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By David Odziana

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Reporter

Railroads became a vital factor in the Midwest's economy as soon as products were produced to sell, instead of just for personal consumption. Having the means to transport those products quickly became a necessity.

The easternmost point on land in Michigan was once known as Desmond, which lasted until the post office changed the name to Port Huron in 1837. Prior to Europeans settling the area, the land was home to a few military forts and the Ojibwa Indians, until they were removed west of the Mississippi. By the 1840s, Port Huron was far more advanced than most surrounding areas, which was partly due to a successful shipbuilding and lumber trade. The early years of the city were so prosperous that out of the 21 steam sawmills in Michigan, eight were located in Port Huron. By 1850, the settlement already had a population of 1,500 people at a time



when most townships were just starting to organize. Seven years later, Port Huron was incorporated as a city, consolidating the villages of Fort Gratiot, Peru, Huron and Desmond. By the end of the 1850s, the city's population skyrocketed to over 4,000 residents.

One possible reason Port Huron's population was so much larger than other areas in the state was that many immigrants came to the city because it was one of the most traveled ports of entry into the United States – second only to New York. During the 1800s, 100,000 immigrants arrived each year, enticing settlers with a gateway to railroads, the Great Lakes and the Midwest. Another event that brought many people through the city, with some eventually returning to stay, was its involvement in the Underground Railroad - helping slaves escape to Canada. With the influx of people coming to the area, the Supreme Court presented Port Huron the county seat in 1871.

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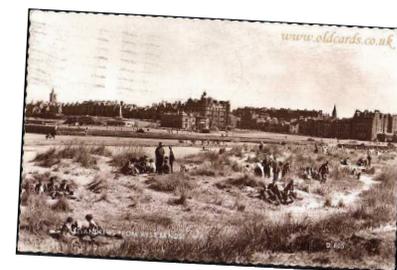
By David Odziana

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Reporter

Popular opinion for the origin of golf as we know it today is undoubtedly Scottish, but evidence shows the sport of hitting a ball with a stick came from games played much earlier in history. The Romans played a game as early as 100 B.C., known as *paganica*, using bent sticks and a stuffed leather ball. A similar game was played in China during the Song Dynasty, starting in the year 960, involving numerous clubs and a ball. In the United Kingdom, a Belgian game was played with a team of players

hitting a wooden ball through a designated area, usually a doorway or gate, up to a mile away. This game was known as *chole* and was played as early as the 13th century. Although these games are not the exact same as the golf we now know, it is safe to say they are responsible for contributing to the worldwide sport many have come to love.

Golf got its start in 1123, when King David I of Scotland set aside land known as *linksland* for ordinary people to use free of charge because the areas were deemed worthless. *Linksland* is where a river meets the sea and is covered with wild grasses and excess sand. The townspeople began playing on the unused land of St. Andrews in the 1400s, on



See *FORE*, Page 24



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

When many of us think about the month of May we remember the saying, "April showers bring May flowers" and we start to anticipate the warming of the weather and the much welcomed renewal of the green grass, leaves on the trees, and an endless rainbow of colorful flowers that will begin to grace our landscapes.

We also remember May holidays – in particular, Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Both holidays were created to honor well-deserving individuals. The first reminds us to pay tribute to all of the love and sacrifices mothers everywhere have made and the second reminds us to honor those who lost their lives serving in the military for our freedom. Any remembrances and celebrations for either of these two May holidays are important.

However, there is another May holiday that comes and goes for many without much of an awareness given to it; that holiday is Armed Forces Day. This day is celebrated annually on the third Saturday of May. In 2015, that will be Saturday, May 16.

On August 31, 1949, the United States' Secretary of Defense at that time, Louis Johnson, announced the creation of Armed Forces Day to jointly honor Americans in uniform who served their country in times of war and peace. It would include members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserve Units.

The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated on Saturday, May 20, 1950. Each year a different theme is chosen and for that first celebration the theme was "Teamed for Defense", which expressed the unification of all military forces under one government department, the Department of Defense.

Armed Forces Day gives me the chance to reflect on just how many of my ancestors put on a uniform to serve and protect this great country of ours and how much I actually owe to them.

There was my 4th great grandfather, Austin Nathaniel Smith, who fought in the Revolutionary War from 1777 to 1780. He was with George Washington during that tough encampment at Valley Forge. He was fortunate to survive the war. Two wives over the course of his life bore him a total of 14 children, before he died at the ripe old age of 92.

There was my second great grand uncle who fought on the side of the Union during the Civil War and who lost his life at the young age of 21 at the Battle of Gaines' Mill in Virginia. He left a legacy of letters that he wrote home from the battlefields that still survive to this day.

There were my parents, Gordon Keith Glaza and Louise Caroline Nessen, who spent almost two years of their early married life apart during World War II while he served in the Navy in the Pacific and she served in the Army on the

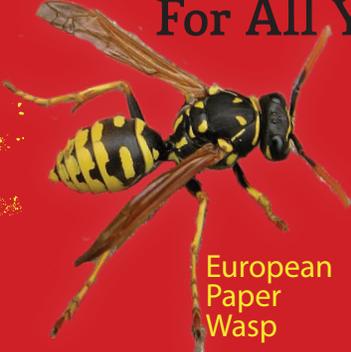
mainland. Fortunately, they both survived the war or I wouldn't be here today.

The list goes on and on as I continue to research my family tree. Grandpas, uncles, aunts, cousins and more who served in every major battle that has ever taken place in this country – and many in battles that were fought on foreign shores – are all a part of my family history.

I have learned through family memories, written records, letters from the soldiers, etc. just how much of a sacrifice these soldiers made not only for their own generations, but also for their future generations. And I am more appreciative every day. I can't thank each of them in person as many have passed on. However, I feel that getting to know them through genealogy research and passing that information on to my descendants is a way of thanking them as well.

On May 20, Armed Forces Day, take a few minutes to stop and remember those special individuals in your family who have served in a branch of the military. If you have someone in your family or your circle of friends who is currently serving, take the time to let them know how much their sacrifices are appreciated. Remember all of the freedoms we have and how just the slightest change in the course of history could have caused us to lead remarkably different lives. Those soldiers made all the difference. Remember them this May as well. 🇺🇸

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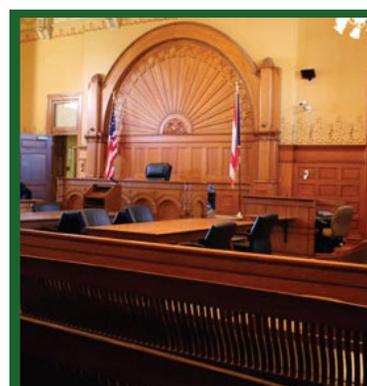
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The Brothers Montney

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Joseph Montney, Jr. was born on an Easter Sunday in Mohawk Flats, New York, shortly after the Revolutionary War. There is evidence that he was wounded in the War of 1812 and that he immigrated to Canada in 1820, returning to his native New York almost 30 years later and operating a 125 acre farm for the next 16 years.

Following the Civil War in 1866, Joseph relocated his family to Armada, Michigan, and resumed his life as a farmer. Journals of his life indicate that on the day he died at age 95, he came home from working in the field, laid down to take a nap before supper, and never woke up. Today he rests in Memphis Cemetery.

Joseph and his wife, Sarah Jane, had 15 children, six boys and nine girls. The size of the family was certainly not so unusual for a time when an entire family remained together often sharing in the work of a farm. What was unusual is the story of the six sons who all marched off wearing the blue uniform of the Grand Army of the Republic to fight in this nation's most bloody and tragic of all wars – the Civil War. Not much is known of some of the male siblings, but please read on as I tell what I know of their story.

The oldest son George was born in 1826 in Ontario, Canada, and served as a sharpshooter in the 10th New York Regiment during the Civil War. He died in 1910 and rests in Minnesota.

Second son Joseph III was born in 1836, also in Ontario, Canada. In 1861, he enlisted in Company G, 10th Regiment, New York Heavy Artillery Volunteers, commanded by Captain William J. Hart. He was subsequently promoted to corporal and was honorably discharged in June 1865, in Petersburg, Virginia. Until his death at age 93, he received a monthly pension from Uncle Sam for injuries suffered during the Civil War.

The third son of Joseph and Sarah, Charles, was born in 1838 in Jefferson County, New York. In December 1861, he enlisted in a company of the 35th Regiment of Infantry, New York Volunteers. He transferred to the 18th Cavalry, New York State Volunteers and was promoted to First Lieutenant in 1864. He re-enlisted, rose to the rank of captain, and was discharged in May 1866. He fought at the second Bull Run, Sabin Crossroad, Gettysburg and Antietam. It was written that he had five horses shot from under him during his military service and that he had the opportunity to shake hands with President Abraham Lincoln.

Following the Civil War, Charles was a farmer and also worked in a woolen mill in Yale, Michigan. He held the office of sheriff of Yale

for 25 years and was a member of the Somborne Post of the Grand Army of the Republic in Port Huron. For 30 years he led the Memorial Day parade in Yale and for another six years in Algonac following his family's move. He died in 1937 in Algonac at the age of 99 and is buried in Brockway Cemetery in Yale.

Henry, the fourth son, was born in 1842, in Ontario, Canada. He served in the Civil War in the 14th New York Regiment. He died in 1909, in Ohio and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Clio, Michigan.

Son Levi was Joseph's and Sarah's fifth son and was born in 1844, in Ontario, Canada. He enlisted in the 16th Michigan Regiment during the Civil War and was assigned to the second unit of sharpshooters known as Jardine's, which was formed in Detroit in 1864. He is buried in Clare, Michigan.

The sixth son in the Montney family and my paternal great, great-grandfather was Byron who was born in 1847, in Ontario, Canada. His obituary stated that he was the last of six brothers who wore the blue in the Civil War and that all of the brothers fought at the Battle at Gettysburg.

Byron enlisted in Company I, 14th Regiment, New York Heavy Artillery Volunteers in December 1863, at the age of 15. During this military service he was involved in 22 battles. His regiment was transferred to the Infantry Division where he was promoted to the rank of corporal. It is written that he was but a few rods away from the famous apple tree at the old Appomattox Court House and quite clearly witnessed Generals Grant and Lee as they negotiated the terms of surrender. He was mustered out of the service at Rochester, New York, in August 1865, and moved to Memphis, Michigan, joining his father's family. He died in October 1938, at age 91 and is buried in Memphis Cemetery.

I have read the brief histories of the six Montney brothers numerous times and have always been amazed to think that all six survived this great and tragic war within our nation's boundaries. Even more amazing to me is that, although they were each attached to different military units, they all fought at Gettysburg, a battle where there were at least 45,000 and as many as 51,000 casualties, yet all marched home to be with family.

A final page in this tale of a patriotic and tightly-knit family relates to their plan for a surprise visit with Mom and Dad following the war. They all met at a designated location near the Montney farm and all six of them walked together to the farm house. Can't you just imagine Joseph's pounding heart and Sarah's tearing eyes as they watched the "Brothers Montney" walk down the path? 🌿



By Rennae Hardy

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Essential oils and fragrance oils are often referred to interchangeably due to their similarities. Notably essential oils are not true oils. They are the natural aromatic essences derived from botanicals. Fragrance oils (perfume oils) may contain some natural components; however these oils are generally synthetic.

To create a fragrance oil, chemists analyze the various components of plants and reproduce their chemical compositions, or a perfumer will design and formulate a specific scent. The synthetic characteristic found in fragrance oils provides an incredibly wide range of scent options. Everything from traditional florals to unique blends designed to conjure up images of campfires, rainforests and more are possible.

Artisans and crafters appreciate the advantages of fragrance oils when making their products. Not only is the range of scent optimal, the scent produced lasts longer, and the cost when compared to essential oils is greatly reduced.

Categories for fragrance oils include:

- **Premium grade** - Premium grade is used for the longest lasting scent. Use in candle making (especially with soy wax), soap making, scenting unscented incense sticks, potpourris and bath salts. Premium grade is a good burning oil for aroma lamps, and is skin friendly making it a cost effective alternative to perfume.

- **Manufacturer's grade** - Manufacturer's grade is not recommended for direct use on skin. This grade is used primarily in soap and candle making (excluding soy wax). Body oils can be directly applied to the skin and used as a burning oil. Some body oils may contain FD&C coloring. Occasionally, the description of an oil may be classified as an essence oil. An essence oil is usually a blend that has a percentage of essential oil within its composition.

Fragrance oils do not possess the therapeutic benefits provided by essential oils; however, aromatically the result is just as effective. Relax, lift your spirit, or get carried away. Delight your senses with fragrance. 🌿

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Another View of Motherhood

By Patricia Cosner Kubic

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

I have a bit of a unique perspective on motherhood because I never wanted to be a mom. I am constantly astounded by women who make the conscious decision to be a mom. And, for those who didn't plan the little one, I'm so impressed when you buck up and get in the mom game.

It just never was in my DNA to be a mom; my sister got all the mom genes. As a teenager, I stunk at babysitting; and, as an adult, I still struggle to talk to people who are in single-number grades.

While I wasn't busy being a mom, for ten years I was very busy owning a Curves in Warren. And, it was there, in that exercise circuit where my endless admiration for mom club members began. I listened to thousands of moms over my ten years at Curves. Looking back, I can now see there are three main stages (for starters).

Stage One: The New Mom. After a two month absence, one mom came back to Curves and showed me no fewer than 78 baby pictures. Fifteen minutes later, she put her hand on her heart, let out a big sigh, and then handed me the last photo and said, "And then we took her home!" (Secretly, I'd always hoped the baby's eyes were okay from all the camera flashes.) Anybody could tell that this gal, with her belly still bulging from the big day, had fallen utterly and deeply in love. Her devotion, at least to me, was palpable. Then, I watched her be exhausted for five years straight. She seemed to live for a nap. How do you do it? It's all I can do to make sure our cats are fed and their bathroom box is clean. How do moms know what a non-speaking being needs? And then moms have to make sure that their kindergartener looks before they cross the street....and that they do it every time they are on the curb. I can't fathom the responsibility and am in awe that you take it on.

Stage Two: The Chauffer Mom. During the middle and high school years, this mom is a blur. She is in perpetual motion for practically a decade and still needs that nap. The moms at my Curves squeezed in a workout after the drop-off and before the pick-up. We could rarely have a full conversation without one of her e-devices going off because somebody forgot something. Clearly these women are masters at managing the ongoing logistical spider webs they call the family calendar. And these moms do it while being yelled at by cranky teenagers. Clearly, a strong stomach, a good pair of shoes and being fast on your feet are essential for success in this stage.

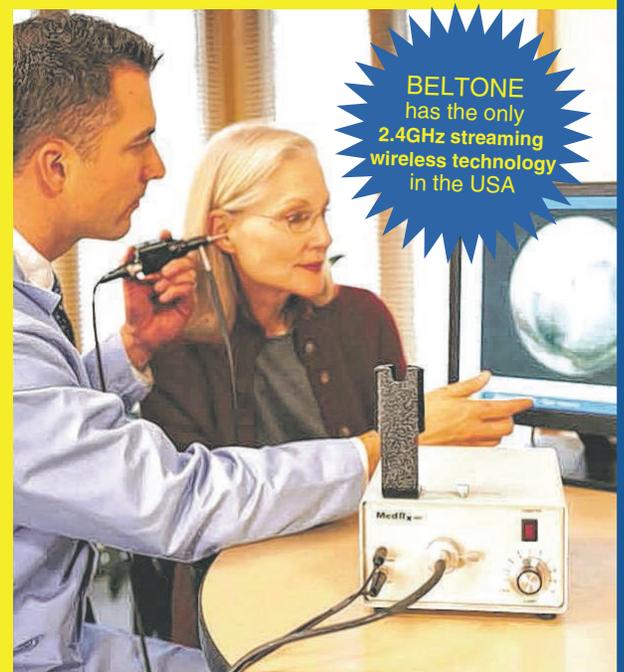
Stage Three: The Graduation Mom. Finally, her kid(s) are off to college, and I saw the mom's worry hit hyperdrive. She is overwhelmed with planning the high school graduation and then getting the kid to college, all the while wondering how time flew by so fast since showing off picture #78. I wonder how she taught her child all the things they need to know to maneuver adulthood. This mom stage is the most confusing one to me. The moms are so proud of their all grown up little one, but almost forlorn at the idea of their budding independent young adult and the quiet house that will most certainly follow. Maybe now this mom can get in a nap.

How do you do it, and then do it again and again and again for years? I've been asking for a long, long time and still have no answers despite talking to hundreds and hundreds of moms.

So I have to conclude there are only two answers: those who can, do; and, those who can't, hold those who can in the very highest regard. The fact is that not everybody can do what you moms do with such loving dedication. And with that, I say Happy Mother's Day to all my favorite moms from one of your biggest fans. 🍀

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LAKE ANN'S GEM

By Gerald W. Nyquist
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

The village of Lake Ann hugs the shore of a lake of the same name in Michigan's northwestern Lower Peninsula, about a 20 minute drive from Traverse City, in Almira Township, Benzie County. Their "gem" is the Almira Historical Society's museum and village depicting life during a bygone era in this beautiful part of our wonderful state. In all, there are seven buildings.

The main museum building features a collection of more than 1,500 artifacts depicting life in another time, not the least of which are Texaco gasoline pumps and related gas station items, with an amazing collection of Texaco promotional memorabilia most of us have never laid eyes upon. For example, there is a jewelry ring that a customer would receive as a perk for filling the tank. Would you believe solid gold - - no, I don't either! Also featured are a local post office, telephone switchboard, military uniforms, wedding dresses, farm items, and more. Artifacts are neatly displayed, visitor-friendly. Having run out of space, an annex to the building is planned.

Behind the museum is a village comprised of historic buildings rescued from the wrecking ball, as well as one more recent structure. Restored to be representative of the 1940s, the Thompson-Kuemin



House represents a typical country home from this era. The Babcock house is that of Lake Ann's first Methodist Episcopal minister. The Fire Barn Museum houses Lake Ann's second fire truck, a 1946 International, as well as other early firefighting equipment. The historic boathouse building displays a vintage Thompson wooden boat, fishing gear and other sporting items, and there is a blacksmith's building housing a forge and tools of the trade. Last but not least is the necessary outhouse - an upscale two-door model!

Lake Ann's gem exists because of dedicated individuals whose mission is the preservation of their Township's, and particularly Lake Ann's, history. Staffed by volunteers, you will be welcomed and provided a relaxing, guided tour with plenty of time for questions along the way. The complex is located at 19440 Maple Street, Lake Ann, Michigan, 49650. Hours are Tuesdays and Saturdays, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Memorial Day through Labor Day, or by appointment. The cost - a donation, if you so choose. Since some exhibits change from time to time, repeat visits are suggested.

Visit www.almirahistoricalsociety.org for more information.



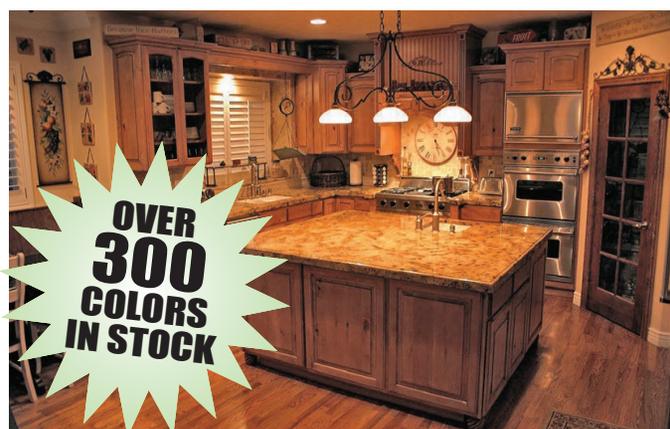
Editor's note: Dr. Nyquist is a retired biomechanical engineer residing in Macomb County and is a past president of the Sanilac County Historical Society. His northern retreat is on Rennie Lake near Traverse City.



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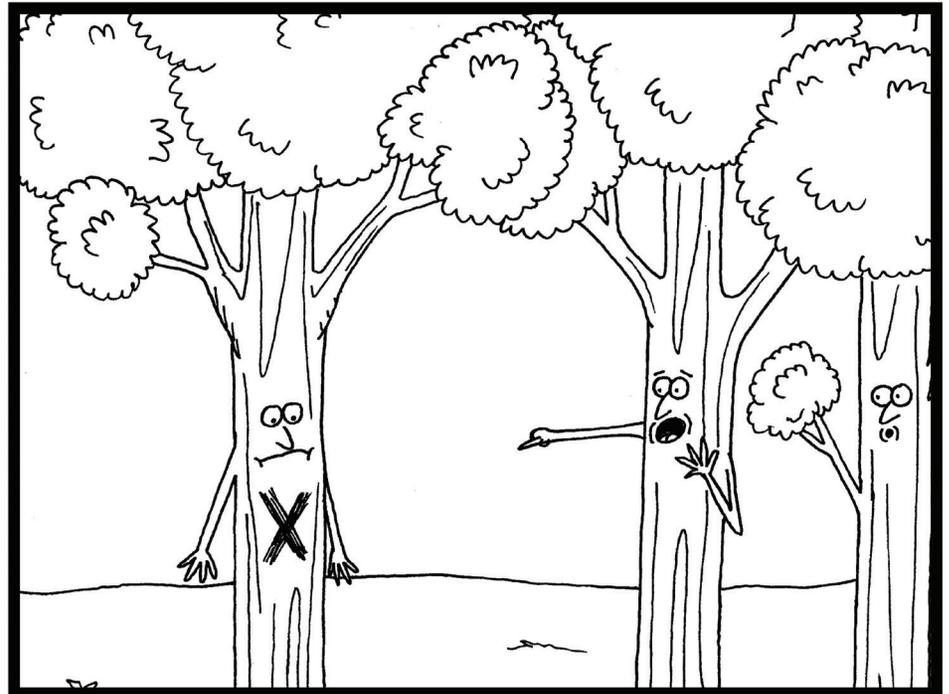
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Aaaah, an orange X! Carl's been marked with an orange X!

The Thumb Birds are Back!

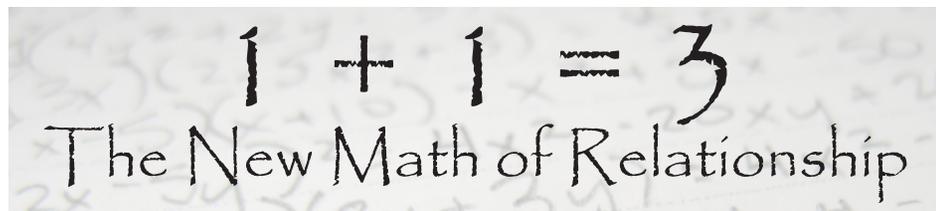


These adorable little birds love the open fields of rural Michigan in the summer. They are easily enticed to nest with almost any bird house you set out, provided there is 1-2 acres of open space available for them to find enough food to raise their young.

Most of the Thumb Bird flock has returned to Michigan to enjoy what will hopefully be a warm and sunny spring and summer. And, for the few who now make Florida their year-round homes, they will be enjoying much less crowded beaches, restaurants and roads.

If you have not yet joined our Thumb Bird group and would like to do so, the only requirements are that you live or have lived in the Thumb of Michigan and that you now spend part or all of the year in Florida. Email us your name and addresses in both Michigan and Florida, your phone number, and an email address where we can contact you. The purpose of this social group is to share ideas, places to visit, restaurants, etc. that have to do with our Florida experiences and to occasionally get together in both Florida and Michigan to talk about all things Michigan and Florida. Email your information to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. We will welcome you to the group and send you an invitation to our next get-together in Michigan later this summer or early fall (date not yet established).




By John Vincent Senkus
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

From a broad stroke, love's meaning is very similar from one person to the next. However, the closer you get to the nuances of one's heart and soul, the tributaries of love become more distinct. Even though our motivations can differ, an almost universal appeal is for love to provide happiness, or at least *more* happiness than if we were alone (after all, we don't pursue love to become unhappy). But happiness can have many different facets. Joy, creativity, expression, contentment, companionship, self-esteem, growth, knowledge, appreciation, security, safety, peace of mind, as well as many other aspects can all be reflections of it. We all look at happiness from a different perspective—and this viewpoint is normally slanted in the direction to best support our current needs as well as any deficiencies thereof. And because these needs are always evolving, what may have been our primary reason for falling in love, may not even be on our radar screen now. *Love typically reflects what you "need" it to look like, and since needs change over time, so do the ways in which we are attracted to it.*

Emotions encompass our strongest feelings, and love is the deepest and most intense of all. Love not only impacts how you feel, but influences your beliefs, intentions, and ultimately your actions as well. Nothing can compare to its far reaching effect. Love changes mindsets, attitudes, lives, and outcomes. And there are limitless ways to feel it, express it, and be in it. It has been an ongoing theme since our existence. Just look at the multitude of romance novels, relationship books and articles, love songs, movies, and even our own daydreams. Love remains as popular as ever. Yet in spite of how everyone else sees or spins it, love can be extraordinarily unique to each one of us, that is ... if we let it.

When was the last time you really thought about your partner in the context of love? *I mean, really thought about it.* Not just in casually glancing, in the waning moments before sleep, or in the few quiet seconds you may muster between thoughts. But in letting its powerful feelings cover and immerse the deepest parts of you? For most of

us, the answer is not too often (if at all). We don't normally spend much time thinking about it or of its impact to our lives. This isn't to imply we don't feel love is important enough; it just seems to get bundled up with everything else. We have a difficult time distinguishing and separating it. Certainly, we see and think of our partner. However, too often their distinctness becomes muddled by the backdrop and noise of our routine motions. To counter this minimizing effect, we must find ways so that love routinely crosses our minds in a more deep and meaningful way. The ability to expand these brushstrokes of perception enhance its dimensions, thereby adding clarity to this most special emotion that too often becomes invisible. *Too many things in this world are superficial—love shouldn't be one of them!*

We all perceive to different levels of depth, scope, and creativity. And it is this perspective that will determine how much we either add to, or limit the emotional vibrance of the world around us. This correlation is directly proportional to our ability to give and receive love. As we expand through the fulfillment of our needs, so too will our awareness and the richness that intimate love can offer. Love doesn't come through our brains—it can only be experienced through our hearts and souls. We must be "in it" and cannot grasp it from the outside looking in. Just as we can see the Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon, or the Redwood Forests through pictures, to know and feel them, we must be immersed in their presence. It is only then can we perceive their energy, smell, expanse, and grandeur. The same with love. We cannot feel its purest qualities until we are open to all that it has to offer. And when love arrives, it will be our existing outlooks, openness, and imaginations that will essentially determine our experience.

Defining love has been somewhat of an elusive endeavor for man throughout the ages. Love encompasses that which we feel for our intimate partner, family, friends, humanity, and Mother Nature. Love spans our entirety, from our elemental physical bodies to the spiritual energies of our soul. Even the Greek culture which brought us Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, required four different definitions to encompass the broad elements of love: Eros (passion and desire), Storge (natural/

familial affection), Philia (friendship and loyalty), and Agape (selfless, transcendent, spiritual). There can really be no singular definition for love that applies to all of us. How can there be? It cannot even stay consistently defined for just one of us. That is because every time we emotionally grow, love's parameters change. As we add new vantage points to our self, a slightly new version of love emerges.

Ultimately, love is a realm that has no borders or limitations. It is only our perceptions that have the ability to narrow its parameters and effect. Realizing this, more and more couples are looking beyond the old traditions

of love. *They are seeking to enhance their own growth passage toward higher awareness through intimate relationship ... not in spite of it.* Love is such an intrinsic need that burns within each of us. The breadth in which we are able to embrace it, will be proportionate to the emotional dimensions that exist within our own self. As our depth expands, so too will our ability to perceive, give, and receive love.

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

In our next column, we will look at the highest calling of intimate relationship. 🌱

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HOUSE FOR LIFE

By Paul Welch

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Any home eventually needs to be patched up. It might be cracks due to the house settling, weather damage, moving a picture, pet damage, or even aging materials. Perhaps it was the result of some ill-fated plan to do something fun. There are many destructive forces that will likely cause you to have to patch something in the house. Fortunately there are products that will help you restore your home so no one will know the difference.

Hard as Cement – Cement patching is tricky because sometimes the patch fails. Usually this is due to improper prep or using the wrong product. I cannot stress enough the importance of prep. The surface must first be clean and clear of any debris. If it is a shallow repair, pre-mixed cement patch will do the trick. If it is deep, you need to use actual cement or hydraulic cement.

When using cement, add a fortifier to it or apply a concrete bonding adhesive to the surface. This will help the new cement to adhere to the old. Deep holes or cracks should be chiseled out to an inverted V (chiseled wider as you go deeper) to keep the cement repair in place. If you use hydraulic cement instead of regular cement, it must be applied to a wet surface to prevent it from drying out before curing. Make sure to fill the missing portion completely and allow it to cure.

Damaged Wood – Wood is used for many things in a house. This includes trim, furniture and railings. Outside it is used for decks or porches and sometimes wood posts. Sometimes these things get damaged and now you need apply some form of wood filler. First find out what caused the damage. If it is rot you are repairing, you must apply a wood hardener. Wood hardener will harden any remaining soft wood fibers after removing the rotted wood so the new patch will have a sound base to adhere to. Next, select the right product.

If you are filling nail holes in trim after staining, you can use wood putty. It is a soft pliable material that is colored to match the color of the finished wood. It is not good for anything other than nail holes because it will not dry hard. For repairs, you want wood filler. Most come in the standard neutral tone and will take paint or stain.

If you want to make sure the filler stains closer to the actual color of the wood, use wood filler that matches the colors of different types of unfinished wood. It will match

closer when stained. Another option is to mix a little stain with the wood filler before applying it. It won't match the color when it dries but it will when you apply stain to the dried filler.

My Beautiful Walls! – Walls will eventually need to be patched. Houses settling and shifting will cause cracks. Moving pictures leaves nail holes. Sometimes other strange events cause damage to your walls. Whatever the cause, there is a solution. Spackling and plaster are made for that purpose. Simply apply to the hole or crack, smooth the repair, and sand if necessary. Larger holes may require some fiberglass drywall tape, with or without metal reinforcement, before applying the patch. The same steps still apply. The trick is to choose the right patch.

If your walls are drywall then use spackling paste for the repair of your walls. There are two main types: regular and lightweight. Lightweight spackling has less moisture so it weighs a lot less, dries fast, and has minimal shrinkage. Regular spackling has more moisture so it has a longer working time. Choose one based on what you are comfortable with and need to do.

If you have an older house with plaster walls, use either plaster patch or Plaster of Paris to repair your wall. Patching plaster is pre-mixed, while Plaster of Paris you mix with water before applying. Usually there are boards behind it making the patch easier to do any size repair. If the boards are damaged, put something in the hole to reinforce the repair such as metal screening.

The Right Tool – When patching, it is important to have the correct tools. When patching cement, you want to use a trowel so you can smooth the patch and level it with the surface of the cement. Wood repairs, as well as drywall and plaster, can be done with a putty knife. Wood patches need to be sanded smooth and level with the wood. Large drywall repairs also need to be sanded level to the wall. When finished repairing, paint or stain if desired.

I hope everyone is enjoying spring. Have a safe Memorial Day. Remember, know your limits and seek the help of a professional when needed. If you have any questions or comments, e-mail me at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and I will reply in a timely manner. 🌱

Editor's note: Paul Welch has 16 years of experience working in retail hardware and has been trained and has learned much about home improvement, maintenance and repair. He currently is employed by LumberJack and runs their paint department.

Views on Bathing Change with the Times

By David Odziana

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Reporter

The world of public sanitation experienced many revolutionary breakthroughs when humans began settling permanently, but with the fall of the Roman Empire, the Dark Ages erased many of those improvements.

Prior to the years of darkness, bathing was considered a popular activity, with the bathrooms of the Minos Palace at Knossos being the first known example of formal bathing, which is estimated to be from 2000 B.C. Even while bathing was considered socially acceptable, different cultures had interesting ways of getting clean. The Greeks would only bathe in cold water because the use of warm water was considered feminine, and because modern soap didn't exist at the time, they had to scrape their bodies with bronze or ivory tools to remove dirt. The Romans were much more interested in comfort than the Greeks, erecting massive public bathrooms, which often included gyms, libraries, gardens and steam rooms. Interestingly, the Romans believed bathing made them able



Remains of the interior of a public bathroom at Pompeii

to consume additional food and drinks – leading to some people bathing six to eight times a day.

Once the Dark Ages began, bathing became socially unacceptable and anyone who did so risked being banished from the church. The thought that bathing was dangerous wasn't confined just to Europe – it also affected the United States with such laws as making it illegal to bathe without a prescription from a doctor in Virginia or an Ohio law making the sale of bathtubs unlawful. King Henry IV is responsible for diminishing this custom by making knights take a bath before becoming members, which the public soon followed because the knights were well respected in the community. 🌱



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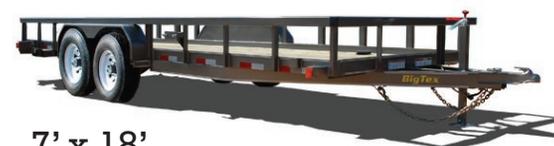


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Melanie Duquesnel

Beware of Summer Travel Scams

With spring in the air and summer right around the corner, many are thinking about where to go for summer vacation. Better Business Bureau warns you to be extremely cautious when planning, as there are many different forms of scams when planning a trip, whether local or out-of-state.

Imagine you're on the way to the airport for a fun get-away with your family. When you arrive at the airport, the airline has no record of your reservation. However, you have an email from the travel agent, who you paid for the entire trip, with a confirmation number. This number does not line up with any of the airline records. At this point you realize you've been scammed.

BBB recommends considering the following advice when planning a trip:

- **Ask for recommendations.** Ask for recommendations from family and friends regarding travel agencies/agents and websites that they have used in the past and have been satisfied. Also, check out or find BBB Accredited Businesses at bbb.org.

- **Get everything in writing, from travel itineraries and booking confirmations to vouchers.** DO NOT accept verbal confirmations. Ask for a copy of the company's cancellation and refund policies. Read all of the fine print to ensure you understand your rights if there is an emergency or if you are dissatisfied with the services. Be wary of companies without solid cancellation provisions.

- **Use a credit card to pay for everything.** This way you'll have some recourse if everything you pay for does not happen as promised. Do not pay using cash, check, a wire transfer service or even a debit card, as your checking account will be at risk. BBB also recommends, prior to your trip, that you contact your credit card company to make your travel plans known to the company.

- **Verify reservations with all intended travel providers.** Contact the airline, rental car company, hotel and/or cruise line directly to confirm arrangements have actually been made to your specifications.

- **If it's too good to be true, it probably is.** Like getting a good deal, it's certainly possible to win a vacation. However, if you didn't enter a contest, you probably didn't win anything but a phone call or email from a scammer. It's usually a red flag when you receive a phone call out of the blue.

- **Consider purchasing travel insurance.** Circumstances could cause you to cancel your trip, return home early or force you to seek emergency medical treatment while traveling. Travel insurance may provide the extra protection you need. Be sure to understand the exact circumstances the travel insurance will cover and read all of the fine print. Also, BBB recommends talking with your health insurance company before your vacation to find out the provisions when you travel out of your network.

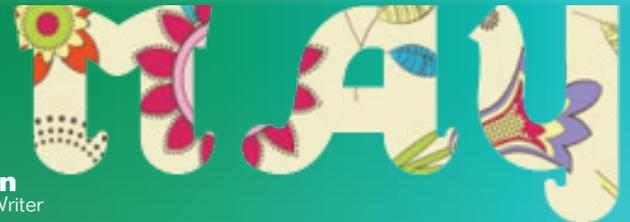
- **Check details on car insurance.** If renting a car, before committing to the insurance offered by the rental car company, confirm with your insurance or credit card company that you are covered in the event of an accident. Make sure to ask for all the details in writing, just in case.

For more travel tips and to search for trusted businesses in the travel industry, visit bbb.org, or if you have any questions, contact us directly at (248) 223-9400.

Editor's Note: Melanie Duquesnel is the president and CEO of 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.

What Happened on This Day in History?

By Louise Allen
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer



- On this day in 1486, Christopher Columbus convinces Queen Isabella to fund an expedition to the West Indies.
- On this day in 1919, the first U.S. air passenger service starts.
- On this day in 1979, Margaret Thatcher becomes the first woman prime minister of Great Britain.
- On this day in 1942, the United States begins food rationing. 
- On this day in 1961, Alan Shepard becomes the first American in space.
- On this day in 1954, British runner Roger Banister breaks the four minute mile.
- On this day in 1847, the American Medical Association is formed in Philadelphia.
- On this day in 1846, the first major battle of the Mexican War is fought at Palo Alto, Texas.
- On this day in 1926, explorers Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett make the first flight over the North Pole. 
- On this day in 1960, the *USS Nautilus* completes the first circumnavigation of the globe underwater.
- On this day in 1904, Salvador Dali, surrealist painter, was born.
- On this day in 1935, Alcoholics Anonymous is founded in Akron, Ohio, by "Bill W.," a stockbroker, and "Dr. Bob S.," a heart surgeon.
- On this day in 1861, Britain declares its neutrality in the American Civil War.
- On this day in 1853, Gail Borden applies for a patent for condensed milk. 
- On this day in 1820, the U.S. Congress designates the slave trade a form of piracy.
- On this day in 1928, the first Academy Awards are held in Hollywood.
- On this day in 1973, the Senate Watergate Committee begins its hearings.
- On this day in 1917, the Congress passes the Selective Service Act, calling up soldiers to fight in World War I.
- On this day in 1864, the Union and Confederate Armies launch their last attacks against each other at Spotsylvania, Virginia. 
- On this day in 1902, the U.S. military occupation of Cuba ends.
- On this day in 1832, the Democratic Party holds its first national convention.
- On this day in 1868, the "Great Train Robbery" takes place as seven members of the Reno Gang make off with \$98,000 in cash from a train's safe in Indiana.
- On this day in 1934, gangsters Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow are killed by Texas Rangers.
- On this day in 1543, Nicolaus Copernicus publishes proof of a sun-centered solar system. He dies just after publication. 
- On this day in 1787, the Constitutional Convention opens at Philadelphia with George Washington presiding.
- On this day in 1946, a patent is filed in the United States for the H-bomb.
- On this day in 1969, construction begins on Walt Disney World in Florida.
- On this day in 1830, Congress authorizes Indian removal from all states to the Western Prairie. 
- On this day in 1974, President Richard Nixon agrees to turn over 1,200 pages of edited Watergate transcripts. 
- On this day in 1848, William Young patents the ice cream freezer.
- On this day in 1969, John Lennon and Yoko Ono record "Give Peace a Chance." 



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"A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words" Contest

May 10 is the Deadline for Submitting Photos

Have you ever taken a photo and realized later that the picture itself tells a story without any written words? That is the kind of photo we are asking our readers to submit to our "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words" contest. However, you need to do it promptly as photos are only being accepted through May 10, 2015.

The subject matter of the photo is left to the reader's discretion. Please email the photo to thumbprintnews@comcast.net in jpeg format and put "Thousand Words Contest" in the subject line. Along with the photo please include your first and last names and a valid phone number and address. (If all information is not included, your submission will be rejected.) Photos submitted must be your own. Entries by both professional and amateur photographers will be accepted. You may submit up to three photos total.

After May 10, 2015, the *ThumbPrint News* staff will select the top eight photographs (in their opinions) to be published in the June issue of *ThumbPrint News*. At that time our readers will have the opportunity to vote for the Grand Prize Winner. The Grand Prize Winner will receive a certificate for dinner for two at an area restaurant chosen by our staff.

Please note that by submitting a photo to *ThumbPrint News* for consideration in the "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words" contest, you are giving our newspaper the right to publish your photo in a future issue, even if you are not selected as one of the top eight photographers. All photos published will appear with your name and city as a credit.

In conclusion, look through those old photo albums (yes, some of us still have them), check your computers and cell phones for pictures you have taken, or go out there and shoot something new. Remember, the picture must tell a story all by itself. We don't need you to describe the photo you are sending. That is the whole point! We should be able to create a story in our own minds just by looking at what you send.

Good luck! I am excited to see what you have to share.

Editor's note: A minimum of 25 photos must be submitted to ThumbPrint News by the May 10, 2015, deadline for the contest to be opened up to our readers for voting. Individuals may submit up to three photos total. Should less than 25 photos be submitted, our staff, at our discretion, may publish some of our favorites in the June edition without selecting a winner or opening it up to reader voting.

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*Hearing screening is always free. Not a medical exam. Audiometric test to determine proper amplification needs only. **Hearing aids do not restore natural hearing ability. Individual experiences vary depending on severity of hearing loss, accuracy of evaluation, proper fit and ability to adapt to amplification. ^See your Miracle Ear representative for complete details. Field test is an in-office demonstration. Not valid with any other offer or discount. See your Miracle-Ear representative for complete details on all offers presented in this advertisement. Studies conducted at the University of Northern Colorado (2014) and Oldenburg Horzentrum (2013) showed that Speech Reception Thresholds (SRT) in cocktail-party situations improved up to 2.9 dB for wearers with mild to moderate hearing loss using GENIUS with Directional Focus, compared to people with normal hearing. This corresponds to over 25% improvement in speech understanding.



ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, go to our website, www.thumbprintnews.com, and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting correct answers by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a wonderful surprise gift at the end of this year! On December 31, 2015, one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified.

In the April 2015 edition, we asked our readers to identify the object to the right and for what it is used:

Of all of those submitting the correct answer, Briana Overholt of Chesterfield, MI, was randomly chosen to be entered into the year-end drawing. Briana identified that this unusual looking fruit is the pitaya, more commonly known as dragon fruit.



Dragon fruit is an extremely beautiful fruit that grows on cacti-like plants. The main use is for eating, but there are a few other uses.

The skin of the dragon fruit is thin and covered in scales. The center of the fruit is made up of a red or white sweet tasting pulp that is reported to have many health benefits, including:

- Being low in cholesterol
- Having high amounts of Vitamin C
- Being a good natural source of antioxidants
- Being a rich source of dietary fiber



Dragon fruit is currently grown in tropical and sub-tropical areas of the United States, including California, Hawaii and Southern Florida.

For our May contest we are asking our readers to identify the object to the right and describe its use. Remember, go to www.thumbprintnews.com if you know the answer. Good luck! 🐭





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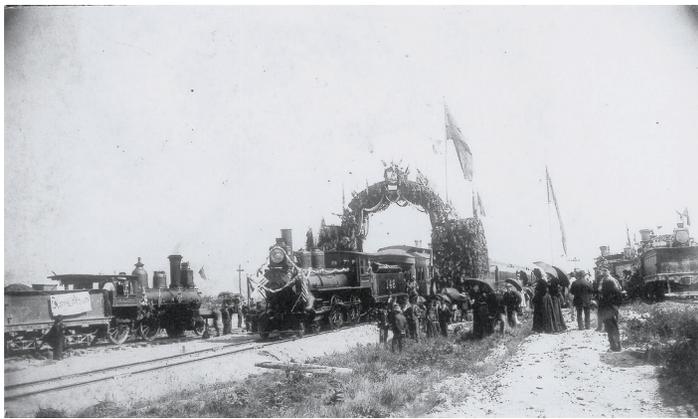
TUNNELING

Continued from Page 1

As many of the goods shipped around the area were destined for Canada or at least passed through it, the Grand Trunk Railroad Company had many issues moving shipments between Canada and the United States.

One of the biggest problems was once a train reached the shore of the St. Clair River, it had to be taken apart, loaded onto a ferry and then reassembled once it reached the other side of the river. The ferry was extremely busy during this time, being forced to operate at all hours in order to move nearly 1,000 vehicles daily. During the winter months, the issue of ice jams in the river became a reality, often making it difficult to cross the waterway. Not only did this issue make the trip much longer, but it also added to the cost of shipping internationally. Another major issue with this transition was that the distance between the Grand Trunk Railway tracks in Canada was five and a half feet wide, while the width in the United States was four feet eight and one half inches. The dimensions used in America eventually became the standard in many countries.

Joseph Hickson, the general manager



The first official train that ran through the St. Clair Tunnel

of the Grand Trunk Railroad Company, was asked to investigate new ways to cross the St. Clair River beginning in 1879. Several different options were discussed, such as a bridge and different forms of tunnels. It was determined that a bridge, which would require long and gradual approaches, would cost around \$5 million and would interrupt shipping on the water during construction. Another idea was a *trench and tube tunnel*, which is constructed by sinking an iron tube in a trench on the river bottom, but this too would interrupt shipping efforts on the river. Walter Shanley, an engineer hired by Hickson to study the possibility of a tunnel under the river, determined they could construct a tunnel through a layer of blue clay in the river bed. He also believed it could be completed for about \$2 million, determining the best spot for construction was about three miles south of the ferry crossing. Test samples were taken from the riverbed to determine what type of soil resided beneath the river, but the findings were not encouraging. A layer of blue clay about 21 feet thick was found, but that particular clay is soft and permeated with water, which makes it extremely unstable. Adding to the uncertainty was the failed effort of constructing a tunnel under the Detroit River in 1872, which resulted in water and sand flooding the tunnel after more than 1,500 feet of earth was excavated. The



A train emerging from the new St. Clair tunnel on the Canadian side with original tunnel on the left

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reason many people were doubtful that the tunnel would be structurally sound was because the blue clay under the St. Clair River was the same material the Detroit River Tunnel was dug through.

The St. Clair Tunnel Company, comprised of the St. Clair Frontier Tunnel Company and The Port Huron Tunnel Company, was formed in 1884 to construct the tunnel, but digging didn't start until 1888 due to lack of funds. In January of that year, excavation began with crews working from both sides, eventually meeting in the middle. One hidden danger while digging the tunnel below the river was the chance of releasing deadly gasses residing in the river bed, which have claimed many victims over the years. Due to the multiple uncertainties associated with the project, Hobson decided to incorporate three different tunnel building techniques, which included tunnel shields driven by hydraulic rams, the use of compressed air to help protect against the intrusion of water or sand, as well as cast iron lining the tunnel. This was the first time anyone used these three techniques together to construct a tunnel and it's believed the completion of the St. Clair Tunnel wouldn't have been possible without them.

While these methods made the

architectural marvel a reality, they didn't come without consequences. The use of compressed air resulted in many workers suffering from *tunnel grip* or *the bends*, which was a disease caused by rapid decompression when exiting the tunnel. This sickness, which is the same problem divers face when ascending too fast, was not well understood during the early years of tunnel construction and resulted in death rates as high as 25 percent. Employees in the St. Clair Tunnel were forced to work in a space with atmospheric pressure 28 pounds above average, which took a toll on their joints.

While the tunnel was undoubtedly going to put the Grand Trunk a step ahead of their competition, it too was going to be extremely beneficial and possibly even life saving for Port Huron. From the very beginning, the location had a big problem



Exiting the St. Clair Tunnel after it was electrified

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The original tunnel on the left next to the new tunnel on the right

with flooding when ice would melt in the spring due to its proximity to the Black River. With discussion of what to do with the debris removed to construct the tunnel, a plan to raise the streets of Port Huron was proposed. The plan was to add an extra six to eight feet to the street level as far south as Pine Road, and as far north as Quay Street. The expensive project was carried out with continuous truckloads spreading the debris. Small buildings that wouldn't survive the change were used as fill for the project.

After removing over a mile of earth, the two shields finally met on August 30, 1890. Amazingly, the shields were only off by a quarter of an inch vertically and perfectly aligned horizontally. Interestingly, while they remained aligned, the tunnel began to rotate. Between July 1889, and February 1890, the shield rotated 20 degrees to the north before rotating 30 degrees in the opposite direction. Luckily, this did not cause any issues, but if the lining would have rotated any farther, it would have resulted in serious problems. No explanation was given as to why the shields shifted, but it is believed to be caused from density variation. Even though the tunnel was already complete, the approaches were yet to be started because the company wanted to be sure the tunnel was going to withstand all the pressure. It took 200 men almost a year

before the approaches were finished - totaling 3,500 feet on the Canadian side and 2,700 feet on the American side with a two percent grade.

The St. Clair Tunnel opened formally on September 19, 1891, but the first freight train didn't grace the tunnel until October 24, 1891. Once the tunnel was finally finished, the Grand

Trunk Railroad Company

was able to stop the ferry service, which saved them \$50,000 a year, as well as saving two hours on the trip from Chicago to Toronto. When the tunnel was completed, it totaled \$2.7 million, with 15 percent paid by the Canadian government. The whole project was 12,226 feet long, with 2,290 feet under the St. Clair River, covering the tunnel with 30 feet of water and up to 20 feet of clay.

Although the tunnel was a huge success and did great things for the shipping industry, the tunnel was potentially a very dangerous place for both workers and passengers. While the locomotives burned anthracite or coke coal, which produced less smoke emissions, they still produced carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. The ventilation system took 45 minutes to clear gases from the tunnel, but problems arose when exiting the tunnel up the two percent grade. The couplers that held the train cars together were placed under a great deal of strain and often broke. This would result in a car being left behind in the tunnel and the people aboard open to the possibility of asphyxiation, which caused more than a dozen deaths in the St. Clair Tunnel.

As a result of the many tragic events caused by the toxic gases, the tunnel was electrified in 1908. The electrical update was completed for about \$1 million and was implemented without interrupting any activity throughout the tunnel. Not only did

the new addition propel the trains through the tunnel without producing emissions, it was also one of the first tunnels in the world to be converted to electrical power. The conversion was a financial success for the Grand Trunk Railroad Company because with the ability to increase capacity, the need for a second tunnel was no longer necessary.

The final change to the tunnel came in 1958, when the final electric locomotives passed through the tunnel, making way for diesel engines. The reason for the change was because as the electric locomotives aged, maintaining them became extremely costly due to the fact that the company had to fabricate the repair parts from scratch. Entering the 1950s, larger freight cars were starting to take over the smaller ones previously used, which resulted in the lowering of the tracks in the tunnel. However, many of the bigger trains still couldn't fit in the tunnel, even with the new alterations. This resulted in a new tunnel with a larger clearance to accommodate the new freight cars being built in 1995 - costing \$155 million to construct.

The original tunnel, built in 1891, served



A postcard showing the entrance to the St. Clair Tunnel, 1907

the company and the community for 104 years, making history multiple times throughout its use. Not only was it the first test proving the possibility of constructing a tunnel through the soft ground under a river, it was also the first international tunnel in the world. While the historical tunnel is no longer in use, the replacement tunnel was dug right next to the original, with the entrances of the first tunnel still visible. The tunnel was so vital for moving goods in and around the United States, as well as to the rest of the world, that two separate attempts to destroy the tunnel were tried. Fortunately, both attempts were foiled and the marvelous tunnel remains to this day to remind us Port Huron is home to the first tunnel in the world that connected two countries - changing the shipping industry forever.

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Memoirs from The Restless Retiree
SOLVING A PROBLEM
By Gabriel Jones
ThumbPrint News Columnist

answering. If I move them to another room, I can't sit and watch TV with you.
Wife: That's some excuse!
Gabriel: Well, then, I would still have to get up occasionally to get something I need to work on. I would have to go upstairs or in the basement to file the papers in the proper place. By having these boxes around me, I can accomplish more and file things in folders in the boxes. But here is the real reason. I can be with you, my love, while I work.
Wife: Oh, Gabriel. How sweet! Would you like your coffee and dessert now?
Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🍷

Wife: Gabriel, you're sitting in the family room watching television with all those boxes of stuff around you. Why don't you move them upstairs or in the in the basement to make yourself more comfortable?
Gabriel: Well, love...these boxes have various bills and letters that need

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ThumbPrint News travels to American Samoa!

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan (over 1000 businesses in nine Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but readers have also taken ThumbPrint News with them to many different states and countries (listed to the right on the chalkboard). ThumbPrint News was even seen on television on the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and at Walt Disney World in Florida with several of the Disney characters! The newspaper has traveled to all of the seven continents.

This month we are featuring ThumbPrint News when it travelled to American Samoa with William Easton. Bill sent the picture on the chalkboard and the following note:

Here is a photo showing ThumbPrint News' caption being held in front of the Governor's mansion/museum in Pago Pago, American Samoa, which is an archipelago below the Equator and our southernmost inhabited land. It is still predominately Polynesian with only fishing and tourist industries - StarKist Tuna has a large operation there.

American Samoa is an unincorporated territory of the United States located in the South Pacific Ocean, southeast of Samoa, and consists of five main islands and two coral atolls. The largest and most populous island is Tutuila, which in the 2010 census showed a total population of 55,519 people. The total land area is 76.8 square miles. American Samoa is noted for having the highest rate of military enlistment of any U.S. state or territory. Most American Samoans are bilingual and can fluently speak English and Samoan or Gagana Fa'asāmoa.

If you are a reader of ThumbPrint News and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or if you have been able to get a famous person or character to be photographed with our paper, you may submit an email and photo to us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net (jpeg format preferred). Please write a paragraph or so about the photo and include your name, address and phone number. Please be patient as you wait for your photo to appear in ThumbPrint News. When it does appear, we will send you a complimentary edition. There are many places where ThumbPrint News has not yet been – and lots of famous people to track down. Who will be the next person to help us in our quest? 🍷

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Engineers' Day ^{at the} Soo Locks

By William Easton
 ThumbPrint News Contributor

Each year on the last weekend of June, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosts an event to show off the construction and maintenance of the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Engineer employees and knowledgeable volunteers offer guided tours, allowing ordinary citizens to walk across the lock walls. If the timing is right a patient spectator can get a close up view of an ocean vessel, known as a "saltie", traveling on the St. Mary's River linking the two Great Lakes, Superior and Huron. All of this is free of charge and offered only on this occasion (of course paid for by you the taxpayer). The engineers currently operate the locks with a full staff of about 100 during the shipping season.



Before giving a synopsis of the Soo Locks' history, I will attempt a landlubber's explanation of how locks work. They are needed to bring a craft from one level of sea to another. For example, the Panama Canal, opened in 1914, accomplished the feat of bringing ocean vessels from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean and vice versa. Although the oceans are about the same height and sea level, the tides differ and crossing the isthmus requires crossing an elevation of about 85 feet. Along with a manmade lake, three sets of locks are needed there. At the Soo, three sets of locks and a manmade canal are used to get watercraft through the river falls and rapids.

In order to lower ships coming east from Lake Superior with a cargo of iron ore, coal or grain, they face a drop of about 21 feet. The vessel is locked into a confined space with the river water released so as to lower the ship to the decreased level of Lake Huron. (All water levels are controlled by an International Joint Commission.) There are electronic iron gates that open and close to allow the water and ships to move through the locks. At the Panama Canal, General Electric, a company that was new at the time, provided the expertise

needed for the gates. For the Soo, the government-owned U.S. Hydroelectric Plant furnishes that service. Any excess power is sold to local consumers.

As for history of the several locks, the first, known as the State Lock, was completed in 1855. The State of Michigan had been promised 750,000 acres of public land in return for construction through the river rapids. With the discovery of Mesabi Range iron ore, the increased product shipping from the upper Midwest to the more populous East meant something had to be done to get loaded ships over the river rapids. Earlier traders had portaged their canoes. An early attempt at a canal had been destroyed in the War of 1812. The State Canal was completed in only two years, an engineering marvel for the time, by E & T Fairbanks Company, which had extensive mining interests in northern Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. That served well until longer ships with heavier loads required larger locks. The original Poe Lock, named for its

designer, Orlando Poe, was completed in 1898, with the U.S. government back in charge. The McArthur Lock followed in 1943 and the Poe was rebuilt in 1968. These two, used for ocean going vessels, are at least 800 feet long and can accommodate ships and cargo weighing over 72,000 tons. Earlier smaller locks, the Davis of 1914 and Sabin of 1919, can now be used for pleasure and tour crafts. Finally, there is a smaller Canadian owned lock to the north of the others, likewise suitable only for smaller vessels. Con-

gress has authorized but not appropriated money for construction of another lock long enough to accommodate the larger salties. (Perhaps the delay is due to environmental concern about the invasive zebra mussels stowaways on those ships.)

The St. Lawrence Seaway was completed in 1959 at a cost of approximately \$470 million U.S., financed jointly by Canadian and U.S. governments. For the June 25th ceremonial ribbon cutting Queen Elizabeth and President Dwight Eisenhower did the honors. So, how did this monumental engineering feat that involved the construction of many new canals and locks affect the century old locks at Sault Ste. Marie? The immediate effect was to permit ocean bound large ships to transport their containers of freight all the way to the Atlantic Ocean and on to foreign customers. Iron ore, coal, wheat and other grains from the fields of the prairie states and provinces could make this journey instead of down the



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Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. Likewise manufactured goods from New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan (think autos, trucks and larger wheeled vehicles) could be sent upstream through the lakes to the Soo and beyond. Of course these products could have been shipped via rail and road as they were before. The political lobbyists of those common carriers and the Atlantic ports of eastern states opposed taxpayer financing of the seaway. Especially galling must be the fact that the U.S. side later became toll-free while the trucking industry paid license fees and gas taxes.

Strictly speaking the Seaway has no geographical connection to the Soo. Its boundaries are 370 miles from the Port of Montreal to Canada's Welland Canal connecting Lakes Erie and Ontario. So the waters beyond Montreal to the Gulf of the St. Lawrence and westerly through Lake Erie, Detroit River, Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River and Lake Huron to the Soo Locks on the St. Mary's River are not considered part of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The Canadian shore has thirteen locks. Only the Eisenhower and Snell are owned by the U.S.

From the opening until 1986, tolls were charged and shared proportionately to their investments by the neighbors. The Safe Harbors Act eliminated our tolls. Although subsequent budget proposals have recommended reinstatement, commercial vessels pay no tolls to the U.S. when traveling from Duluth to the Atlantic Ocean. However, there is a federal tax on the cargo at the destination point to help maintain the harbors. Nor are pleasure craft charged at the Soo, but do pay at the two American seaway locks. Canada continues to assess



fees on vessels, with non-commercials paying a flat rate of \$30 (or \$25 for a book of tickets as at the Blue Water Bridge) for each lock. Eight Welland Canal locks would cost \$200 Canadian using tickets. The average length of time to transit through those locks is eleven hours. That means shipping time from the Midwest, for example, by rail or truck to Atlantic Ocean ports is much shorter.

Thumbprint News' readers would enjoy traveling up to Sault Ste. Marie on the last June weekend. Besides learning about the canal and locks, they could also be informed about how electricity is generated. The Cloverland Electric Plant is within walking distance of the locks. Now a cooperative that furnishes power to the eastern U.P., their staff offers an easy to understand brochure and talk about the business. Lake Superior State University has a demonstration at the Cloverland building explaining the academic and practical research on freshwater fish culture. For a more active day, the visitor could walk across the almost three mile International Bridge or bike, the only time permitted – with appropriate identification of course.

We who have watched both salties and lakers transit Lake Huron and the St. Clair River realize that the cargoes benefit us. Grains, coal, iron ore (taconite) and steel are the major products. Recently wind turbine blades over 112 feet long have been seen as they travel for construction of wind farms. But Thumb area farm products such as sugar beets and soybeans also historically shipped to market on the water. The Soo Locks' trip helps us to understand the importance of Lake Huron, so close to our homes and important to our lives. 🌱



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EAGLE SCOUT



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

- SCOUT
- TENDERFOOT
- SECOND CLASS
- FIRST CLASS
- STAR
- LIFE
- EAGLE

For over 100 years, the Scouts of America have helped guide millions of children down the path to becoming upstanding citizens – the task of taking a small group of local kids and turning the idea into a worldwide movement began with the vision of a single man.

That man was Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, a 20th century British Army officer whose claim to fame was protecting the town of Mafeking for 217 days during the Second Boer War. While in the Army, Baden-Powell became concerned that his men didn't understand basic survival strategies or simple first aid – in order to educate his troops, he penned a handbook. The manual emphasized leadership, adapting to situations and being resourceful – the name of the book was *Aids to Scouting*. After returning from the war, Baden-Powell was shocked to learn that English boys enjoyed his handbook and even created games from it. After receiving this information, he decided to test his vision with 20 boys in August of 1907. He took the young men to Brownsea Island off England's southern coast for 12 days. While they were there, they learned how to stalk, cook outdoors and be inventive – the boys had a blast, and what is now considered the first Boy Scout meeting was a huge success.

Although the Boy Scouts were becoming extremely popular in England and many other countries, an American businessman had to get lost in London before word of the group would reach the United States. William D. Boyce, a publisher from Chicago, was making his way through the fog when a boy offered to assist him to his destination. Once they arrived, the boy refused compensation, explaining he was a Boy Scout doing a good turn. After learning more about the Boy Scouts, Boyce returned to America with a suitcase filled with ideas – the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated February 8, 1910.

Baden-Powell spent three years making the Boy Scouts what it is today before deciding to create a similar organization for

the girls. Equally, many young girls in England were starting to express the need for an organization of their own. Baden-Powell decided to pursue the idea, calling on his sister to form the organization, which resulted in the creation of the Girl Guides in 1910. Shortly after, Juliette Gordon Low became friends with the creator of the Boy Scouts and grew very interested in the group. The year after the Girl Guides were created, Low became very involved with the organization, even moving to Scotland to become a troop leader – that same year, the name was changed to the Girl Scouts. Realizing that women in her home country of the United States were being robbed of the chance to experience the Girl Scouts, she quickly returned home to spread the word. As the Girl Scouts were a branch off of the Boy Scouts, many of the teachings were very similar, including being self-sufficient, knowing first aid, as well as the art of camping and survival techniques. The creation of the Girl Scouts came shortly before America became involved in WWI, which resulted in an early focus of the group being ways women could help their country while many men were away on duty.

The formation of these two extraordinary groups have done amazing things for many young men and women who have involved themselves in the organizations – making them responsible for helping our youth become well-rounded, respectable citizens. Today, there are more than 2.8 million Girl Scouts and 2.6 million Boy Scouts worldwide and millions more alumni, which have held positions ranging from President to CEO and nearly every position in between. To build character, honor and respect in your children, contact your local scouting council to get your kids involved.

Editors note: To learn more about the Boy Scouts, contact the Blue Water Council Boy Scouts of America at (810) 982-9529 or for the Girls Scouts, contact the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan at (313) 972-4475.

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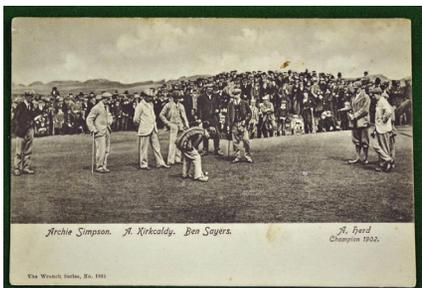
FORE

Continued from Page 1

trails hacked into the wild shrubbery. The course that emerged from the early players' efforts was 11 holes long. The holes were laid out from end to end, in which golfers would play the holes out, turn around and play them back to the clubhouse, for a round of 22 holes.

When golf started to slowly develop in Scotland around the 15th century, it wasn't welcomed with open arms. Instead, it was banned in 1457 by Scottish Parliament because it was determined that time needed to be spent on archery practice due to the fear of an English invasion. The restriction wasn't lifted until 1500, after a peace treaty was signed between England and Scotland. King James IV began playing the game within two years of the arrangement.

There was one unique addition to the



Early 1900's professional golf match putting scene

game, which gave Scotland their claim to fame of being the "home of golf" – the hole. This extension of the game is believed to come from early golfers aiming at rabbit burrows, which eventually evolved into a cup and flag. Although the sport now included a hole to aim at, there were no definitive dimensions laid out for the cup. This often caused the depth of each hole to vary, depending on how much sand was removed to be used for a tee, making it so submerged at times that the player had to lie on his stomach to retrieve his ball.

A directive was issued by the Archbishop of St. Andrews in 1552, allowing the public to play golf, as well as other pastime games, on the premises. Another restriction on the game came in 1592, when authorities in Edinburgh, Scotland, supported the church's efforts of banning golf on Sundays, which lasted for 26 years.

In the early years, clubs were hand-crafted out of wood by anyone available, which usually meant the players constructed their own set.

Around 1618, a new ball was introduced called a *featherie*, which was used for over



Early St. Andrews postcard inscribed July 24, 1903, in front of flooded bunker

200 years. The ball consisted of a top hat full of feathers and was sewn together by hand with three pieces of leather, making the ball extremely expensive.

Although iron clubs were available through hand forging, the majority of players still used wood, despite the fact that iron clubs were more accurate. The reason being, iron clubs were heavy and hard to use and much more likely to damage the costly *featherie* ball.

It wasn't until 1764 that several of the holes on the St. Andrews course were determined to be too short and were combined. Prior to this, courses ranged from six to 20 holes, but after St. Andrews made the change to a 18 hole course, all followed suit.

It was around this time courses began to acquire obstacles obtained through landscaping. Before this point, courses were unchanged from their natural form because many believed God created the best courses. Eventually, the number of golfers increased and the number of courses followed suit, forcing course

designers to construct in places other than in naturally desirable areas.

The greatest technological change to the game came in 1850 with the introduction of the *guttie* ball. The new balls were made from the sap of the tropical gutta tree and were much cheaper and easily repaired through heating and remolding.

One downfall of the new ball was it couldn't match the flight distance of the *featherie*, but made it possible for ordinary people to afford to play the game because the ball was able to be mass produced.

Hand crafted clubs were made until the early 1900s, when production of clubs began in factories with the Industrial Revolution, making the game even more affordable for the lower classes. Until this time, golf professionals were cherished more for their club making expertise than their golf skills.



See *FORE*, Page 31





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The Women of Pest Control

Although pest control is usually considered a male-dominated business, the truth is females hold positions ranging anywhere from technician to president – although the numbers are low, women have an unprecedented influence on the industry.

Most women with a career in pest control agree the industry is great for women to work in – often listing flexible hours to balance work and family and their natural desire to want to help people solve their problems as reasons why women should explore employment possibilities. With only six percent of estimated women working with pests, which in this instance excludes husbands and boyfriends, the



Nicole Szymczak
President of ABC Home & Commercial Services

labor force is certainly a non-traditional choice for the majority of employed women, but groups, such as Professional Women in Pest Management (PWIPM), is working to bring more women into the busi-

ness. One alluring fact about the industry is it's expected to grow 20 percent through 2022, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics – faster than all other occupation averages.

Whether or not there's a large number of women employed to exterminate pests, the truth of the matter is they are a major determining factor of what services are purchased and where they are obtained from – making a female's point of view increasingly important to business owners. According to a recent survey, women are the primary consumer of goods and services in the United States, making more than 85 percent of decisions on consumer purchases. Since the majority of the customers purchasing services are women, and many are likely to be mothers, there is an instant trust factor during a woman to woman business deal – the feeling that they want to help and they have their family's best interest at heart. Women are also said to influence over 95 percent of all goods and services acquired, and with estimates that women will outnumber men in the work force by 2020, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, women in pest control are quickly becoming more prominent than ever. 🌱

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May THUMB AREA

Activities & Events Calendar

If you have an event in June that you would like listed in the June issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by May 12, 2015. 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

No events were submitted for Genesee County for the month of May. If you would like to see your county's events included in the June issue, please submit it to thumbprintnews@comcast.net no later than May 12, 2015.

Huron

Bad Axe - May 2 & 16
Tip of the Thumb Dancers, Huron County Senior Center, 150 Nugent Rd., 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Admission for dances is \$5. Bring finger foods and friends. On May 2 entertainment provided by Melody Magic. On May 16 (Armed Forces Night) there will be a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by entertainment from The Natural Tones starting at 7:00 p.m. For more information call (989) 269-6348.

Lapeer

Almont - May 9
Euchre Tournament, Lions Club, 222 Water St., doors open at 6:00 p.m., play starts at 7:00 p.m. \$15 donation includes prizes and food. For more information call Dan at (810) 798-8321.

Almont - May 12
Almont/Dryden Seniors' Potluck Lunch and Program, Lions Club, 222 Water St., 12:00 p.m. Call Dan at (810) 798-8321 for more information.

Macomb

Memphis - May 1-15
Donate Your Loose Change, Memphis Middle School, 34165 Bordman Rd. Proceeds will benefit Memphis Middle School to supply Audio Playaway Books. Woman's Life Chapter 855 will match the first \$500 raised. For more information call (810) 392-2125.

Richmond - May 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 & 10
Richmond Community Theatre Presents "Sugar" (the Some Like It Hot Musical), 69619 Parker St., Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., Sundays 2:00 p.m. The theatre will be transformed into a 1920's Speak Easy to reflect the time period of the show. Adults \$17, students and seniors \$15. For more information call (586) 727-9518.

Utica - May 3
Stable Dreams Fundraiser, Zap Zone, 43680 Van Dyke, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$20 per person includes unlimited indoor laser tag, bumper cars, Cannon Blaster and Glow Golf. Pizza available for \$1 a slice, pop for \$1. There is also a tin can auction and arcade games, with donations from local businesses and people. Tickets can be purchased through Randy at (586) 871-0565 or rjsanda@oakland.edu. More information about the non-profit organization, Stable Dreams, can be found at stabledreams.net.

Memphis - May 9
Wine Tasting, Sage Creek Winery, 80890 Main St., 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Must be at least 21 years old to attend. Tickets \$20 each, includes light appetizers. Limited seating – advance tickets only. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Tickets are available at the Winery. Proceeds to benefit a family with medical bills. Woman's Life Insurance Society Chapter 855 will match the first \$500 raised! For more information call (810) 392-5008.

Memphis - May 23
Euchre Tournament, Memphis Lions Club, 34758 Pratt Rd., 7:00 p.m. \$10 per player. Snacks available. Any questions contact Frank at (810) 392-3717 or email fravis@comcast.net.

Oakland

No events were submitted for Oakland County for the month of May. If you would like to see your county's events included in the June issue, please submit it to thumbprintnews@comcast.net no later than May 12, 2015.

St. Clair

Emmett - May 1 & 2
Emmett Lions Club Yard Sale, 10830 Mary St., 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Something for everyone; proceeds go to community projects. For more information call John at (810) 384-1892 or (810) 388-7066.

Kimball - May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
7th Annual Farmer's Market, Flea Market and Arts & Crafts, Marysville Knights of Columbus #9526, 4521 Ravenswood Rd., 10:00 a.m. – 5:00

p.m. Vendors wanted; come early and pick your spot for the season on a first come/first serve basis. \$10 per parking space outside. For more information call (810) 364-6800 or (810) 824-7435.

Memphis - May 1
Learn American Mah Jong, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 10:00 a.m. Beginners welcome. Adults only. Registration is requested by calling (810) 392-2980.

St. Clair - May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
Scrabble, St. Clair Library, 310 S. Second St., 1:00 p.m. Join the fun and test your vocabulary with the one and only all-American crossword game each Friday. For more information call (810) 329-3951.

Algonac - May 2
American Indian Festival, Algonac Elementary, 1300 St. Clair Blvd., 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. No cost for tables. (Donations for future events or giveaways welcomed.) For more information call Sharon at (810) 364-8370 or Sue at (586) 725-0284 ext. 1425.

Algonac - May 2
Garden Club Make & Take Mother's Day Project, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 10:00 a.m. Join the ladies of the Algonac Garden Club and make a garden-type project suitable for Mother's Day gift-giving. For more information call (810) 794-4471.

Port Huron - May 2
Mother's Day Surprise, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorran Blvd., 10:00 a.m. Enjoy a story and create a gift to surprise Mom on Mother's Day. Ages 5 - 12. Registration requested by calling (810) 987-7323 ext. 132 or 130.

Port Huron - May 3
Tales and Legends - Final Performance for the 2014/2015 Season of the International Symphony Orchestra, McMorran Theatre, 701 McMorran Blvd., 2:30 p.m. Adults \$26, seniors \$25, students \$7. Children 14 years and under admitted free with an adult. Tickets available at McMorran Box Office or by calling (810) 984-8857.

Lakeport - May 4, 11 & 18
Learn American Sign Language, Burtchville Twp. Library, 7097 Second St., 6:00 p.m. All ages of adults welcome. Registration requested by calling (810) 385-8550.

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Yale - May 4, 11 & 18

Montage Monday, Yale Library, 2 Jones St., 3:00 p.m. Teens, drop in for crafts, games and snacks. Registration is requested by calling (810) 387-2940.

East China - May 6

Low Vision, Legally Blind and Blind Support Group, St. John River District Hospital, 4100 River Rd., room 2, 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Speaker will be Shelley from the Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired. For more information call Paul at (810) 329-5172 or email dailerpaul@hotmail.com.

Capac - May 7 & 28

Kid Kreations, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 4:00 p.m. Kids ages 5 - 10, join us for a craft and story. For more information call (810) 395-7000.

Kimball - May 7

Make Your Own Birdhouse, Kimball Twp. Library, 1955 N. Allen Rd., 5:00 p.m. Come and make your own birdhouse to enjoy the birds of spring. Ages 11 - 18. Registration required by calling (810) 982-9171.

Marine City - May 7

Lego Mania, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, 4:00 p.m. Compete in our monthly Lego challenge using our Legos and a creative theme. "People's Choice" winner will receive a gift card. Ages 5 - 12. For more information call (810) 765-5233.

Pearl Beach - May 13

Algonac/Clay Historical Society Fundraiser, Johnnie Lega's Restaurant and Tavern, 9724 Pearl Beach Blvd., 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. A video on Pearl Beach and Pointe Tremble will run on the monitors during your dining experience. "All You Can Eat" perch dinner, including perch, coleslaw, redskins, rolls, dessert and soft drinks. Cash bar. Gratuities not included. Advance tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased by calling Paula at (810) 794-9641. Tickets also available at the door.

Fair Haven - May 14

Scrapbooking Special, Ira Twp. Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd., 6:00 p.m. Create a spring-themed mini-scrapbook album. Bring a few photos if you want to add them during the program. All other materials provided. No scrapbook experience necessary. Registration is requested by calling (586) 725-9081.

Fair Haven - May 15

Euchre Party, St. Peter Lutheran Church, 6745 Palms Rd., registration at 6:30 p.m.; games start at 7:00 p.m. \$5 donation includes free goodies, coffee and

tea. Hot dogs and pop are a \$1 donation. Cash prizes. For more information call (810) 765-8161.

Marysville - May 15

2015 Annual Spring Dinner Concert Presented by the Schubert Male Chorus of Port Huron, Alexander's Banquet Facility, 1195 Maryville, doors open at 5:30 p.m. There will also be a special performance by Port Huron Musicale Women's Chorus. Prepaid tickets are \$30 and can be obtained by calling (810) 364-6369.

Port Huron - May 15

Spring Art Hop, downtown Port Huron, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Artists and fine craftspeople will display and sell their wares in downtown host businesses. The Blue Water Trolley will be available to take art hoppers from location to location. Strolling musicians will be around town through the evening; entertainers will also be within several businesses. Specials in stores will kick off Canadian Appreciation week. For more information contact (810) 937-5049.

St. Clair - May 16

3rd Annual Strolling Thru the Stalls Wine & Beer Tasting Fundraiser for Liberty Riders Special Needs Equestrian Program, Rattle Run Farms, 7103 Gratiot Rd., 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. (catered dinner at 7:00 p.m.) Locally produced wine and beer tasting and many raffle items. Purchase printable tickets online at libertyriders.org (paypal payment option). Tickets are available at the door.

Marysville - May 21

Exploring Foster Care and Adoption - How to Help Even if You Can't Foster or Adopt, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 6:00 p.m. Erin Wright, Community Liaison for Ennis Center for Children Inc., presents simple, clear ideas for how anyone can help kids in foster care. Appropriate for all ages. Registration is requested by calling (810) 364-9493.

Port Huron - May 27

St. Clair County Family History Group Meeting, Port Huron Museum, 1115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. Author Susan Hass of Bad Axe, Michigan, will be speaking on her recent book *Strictly Small Town*. This is also the Annual Meeting and election of officers during the business meeting portion of the program. Refreshments will be served. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family tree may visit as a guest or become a new member of the group. For more information visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/miscfhg/ or call (317) 600-7813.

Marysville - May 30

Free Hospice Education Event, Grace Hospice, 1985 Gratiot (in the parking lot), 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Free hot dogs, chips, pop, water, bounce house for the kids and much more. For more information call (810) 294-8580.

Port Huron - May 30

Blue Water Sturgeon Festival, Vantage Point Maritime Center, 51 Water St., 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This one-day event is centered on providing close encounters with the threatened lake sturgeon, "Gentle Giants of the Great Lakes", by featuring three *Huron Lady Sturgeon Cruises*, a 5K race and 1K fun run, indoor and outdoor displays with hands-on activities, Meet the Scientist workshops, and a live sturgeon touch tank. Free. To sign up for the race or for complete event details go to www.SturgeonFestival.com or contact Sheri at (810) 987-5306 or sfaust@hd.stclaircounty.org.

Sanilac

Applegate - May 3

Applegate Fire Department Pancake Breakfast, 5330 Applegate Rd., 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Price for breakfast is by donation and includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, homemade donuts, coffee, juice and milk. Door prizes will be given away during breakfast. For more information call Jerry at (810) 404-7844.

Applegate, Carsonville, Deckerville & Port Sanilac - May 7 - 9

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8872 Annual Poppy Days, Veterans of Post 8872 will be on the streets of these towns collecting donations. Proceeds from Poppy donations go into the Post Relief Fund which is solely used to help hospitalized veterans, widows and children of veterans and to commemorate the memories of our departed veterans. For more information call Jeffery at (810) 622-8893 or (810) 404-3682.

Sandusky - May 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. On May 9 we will be entertained by Dick Hedrich & Son, and on May 23 by Ted Pavlik & The Melody Makers. For more information call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

Deckerville - May 16

150th Anniversary of the End of the Civil War Commemoration, Reid Music Hall, 4028 Ruth Rd., 11:00

a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Reenactments, historical presentations, artifacts on display, Civil War music played on original Civil War instruments, spirituals and more. Adults \$3, ages 5 to 12 \$1. All veterans are free. For more information call Joyce at (810) 376-6695.

Port Sanilac - May 16

"They came to America from Poland" Home Dinner, 6:00 p.m. These sit down dinners are sponsored by the Sanilac County Historic Village and Museum and are in private homes with limited seating. Dinners are followed by a fun trivia contest about the country. Cost is \$45 per person for non-members of the Society or \$40 per person for members of the Society. Reservations must be made ahead of time by calling (810) 622-9946.

Port Sanilac - May 17

Black River Blue Grass Boys, Sanilac County Historic Village and Museum Village Church, 228 South Ridge St., 3:00 p.m. Back from their three year world tour, the Boys will delight you with all they learned. Tickets \$10, students \$5, under 12 are free. For more information call (810) 622-9946 or visit www.sanilaccountymuseum.org.

Sandusky - May 19

Sanilac County Genealogy Society Meeting, Sandusky District Library, Community Room, 55 E. Sanilac St., 2:00 p.m. There will be a genealogy workshop with Society members available for assistance. For more information call Karen at (810) 705-1680.

Deckerville - May 23

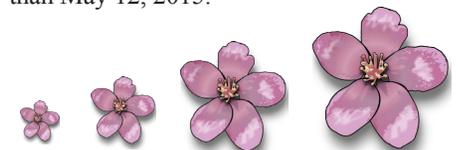
Deckerville Heritage Festival, Main St., 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. A variety of craft, antique, food and greenhouse vendors will be there as well. For more information call (810) 404-3373.

Tuscola

No events were submitted for Tuscola County for the month of May. If you would like to see your county's events included in the June issue, please submit it to thumbprintnews@comcast.net no later than May 12, 2015.

Wayne

No events were submitted for Wayne County for the month of May. If you would like to see your county's events included in the June issue, please submit it to thumbprintnews@comcast.net no later than May 12, 2015.





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Huron Lady Sturgeon Cruise Tickets Are On Sale

Submitted By Sheri Faust, Friends of the St. Clair River

The third annual Blue Water Sturgeon Festival is set for Saturday, May 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Vantage Point Maritime Center in Port Huron. Parking and admission are free. This one-day, family-friendly event is centered on providing close encounters with lake sturgeon, the "Gentle Giants of the Great Lakes", by featuring Huron Lady Sturgeon Cruises, as well as indoor and outdoor activities along the shores of the St. Clair River.

During the Huron Lady Sturgeon Cruises, guests will be able to watch lake sturgeon swimming on the bottom of the St. Clair River via live video feed by Gregory A.D. Big screen televisions on deck, courtesy of Best Buy, will allow guests a personal view of the action from the bottom of the river. Riders on the one hour cruise will enjoy the St. Clair River and the beautiful expanse of Lake Huron narrated by lake sturgeon experts from Gregory A.D.

Sturgeon Cruise tickets are now on sale for cruise departure times of 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$15/adult and \$5/youth. Tickets can only

be purchased at www.huronlady.com. See website for all terms and conditions of ticket sales.

The festival opens at 9:30 a.m. with a traditional Native American drum ceremony performed by Walpole Island First Nation leaders. Other featured activities include a live sturgeon "touch tank", live native and invasive fish on display, drop in workshops, items for sale, give-aways and much more.

The Sturgeon Festival, organized by Friends of the St. Clair River, is a partnership between natural resource agencies, government, businesses, scientists and anglers in order to highlight the ecosystem approach to managing native fish and wildlife populations in the St. Clair River and to increase interest in restoring the threatened lake sturgeon to higher levels of abundance.

To purchase Sturgeon Cruise tickets go to <http://huronlady.com>. For Sturgeon Festival information go to www.SturgeonFestival.com. For more information, contact Sheri Faust at the St. Clair County Health Department at (810) 987-5306 or sfaust@hd.stclaircounty.org.

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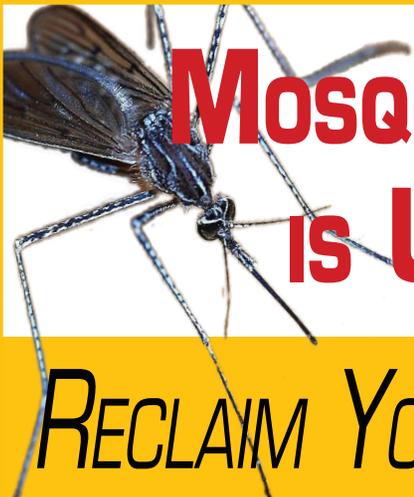
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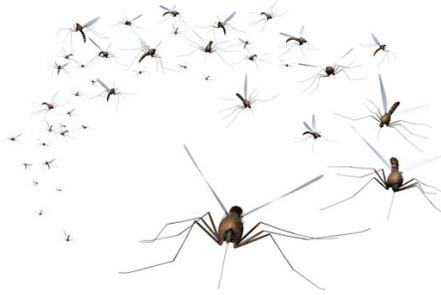


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Growing up in the 1960s and 1970s, I was a Cub Scout and later a Boy Scout. New Baltimore was still a small town without the sub-divisions and urban ways. Every year on Memorial Day we would get the day off school, put on our uniforms and march in the Memorial Day parade. The parade generally consisted of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, V.F.W. members, American Legion, Amvets, fire trucks, police cars, a few convertibles with city officials, and of course the high school band.

We would make our way from the city hall down to the park on Lake St. Clair where they would have a little service for those lost at sea. Then we would go around the corner to St. Mary's school where there were school busses waiting to take the whole parade a couple miles up to the two cemeteries. At each cemetery they would hold a service for those who gave their lives in battle. After the twenty-one gun salute, the bugler would play "Taps" echoed by a second person off in the woods somewhere.

For the first couple of years my view on this was very simple. It was great to have a day off school, the speeches were boring and long, especially since I had to stand at attention during them, but the guns were cool! I often wondered about the V.F.W., Amvets and Legionaries; they all seemed old, and quite often looked stuffed into

uniforms that they had outgrown. I assumed that they, like us, were there because their group was there, nothing more.

Then one year it happened that our group was very close to one of the veterans' groups during the ceremony at one of the cemeteries. During the twenty-one gun salute and "Taps", I was looking over at them. These gruff-looking old men were in tears. This sight has affected me the rest of my life. Those ceremonies were personal for them; they were remembering friends that they had fought beside, and lost. That one incident has changed the way I look at our flag, our veterans and our country.

During President Nixon's term, he signed into law the Monday Holiday bill that changed Memorial day from May 24th to the fourth Monday in May. This changed it from being a day set apart to remember our heroes, to a day that is considered the official start of summer. Being a three day weekend, it has become a small vacation for many, and also has caused a rise in drunk driving accidents. I wonder how much this has caused a loss of patriotism in our country. I don't think President Nixon did our country any favors by signing that bill.

This Memorial Day please take the time to remember our nation's heroes. Happy Memorial day, and to all our veterans, thank you for your service.

Kenneth Duncan, Port Huron



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FORE

Continued from Page 24

The *guttie* was replaced by the Haskell ball in 1898, which had a rubber core and was much easier to hit and control. There were mixed feelings about the new invention because many believed it ruined golf and would take all previous hazards out of play because it flew so much farther.

Golf first came to America during the Revolutionary War, smuggled in by Scottish merchants and soldiers, but struggled to catch on because most were captivated with baseball at the time. Nearly 100 years later, the game was here to stay, starting with players making short courses

in open pastures.

The game's popularity boomed after the American, Francis Ouimet, shocked the world with his U.S. Open win in 1913, beating the favored British stars Harry Vardon and Ted Ray, putting America on the map. At the time, Ouimet was an amateur golfer, achieving his first professional win before he even won an amateur tournament.

Within a decade of his win, the number of golfers in the United States sky rocketed from 350,000 to two million. Along



Early postcard of Harry Vardon teeing off

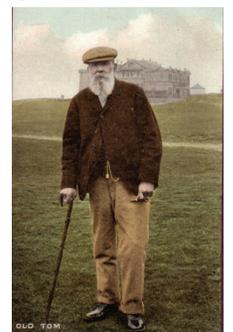
with the number of players going through the roof, so did the number of clubs all over the country. America's first club was St. Andrews, named in honor of the Scottish club, which came to New York in 1888,

starting out as a three-hole course built on an apple orchard. By the turn of the century there were over 750 clubs and that number doubled again to 1500 in 1920.

The United States Golf Association, which was established in 1894 to organize

and make rules for the game in America, joined forces with the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, responsible for rules in the United Kingdom and abroad, in 1951.

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Old Tom Morris, greenskeeper at St. Andrews



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