted to drive the souped up cruisers, although he was eventually demoted after cutting a hole in the dashboard of a police car to fabricate a heater.

During the 1930s, Preston befriended engine designer Harry Miller, whose work could be seen roaring around the track of the Indianapolis Speedway. By the 1920s, Miller was one of the best engine builders in the country, known for fashioning more winning engines than anyone else at the time for the Indy 500. Before long, Miller and Preston teamed up, forming

See *CAPAC MAN*, Page 8

THE SECRET LIFE OF A PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE



By David Odziana

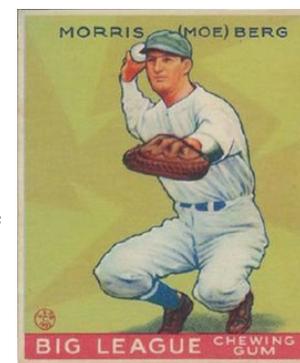
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Field Reporter

For most professional baseball players, the only way to leave an everlasting legacy is by accomplishing things no one has done before. One athlete has done just that, and it's safe to say it will most likely never happen again.

Morris "Moe" Berg was considered a mediocre baseball player at best, but yet many baseball fans are still familiar with him, even though he retired over 75 years ago. As a man, he was explained as mysterious and prone to disappearing. As a player, he is remembered for his knowledge of the game and players, and that is what made him desirable to teams, much more so than his athletic

ability. He was often referred to as being the brightest man in baseball.

Berg attended Princeton University, where he was the star of their baseball team while he majored in modern language. After graduating magna cum laude in 1923, Berg signed a contract with Brooklyn, batting .186 in the 49 games he played. He later attended Columbia Law School while playing for the Chicago White Sox, and he was still able to graduate second in his class, despite his hectic schedule. Berg was shifted back and forth from the majors to the minors, playing for many different teams throughout his 15-year career. His best season took place in 1929, when he hit .287 and even received a few



See *SECRET LIFE* Page 19



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Letter from the Editor



Interior of Stahl's Museum

members of my family, Keith and his son Preston Douglas Kodet. Preston's father, an avid car buff, named his son Preston, just like the maker of the Tucker. I could tell the rest of the story, but the administrator of Stahl's Facebook page told it much better in one of her posts:

"I know I missed our Wednesday WIT this week, but we had a private media tour with David of *ThumbPrint News* scheduled for the day. He asked if he could bring along a friend and his young son, named Preston. He said they would love to see the Tucker we have because Preston has never seen one of the infamous vehicles designed by the man whose name he carries. Preston was not told why his dad was taking him out of school, just that he was going on a little trip. I saw his eyes light up as he turned the corner and saw #0015 sitting there, right in front of him. I slid the stanchions out of the way and opened the driver's side door and told him to get in. He carefully climbed in; I shut the door and his dad took tons of photos; he was smiling from ear to ear. As he got out, all he kept saying was, 'Thank you, Dad. Thank you for bringing me here!' and he was so overcome with emotion. I can tell you that my eyes were not dry either.



Preston Kodet

"This post is for you Preston Kodet. Happy 12th Birthday from all of us here at Stahl's. We are happy David and your dad, Keith, were able to bring you by to sit in a Tucker."

As I said above, a simple thank you is not enough. John and Terri, although I have never met you, I will never forget what you did for my grandson that day – and for helping David to write his article. God bless you! 🍀



Preston inside the Tucker #0015

Editor's note: Stahl's Automotive Foundation Museum is located at 56516 North Bay Dr., Chesterfield, Michigan. Museum hours are Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month. For more information call (586) 749-1078 or visit them online at www.stahlsauto.com. The Stahl's Museum has over 80 cars on display ranging from the 1886 Daimler prototype to the muscle cars of the 1960s, with special emphasis on the great cars of the 1930s and 1940s.

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Make A Bottle Tree Yard Ornament

By Gerald Nyquist

ThumbPrint News Contributor

Here's a fun little project that most any adult can master. It involves emptying about 32 wine bottles. Sounds like fun already, doesn't it! Pace yourself. Please don't do the emptying in only a few days! If you're not much of a wine drinker, ask your neighbors and friends to save their empties.

Multiple bottle colors make for a more interesting tree. Remove the labels by soaking for several days in soapy water; still, some scraping might be required. Paint thinner or cigarette lighter fluid works well for removing any stubborn remnants of glue. Acquire a post, your tree trunk, about seven to eight feet in length and about three inches in diameter. If your tree is to have longevity, the post should be cedar or treated against rot. A lumberyard or home improvement store will be a good place to shop, and while there, also purchase three ten-foot lengths of half-inch CPVC plastic water pipe. (It's the beige colored pipe, and will approximate the color of your post.)

After cutting, these will serve as tree branches. A series of 5/8-inch diameter holes are to be bored into the post, about

1 1/2 inches deep. Mark the position of the holes starting two inches down from the top for the first one, and then proceed downward two inches and sideways two inches around the circumference for the next hole. (A square of paper two inches on a side works nicely for locating the holes.) Continue jogging downward and sideways in the same fashion, working around the post in a spiral until reaching a point about 18 inches from the bottom end. Bore the holes such that when later inserting branches they'll be slanted upward 30 degrees from horizontal. (A 30-60-90 degree triangle works nicely as an aid for aiming the drill at the proper angle; accuracy here isn't important.) Finally, drill another hole downward, centered, into the top of the post. Cut the CPVC pipe into 10-inch lengths and drive them into the holes. Plant the bottom 18 inches off the post into the ground, and if you have soft soil add a bit of ready-mix concrete at the bottom and near the top of the hole for added stability.

Now comes the fun part. (Well, emptying the bottles was fun too!) Slide the bottles onto the pipes using your artistic talents in positioning the various colors. Since the bottles are tipped downward, they won't

collect water. Your tree is now complete. When sunlight strikes the tree some bottles will almost appear illuminated from within; blue and amber bottles are particularly striking. In closing, I must confess that I emptied only a few wine bottles, but my tree sports a beautiful light blue gin bottle at the top; different strokes for different folks. Enjoy! 🍷

Editor's note: Gerald Nyquist is a retired biomechanical engineer residing in southeastern Michigan.



The author's bottle tree

Bet you didn't know...



Tulip petals are actually able to be eaten. During the Dutch famine of 1944 in WWII, people often had to resort to eating sugar beets and tulips.

In the Victorian Language of Flowers, the hyacinth flower symbolizes sport or play, and the blue hyacinth signifies sincerity.



Daffodils were brought to Britain by Romans who thought that the sap from these flowers had healing powers, where in actuality it contains crystals that can irritate the skin.

Daisy leaves are edible and can be used in salads.



Candied violet flowers have often been used as edible decorations on cakes and other fancy pastries.

The oil extracted from lilies actually has been found to have healing and softening properties. It has been known to work well for cracked and dry skin.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In our September 2015 edition, we ran a press release entitled "St. Clair County Airport Slogan Contest" and invited our readers to participate in describing the St. Clair County Airport. The winner was selected by the Airport Aeronautics Board and won a free 30-minute flight. We recently received this email from Kathy Reaume in regards to that contest:

Dear Editor,

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you. We received so many great ideas; it was very tough to decide which one fit the best!

We have made the decision on "BLUE WATER, BLUE SKIES".

Thank you for publishing our press release and helping us receive so many submissions. This really has been fun! We wanted to let the public know what we had chosen.

Kathy Reaume, phnairportdirector@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

Thank you all for a great read cover to cover!! Fun - informative - always something new and entertaining.

Plus, help in so many areas with all the advertisers!

Keep up the good work and God bless you all!

Shirley Kudzia, Emmett

To the Editor and Publisher,
Thank you for *ThumbPrint News* that we get at Rose's Restaurant, when we go out for breakfast. My husband and I read it back to front, and we read every article. We really enjoy it.

Keep up the good work!

Mary Lou Mico, St. Clair Shores

To the Editor,
Just finished reading your March issue. I want to thank you for the values that you support in your paper - your reverence for the Christian religion, your respect for your country and patriotism, and for the help that you have given to the helpless animals in the area, specifically the Kroger Kitties, and any others you have helped. Thank you for a calming respite in this frightening world.

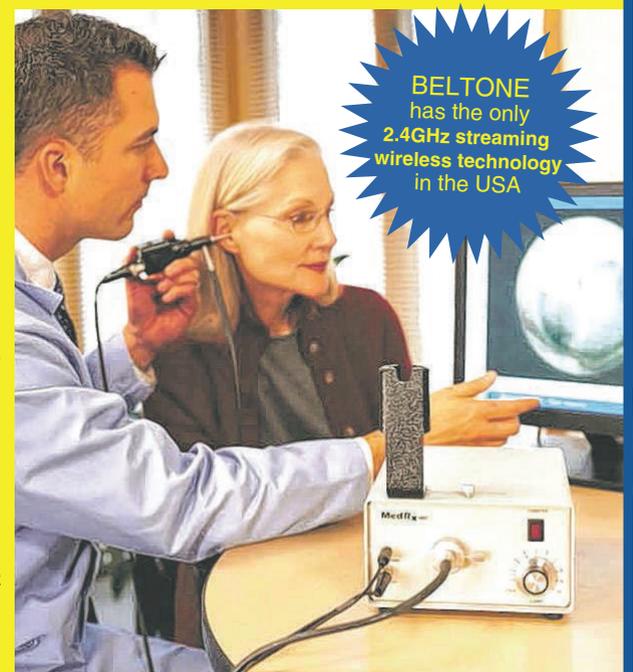
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Bored at School

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

I recall the spacious third-floor study hall at the old high school in the center of Algonac. There was row after row of wrought iron and oak top desks where some students actually devoted time to study. However, I wasn't among them and was not alone. For us it was a place to take a quick nap or read the messages left by those who used the desk in the days, months and years past.

The messages left were student grievances, harassment of other students, notes of affection and simple attempts to be the "class clown." To be certain they would not be lost or forgotten, these notes for posterity were etched into the desk's wooden table top. This was a time in history when most boys carried a penknife in their pockets and could use them as a writing tool. Girls would use a well-sharpened pencil to draw small heart shapes with initials inside. That behavior will get you kicked out of school today. Writing on school property is now a high level student code offense. So, what's a kid going to do?

As time advanced, the nation's youth wrote on the walls of restroom stalls and then moved their artful communication skills outside to exterior surfaces. Today you see less of that form of graffiti, but the messages are now more prevalent and part of public record communicated live 24/7 on multiple platforms in almost every conceivable medium.

Some experts on the subject of student behavior suggest that these forms of communicating thoughts are a result of boredom, now as they were many years ago. That suggests the cause is the same, but the method of display is different. Certainly, we know that many people today state their grievances in unacceptable language on Twitter, post less than flattering doodles on Instagram, and offer comments with compromising photographs of others on Snapchat. Some state that this is a newer generation's graffiti motivated by



the same old cause – boredom.

Recently in a local high school exercise, students were asked to note what they considered barriers to listening in the classroom. Among the responses, boredom ranked very high. Comments included boring subjects, boring discussions, boring assignments and boring teaching.

In the same school, the highest percentage of disciplinary reports were for violation of the student code's cell phone policy. Additionally, many of the other code violations were attributed to and impacted by disrespectful postings on social media or texting offensive messages, all using a cell phone. So, why is the cell phone at the center of in-school conflict today? Again, some who profess to be experts suggest it is boredom.

An education-related article focusing on student conflict in schools offered that the one emotion that seems to dominate the cause of most conflict in the classroom is boredom. It was referred to as the "signature sensation of high school."

A search on Twitter for the word "boring" coupled with "school" will find you back in the classroom. Many of the posts are, unfortunately, obscenity-laced rants. If you devote enough time to this gallery of digital graffiti, you are bound to find an indictment of school, combined with a worrisome sign of the inability of some students to cope. This becomes a digital escape from reality.

Consider this scenario: By mid-morning EST, most schools throughout the country are in session and the tweets begin to escalate faster than can be read. Imagine the number of kids tweeting and almost pleading for a response from someone, anyone. As a reaction to boredom, this is when students might begin enhancing their technology experience by making mischievous short videos on Vine or posting less-than-desirable photos on Instagram. Possibly an effective evaluation of how bored the student becomes in school is to measure what percentage of smartphone battery is wasted during the day.

Let's accept that as long as our kids and grandchildren have phones in their pockets, it is difficult to imagine them not being used at an ever-increasing rate. Should we not

already know there will always be something more exciting happening and it's just a touch of the keypad away? And, just as it was when the knife and pencil were instruments of communication, it is still harder to concentrate on the really hard work of reading, listening and successfully answering questions in the classroom.

In this essay based on the research of others, I make no attempt to suggest a remedy to the problems created from boredom or to what has become an addiction to cell phone use. After all, the entire subject

of boredom dates back to Adam and Eve, and we all know those consequences. Possibly if they had had cell phones, the entire world today would be much different.

Perhaps a good conclusion is with a quote from Saul Steinberg: "The life of the creative man is lead, directed and controlled by boredom. Avoiding boredom is one of our most important purposes." Are you asking who Saul Steinberg is? If you use your cell phone and Google the name, you might find out. You might, too, do an online search for Dorothy Parker's cure for boredom. 🌱

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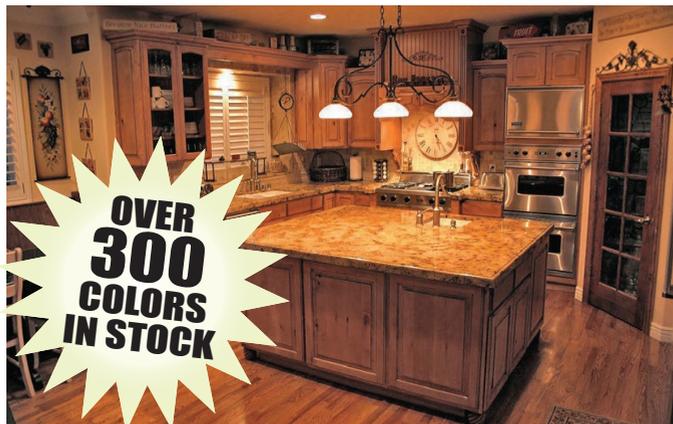
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CAPAC MAN, Continued from Page 1

Miller-Tucker Incorporated in 1935. Quickly following the establishment of the company, Henry Ford hired the duo to construct 10 Indy race cars. Unfortunately, due to lack of time to fashion the cars, they placed the steering box too close to the exhaust manifold, which seized the steering of the cars, causing many of them to drop out of the race. Following the disappointing showing, Ford withdrew from the business venture with Miller-Tucker Inc.



Tucker Armored Car at Colt Testing Range - July 1938

Although partnering with Miller wasn't a success for Tucker, he was determined to achieve automotive greatness. With WWII now in effect and the belief that the United States would soon become involved, Tucker began focusing on the war effort. Moving his family to Ypsilanti in 1939, he worked out of a barn on the property and formed the Ypsilanti Machine and Tool Company. In his backyard, Tucker began creating a combat vehicle for the military nicknamed the Tucker Tiger. Once the prototype was built, Tucker attempted to sell it to the government, but they already committed to another project. One major complaint about the bulletproof vehicle was it went too fast, able to reach speeds in excess of 115 mph. The government was interested in one aspect of his creation, which was the turret that was able to spin 360 degrees and was covered by a bulletproof dome. The turret went into production in Tucker's Ypsilanti shop before it was licensed to

other manufacturers. His gun would be used throughout WWII in crafts such as the B-17 and B-29 bombers, PT boats and other landing crafts.

Throughout the years of WWII, the United States' main concern was production of war material needed, which put car production on hold. The factories producing cars in 1942 moved all the projects being built at the time to the back lot and shifted to making various products used to aid in the war effort. By the time the war was over, those companies started

where they left off in 1942, advertising those cars as 1946 models. With many soldiers returning home and eager to resume a normal life, the desire for a new, exciting automobile was in high demand. Tucker saw this as his opportunity to awe the public with what he called *the first all new car in 50 years*. He quickly formed the Tucker Corporation and started to design his idea from scratch

with help from famous designer, Alex Tremulis. Tucker promised the public the safest and most aerodynamic car available with unheard of safety features, such as seat belts; the plan for seat belts was eventually dropped when an employee convinced Tucker that having them would lead people to believe the car wasn't safe. His vision, known as the Tucker Torpedo, was one of the lowest American sedans at 60 inches tall, as well as one of the largest sitting on a 130-inch wheel base. The reason he was able to make the car so short was because it was designed with the doors recessed into the roof, unlike any car of the time. It also had six exhaust pipes and a third headlight that swiveled with the steering column, which would become the car's most distinguishable feature. The name Tucker Torpedo was soon changed to Tucker 48 because it was thought torpedo would bring back fresh memories of WWII and it was better to promote safety over speed.

In order to construct his car of the future, Tucker needed a place to build it, which became the old Dodge plant in Chicago that was used to build B-29 bombers. This factory was the largest facility under a single roof in the world at the time. Tucker and his employees began designing the



prototype, which was constructed of sheet metal due to a clay shortage in only 100 days. The original design, known as the Tin Goose, had many features that proved to be impractical from an engineering standpoint and had to be reworked. As part of the deal, Tucker had to possess \$15 million in capital for the company. To do this without giving up control of his enterprise, Tucker began offering dealer franchises, which earned him \$6 million before deciding to offer \$20 million in stocks; this caused the War Asset Administration to urge the National Housing Agency to cancel the lease. Despite the arising issues, Tucker won the right to lease the plant in January of 1947, extending his deadline to raise the money needed to July 1. Although he was now able to start constructing his vision in the plant, the fundraising tactics caught the unwanted attention of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

With the sleek aerodynamic car taking shape, the automobile boasted never-before-seen innovations, such as a six-cylinder rear engine capable of going 0-60 mph in 10 seconds and reaching nearly 120 mph, disc brakes, independent suspension, padded dashboard and a windshield that popped out during a crash. The vehicle was built with the frame wrapping around the whole car, and unlike most cars at the time that placed the steering mechanism in front of the front axle, Tucker's design positioned it behind; this would keep the steering wheel from being jammed into the driver's chest during an accident. Possibly one of the most unique safety features on the car was located in front of the passenger seat, which was a compartment a person could dive into during an ensuing crash. With word of his car swirling, Tucker was bombarded with inquiries. Due to all the issues surrounding the Tucker Corporation and the SEC, many negative reports about the car were surfacing. The SEC began questioning if Tucker even planned on producing a car; some believed that it was just a scam because he was selling accessories for the automobile, such as seat covers, luggage and radios to people purchasing a Tucker 48 before the car was available.

The Tin Goose was unveiled June 19, 1947, with the press, brokers and dealers alike at the edge of their seats. Although



Aspects of the highly anticipated premier suggest it was rushed, it ended up being a success in the eyes of the thousands of people who showed up to see the Tucker 48 for the first time. Behind the scenes was a different story. The extra weight on the prototype caused the suspension arms to snap, which had to be pieced back together on the spot with whatever the workers could find; due to the pressure Tucker was under to give the public something in order to keep the hype of the car alive, the vehicle wasn't able to back up when it was debuted. While work to make the car moveable was in works, Preston Tucker was at the podium dragging out his speech for hours until the crowd became restless. Finally, the Tucker 48 was pushed out onto the stage and the crowd was in awe of the modernized spectacle. Unfortunately, rumors began spreading about the fact that the automobile couldn't go in reverse, which brought many negative reports. In the mean time, stocks were cleared for sale and became available on July 15. One reporter who viewed the Tin Goose said it "looked like it was doing 90 mph even when it was standing still." With problems arising from the original engine in the Tin Goose, Tucker decided to swap it for a helicopter engine that the company converted from air-cooled to water-cooled; Tucker liked the engine so much that he bought the company from Franklin Aircooled Motors for \$1.8 million.

In May of 1948, the SEC and Justice Department launched an extensive investigation into the Tucker Corporation. This probe was detrimental to the auto maker, causing creditors to get cold feet, which sent stocks in the company

See *CAPAC MAN*, Page 27

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RESULTS of the 11TH ANNUAL MOCK TRIAL TOURNAMENT

Over 130 Local High School Students Participated

Submitted By Judge Cynthia S. Platzer

St. Clair County Bar Association hosted the 11th Annual Mock Trial Tournament Saturday, February 27, 2016, at the County Courthouse. Nine local high schools participated with a total of 16 teams. The participating schools this year were: Anchor Bay High School, Capac High School, Marine City Cardinal Mooney High School, Marine City High School, Memphis High School, Port Huron High School, Port Huron Northern High School, St. Clair High School and Yale High School. Several schools fielded more than one team. Awards were given for best overall team performance, most professional team, best direct examination, best cross-examination, best opening statement, best closing statement and best portrayal of a witness.

The winners are as follows:

1st Place Overall Team: St. Clair High School, Team Blue

2nd Place Overall Team: Port Huron High School

3rd Place Overall Team: Yale High School

4th Place Overall Team: Marine City Cardinal Mooney High School, Team A

5th Place Overall Team: Memphis High School, Team A

Judge John G. Cummings Professionalism Award:

St. Clair High School, Blue Team

Best Opening Statement – TWO-WAY TIE:

Claire Brooks - St. Clair High School, Team Red

Hani Nasr - Marine City Cardinal Mooney High School, Team A

Best Closing Statement:

Holly Eisler - Yale High School

Best Presentation of Case – Direct Examination 1st Place:

Hani Nasr - Marine City Cardinal Mooney High School, Team A

Best Presentation of Case – Direct Examination 2nd Place:

Justin Rabine - Memphis High School, Team A

Best Presentation of Case – Direct Examination 3rd Place:

Lucy Herbert - Marine City High School

Best Presentation of Case – Cross-Examination 1st Place – THREE-WAY TIE:

Michaela Titus - Capac High School, Team A

Jacob Walsh - Memphis High School, Team A

Troy Distelrath - St. Clair High School, Team Red

Best Witness Portrayal – Detective Rory Riley – TWO-WAY TIE:

Claire Brooks - St. Clair High School, Team Red

Asia Scott - Marine City High School

Best Witness Portrayal – Dr. Kyle Killian:

John Zawadzinski - Marine City Cardinal Mooney High School, Team B

Best Witness Portrayal – Sawyer Simpson:

Megan Greig - St. Clair High School, Team Red

Best Witness Portrayal – Casey Campbell:

Mackenzie Deslover - Yale High School

Best Witness Portrayal – Dr. Avery Atkinson:

Abby Lamberson - Memphis High School, Team B

Best Witness Portrayal – Cameron Cortez – TWO-WAY TIE:

Arianna Lessard - Memphis High School, Team A

Karina Saiyad - St. Clair High School, Team Blue

Mock Trial is a competitive, extracurricular activity where students from teams perform the roles of attorneys and witnesses in a simulated court case before a jury. The jury is made up of real judges, attorneys and citizens from the community. The competition is designed to reenact much of what might take place in trial courts. Students are coached by a partnership of at least one teacher coach and at least one lawyer coach, who volunteer their time and talents.

The Judge John G. Cummings Professionalism Award was established in 2012. This award is designed to create in each student and team, awareness of the importance of professionalism and ethics in presenting their case. The students evaluate each other on appearance, proficiency in addressing jury/judge, compliance with mock trial rules, attitude and persuasion. The award was named for Judge John G. Cummings, retired Judge of the 72nd District Court, who for some fifty years in the practice of law and on the bench demonstrated the epitome of professionalism.

Any questions, call Judge Cynthia S. Platzer at (810) 985-2083. You can also visit our website to see the entire awards ceremony at <http://www.sc2mocktrial.org>.

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What Happened on this Day in History APRIL

1. On this day in 1984, singer Marvin Gaye is shot and killed by his own father.

2. On this day in 1932, Charles Lindbergh pays over \$50,000 ransom for his kidnapped son. (Over \$800K in today's economy.)

3. On this day in 1860, the Pony Express connects St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California.



4. On this day in 1917, the U.S. Senate votes 90-6 to enter World War I on the Allied side.

5. On this day in 1792, George Washington casts the first presidential veto.

6. On this day in 1896, the modern Olympics begin in Athens with eight nations participating.

7. On this day in 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt signs legislation ending Prohibition in the United States.

8. On this day in 1974, Hank Aaron hits his 715th home run, breaking Babe Ruth's record.



9. On this day in 1950, comedian Bob Hope makes his first television appearance.

10. On this day in 1790, the U.S. patent system is established.

11. On this day in 1968, President Johnson signs the 1968 Civil Rights Act.

12. On this day in 1911, Pierre Prier completes the first non-stop London to Paris flight in three hours and 56 minutes.

13. On this day in 1943, Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicates the Jefferson Memorial.

14. On this day in 1865, President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated in Ford's Theater by John Wilkes Booth.

15. On this day in 1755, English lexicographer Dr. Samuel Johnson publishes his *Dictionary of the English Language*.



16. On this day in 1922, Annie Oakley shoots 100 clay targets in a row, setting a woman's record.

MISS ANNIE OAKLEY

17. On this day in 1947, Jackie Robinson bunts for his first major league hit.

18. On this day in 1775, American revolutionaries Paul Revere and William Dawes ride through the towns of Massachusetts warning that "the British are coming."

19. On this day in 1960, baseball uniforms begin displaying player's names on their backs.

20. On this day in 1940, the first electron microscope is demonstrated.



21. On this day in 1898, the Spanish-American War begins.

22. On this day in 1976, Barbara Walters becomes the first female nightly news anchor on network television.

23. On this day in 1348, the first English order of knighthood is founded.

24. On this day in 1953, Winston Churchill is knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.



25. On this day in 1859, work begins on the Suez Canal in Egypt.

26. On this day in 1986, the world's worst nuclear disaster occurs at Chernobyl power plant in the Soviet Union.



27. On this day in 1861, President Abraham Lincoln suspends the writ of habeas corpus.

28. On this day in 1932, a yellow fever vaccine for humans is announced.

29. On this day in 1661, the Chinese Ming dynasty occupies Taiwan.

30. On this day in 1945, Adolf Hitler commits suicide in his bunker. Karl Donitz becomes his successor.

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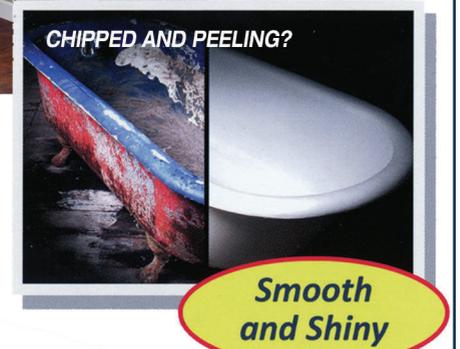
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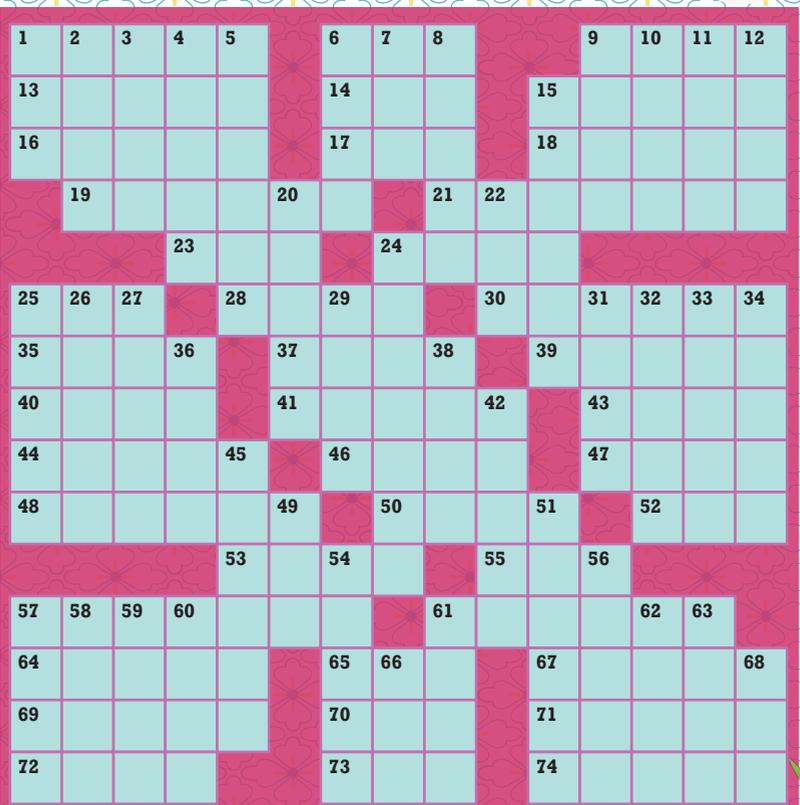
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- 1. Boat load
- 6. Line of work
- 9. Stairway alternative
- 13. Hitler's mistress
- 14. High or low card
- 15. Country on Samoan Islands
- 16. Stiff hair or bristles
- 17. Kan. neighbor
- 18. Holy See loyalist practicing different rites
- 19. *Daylight ___ time
- 21. *Spring is a symbol of this
- 23. Much of this about nothing?
- 24. "Stop!" to marchers
- 25. Feather glue
- 28. World's largest continent
- 30. To show off
- 35. Functions
- 37. Jittery
- 39. End of a poem
- 40. *Before you spring clean you make one?
- 41. Manet's and Gauguin's contemporary

- 43. Seaside bird
- 44. *"Spring to mind" or "Spring into action," e.g.
- 46. Table mineral
- 47. Equal
- 48. Correspondence friend
- 50. Part of ROM
- 52. *Spring is a cure for ___, acr.
- 53. As opposed to "want"
- 55. Pine juice
- 57. *Vernal event
- 61. *Japanese spring blossom
- 64. Knucklehead
- 65. Wear and tear
- 67. Made cow noise
- 69. Old hat
- 70. June honoree
- 71. Muscat resident
- 72. #23 Across, pl.
- 73. Mama sheep
- 74. Relating to Scandinavia

DOWN

- 1. *Masters Tournament network
- 2. Mars, to the Greeks
- 3. "Pro" follower
- 4. Exotic jelly flavor
- 5. Iroquois tribe
- 6. "More ___ for the buck"
- 7. *It dissipates in spring
- 8. Striped equine
- 9. Raja's wife
- 10. Gulf V.I.P.
- 11. Castle's line of defense
- 12. Beaten by walkers
- 15. Difficult to detect
- 20. Red-___ like Rudolph
- 22. Hermey the dentist, e.g.
- 24. Wasted-looking
- 25. *Popular spring flower
- 26. Comment to the audience
- 27. Pine product
- 29. * ___ of March, or March 15
- 31. "The ___ Go Marching"
- 32. Part of eye containing iris, pl.
- 33. Marilyn Monroe's given name
- 34. Pronged, as in three-___ fork
- 36. "Cut that out!"
- 38. Ivy League school
- 42. Bills under mattress
- 45. Like "The Martian" mission
- 49. DiCaprio to his friends?
- 51. Nature spirit in Greek mythology
- 54. Ooze out
- 56. Movie trailer, e.g.
- 57. Cocoyam
- 58. Leg muscle
- 59. "Do ___ others as..."
- 60. Frosts a cake
- 61. Formally surrender
- 62. Lion's warning
- 63. Strong desires
- 66. Horror movie series
- 68. One of a set of dice



Answer Key on page 31

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Marleau Bill would Name Monarch Butterfly the State Insect



Submitted by Thadd Gormas

State Senator Jim Marleau has introduced legislation that would make the Monarch butterfly Michigan's official state insect.

Marleau said he authored Senate Bill 812 in part at the encouragement of Keego Harbor Elementary School children, who brought the issue before the Keego Harbor City Council, and Karen Meabrod of Keego Harbor, who along with her husband Dudley have been raising Monarchs since 1992.

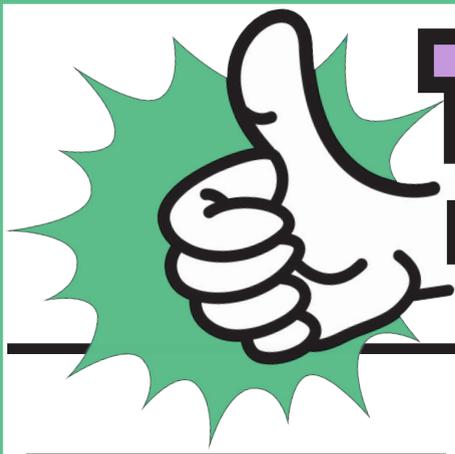
"Karen Meabrod and the students of Keego Harbor Elementary School are passionate about making the Monarch butterfly our state insect," said Marleau, R-Lake Orion. "I share in that passion. This beautiful butterfly is widely recognized throughout the state, and butterfly enthusiasts come to Michigan every year to follow their migration.

"Michigan is one of only three states without an official state insect. It is time to remedy that and designate the Monarch butterfly with that honor."

Marleau said the Monarch butterfly relies on milkweed for its life cycle. Michigan used to have an abundance of milkweed, and recent efforts have been underway to reestablish milkweed habitat, spanning from Mackinac Island, to the Lake Michigan lakeshore, to communities in Oakland County.

"With the regrowth of milkweed and the Monarch butterflies that are drawn to it, Michigan can again be a sanctuary for these butterflies," Marleau said. "By establishing the Monarch butterfly as the official state insect, we can raise awareness for their diminishing habitat so residents and tourists alike can watch these stunning creatures as they migrate through Michigan."

SB 812 has been referred to the Senate Government Operations Committee. 🇺🇸



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MARITIME TRIVIA

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Congratulations to Ron Currence of New Baltimore, Michigan, for correctly answering question #28. Be the first to correctly answer Question #29 and you could win a J. Clary collector print!

Question #28

What was the old navy slang meaning for the impolite phrase "shut up"?

Answer to #28:

Batten your hatch.

Maritime Trivia Question #29

Where did the name of the coffee company "STARBUCKS" come from?

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By R.L.Christensen

ThumbPrint News Contributor

Our elder community has a weekly coffee and donut gathering called "Dunkers". Each month one or another of our residents serves as "emcee" for the half-hour get-together. Every emcee strives to follow a scripted format (birthdays, anniversaries, sick call, community announcements, etc.), but is expected to entertain a bit by telling jokes, humorous events, and the like.

A couple of weeks ago it was my turn to perform. I followed a former theatrical performer who, during his emcee stints, sang some songs, even a couple with an accompanist. He was not too bad for a 70-year-old. As an 80-year-old, my voice is a deep baritone and not unpleasant, according to my wife. However, I do have a problem staying on key, so I refrain from public performances. In years gone by, my wife and I sang a lot. She knows many of the Broadway show tunes and, in her prime, a listener would have trouble distinguishing her voice from that of Julie Andrews. My repertoire ran more to Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. On auto trips with our kids we would occupy many miles singing solo, duets and some quartets.

Anyway, as I began my stint as emcee I told the audience that I would not be singing for them. But I told them about when I sang in what I thought was the best concert hall ever. When I was a youth on the farm

one of the daily tasks was to climb up in our silo where the corn silage for the cows was stored. Our silo (as I remember) was 12-feet in diameter and 40-feet tall with a cap on the top.

A chute was fastened to the side of the silo at the end of the barn. Inside this chute, a series of removable doors into the silo about three-feet square, ran from the bottom to the top. The nearly mature green corn was run through a powerful chopper, blown up a pipe to the top of the silo and spilled down the inside where a man or boy tramped around and around to pack the silage so it would ferment and keep better. As the silo was filled, the doors would be clamped in place from the bottom to the top. As the silage was removed, the doors would be removed from the top down.

Needless to say, the time spent in solitary in the silo was boring, so I would sing as loudly as I wanted. I could fall off key and just repeat it until I got it right and if I forgot the words, I could just hum the melody. I also found I could imitate the sounds of several of the wind instruments and would do solos of the clarinet, the tuba and the trombone. In my memory those numbers I did in the silo had the best sound quality of any stage I ever heard. My teenage voice gained depth, timbre and confidence as I practiced. It has never since sounded so good!



Meet Ernie!

Despite his claim of being somewhat surly, we know Ernie Heinrich has a sweet side. Out of the goodness of his heart, he delivers 100 or so papers to several senior groups, shut-ins and farmers markets. He has come to visit us every month for the past two years to pick up 100 or so of our papers and he always has a few minutes to share humorous tales and some of the wisdom he's learned over the years. We think he's as sweet as the honey he used to harvest and sell in his younger days at the start of the Mt. Clemens Farmers Market some 38 years ago.

Thank you Ernie. You're a gem!



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Solomon's Castle

in Ono, Florida

INSPIRES

By **Diane Kodet**
ThumbPrint News Editor

On a recent rare day of extremely bad weather in usually sunny Florida, I was perusing through the book *Weird Florida* by Charlie Carlson for something to do with out-of-town guests who were spending the week. Many of the highlighted places were too far of a drive for such a nasty day as it was, but one struck my interest – Solomon's Castle in Ono, Florida, only about an hour's drive from where we were staying. We all decided we were game for an adventure.

We put in a call to make sure the



Solomon's Castle, Ono, Florida

attraction would be open that day and, even though we had the address, we were advised to not use the address on our GPS, but instead use the coordinates we were given. That information proved to be vital as we turned off Highway 70 onto back roads leading through miles of citrus orchards and, finally, to dirt roads. Barely passing a car in the blinding rainstorm, we were surprised that when we reached such an out-of-the-way place that at least 20 other cars had also made the journey that day to our chosen destination.

Solomon's Castle is the gallery, workshop and home



Stained glass windows created by Solomon

of internationally renowned artist Howard Solomon, and all three are open to the public during selected days and hours. The castle itself is over 10,000 square feet of recycled materials, complete with

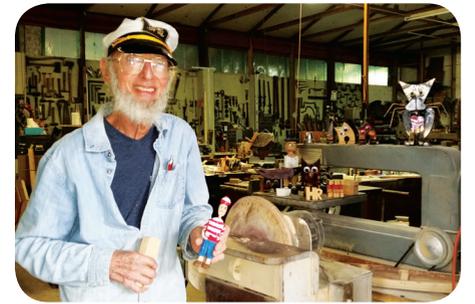


Boat-in-the-Moat Restaurant

turrets and a moat. During the tour, we were treated to a guided tour of Solomon's artistic pieces, all comprised of recycled materials as well. The guide's stream of one corny joke after another kept us all laughing.

As the tour ended, we found ourselves in front of what looked like an old pirate's ship. This turned out to be the Boat in the Moat Restaurant. Head Chef Alane prepared for us a scrumptious meal, the shining conclusion of which was the chocolate walnut pie.

When lunch was over and the rain had ended, we had a chance to tour the grounds. This tour included the workshop of Solomon, where the energetic octogenarian himself showed us around. His corny jokes must have been the inspiration for



Howard Solomon in his workshop

those we heard on our guided tour!

If you ever need something to do on a non-beach day in Florida and you are close enough to drive to Ono, Solomon's castle is well worth the \$10.00 admission fee, if nothing more than for realizing that if an 80-year-old man is still expanding upon his dream daily, then all of us can complete any goal we set our sights on. More information can be found by calling (863) 494-6077 or online at www.solomonscastle.org.

Editor's note: If you would like to join our Thumb Bird group, the only requirements are that you live or have lived in one of the nine counties that ThumbPrint News covers (Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, Sanilac, Tuscola or Wayne) and that you now spend either part or all of the year in Florida. We meet once in the winter in Florida and once in the late summer in Michigan to socialize and enjoy wonderful food together.

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Leptospirosis Disease in Dogs

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

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that can be seen in many mammals, including humans. The disease is more common in dogs and livestock and very rare in cats. Wild animals, such as raccoons, skunks and rodents, seem to be primary carriers, but do not show signs of illness from the bacteria.

The *Leptospira* bacteria have multiple strains or serovars, some causing mild disease, while others cause significant kidney and liver damage. The *Leptospira* bacteria are spread through urine and can survive in high moisture conditions for up to six months in the environment. Any stagnant water, mud puddles, heavy rain/flooded areas or water saturated soil can harbor the bacteria. Drying and freezing temperatures do kill the bacteria. Dogs that are exposed to contaminated water, wild animals and their urine are at a greater risk.

Here in southeastern Michigan many cities are having problems with rat infestations, which seems to be contributing to the rise in the amount of leptospirosis we are seeing. The bacteria can enter the body by drinking from a contaminated water supply, but it can also enter through a cut or wound in the skin. Once in the body, the bacteria invade many tissues. Your dog's immune system is able to clear the infection from most tissues, but the bacteria have learned to hide out in the kidneys (where it can be shed for several months in the urine). The bacteria can cause significant damage to the kidneys during this time.

If Leptospirosis is suspected, your veterinarian should run a complete blood count, a



Photo courtesy of isosphere
@FreeDigitalPhoto.com

chemistry profile and a urinalysis. There are also antibody titer tests that can confirm an infection, however these tests require several days to get results. If your pet is showing any of the symptoms below, treatment should be started before titer results are available.

Signs, symptoms and severity of the disease depend on not only which strain it is, but also what organs are affected. The kidneys and liver are the hardest hit organs. If failure occurs in both organs, the prognosis for recovery is much worse. Symptoms can vary from fever and loss of appetite to vomiting, diarrhea, urinating excessively, joint pain or stiffness and jaundice or yellowing of the eyes and skin. Aggressive fluid therapy, antibiotics and medications to control any vomiting or diarrhea is the treatment of choice. *Leptospira* bacteria are sensitive to penicillin, erythromycin and tetracycline antibiotics. Antibiotics need to be given for 30 days to help decrease the shedding of the bacteria in your pet's urine. During this time it is very important to wear gloves anytime you handle your dog's urine and limit exposure to young children or anyone with a weak immune system.

Preventing Leptospirosis can be done in two ways, by vaccinating your pet and decreasing exposure to contaminated water and wildlife. The vaccine will protect your dog against four of the most prevalent serovars, but not all of the strains. Initially, the vaccine is a series of two injections given two to four weeks apart. This will give short term protection and needs to be boosted yearly. Rodent control measures, like not leaving any food outside and keeping garbage cans closed tightly, can reduce exposure to infection.

The key to successful treatment and recovery is seeking medical attention as soon as your dog shows any signs of illness. 🐾

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

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SPRING SOGGINESS MAY CAUSE SEPTIC TROUBLES.

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THUMBPRINT NEWS CONTEST

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object, person or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, go to our website www.thumbprintnews.com and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting the correct answer by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a wonderful surprise gift at the end of the year! On December 16, 2016, one winner will be drawn out of all the monthly winners and the lucky person will be notified.



For our March contest, we asked our readers to identify what the following object on the left is and for what it was used.

This contest had over 200 of our readers submitting the correct answer! Of all of those submitting the correct answer, Shirley Fedell of St. Clair Shores was randomly chosen to be entered into the year-end drawing. Shirley identified that this

object was a homemade ironing aid. A pop bottle was filled with water and the stopper with a sprinkler head was attached. Clothes waiting to be ironed were first sprinkled with water, as this aided in removing wrinkles from the fabric. (Today, most irons come with a built in spraying mechanism and reservoir for water that serve the same purpose.)

For our April contest, we are asking our readers what the following objects, which are pictured to the right, are and for what they were used. Remember, go to our website www.thumbprintnews.com if you know the answer. **GOOD LUCK!**





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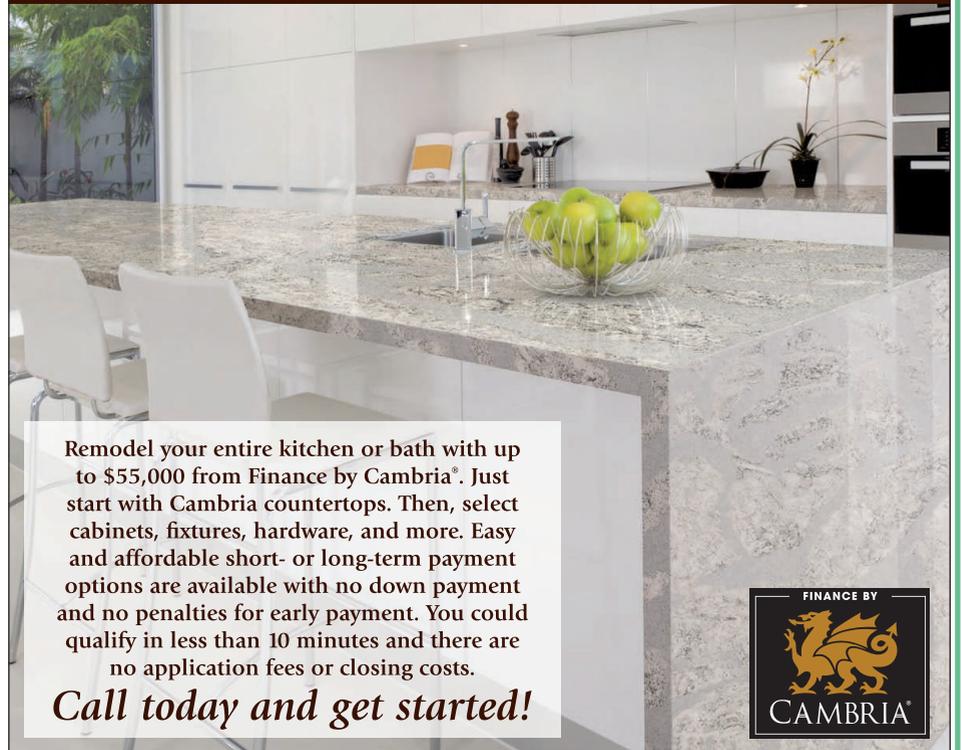


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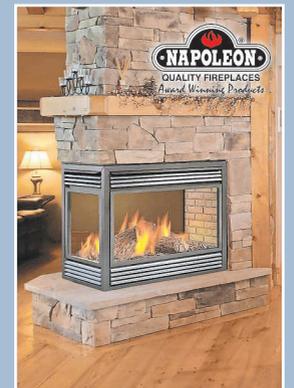
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SECRET LIFE

Continued from Page 1

votes for Most Valuable Player. However, Berg suffered a serious knee injury the next year causing him to spend the rest of his career in the reserves until his retirement in 1939.

In 1934, Berg was sent to Japan with the MLB All-Star team, where he played with the likes of all-time greats, such as Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. The decision to send a backup catcher to Japan with the best baseball players in the world baffled people for many years. It was later revealed prior to the trip that Berg was recruited as a spy for the government. Berg went to a hospital in Japan to visit a woman who had just given birth, but instead slipped up to the roof of the tallest building in Tokyo to take pictures of the whole cityscape. The pictures weren't used until 1943, when General Jimmy Doolittle planned the bombing raids on the capital, known as the Doolittle Raid. The U.S. government wrote a letter to Berg thanking him for the pictures.

Berg, who spoke fluent German, was then sent on a mission to Zurich in 1944. There he attended a lecture held by Werner Heisenberg, who was the leader of Nazi Germany's project to construct an atom bomb. Berg's objective was to determine how close Germany was to completing a nuclear bomb and assassinate Heisenberg if they were close to completion.

However, Heisenberg disclosed that Germany was actually behind the United States in developing the bomb, so no assassination was ever attempted. During his time working for the government, Berg was an officer for the Office of Strategic Services and was responsible



Philadelphia Athletics base runner, Rusty Peters, crosses home plate in front of Boston Red Sox catcher, Moe Berg.



Boston Red Sox Rick Ferrell, Philadelphia Athletic Jimmie Foxx, and Boston Red Sox Moe Berg in front of screen at Fenway Park

for exploiting a factory in Norway that was producing components for an atom bomb, as well as a research center in Germany.

For his services, Berg was awarded the Medal of Freedom from President Truman, the highest medal a civilian can receive, which he rejected. Rumor has it that it was because he couldn't tell people why he received it. Berg was forced out of his duties as a spy in the late 1940s, and never held a steady job again, dying on May 29, 1972, from an aneurysm. Today, Berg is remembered as the *most shadowy player in baseball history* and was often explained as the *strangest man to ever play the game.*

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LJ-0100329785

A Painful Reminder

By **Patricia Cosner Kubic**

ThumbPrint News Contributor

When gripped by most types of pain it's almost impossible to truly understand that it can be a good thing. I've been very sad for a while now, and it's just starting to occur to me that there might very well be something good about pain: the opposite of pain.

The easiest way to understand this theory is with some typical examples. You have a stubborn toothache; that's your signal to go to the dentist and get the tooth fixed. You notice twinges in your chest; it's time to see the doc and get a check-up. Your knees won't stop hurting; maybe it's time to switch from jogging to something less brutal, like bike riding. If our tooth, chest or knees never hurt, we would never know those areas needed some attention.

Yes, my examples may sting and cause us to feel uncertain, but what the pain is really doing is telling us to respond to it. And, the sooner the better! It's a simple three step process. Just pick up the phone, make an appointment with a person whose job requires them to wear a white coat, and, then (here's the tricky part) actually go to the appointment. I thought it might be helpful to list the steps for anyone who considers procrastination an art form. And, if you are fortunate, the time spent with that person in the white coat fixed you right up. No more pain. Pain did its job and gave us a chance to prevent an irritating situation from turning into a dark one. Not bad for something most people complain about.

For most people, responding to the pain made it temporary. Unfortunately, some physical pain never stops until that person goes into their deep, final sleep. Finally, their pain has ended. But then, there is a new kind of pain for those who bravely helped them.

And while my pain is not to that degree, my heart is breaking. But, as I get used to my new reality, I'm starting to see tiny specks of light

which are giving me moments of relief. You see, we recently got the news that our sweet kitty, Linus, has cancer. This is blindsiding information because weeks ago, we had been told that his biopsies were benign. However, complications followed and it turns out that the first biopsies were incorrect. Just when we thought the coast was clear, it turns out "a hurricane's a comin".

Talking about it with Robert, my husband, he gently reminded me that we aren't getting out of here without loss. It is just part of the life game. And, when I'm not upset, I do understand that when you take on the responsibility of a pet, you know going in there will be pain. But, I've always told myself that the love of any pet, the essential duty of caring for animals, is worth the price of the last part of their short, beautiful lives.

Robert's words stayed with me. And, what I'm starting to realize about my sadness is that it is making me look back on our years with Linus. The truth is, if it weren't for the knots in my stomach, I'd be too busy getting dinner going while keeping the laundry moving to stop and think how Linus has helped our home feel whole. And that reality is softening the angst of our new one.

As I nervously write this, I don't know exactly what Linus's future will include or how long it will last. But, his illness is just the most recent example that pain is one of life's guarantees, just like Robert said. But, it is also making me look at the flip side of pain - I can see that it is temporary. I know it will eventually fade and, I believe that the only thing which will remain is love. Thanks, Linus, for showing me, again, what quiet teachers animals are. 🐾



Editor's note: You can contact Patricia at pckubic@gmail.com.

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“Kroger Kitties” Update

See the original story “Evicted Felines Shop for Forever Homes” in the March 2016 issue of *ThumbPrint News* or online at www.thumbprintnews.com.

These cats are not truly feral. They've been abandoned. Never once did they indicate they wanted to be cast aside and sent to fend for themselves in a hostile environment. As you will see by these success stories, they really only want to be loved and have good homes.

They all respond positively to human affection. We are looking for people who want to share their hearts and homes with these kitties, who have been abandoned and neglected. We think it is important they now be indoor kitties only, as they once must have been, so their trust of humans shall not be betrayed again.

This big guy, named at the vet clinic as Corn Pops, was quickly renamed “Sid Vicious” because this is as close as we could get before he hissed and tried to claw his way out of the cage. Now we call him “Good Boy” or “Lover Boy” because he has done a complete 180°. He looks forward to our daily visits. When he sees us coming he often offers us his sweet



Corn Pops

little chirping meow. He leans into our hands as we pet him and pick him up, and if you listen closely you can hear him purr. Loud noises still startle him, but he is oh-so-ready to be out of the cage and sharing his special love with someone. Please consider taking this castaway into your heart and home. As you can see in the newest picture, he is a sweet boy.



Ritz

How can you resist that face?

Who would ever believe that 10 weeks ago this guy was hiding and crouching in the corner of his crate? He would hiss at everyone who came near; now he is a snuggler with a fun and sometimes mischievous personality. He is kind and loving to everyone, including children. All he needs now is a forever home.



This little gal is still pretty shy. She hasn't truly bonded with any one yet. She will let us pet her, but doesn't quite trust us. She does love her tuna treats, though. Little Swiss Miss is curious about humans, but she has not yet made advances to our overtures of affection; in spite of this she is making progress. She just needs a patient, loving person to bring her 'round.



Swiss Miss

Found His Forever Home!

Nugget



Nugget, formerly known as Lucky Charms, is happily snuggling with his new big brother Pumpkin.

When “Lucky Charms”, aka Nugget, was captured, he was scared and sassy. Since that time, he's been to the vet where he was neutered and given a clean bill of health, as were all the “Kroger Kitties”. He didn't spend very long confined at the ABC Home & Commercial Services offices before he was adopted by one of the *ThumbPrint News* employees. Now he has a snuggle buddy, his own cozy bed and lots of room to roam and play inside his new home.

Found His Forever Home!



Batman

“French Fry”, aka Batman, was a stinker at the beginning. Being very angry at us for capturing him, he hissed and clawed at us. After his return from the vet, he was adopted by one of the employees at ABC. She took him home, sequestered him in her bedroom with his litter box, food and water, just to give him time to acclimate. The next evening she went in and sat next to his chosen hiding spot, under the bed, with an opened can of tuna. It took about an hour of patient coaxing before he felt sure enough to emerge from his safe zone to come over to her to eat that special tuna treat. She praised and loved on him and now, as you can see in the above picture, he is right at home and lovin' life.

Isn't she a beauty? By far she is the prettiest kitty we have rescued. Sugar Snaps is her name and playing hard-to-get is her game. She has all the signs of being interested in our attentions; she just hasn't quite forgotten her distrust of humans. She likes to stay toward the rear of her crate in her cozy bed where she feels safe. Don't let the “Snaps” in her name fool you; she doesn't snap at all. Again, patience, love and a safe, secure environment is what she needs most. Please help this beauty.



Sugar Snaps

More “Kroger Kitties” who need your help to make their stories have a happy ending:

This is a commitment of love and patience. It takes a kind soul to teach these kitties not to be fearful of human contact. We are not going to sugar coat this. It will take more than a few weeks of concentrated, daily attention to domesticate these cats, and we would not recommend them to be around young children.



Ginger Snaps. Yes, she is snappy and very unhappy. Progress with her has been the slowest, but progress is progress. We'll keep working with her until she finds a home.



Keebler. Still a shy boy. He tolerates us petting him as long as we don't try to move him. Moving him by hand scares him. He huddles in the corner most of the day, snuggling his “twin” sister.



Little Debbie, who looks as though she could be Keebler's “twin”, is super shy. We can only touch her head and she barely looks at us. These babies need a safe place to play and just be kitties again.

HOUSE FOR LIFE

By Paul Welch

ThumbPrint News Columnist

With spring in full swing, the weather can be very unpredictable. While April showers bring May flowers, April storms bring problems for all. Storms can cause power outages, flooding and damaged homes. If the conditions are right, strong winds can develop and cause massive damage. Being prepared for these emergency situations will help keep you safe and keep your losses to a minimum.

Left in the Dark – With storms, power outages are a real possibility. Some areas may be more prone to power loss than others, but it can hit any area. Many of us will remember the blackout of 2003 that left many people in Michigan without power for a good day and some for several days. Power loss makes us realize how much we rely on electricity. It keeps our food cold or frozen so it does not spoil. It gives us light. It powers things that provide entertainment for us. These things help us to function on a daily basis.

Fortunately, it has become common for local hardware and home improvement stores to carry generators for emergency power so you can keep your food cold and possibly keep the furnace working if the temperature calls for it. If you have a sump pump, have it connected to a generator or install a battery backup to prevent flooding in your basement. If you can't afford a generator, cook any raw meat that is at risk of going bad if the blackout seems like it will be prolonged. Keep a good supply of nonperishable dry and canned foods. Keep flashlights, battery powered alarm clocks and batteries so you can at least function around the home and get to work on time. If you have at least a grill or a camping stove, use that outside to cook so you can still make some meals. Avoid extensive use of candles because they can lead to a fire hazard.

Not in Kansas Anymore – Tornadoes are scary and unpredictable. They cause quite a bit of damage to homes. Even a strong windstorm with winds coming close to hurricane speed can be destructive. Aside of causing power outages, they can cause property damage from debris, trees falling or just the wind's destructive force. Insurance may cover the damage, but having to find a new place to live until it is

repaired is difficult. Fortunately, we don't live in states like Kansas where tornadoes are very common, but they are a very real possibility along with severe windstorms. While there is not much you can do to prevent the damage, there are things you can do protect your home.

Safety is most important when these storms hit. Stay away from windows and go into the basement, if you have one; if you don't have a basement, go into a centralized room when there is the threat of a tornado. Before these even hit, check any trees on your property. Any dead or dying trees should be cut down because they are the most likely to fall in a bad storm. While healthy trees can be uprooted in a bad storm, dead ones are the most likely to and they will cause damage if they fall on your home.

Time to Build an Ark – More rain means that flooding can happen and water is very destructive. It damages buildings and can lead to mold and mildew growing on a surface. It could be because you live in a flood-prone area or because your sump pump fails at the wrong time. There are things you can do to minimize some of the risks of flooding and keep yourself safe if it happens.

Make sure your foundation is sealed and protected from water getting in. Also make sure your gutters are clear and directing water where it is supposed to go. Build landscaping that keeps water from the foundation and slopes so that water flows away from it. Make sure your sump pump is in working order. If it has been a long time since you replaced it, you might want to buy one now and have it on hand, instead of waiting to buy one when it fails. Have a battery backup installed for when it fails or if you lose power. Make sure electrical lines and boxes are installed higher up in case of a flood. Store valuable documents in higher locations and in something watertight. Last but not least, make sure you have enough insurance coverage in case it does happen.

Stay safe this spring and make sure you are properly insured. At least if disaster strikes, you will be able to rebuild instead of having to deal with the damages on your own. Next month I will talk about updating and maintaining siding. Hopefully the weather will be warm with some sunny days. 🌞

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The New Math of Relationship

By **John Vincent Senkus**

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Regardless of one's Darwinian viewpoint, there is no denying that humanity is an emotionally evolving species. Going back just eighty years ... the average span of one lifetime, much has happened within the expanse of loving relationship. The parameters of love have shifted significantly. Previously, heightened perceptions of intimate relationship were far off notions. Actualization, higher consciousness, potentiality, and other synonyms used to indicate increased inner attainment were not regular visitors to the vocabulary of our parents and grandparents. Currently, they are sought after relationship covenants, looking to be integrated into daily thoughts and living. Couples have been evolving from archaic gender based role models, progressing from initially accepting and putting up with each other's differences, to gaining a better understanding of them, and now toward positively integrating these once seemingly conflicting characteristics. As this evolution continues, millions of partners are pursuing elevated levels of awareness, not just from deep within themselves, but from the soul of their relationship as well. They are seeking to transcend those limiting templates that relational differences just get in the way. These partnerships are looking to awaken and actualize their potential through love – not in spite of it.

A key ingredient to advancing relationship growth is emotional attunement, which only occurs when the ego is silenced. And historically, this has not been a typical stronghold of the male gender. For most men of previous generations, worrying about being in touch with emotions and feelings, much less carving out a path for introspect and higher awareness, was just not on the radar screen (let alone being a priority). The old scale placed much emphasis on the mentality of "me against the world", measuring mans success on the spoils of his achievements. In his book *Love and Awakening, Discovering the Sacred Path of Intimate Relationship*,

John Welwood stated, "The male spirit is always seeking new challenges, willing to risk body and mind, to forge a path into unexplored territory. Men today tend to define their challenges in terms of outer pursuits and conquests: exploring creative frontiers, forging new scientific advances, crafting business and political deals, or pushing the limits of their physical endurance. Yet for all their expertise in worldly affairs, most men are still primitives in their relationships with women – because fully engaging with a woman means probing the uncharted depths of their own inner life. This is the new frontier for men today."

I would love to say the majority of men have shed most of the traditions of ego armor, but that would be untrue. Too many still cling to old stereotype role models, afraid or unable to penetrate this shield and come into better contact with the possibilities of their true selves. I believe many of these constraints have to do with the perceptions and paradigms of strength. Some view being in touch with inner emotions as a more feminine characteristic. Driving this perspective is the fact that many men are afraid or initially lack the ability to effectively become more emotionally connected. *However, the true measure of ultimate strength, regardless of physical size or mental toughness, is based on the ability to find and follow the voice of the inner-self.* This is the only path that leads toward the realization of our intended soulful purpose. It is that simple. Unfortunately though, simple doesn't always mean easy. For many men, "emotional intimacy" are foreign and strange words. This concept certainly bucks the traditional model of egocentric masculinity. But, there is no higher calling than being in tune with yourself and letting it rise above "tradition"!

As today's man continues to evolve, more and more are seeking deeper fulfillment than their forefather's sought. They have the need to become more emotionally knowledgeable and aware, with themselves and their partners. This

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quest goes far beyond the traditional male role model's achievements of high self-esteem and status. While the emotional capacity of today's man has reached heightened levels of potential, it is still melded with the traditional qualities of strength – giving him the capacity to be stronger than any of those before him. Having this ability to become more emotionally cognizant adds power and provides additional dimensions of perception. And anytime knowledge is gained, especially that of emotional awareness, strength is

increased. These pursuits should be an everlasting virtue of the male, regardless of age or era.

Since it is only the deepest of emotions that lead to self-actualization and pave the way toward a man's true destiny ... what can be more courageous than following your heart?

Thanks for reading! Please send any questions or comments to 1and1equal3@gmail.com.

In our next column, we will further explore gender's impact to relationship growth. 🌱

Thumb Area

Calendar of Activities & Events

April

If you have an event in May that you would like listed in the May issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by April 12, 2016. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

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

Genesee

Flint - April 23

2016 Superhero 5K Run, Flint Farmers Market, 300 E. 1st St., 9:00 a.m., plus an untimed 1K Fun Run for kids and families at 10:00 a.m. Dress up as your favorite superhero, or if you prefer, purchase a superhero cape from the race. Timing and awards provided for the 5K run. All proceeds will benefit abused, abandoned and neglected children of Genesee County. Please visit www.flintsuperhero.run for more information or to register.

Huron

Bad Axe - April 16

Tip of the Thumb Dancers, Huron County Senior Center, 150 Nugent Rd., 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Bring finger foods and friends. Admission is \$5. Cancellations on WLEW and WMIC radio. Entertainment provided by Melody Magic. For more information call Jerry at (989) 269-6348.

Lapeer

Lapeer - April 2

Ladies Spring Revival and Craft Show, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Entrance fee \$3. Vendors welcome. For more information call (810) 664-9312.

Lapeer - April 5

Spaghetti Dinner, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 4:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. \$6 per person, \$5 seniors, \$3 ages 7-12, under 7 free. Public welcome. All proceeds go towards scholarship fund. For more information call (810) 664-9312.

Lapeer - April 10

Nascar, Toy Show, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Public welcome. Free admission. 8 ft. tables \$25. Donations accepted. Any donations will be given to St. Jude's Hospital and needy families in the area. For more information call (810) 664-9312.

Lapeer - April 12

Taco Night, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. \$2 per taco. Public welcome. For more information call (810) 664-9312.

Lapeer - April 16

Lapeer County 4-H 30th Annual Spring Auction, Lapeer Center Building, 425 County Center St., 8:00 a.m. There are over 1,000 items with something for everyone, including a 5-day African safari, Waldenwoods Resort package, tickets to Meadowbrook and to the Michigan Renaissance Festival, a Soaring Eagle package and much, much more! Silent auction begins at 8:00 a.m. Pancake breakfast from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Live auction begins at 11:00 a.m. For more information contact Tammy at vanderf4@msu.edu.

Lapeer - April 16

Shop-for-a-Purpose Craft Show, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. For more information call (810) 664-9312.

Lapeer - April 24

Save Time - Have Fun - Get Advice, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. For more information contact americanlegion16@gmail.com.

Lapeer - April 24

Wedding Tasting Expo, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 2:00 p.m. Admission \$5. Wedding attire fashion show by Celtic Stitches at 2:00 p.m. Bridal gift bags, door prizes, cake tasting, music and food tasting by local vendors. \$1,000 off 2017 Grand Prize Drawing complete wedding package booking offered by Anderson Productions. For more information call (810) 664-9312.

Macomb

New Baltimore - April 3

Flea Market, VFW Hall, 35011 23 Mile Rd., 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Table rental is \$15. Call (810) 388-0908 or (586) 256-0212 for more information.

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Richmond - April 5

Woman's Life Chapter 855 Meeting, Lois Wagner Memorial Library, 35200 Division, 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information contact Lyn at lynnsuniverse@yahoo.com.

Romeo - April 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 & 28

Pickleball, 361 Morton St., 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Come and have fun while getting exercise! Pickleball is played every Tuesday and Thursday. For more information call (586) 752-9601.

Chesterfield Twp. - April 7

Lost Car Companies of Detroit, Presented by Author, Alan Naldrett, Chesterfield Public Library, 50562 Patricia St., 6:30 p.m. The program will focus on the histories of car companies that are no longer around, even though the factories and other remnants are. For more information contact Alan at alannaldrett@yahoo.com.

Richmond - April 7 - 9

St. Augustine Rummage Sale, Parish Hall, 68035 Main St., 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 9:00 a.m. - noon on Saturday. Bag sale on Saturday only. Sponsored by the St. Augustine Altar Sodality. For more information contact Kathy at (586) 727-3666 or Rosemary at (810) 543-0402.

Roseville - April 11

Card Party and Luncheon, Ashlar Chapter #378 Order of Eastern Star, Masonic Center, 27151 Gratiot Ave., 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Hot lunch served at noon. \$8 per person. Everyone come and bring your friends. For more information call (586) 772-6126.

Utica - April 18

Warren Polka Boosters 44th Anniversary Celebration, K of C Hall, 44425 Utica Rd., doors open at 12:30

p.m., dinner at 1:30 p.m. Dinner and dance \$28; dance only \$17. Beer, wine, pop and coffee included. The band will be Ray Jay and The Carousels. Dinner reservations must be made by April 18 by calling Pat at (586) 566-8936 or Rose at (586) 756-9259.

Washington - April 18

Dinner and Cards, 57900 Van Dyke, 4:00 p.m. Come and play cards with your friends while enjoying a great meal. Play whatever card game you want. Offered the third Monday of every month. For more information call (586) 786-0131.

New Baltimore - April 21

Forgotten Giants of the Auto Industry, First Congregational Church, Alfred and Base Streets, 7:00 p.m. Presented by author, Alan Naldrett. For more information contact Alan at alannaldrett@yahoo.com.

Richmond - April 22, 23, 24, 29 & 30 and May 1, 6, 7 & 8

Richmond Community Theatre Production of Crimes of the Heart, 69619 Parker St., 8:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets: adults \$17, seniors and students \$12. For more information visit RichmondTheatre.com or call (586) 727-9518.

Oakland

Pontiac - April 17

RMS Titanic, Presented by Larry Hathcock, Carriage House of Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, 405 Cesar E. Chavez Ave., 2:00 p.m. Admission \$5; includes refreshments. Larry is a member of OCPHS, an avid historian, and former U.S. Navy radio operator. Larry examines the various circumstances that led to the sinking of the famous ship on April 15, 1912, resulting in the death of 1,514 passengers and crew members. For more information call (248) 338-6732 or visit www.ocphs.org.

See APRIL EVENTS, Page 26

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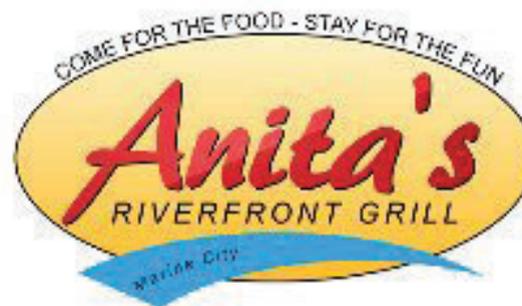
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APRIL EVENTS Continued from Page 24

Novi - April 28 - May 1
21st Annual Michigan International Women's Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. Fashion shows, cooking demonstrations, makeovers, shopping and more. For specific ticket prices and discounts, parking information and hours, visit www.InternationalWomenShow.com or call (800) 849-0248.

St. Clair

Clyde Twp. - April 1
International Symphony Orchestra Presents "Voices of Spring", Hillside Wesleyan Church, 5114, N. River Rd., 7:30 p.m. Adults \$27, seniors \$25 and students \$7. Admission is by subscription or individual tickets which may be purchased at the Port Huron Music Center, 2700 Pine Grove Ave. #4, Port Huron, or by calling (810) 984-8857.

Avoca - April 10
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, Avoca Community Club, 5396 Kilgore Rd., 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. \$7 for ages 11 years to adult, \$5 for ages 6-10, free for ages 5 and under. All-you-can-eat spaghetti, salad, bread and a dessert. There will also be a bake sale. For more information call (810) 324-2257.

St. Clair County - April 11 - 16
National Library Week, all 11 St. Clair County Libraries are participating (visit our website for a list of locations: www.stclaircountylibrary.org). Each library will be having special activities every day of that week for kids through seniors. Phone numbers for each location are available on website given above for more information.

Avoca - April 16
Euchre Night, Avoca Community Hall, 5396 Kilgore Rd., registration at 6:30 p.m., play begins at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$25 per couple or \$15 individual. A light meal will be included. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd highest scores. Door prizes. A grand prize will be given to the player with the highest total monthly scores at the end of the season. For more information call (810) 324-9433.

Casco Twp. - April 16 & 17
Perch Point Flea Market, Perch Point Conservation Club, 7930 Meisner Rd. All items welcome. Tables \$10. For more information call Harry at (810) 278-5630 or Don at (586) 738-5038.

East China Twp. - April 16
Fundraiser for Alex Price, Southeastern Michigan Conservation Club,

2402 Belle River Rd., 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Tickets \$10 at the door. There will be a spaghetti dinner, raffles, entertainment and a 50/50 drawing. Alex, formerly of Marine City, now living in Crosswell, and owner of Price Painting and Decorating, was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, a form of cancer, in July of 2015. To donate cash or door prizes, or for more information, call (586) 201-1243.

Fair Haven - April 16
"Done with Taxes" Party, Sunset Bay Restaurant, 7479 Dyke Rd., 8:00 p.m. The F Street Blues Band will be playing classical rock and blues. For more information contact Alan at alannaldrett@yahoo.com.

Kimball Twp. - April 17
New Life Christian Academy Annual Open House, New Life campus, 5517 Griswold Rd., 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Families are encouraged to visit our preschool - 12th grade classrooms, meet the teachers and view the curriculum. New students are being accepted for the 2016 - 2017 school year. Information packets will be available. For more information call (810) 367-3700 ext. 100 or visit www.nlcaschool.com.

Port Huron - April 18
Lost Car Companies of Detroit, Presented by Author, Alan Naldrett, St. Clair County Library, 201 McMorrin Blvd., 7:00 p.m. For more information contact Alan at alannaldrett@yahoo.com.

Memphis - April 23
Euchre Tournament, Memphis Lions Club, 34758 Pratt Rd., 7:00 p.m. \$10 per person. Snacks available. Everyone welcome. Prize money awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. For more information contact Frank at (810) 392-3717 or (810) 543-1875.

Port Huron - April 27
St. Clair County Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 1115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. We will be going over the many books we have already published and have a discussion of what other books we might want to publish. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family tree may visit our programs as a guest or become a new member of the group. For more information visit <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com> or call (317) 600-7813.

Yale - April 28 - 30
Friends of the Yale Library/VFW Post 8594 3rd Annual Community Rummage Sale, Yale VFW, 4 W. Mechanic St. A huge variety of clothing, toys, tools, sporting goods and much more!

Donations will be accepted April 27 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sale dates: April 28 from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., April 29 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and April 30 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. For more information contact Kathy at (810) 387-2990.

Port Huron Twp. - April 29 - May 1
Blue Water Area Humane Society Giant Charity Yard Sale, 4100 Griswold Rd., 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Furniture, household and kitchen items, collectibles, glassware, home décor, toys, books, sports equipment, craft supplies, garden supplies, Halloween, 4th of July and Thanksgiving decorations and much, much more. For more information or to donate tax-deductible items call Judy at (810) 794-7906.

Algonac - April 30
American Indian Festival, Algonac High School, 5200 Taft Rd., 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Powwow dancing, American Indian crafts and food sale. Free admission. Open to the public. American Indian traders invited. For more information contact Sharon at (810) 364-8370 or Sue at (586) 725-0284 ext. 1425.

Emmett - April 30
Emmett Lion's Club Spring Craft and Vendor Show, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Hall, 10828 Brandon Rd., 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. We have over 45 tables with outdoor space available. Bake sale also. For more information contact Lisa at (810) 499-2402 or lrgoodin@yahoo.com.

St. Clair - April 30
Luncheon and Fashion Show, St. Clair Masonic Temple, 1800 St. Clair Hwy., doors open at 11:00 a.m., luncheon at 12:00 p.m., fashion show at 1:00 p.m. Hosted by the Cornell-Marysville Chapter #93 Order of the Eastern Star. Donations \$15 per person; remittance with reservation by April 23 payable to the Cornell-Marysville Chapter #93. Send to Kristine Middel, Secretary, 4078 King Rd., China, MI 48054. Donations will go to the Kids in Distress Services in St. Clair and the Shriner's Hospital for Children. For more information contact fredsandra1@aol.com.

Sanilac

Sandusky - April 9 & 23
Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Everyone welcome! Bring finger foods (for 9:00 p.m.) and friends. \$5 for members, \$6 for guests, \$10 membership per year. On April 9 we will be entertained by Dick Hedrich & Son and on April 23 by Lighthouse Three. For more information call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

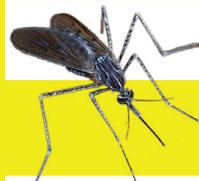
Port Sanilac - April 17
Rene Lichman Presents "Eye Witness to History - A Holocaust Survivor", Sanilac County Historical Village and Museum, Museum Church, 228 S. Ridge St., 3:00 p.m. Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 children. Rene is Vice President of the World Federation of Jewish Survivors of the Holocaust and Descendants. For more information call (810) 622-9946 or visit www.sanilaccountymuseum.org.

Tuscola

Millington - April 29 & 30
Millington-Arbela Historical Museum Annual Open House, 8534 State St., 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. This year's special display is "M-15" and will highlight the changes the road has gone through starting in 1863, up to today. For more information call (989) 871-5508 and leave a message or email millingtonarbelahistoricalsociety@hotmail.com.

Wayne

Taylor - April 8 & 22
Business on Watch, Wayne County Community College District, Ray Mix Room, 21000 Northline Rd., 1:00 p.m. on April 8 and 7:00 p.m. on April 22. Business on Watch is a new program aimed at corporate and small business owners and managers. It will focus on communicating crime prevention techniques to protect businesses, employees and customers. Space will be limited. Email Police Chief Mary Sciabassi at msclabassi@ci.taylor.mi.us to reserve your spot(s).



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| Genesee | Macomb | Sanilac |
| Huron | Oakland | Tuscola |
| Lapeer | St. Clair | Wayne |

CAPAC MAN, Continued from Page 9

plummeting from \$5 a share to only \$2. Tucker questioned many of the headlines covering his case, one of which ran in the *Detroit News* titled “Gigantic Tucker Fraud Charged in SEC Report.” This ran before Tucker even knew of the charges and it was later revealed that SEC Commissioner John McDonald illegally leaked the information. In an attempt to win back the public’s faith in the car, Tucker took seven cars to the Indianapolis Speedway for two weeks, running them at an average of 90 mph to prove the quality of the car. Although unintentional, the safety of the car was no longer in question when one car blew a tire at 100 mph and rolled three times - amazingly, the driver walked away with only a scraped knee. The banged up Tucker 48 only needed a new tire to be driven away. By January 1949, the struggles became too much for the business and it was forced to close. The investigation came to a close in June with Tucker and a handful of his coworkers being indicted on charges for conspiracy to defraud, mail fraud and stock irregularities. With records taken from the company for the case, it was proven the Tucker Corporation produced the prototype known as the Tin Goose, as well as 50 cars; when production ceased, 38 of the cars were drivable and the remaining 13 were waiting for the engines and transmissions to be installed. The trial started in October and the government prosecutors used the prototype, instead of the other 38 complete cars to show the car couldn’t function as promised. The trial revealed to be somewhat of a mockery because the more than 70 witnesses called to the stand actually hurt the government’s case; the claims were so erroneous that Tucker’s lawyer didn’t even prepare a defense.

The trial continued until January 1950, and after the jury spent 17 hours deliberating, Tucker and his coworkers were acquitted of all charges; unfortunately, the damage to his company was already done. As a result, Tucker was forced to sell off all the assets remaining in the company with the Tucker 48s selling as low as \$800; Preston even had to buy back his personal Tucker during the liquidation. Tucker wasn’t shy about expressing his



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belief that the Big Three automotive giants played a role in destroying his company because of the unwanted competition; while it will never be known if that is true, it is admitted that if the Tucker 48 was a success, it would have taken the Big Three several years and millions of dollars to update their cars and compete with the *car of tomorrow*. It is interesting to note that United States attorney Otto Kerner Jr., the man who prosecuted Tucker’s company, became the first federal appellate judge to be imprisoned when he was convicted on 17 counts of bribery, conspiracy, perjury and stock fraud in 1974. As Preston Tucker once said “though most businessmen claim to support free enterprise, far fewer favor new competition - especially in their own industry.”

Despite all the struggles that came from his first automotive endeavor, Tucker wasn’t ready to give up. He moved to Brazil and began planning a two-seater sports car he dubbed the Carioca. Unfortunately, the day after Christmas in 1956, Preston Tucker died of lung cancer at the age of 53. Throughout the 1950s, many of the remaining 13 Tucker 48s were completed and are considered nearly as authentic as those built by the company in the eyes of collectors. Although the original projected price of a new Tucker 48 was \$2,450, the current value greatly exceeds that with Tucker 48 #1043 (the 43rd Tucker completed) selling in 2012 for \$2,915,000. Even one that was found in a barn after 50 years and in need of a major restoration fetched nearly \$800,000.

Tucker’s life story is surrounded by a great deal of controversy and most people familiar with his work have an opinion on the Tucker Corporation. In 1988, a movie called *Tucker: The Man and His Dream*

was release starring Jeff Bridges, which rekindled the fascination surrounding the Tucker 48 that once overwhelmed the country. Today, with 47 of the original 51 Tuckers surviving, the cars are now one of the most sought after for collectors. In 1999, Preston Tucker was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame and will forever be remembered for creating a car that was years ahead of its competition. 🇺🇸



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Once again Mickey Wrona of Anchor Bay Scuba has taken our paper with a group of scuba divers on their annual trip -



this time to **Fiji**

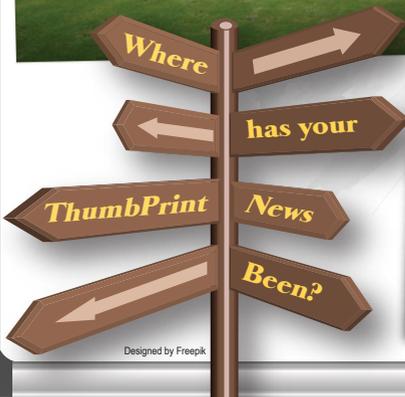
Mickey sent us this picture of the scuba diving group at the Beqa Lagoon on Beqa Island during their week long 2016 trip to the Fiji Islands.

Fiji is an island country in Melanesia in the South Pacific Ocean about 1,300 miles northeast of New Zealand's North Island, and only 7,500 miles from Anchor Bay Scuba in Michigan. Fiji is an archipelago of more than 330 islands, of which only 110 (1/3) are permanently inhabited, and more than 500 islets, amounting to a land area of about 7,100 sq. miles. There is an average of 70 inches of rainfall each year. The largest island, Viti Levu, holds the capital city of Suva and the majority of the population. In Figian villages only the chief can wear hats and sunglasses.

The top of the head is sacred and not meant to be touched.



The **TAGIMAUCIA** flower only blooms one place in the world: on the banks of the Tagimaucia River in the mountains of Taveuni Island, Fiji.



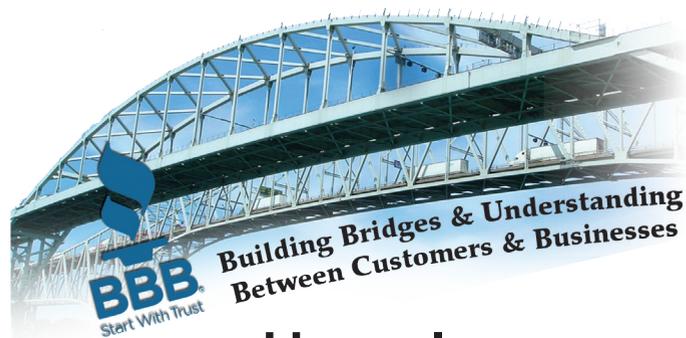
In addition to helping *ThumbPrint News* travel around the world, we are asking our readers to assist us in completing its travel to all 50 states in the good ol' U.S.A. by the end of 2016. If you are traveling to one of the states listed below, please take a copy of the newspaper with you and photograph yourself somewhere in that state and send it to us with a paragraph or so about your travels. We will print it in a future edition of *ThumbPrint News* and will send you a complimentary copy. Or, if you have a friend or relative in one of those states, send them a copy and let them take a picture and send it in. We need high quality .jpg photos, which can be emailed to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net. We would like to be able to say that we have traveled to all 50 states by the end of 2016! Please help us in our quest. Here are the abbreviations for the states where *ThumbPrint News* still needs to travel: AL, AR, CO, CT, DE, ID, IN, KY, LA, MN, MS, MT, NE, NH, NJ, ND, OK, OR, RI, SD, TN, VA, WI AND WY. (We will still also accept photos from states where *ThumbPrint News* has already traveled, or from any countries in the world, whether featured in a past issue or not.)

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Melanie Duquesnel

Home Improvement Do's



Did the last-minute snowstorms this winter reveal things around your home that need to be fixed? Are you looking for a do-it-yourself home renovation, quick maintenance from a contractor or just a good spring-cleaning? Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula has a checklist and tips to help you in achieving your home improvement goals this spring.

Home Improvement Checklist

- 1. Do a roof inspection.** Your roof is your home's most important protector against water damage. Now is the time to inspect your roof and look for possible signs of water damage.
- 2. Clean your gutters.** Clogged gutters can cause water damage to your home. Keeping your gutter clean ensures the irrigation plans for your home are releasing water to appropriate locations.
- 3. Replace your HVAC filters.** Replacing or cleaning your A/C filters can save you money on energy bills and extend the life of your system by not having it to work as hard to cool your home.
- 4. Clean the dryer vent.** Lint can escape your dryer vent and get stuck in the dryer trap. Cleaning out the dryer trap and vent can save you money by reducing dryer times and it will prevent house fires caused by clogged vents.
- 5. Check the washing machine's fill hose.** Check for cracks and leaks in hoses connected to your washer. Leaky hoses can create water damage to floors and foundations if not caught in time.
- 6. Touch up painted areas.** Do a checkup on painted areas inside and outside of the home for peeling or chipped paint areas. These touch-ups keep the home looking fresh and can protect the home from further damage.
- 7. Replace batteries in smoke detectors.** Take the time to check or replace the batteries in your smoke detector; a fresh set of batteries never hurts.
- 8. Examine seals around windows and doors.** Cold weather can crack caulk and other weather seals. Examine and repair as needed.
- 9. Drain your water heater.** Your water heater tank builds up debris through the flow of water. Drain the spigot at the bottom of your tank to prolong the life and reduce energy.

Savvy Home Improvement Consumer Tips

Home show homework:

Home shows are a great place to get new ideas on the possibilities for a project. Here are some things to keep in mind for maximizing your home show experience:

- **Do a little investigating ahead of time.** Look for websites of the vendors and explore them to understand better what they offer. (Visit the show's website to find a list of exhibitors.) Research online by searching for the company's name plus words like "complaints" and "reviews."
- **Check out specific contractors with the BBB at bbb.org.**
- **Make a list to remind yourself of what questions you may have for potential contractors at the show.**
- **Know your budget for the project and exactly what the objective is.** Clear goals can help you avoid impulsive commitments when talking to a company's representatives. Resolve to stick to your budget.

Choosing your contractor:

The recommendations or criticism from friends and family can be the best resource when it comes to assessing the pros and cons of a company, but you should still get quotes from at least three contractors for purposes of comparison. Make sure you gave them each the exact same specifications for the job.

Also, ask for references from the company and follow through by checking with those individuals. The mere fact that they were willing to give you names does not mean that they are on the up-and-up.

Find out how long the company has been in business and what their address is, then check whether they are where they said they were with a drive by.

Be sure to inquire about the contractor's licensing, what permits your job would require and whether they are insured for personal liability, worker's comp and property damage coverage. Get documentation. Ask as well if they might be subcontracting part of your job. Get the same documentation for the subcontractor.

Cooling off:

If you sign up to purchase something at a home show, remember that Michigan law guarantees you three days to cancel any purchase of \$25 or more made at a location that is not the permanent address of the seller. That's the "Cooling-Off-Rule." The salesperson must verbally inform you of your cancellation rights at the time of the sale. They must give you two copies of a cancellation form and a copy of your contract or receipt.

Home improvement projects are notorious for disrupting a household's routine. That's usually unavoidable, but there is no reason your bank account should have unexpected disruptions as well. Select a reputable, trustworthy contractor to insure that your remodeling project goes well.

Use your BBB to find that reputable, trustworthy contractor via bbb.org/detroit or call (248) 223-9400.

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.

Think Spring

Answer Key

C	A	R	G	O	B	I	Z	R	A	M	P	
B	R	A	U	N	A	C	E	S	A	M	O	A
S	E	T	A	E	N	E	B	U	N	I	A	T
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D	A	T	E	D	D	A	D	O	M	A	N	I
A	D	O	S		E	W	E	N	O	R	S	E

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Submitted by **Joyce Lashbrook, RN, MIHP Coordinator**
St. Clair County Health Department

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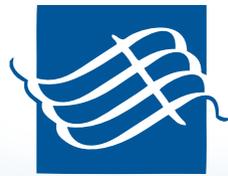
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