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ThumbPrint News

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



APRIL 2014

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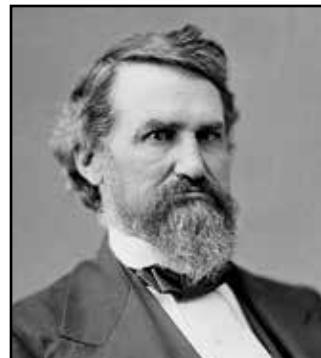
weather and even some unprintable tirades about what people were going to do to winter if it didn't end soon. However, there were some Thumb area residents who were lucky enough to avoid at least some of the chilling weather – the snowbirds.

Snowbirds by the common definition are those who wish to avoid the snow and cold temperatures of winters in the north and who flee to warmer climates, such as Florida, California, Arizona, Texas and the Carolinas. Some have second homes in these areas; some either rent a place or travel from place to place in a RV. Snowbirds keep in touch with their family and friends back home, but often make them so jealous of the warmth they are experiencing in their place of escape that the family and friends end up joining the snowbirds for a week or two get-a-away. Snowbirds are never short of visitors in the winter! If you were to look up "snowbirds" on the internet, there are plenty of opinions and stereotypes of the typical snowbird. Often they are pictured as elderly persons who drive too slowly and too recklessly, and dress in the typical resort wear of shorts, colorful Hawaiian shirts, sunglasses

See *THUMB BIRDS' GATHERING*, Page 10

with district realignment based on the decennial census resulting from population change, Tuscola County is part of the Fifth Congressional District. Miller's jurisdiction extends further into the more populated southern Macomb County. Furthermore, the old Seventh District has been relocated to the south central part of the state.

The original Seventh District was born in 1873 and its first representative was Omar D. Conger, who had been elected in 1869 in the former Fifth District. Dates reflect when the representative



Omar D. Conger

See *THUMB AREA'S REPRESENTATION*, Page 16

ThumbPrint News

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suit to a particular month. Since we are a monthly newspaper, we are often working months ahead on our editions.

- **Do I have to be perfect in spelling and grammar?** No, our editorial department reserves the right to edit your submission for spelling, grammar and clarity. Of course, if the article doesn't make sense at all, it will probably be rejected!

- **How much will I get paid to write an article?** At this time, *ThumbPrint News* does not pay for articles not written by our staff. However, the exposure you will get as over 50,000 readers view your submission can be invaluable – either professionally or for your own personal satisfaction.

- **Do you accept articles that have been previously published elsewhere?** Yes and no. If your article has been published in a magazine or in a newspaper out of the Thumb area and you have retained the rights to having it published elsewhere, then we may also like to see it published in *ThumbPrint News*. However, we do not accept articles that have already been published or that are simultaneously being published in other newspapers in the areas covered by *ThumbPrint News*. If you want to publish your article in one of these other newspapers after it appears in our newspaper, we have no problem with that. We just want to be the first to expose your writing to our readers! You will always be credited as the author of the article.

- **Can I mail in a hand-written article?** I would prefer that all submissions be sent to me as a word document that can be edited. It is much too time consuming for our staff to have to type out a handwritten article and sometimes it is hard for us to read if the writing is not perfectly legible. Photos, if they are to be included, should also be emailed in a high resolution jpg format.

- **How do I get started?** Submit an idea for an article to me at thumbprintnews@comcast.net. I will get back to you and we can go from there.

I will be anxiously waiting to see what new talented writers we can attract to help *ThumbPrint News* continue to advance in the direction we want to grow.

DIANE KODET
Editor, *ThumbPrint News*





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TROLLING AROUND LAKE SUPERIOR

By Gerald Nyquist
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Sorry guys, this has nothing to do with fishing. You see, I'm a Troll -- I live below the bridge -- and I drove around the lake. During August 2013 I was vacationing at my Traverse City area cottage and decided to take a vacation from my vacation. Initially planning to experience the far north of Minnesota for the first time, when I reached Duluth my ambition subsided to a circumnavigation of Lake Superior, still in excess of a one-thousand mile drive. The trip consumed six days. Crossing the Big Mac Bridge, I arrogantly assigned myself honorary Yooper (UPer) status. My route was clockwise, first enjoying the sights along Lake Michigan's shore and then heading northwest to spend the night in Iron River with a great meal of BBQ ribs at Alice's Supper Club. The terminology supper club seems rarely used anymore in Troll-land; too bad, I like it.



SS Meteor at the Whaleback Ship Museum in Superior, Wisconsin

Next was the relatively short jaunt to Superior, Wisconsin at the west end of Lake Superior, south of Duluth, just across the St. Louis River where it meets Superior Bay. A motel there became my base of operations for one and one-half days; there is much to see in the Duluth/Superior area.

which is famous for shipping ore, grain and coal. Superior's population is about 27,000. I visited the *SS Meteor* Whaleback Ship Museum, the last survivor of the so-called whalebacks, a type of vessel that was innovative in the late 19th century. It was launched at Superior in 1896 and sailed the Great Lakes for the next 73 years. The demise of the whaleback fleet is attributed in part to the fact that far more of the vessel lies below the surface of the water than for conventionally-designed ships, resulting in reduced conspicuity and higher likelihood of collision. Nearby the *Meteor* I visited Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center featuring over 6,000 artifacts from World War II and later conflicts, including weapons, vehicles and a rare 1945 P-38 Lightning fighter aircraft. Moving on, nearby is the stately 42-room Fairlawn Mansion, built in 1890 as the family home of lumber and mining baron Martin Pattison, now reminding visitors of Superior's early boomtown days when some acquired vast fortunes.

From 1920 to 1962 Fairlawn served as the Superior Children's Home and Refuge. First floor rooms have been restored, revealing the lavish use of carved wood, marble, silver, brass, English tile and Victorian paintings. Finally, we headed to The Old Firehouse and Police Museum which housed in 1890 Firehouse Station Number 4 and contains photographs and artifacts pertaining to the daily life of fire fighters and police officers from that era to the 1940s. Darn! It was closed; I only peered through the windows.

Crossing the river to Duluth, population about 86,000, there is so much to enjoy that with limited time one has to craft a plan to squeeze in as much as possible.



Duluth is one of the largest inland seaports in the world. The downtown area is alive and well. Shopping isn't my thing, but this appears to be a good place to do it year-around, because buildings are connected by



*Fairlawn Mansion in Superior,
Wisconsin, once Superior
Children's Home and Refuge*

connected by 3.5 miles of elevated, enclosed walkways, and there are about 185 retailers. The Duluth Entertainment Convention Center hosts cultural events including theater, symphony concerts and ballet. The Depot (1892) houses the St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center and contains museums and a large collection of locomotives and railroad cars dating from 1860. A recreated streetscape depicts Duluth of the 1920s. North Shore Scenic Railroad excursions depart from The Depot for hour and one-half narrated trips in vintage cars pulled by an old diesel-electric locomotive; I had to go, I love trains. The train is staffed and operated by volunteers. Next I visited the *William A. Irvin* ore boat, now a tourist attraction.

Launched in 1938, this 610 foot boat plied the Great Lakes until 1978. She was the flagship of the United States Steel Company's fleet, named after one of the company's presidents. Interestingly, our tour guide, a very knowledgeable old salt with decades of experience on Great Lakes' boats, stressed that vessels on the lakes are properly referred to as boats, not ships. (Earlier in this article I used ship, but it was in connection with a museum with this word in its name.)

Next I headed to Glesheen Historic Estate on the shore of the lake, just northeast of the city. Completed in 1908, this 38-room Jacobean mansion was the home of Chester A. Congdon, an attorney, mining entrepreneur and state legislator. It's now owned by the University of Minnesota. The mansion contains the



The William A. Irvin ore boat in Duluth, Minnesota

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original furnishings, and the grounds are extensive, with ornamental plantings as well as impressive fruit and vegetable gardens. My final stop for the day was the Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center, adjacent to Duluth's famous Aerial Lift Bridge that contains exhibits portraying the history of Lake Superior shipping and the Army Corps of Engineers' work in this area. There are replicas of ship cabins, an operating steam engine and numerous ship scale models, among other items.



Glensheen Historic Manor in Duluth, Minnesota

Time to get on with the circumnavigation! I left Duluth somewhat reluctantly because there was so much more to see. Proceeding northeasterly up the Superior shore takes one to Grand Portage and the border crossing to Ontario, Canada. Grand Portage National Monument is here, and also a museum and reconstructed village depicting the era of the voyageurs who traded with Native Americans for pelts, most of which found their way to Europe where furs were in fashion. Clearing customs/immigration, driving about 60 miles brings one to the bustling city of Thunder Bay, where I spent my fourth night. In 1970 the towns of Fort William and Port Arthur combined to form this city of about 108,000 in population. A stately late 1800s courthouse building now houses Thunder Bay Museum that tells a 10,000-year story of Northwestern Ontario through photographs, documents, and artifacts of clothing and tools. There was no entrance fee the day that I visited, but I was greeted so kindly that their donation box received some of my excess Canadian currency. Pressed for time, I missed Fort William Historical Park and Thunder Bay Military Museum. Alas, tempus fugit!

My fifth day of this adventure involved the long drive from Thunder Bay to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Amethyst Mine Panorama is located 45 miles northeast of Thunder Bay. Amethyst was discovered there in 1955 while constructing a road; it is said to be the largest deposit of amethyst in North America. For a small fee, visitors are provided a pick and bucket to collect amethyst-bearing rocks that are then sold inexpensively by the pound. Having visited here in the past, I chose to drive on. My lunch stop was in Wawa, a town famous for their huge statue of a Canada goose poised for flight. (Wawa means

"wild goose" in the Ojibwa language.) Seventy-five foot High Falls on the Magpie River is close by, southwest of town. The beautiful mountainous terrain and picturesque islands along this leg of the trip compensate for the lengthy drive. Tired, I headed straight to a motel at the Sault for a quick dinner and early to bed, resting-up for the next day's adventure (day six).

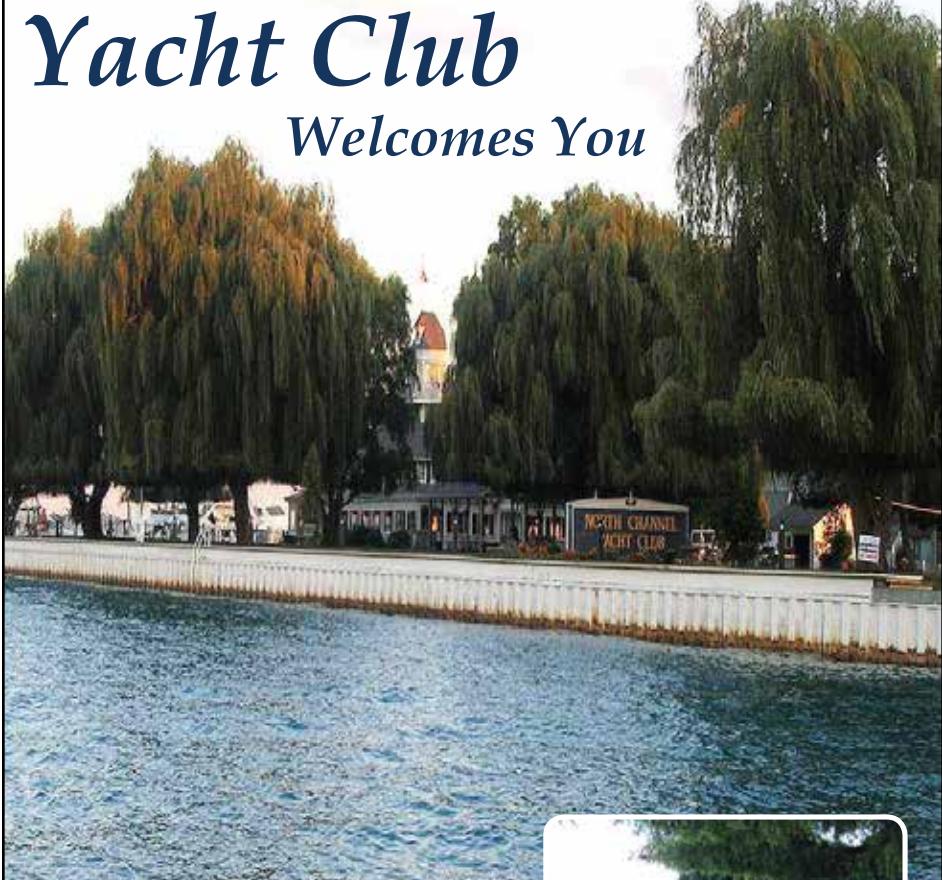
At the Sault (population about 75,000) I visited the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Center commemorating Canada's history of bush flying and forest fire fighting. Being a retired engineer and has-been single-engine airplane pilot, this museum really had appeal. There are numerous aircraft on display, and even the wreckage from some planes that went down. Some of these old birds are huge; one is allowed to climb into some of them. There are myriad vintage photos and artifacts associated with bushplane flying. Aircraft restoration work is done onsite in a modest shop facility. This city has other interesting attractions such as the Sault Ste. Marie Museum, Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site, and the famous Agawa Canyon tour train, among others, but I was now itching to return to my Traverse City cottage, so deferred these to a future trip.

Driving over the St. Mary's River bridge (following duty-free shopping) and clearing customs/immigration, I again became a temporary Yooper and my GPS took me to McDonald's for a quick lunch, after which I headed down I-75 to the Big Mac Bridge, thus completing the Lake Superior circumnavigation. Morphing back to Trollhood while negotiating our beautiful bridge, I then briefly strolled around Mackinaw Crossings Mall to rub elbows with tourists and see what was new before driving back to Traverse City via Petoskey where I donated three dollars at the Odawa Casino. By 6:00 pm I was enjoying happy hour at the cottage, reminiscing about my six-day adventure. A few more days to enjoy the sights would have been nice. Too much to do, too little time. Such is life!

Dr. Gerald Nyquist, a retired biomechanical engineer, resides in Macomb County and is a past President of the Sanilac County Historical Society.



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HOUSE FOR LIFE

By Paul Welch

ThumbPrint News Columnist

April is a time for rain that brings "May flowers" and practical jokes. It also marks the beginning of the lawn care season. The warmer temperatures and increased rain make it ideal for plants to start growing after being dormant. Here are a few tips for your lawn and garden to keep things looking good on the outside.

People invest a lot of money into lawn care for a lawn that is thick, green and weed free. There are a wide variety of products and services designed to give you a lawn that will make your neighbor jealous. Professional lawn care services do a great job and they know what they are doing. They are a good way to ensure it is done right. If you can't afford to hire someone, there are many products in stores that give you professional results when applied properly. The trick is to know what you are putting into your lawn.

Bare Spots – The best defense against weeds is a nice thick lawn. If you have bare spots, the spring is the perfect time to fill them in with grass seed. The cooler weather and rain make it easier to grow new grass. There are many different types to choose from. Ryegrass is a fast germinating grass, about a week before results, and it spreads easily. Bluegrass also spreads and has a beautiful fine texture but can take up to a month before seeing any grass and usually requires sunny areas. Fescue is a hardy grass that comes up fairly quick and usually tolerates more shade but does not spread. Choose a seed that is a blend of different types of grasses that are suited for the conditions of the area being seeded. These are labeled as either sunny or shady blends. Some brands have a Michigan blend or a Midwest blend that is designed with grasses native to our area and are most likely to endure the weather and soil conditions. Beware of cheap bags that say "quick" or "fast". These often contain annual rye grass that will grow for the season and dies off during the winter. Perennial grasses in the more expensive bags come back every year. If you fertilize, make sure the fertilizer used is for seeding.

"4 Steps" for Success – Many brands of fertilizer have a "4 step" program. These are applied in spring, late spring, summer, and fall. These give you a nice no-guess way to fertilize your lawn

with successful results. All you need is a spreader and enough of each type for your lawn. Step one is usually done in mid April and contains crabgrass preventer. Use caution with this step because it will prevent regular grass seed from growing as well. There should also be a good amount of nitrogen in this step unless you are planting grass seed. Step two is applied late May and has a weed killer. Apply this when the grass is wet so the weed killer sticks to the leaves of the weeds where it will be absorbed. Step three is either plain fertilizer or contains insect control and should be applied early to mid July. The final step is available with or without weed killer and is designed to get the grass ready to survive winter. Apply this one early September. It should have a higher amount of potassium/potash. Always make sure that six weeks have passed since the last application before applying the next step. If you live near a lake, avoid fertilizers with phosphorous. The runoff will cause excessive algae growth.

The Alternative – With all of these products out there you may wonder if you can have a nice lawn without spending a bunch of money on fertilizer. Yes you can! Your grass will naturally feed itself if you mow it on a regular basis and leave the clippings in your lawn to break down. As the clippings break down, they return nutrients to the lawn. Here are some interesting facts as well; our atmosphere is mostly nitrogen and there are bacteria in the soil. While these facts seem random, they are related. Bacteria in the soil feed on nitrogen in the atmosphere and make it accessible to the grass and other plants. It is nature working the way it was designed to. You may still have to fight weeds with chemicals and results will take longer, but over time you will create a beautiful lawn.

Have a wonderful spring everyone and happy Easter. Enjoy the warmer weather after the long hard winter. If you have any questions or comments, send them to thumbprintnews@comcast.net with "House for Life" in the subject. I will be sure to answer all questions in a timely manner.



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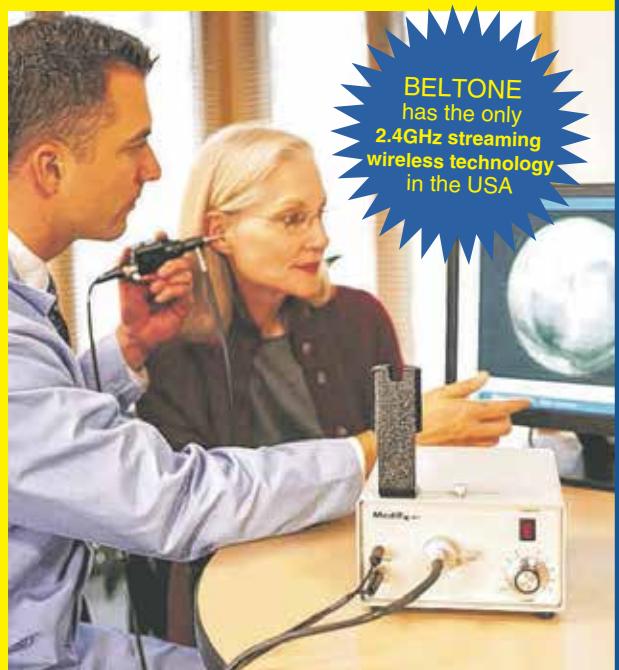
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This month Paul and Pat Runyon of Cottrellville, Michigan, took *ThumbPrint News* with them to West Virginia. Here is what they had to say about the pictures they sent in: "We were in Eastern Kentucky for a Pond Creek Reunion this past October, 2013. My husband Tom brought his *Thumbprint News*. We stopped in Williamson, West Virginia (Mingo County), to visit this Historic Coal House with a statue of a famous Mingo Leader, Chief Logan (1723–1780), for a photo. This Coal House is well known to us for we have visited it many times over the years". (Tom is from Eastern Kentucky and the Coal House is just over the border from his home.)

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. Please tell us a little 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? 📸

According to Wikipedia:

"The Mingo people are an Iroquoian group of Native Americans made up of peoples who migrated west to the Ohio Country in the mid-eighteenth century. Anglo-Americans called these migrants *mingos*, a corruption of *mingwe*, an Eastern Algonquian name for Iroquoian-language groups in general. Mingos have also been called "Ohio Iroquois" and "Ohio Seneca". Most were forced to move to Kansas and later Indian Territory (Oklahoma) under Indian Removal programs. Their descendants reorganized as a tribe recognized in 1937 by the federal government as the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma."

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THUMB BIRDS GATHERING

Continued from Page 1

and flip flops – mostly non-matching. They flock to the beaches, gulf courses and local seafood houses, making parking spaces difficult to find and long lines typical. Many full-time residents state a dreaded anticipation of the time of year that snowbirds arrive and breathe a sigh of relief when they head back north. And yet, “snowbirds” are an important part of the economy in states such as Florida. As January of each year rolls around, signs outside of local restaurants and bars often welcome back the returning snowbirds as the owners of these establishments know that this is the time of year when their businesses bring in the most money. Most snowbirds are not employed in the southern states during their winter stay and so are not taking money away from local residents. Rather, they are putting money into the economy of the area through their expenditures on rent, gas, food, entertainment and other purchases. Most residents realize this and their teasing and categorizing of snowbirds is all in fun.

There is one group of snowbirds that you won't find on the internet – the Thumb Birds. These are a special group of snowbirds who live most of the year in

the Thumb area of Michigan or did live there in the past and now spend part of the year or all of the year in Florida. A little over a year ago, *ThumbPrint News* coined the term “Thumb Birds” and invited its readers who fit the description to join a group. The purpose of the group was to get together occasionally in both Florida and Michigan to share their traveling experiences, make recommendations and just to get to know each other and to have fun. Also, *ThumbPrint News* runs a Thumb Bird column most months, highlighting things to do and see in Florida. Since that invitation went out, over 40 people have become Thumb Birds. The group is always looking for new members.

On March 1, 2014, 19 Thumb Birds got together for the 1st Thumb Bird Gathering at the Sarasota home of Allen and Diane Kodet, who also reside in Clay Township, Michigan, and are the publisher and editor of *ThumbPrint News*. It was a gorgeous day – in the mid 70s – as they arrived in mid-afternoon from various cities in Florida. The backyard tiki hut of the Kodet's and the tropically landscaped yard provided the perfect place to relax, to get to know each other, and to enjoy a few nibbles and drinks. Laughter abounded.

Names and places of residences both in Florida and Michigan were shared and



Diane and Allen Kodet, Clay Township

the conversation bounced back and forth between all things Florida and Michigan. It was an enjoyable afternoon for everyone attending. Plans for a Michigan gathering in late summer or early fall were begun.

One thing that was apparent about this particular group of Thumb Birds is no one fit 100% the common picture of a snowbird. There were those who had second homes in the area; there were those who even now lived full-time in Florida. Some traveled by RV. The ages ranged from those who were still actively employed to those who had been retired for many years. Some people dressed in “snowbird” attire, but others did not. And, amazingly, no one caused a traffic backup

on the narrow residential street! However, the one thing that really stood out was what a happy, fun-loving, friendly group this was. Most were meeting the other Thumb Birds for the first time, but within an hour of the gathering, they felt like old friends. Many were making plans to get together with each other again while still in Florida, or when they returned to Michigan. It was certainly the perfect way to forget about the winter of 2014 back home in Michigan!

Editor's note: 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 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 early this summer to our 2nd Thumb Bird get-together in Michigan.



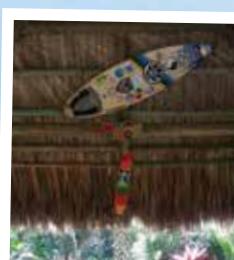
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Denver Hashbrown Omelet

FAMILY FEATURES

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With its prime positioning between breakfast and lunch, brunch has quite a following of hungry fans. Whether celebrating a special occasion or "just because," whether it's an upscale or laid-back theme you're after, brunch is an event in itself that brings people together with much anticipation.

New take on an old favorite

For a hearty, American spin on an Italian favorite, you'll adore the simplicity of this recipe for Skillet Hashbrown Frittata. This golden, delicious egg dish features mouthwatering turkey sausage, melted American cheese and Hungry Jack® Original Hashbrowns. These easy-to-serve, shredded potatoes are made with 100 percent Idaho Potatoes, cook perfectly crispy every time and can be used in a number of different meals — even those beyond the brunch table.

For more delicious brunch recipes, visit www.hungryjackpotatoes.com.

Denver Hashbrown Omelet

Prep Time: 15 minutes

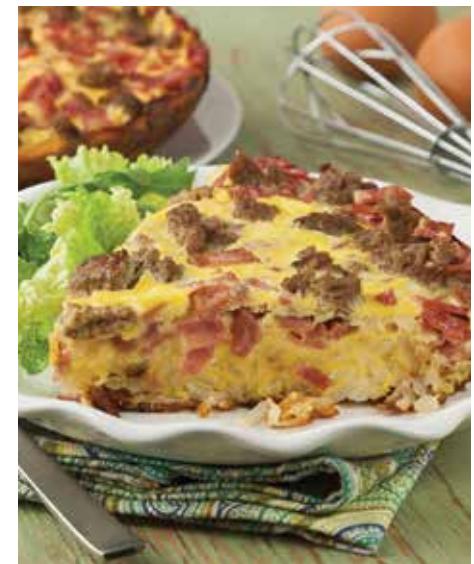
Cook Time: 25 minutes

Yield: 8 servings

- 1 carton (4.2 ounces) *Hungry Jack*® Premium Hashbrown Potatoes
- No-stick cooking spray
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 chopped onion, about 1 1/2 cups
- 1 diced green bell pepper
- 8 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk (whole or 2 percent)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups shredded sharp cheddar
- 1 cup diced cooked ham

Preheat oven to 450°F. Spray 9-by-13-inch pan with no-stick cooking spray. Fill hashbrown carton to fill line with hot water. Let stand 12 minutes. Drain any excess water.

Heat skillet over medium heat and add butter. After butter melts, add onion and bell pepper, and cook for 5 minutes. Whisk together eggs and milk in large mixing bowl. Add salt, potatoes, cheese, ham and vegetables; mix to combine. Transfer mixture to prepared baking pan. Bake for 20 minutes, or until cooked through and starting to brown.



Skillet Hashbrown Frittata

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

- 1 carton (4.2 ounces) *Hungry Jack*® Original Hashbrown Potatoes
- 4 turkey sausage patties or 6 links
- 6 slices turkey bacon
- 8 eggs
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/2 to 1 1/2 teaspoons hot sauce, based on brand of hot sauce
- Pinch ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 cup diced onion
- 4 slices or 2/3 cup shredded American or cheddar cheese

Fill hashbrowns carton to fill line with hottest tap water. Let stand 12 minutes. Drain any excess water. Cook turkey sausage and bacon according to package directions. Crumble or chop. Whisk eggs, milk, hot sauce and black pepper in bowl. Melt butter in 10- or 12-inch non-stick skillet over medium high heat. Add onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until slightly softened. Spread hashbrowns evenly in pan and part-way up sides. Cook without stirring until light golden brown and crisp on one side, about 3 minutes. Sprinkle crumbled sausage and bacon over potatoes. Pour eggs evenly over and arrange cheese on top. Cover skillet and reduce heat to low; cook until eggs are set in center and cheese is melted, about 15 minutes. Serve from pan or slide onto platter, then cut into wedges.



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School Tours 2014 at the Thumb Octagon Barn and Agricultural Museum in Gagetown

By Daine Rapson Gabil,
School Tours 2014 Chairperson

Educators, sign up now to reserve a date/time for your students to attend the 19th annual School Tours at Thumb Octagon Barn and Agricultural Museum in Gagetown, Michigan. The guided tours will be held during the school day on Wednesday, May 7th, Thursday, May 8th, and Friday, May 9th. This educational field trip - for Preschool through 8th Grade - allows the students to participate in up to 28 stations, based on age/grade/interest levels, which depict rural Michigan in the early 1900s. Live farm animals fill

the Barn! Tours take about 4 1/2 hours, but shorter tours can be scheduled to meet the needs of the students' schedules. Each student/chaperone brings his or her own lunch/beverage. Tours begin at 8:30 a.m. and every half hour thereafter with the last tour beginning at 1:00 p.m. each day. Donation is \$2.00 per student and/or chaperone. Tours are held rain or shine.

Use the web site thumboctagonbarn.org to reserve a date/time for your students to attend. Go to "Events," then scroll down to "School Tours 2014", fill out form and e-mail it. OR contact: Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson School Tours 2014, at

drapsongabil@chartermi.net or call (989) 892-3105.

The theme for the 19th annual School Tours at the Thumb Octagon Barn and Agricultural Museum is "Michigan Apples." In 2013, about 1,100 students from six counties attended the educational guided tours!

The School Tours mission statement is, "Today, Everyday... Educating... Improving... Working... To Save History For Tomorrow's Future!"

Also additional volunteers are needed to help with a variety of

jobs needed to make the educational trip for the students even better! Contact Diane for more information.



The Thumb Octagon Barn and Agricultural Museum is located at 6948 Richie Rd in Gagetown, Michigan.



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Mantras

By Rennae Hardy

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Mantras are phases, words or sounds that serve as focal points in certain types of meditation and are often used to assist spiritual transformation. In psychology, mantras may be employed to reach a deep state of relaxation. Mantra is a Sanskrit word consisting of man (manas) meaning "mind" and tra meaning "tool". Mantra is an instrument capable of delivering the mind from illusions through sound and vibration. Mantras relate to the concept of sound reverberation throughout the universe and therefore can be considered the "sound body" of the Divine.

Chanting is the process of repeating a mantra and is often an invocation of the Divine Presence. According to Indian beliefs, sound existed in the beginning and

reverberated as OM. In the Christian text, it is explained as "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God". OM (AUM) is recognized as the primordial sound of the universe ... the first sound of creation. Chanting OM aligns you with the vibration of the universe.

The AUM sound can be defined as: A = "ahhh" and represents wakefulness. U = "ohhh" and represents the dream state. M = "mmm" and represents the peace experienced in deep dreamless sleep. The silence that follows AUM represents pure consciousness. OM is an expression of Oneness.

Words are a creative force and carry a positive or negative vibration. Any sound that speaks to the heart has the potential to manifest a reaction. By practicing the repetition of words/sounds, we accept the essence of those ideas into our energy field. The powerful and loving realization that we are connecting with the very essence of life can be experienced by chanting OM.



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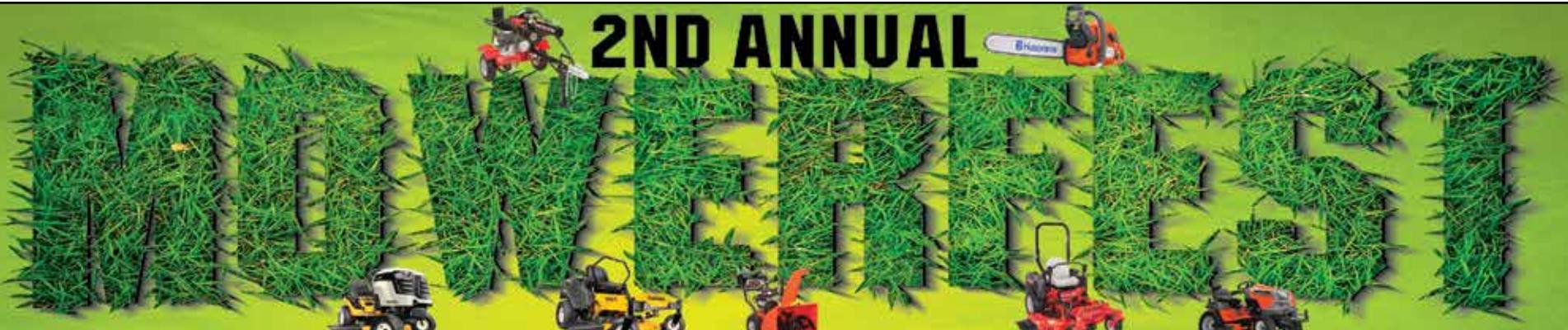
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THUMB AREA'S REPRESENTATION

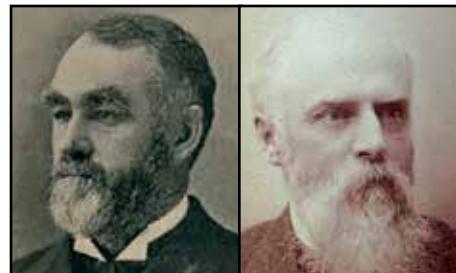
Continued from Page 1

took office in March, following the November election. In 1932 the 20th Amendment moved up Congressional opening session to January 3. Conger, a Port Huron lawyer and businessman, is remembered most of all for consistent attention to his adopted home. He was born in New York State and educated at Western Reserve University in Ohio. He succeeded in securing federal funds for Pine Grove Park and locating the Customs House in the city. That brought handsome financial returns from the Duties imposed on Great Lakes shipping, the primary source of federal revenue until the Income Tax Amendment was passed in 1913. The Renaissance Revival building is listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings. It still houses a U.S. Court and other federal offices in the three stories, including the third added in 1930. Conger also helped get federal recognition for the Red Cross which sent volunteers to the area after the devastating fires of 1871 and 1881.

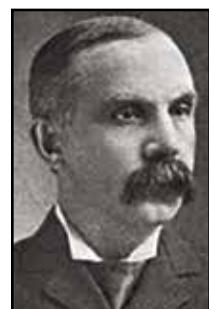
Conger left that office in 1881 when he was appointed by the Michigan Legislature to the U.S. Senate. This was the procedure before the 17th Amendment established popular election of senators. He made few friends in either body. A shrewd Parliamentarian, he especially antagonized Southern Democrats and was known as "The Great Objector". By the time that his six year Senate term expired in 1887 he had lost supporters at home as well specifically the powerful John P. Sanborn, whose patronage positions of postmaster and customs collector were threatened by civil service reform endorsed by Conger. So Senator Conger was not re-nominated in 1886. Coincidentally, two neighboring Port Huron city streets bear the names of the former allies, later rivals.

The city's history retains his name because of a steamship, the *Omar D. Conger*, that sank in the Black River dock in 1922 after a boiler burst resulting in the loss of lives of four crewmen and extensive city property damage.

John T. Rich, a Republican from

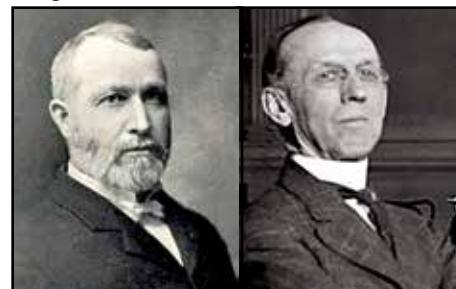


Left to right: John T. Rich, Ezra C. Carleton
Lapeer, succeeded Conger in the House of Representatives, serving only one term. He later was elected Governor. Ezra C. Carleton, born in the city of St. Clair and a graduate of Port Huron High School,

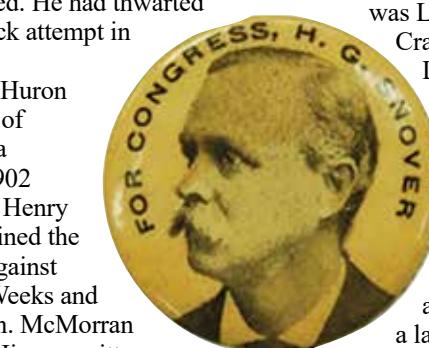


Justin R. Whiting
including Horace G. Snover from Port Austin for whom a small Sanilac County community is named. He had thwarted Carleton's comeback attempt in 1895.

The City of Port Huron regained the honor of being the home of a representative in 1902 when businessman Henry G. McMoran obtained the GOP nomination against incumbent Edgar Weeks and went to Washington. McMoran served five terms. His committee assignments included the Committee on



Left to right: Edgar Weeks, Henry G. McMoran



FOR CONGRESS, H. G. MC MORAN

Manufacturers, insuring assistance for Great Lakes commerce just as Conger his predecessor from Port Huron had provided decades before.

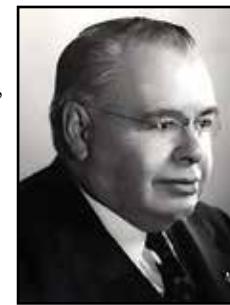
McMoran did not seek reelection in 1912, preferring to resume his business ventures in the Port Huron area continuing until his death in 1929.

It should be noted that several of these politicians retained their local professions and business interests while in national office because the Washington sessions were often brief formalities. (Not much has changed in that regard.)

Of course Congressman McMoran is remembered most in the Thumb for his philanthropy – the donation by his daughters and son-in-law from his substantial estate established the building and maintenance of Port Huron's multi-use McMoran Place.

McMoran's successor was Louis C. Cramton from Lapeer County, the second longest serving Seventh District representative, from 1913 to 1931. He was born in Hadley Township and retained ties to the county and city of Lapeer. He had an interesting career, leaving a law practice to publish a newspaper. After losing to Jesse P. Wolcott in the

Republican Primary in 1930, he became a circuit court judge, before losing an election for that position in 1940. As a special advisor he helped organize the new Department of Interior in the 1930s.



Jesse P. Wolcott



Wreck of the Omar D. Conger at the Black River Dock in Port Huron

Wolcott, from Port Huron, stayed in office until 1957. He was a graduate of the Detroit College of Law (now part of Michigan State University). Practicing law briefly before WWI, he became a line officer with the 27th Infantry Division. After discharge he moved to Port Huron where he held several professional positions before ousting incumbent Cramton and easily winning the November election. He became a member of the House Committee on Banking and Currency, important during the Depression's numerous failed banks leading up to the controversial decision in 1933 to abandon the "Gold Standard".

Wolcott consistently supported his party, but parted ways with its leaders, including Speaker Joe Martin (MA) over what he thought was an overly generous federal housing bill. Perhaps because of his earlier war experience he was a delegate to 1944 Bretton Woods' post war planning meeting with Russia.

Robert McIntosh, a Port Huron lawyer, replaced him but served only one term before losing in 1958 to Democrat James O'Hara. Although O'Hara served



Robert McIntosh

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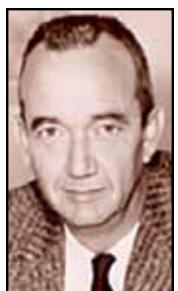
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nine terms, only three were in the 7th and the balance in the new 12th district – again because of population shift. Another Democrat, John C. Mackie, was the last person to be elected in the original



James O'Hara



John C. Mackie

7th District. Thus when he left office on January 3, 1967, that marked the end of the Thumb Area's representation in Congress by the 7th District. Later Mackie became a State Highway Commissioner.

RESIDENCES OF 7th DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Port Huron:

Conger
Carleton
McMorran
Wolcott
McIntosh

St. Clair

City:
Whiting

Huron

County:
Snover

Lapeer

County:
Rich
Cramton

Macomb

County:
Mackie
O'Hara
Weeks

So, if my addition is correct, the Thumb area has been represented by twelve male residents. Only one, Conger, went on to become a U.S. senator. None were women until Candace Miller from Macomb County was elected in 2002 to represent the area in the newly restructured 10th District. Perhaps most famous of all Thumb Area political contributors remains Supreme Court Justice William Francis (Frank) Murphy from Harbor Beach. He held numerous important positions but never sought congressional office.

District Realignment

By federal law state legislatures are empowered to draw up new congressional districts. That usually follows changes in populations of all states based on the constitutionally mandated census every ten years. Thus with a maximum of 435 seats in the House of Representatives, with the ebb and flow of national population shifts, individual states may lose or gain seats. For example, the record shows that Michigan was entitled to 13 in 1910, 15 in 2000, and then back to 14 after the most recent census. Again by federal law, the district is supposed to reflect a population of about 710,767, including residents military and civilian living abroad. It has been said that a 1964 U.S. Supreme Court

case, BAKER V. CARR, protects the right of all eligible voters to "One Man, (Person) One Vote".

Since the state legislatures make any necessary realignment of districts and since they are controlled by one party or the other, then those changes become political. The phrase "Gerrymandering" has been coined to reflect a Massachusetts district designed to favor an incumbent Elbridge Gerry (D). Although voters in the mostly rural Thumb may believe that they get "short shrift", in fact usually those in more populous urban areas have less say per capita.



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the Candy solution

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

On another recent trip down memory lane I found myself sitting in the Algonac Theater located in the center of town. It must have been 1955 because the movie that's enveloped in my thoughts is *Rebel Without a Cause*. What a great and now classic film starring James Dean, Natalie Wood and Sal Mineo. They

are all gone now and how strange that each died in very tragic ways. But, the movie isn't really the focus of my essay this month. It was only what stimulated another thought – candy, the solution to our world's problems.

It seems during that special period of time the best place to really find a good selection of candy was the movie theater and probably the only place I could over-indulge without parental intervention. Theater owners Joe and Fran Nichols always maintained a wide variety of sweet-tooth satisfiers. I would visit the glassed counter several times during a Sunday afternoon matinée that included a movie (sometimes two), cartoon, newsreel and coming attractions. If I had a dollar in my pocket, I could afford the 35-cent admission and still have enough left for a lot of candy.

As you entered the large exterior double doors of the building you would move to a smaller set of doors that exposed the theater's seating and screen. To reach that point the walk way narrowed and forced you to walk by the refreshment counter. What else could you possibly do but stop long enough for a first purchase of half the reason you were there – candy?

What initially stimulated my thoughts about candy was the recent mention by a friend of Jujubes. That was far from a favorite treat of mine, but I can recall how the small, hard candies made a great missile at the theater. Now, it should be fully understood here that I most certainly would never consider being the launcher of such a weapon, but was often the target. If I bought Jujubes at all it was only for self-defense.

Probably my favorite candy was the all-American Sky Bar. This was a

four section treat, each with a distinctly different filling: fudge, peanut, caramel and vanilla, all covered in milk chocolate. At 10 cents each, I would probably get two.

If it was going to be a long afternoon I would possibly get a box of Milk Duds. The small hard caramel candies coated in milk chocolate would last for quite some

time. I discovered several years later than the word "dud" was arrived at because the manufacturer couldn't perfect its original desire for a round candy, thus a dud.

When I wanted a break from chocolate, which was seldom, I would return to the refreshment counter for a box of Good & Plenty, those little white and pink sugar capsules containing licorice. I might get some Mary Jane or Bit-O-Honey, a taffy-like candy made of peanut butter and molasses or some Black Jack licorice taffy. If you can find that candy any more it will be identified as Black Taffy. The former brand is no longer acceptable in society. An occasional escape found me munching on some Chuckles, the jelly candies coated with a light layer of sugar, or Coconut Stripes.

As I return to chocolate, which was and remains my favorite, there are several candy bars that were in the running for a contested second place. Among them were Oh Henry and its twin, Baby Ruth. I can't recall ever not liking a Snickers bar and for many years 3 Musketeers was near the top of my candy list.

For many people, the 1950s was a fun decade to remember. Our nation had recovered from World War II and the economy was great. Gasoline was only 20 cents per gallon and candy bars were 10 cents or less. Candy seemed to warm my heart and delight the taste buds then, and it still does.

Maybe with all the global turmoil we seem to be experiencing today, those seeking a peaceful solution are not considering a likely source. Yes, it has a simple paper wrapper and is covered in chocolate. It may cost 65 cents now, but won't you agree with me that candy will provide the restoration we're looking for? 

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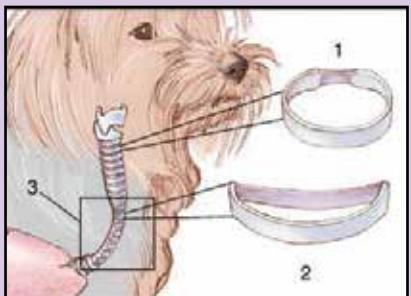
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Collapsing Trachea

By Dr. DiBenedetto *ThumbPrint News Columnist*



Tracheal collapse is a common cause of airway obstruction in dogs. The trachea, or "windpipe," is a tube made up of sturdy rings of cartilage that transport air to and from the lungs. For unknown reasons these cartilaginous rings can collapse, making it much more difficult for the air to flow through the trachea. In toy breeds like Yorkies, Pomeranians, Chihuahuas and Miniature Poodles, this is hereditary. It can affect both sexes equally, usually developing around six to seven years of age.

The primary clinical sign is a dry, non-productive cough, sometimes described as a "goose-honk" cough. A coughing episode is often brought

on by excitement, exercise, pulling on a collar and leash during a walk, cold or heat and humidity. When one of these inciting factors is present, irritation occurs, turbulence increases and collapse is the end result.

Your pet then coughs, which opens the trachea back up, but the cough itself then causes inflammation within the trachea, thus creating a vicious cycle of irritation and coughing.

Other signs that may be seen along with the cough include exercise intolerance, labored breathing and at times a bluish tinge to the gums and tongue. There are three levels to the trachea: cervical, thoracic inlet and intrathoracic. Collapse can occur at any level. Palpating the neck and throat and taking chest radiographs can help us to localize where the collapse is occurring.

Regardless of where the collapse is

occurring the principles of treatment are the same. The goal is to control the cough, open up the airways to allow the air to flow with less resistance and decrease inflammation. Studies show medical management is successful about 70% of the time, many times using more than one medication in combination. In severe cases surgery is the next step. Specialized surgeries where prosthetic rings or stents are placed either inside or outside the trachea to prevent it from collapsing are being done. However, it is important to realize that stenting is not without its own set of short-term and long-term complications and so is often reserved for only severely affected patients.

Other ways of managing this disease involve lifestyle changes. Weight reduction plays an important role in relieving extra external pressure on the trachea. Gentle exercise is best as well as avoiding overexcitement whenever possible. Always using a harness instead of a collar alleviates undue pressure on the throat area. In some cases even avoiding

respiratory irritants like scented candles and cigarette smoke may be needed.

As with any respiratory condition, even well managed patients can go into respiratory distress at any time. If your pet is in distress the best thing you can do is keep them calm and get them in to your veterinarian as soon as possible for treatment.

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

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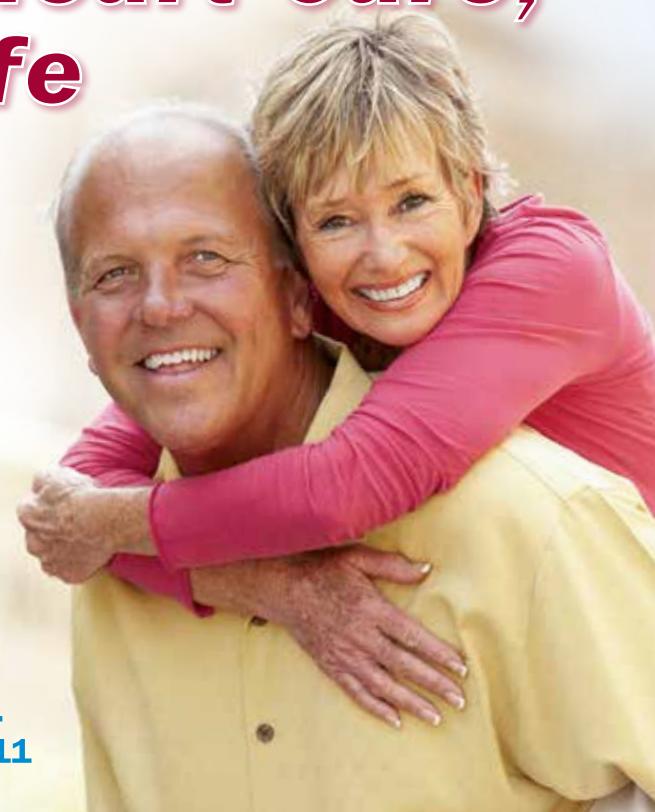
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LAWN AND PLANT FERTILIZATION: Why is it so important?

The majority of landscape injury is caused by poor growing conditions. Weakened plants are susceptible to attack from pests and diseases. Creating a hospitable landscape for plants and lawn is a crucial part of care and overall plant health. While feeding the flowers and vegetables, don't overlook the most valuable portions of your landscape... the woody ornamentals. Your trees and shrubs will show signs of nutrient deficiencies, such as weak, spindly growth or light green leaves with dark veins. One way to correct this is to apply a balanced fertilizer to your landscape. Most trees and shrubs actually begin setting the buds for the next growing season as early as July of the previous year. This can be quite difficult, if the plant is already stressed by lack of nutrients.



TICK ALERT

LYME DISEASE IS A BACKYARD DISEASE! Contrary to popular belief, the deer is not the only host for deer tick. It is also carried into your backyard by chipmunks, mice and raccoons, to name a few. We can take back your yard from ticks and tick-borne diseases with our Tick Management System.



CARPENTER ANTS

Spring is the time of year when carpenter ants become active in your home. Carpenter ants nesting in the home's structure require the services of a professional pest control company. They can severely damage the wood of your home.



BATS

Bats are notorious for getting into places they shouldn't - our attics especially. Bat bugs are natural pests of bats, are almost identical to bed bugs and will soon spread into the living space of the home to bite humans once their natural host is gone. In addition to excluding bats from our home, we will eliminate the bat bugs. Most bat companies are not able to offer this combination service as a special license is required but ABC Bees can!



SPIDERS

Spiders affect human health in three primary ways: annoyance or fear, allergic reaction and venom. Though each varies in its degree of seriousness and medical effects, each may affect one's health. In some ways, spider venom is similar to that of bees and wasps in that it contains a variety of the same chemical compounds. The following are a sample of species known to bite humans: brown recluse, violin, funnel web, spitting, yellow sac or running, two clawed hunting and wolf.



GUTTER CLEANING

Heavy spring showers are coming! It can create debris build-up which can cause gutter and roof damage!



Yellow Sac Spider



Sac Spider bite



Sac Spider Bite 3 Days



Sac Spider Bite 10 Days



Sac Spider Bite 6 Weeks

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I eat at a small diner in the Berkley, Michigan, area. Some good person who at one time ate here too brings in copies of your newspaper. I enjoy reading it and the historical parts on Michigan; I was reared in New England. I read in the February issue about the old player piano. We had one. Ours would play when peddled as well as by itself. It had a switch that we could use to have it play.

We used to love to sing along with the

music and watch the keys move as the tunes were played.

Some of the songs played have long since been forgotten but when you live in the country without running water, plumbing, lights and phones, the player piano was a great source of entertainment to a family of four children. In retrospect, those were the "good old days".

Thanks for the memories,
Marlene Smith

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COTTAGE LIVING

By Pamela Grey-Pugliese

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Our clocks are turned forward and we have a little more daylight, so we can see the snow a little longer in the afternoon! Here's hoping for a quick melt. With the winter we Michiganders have had, we deserve a long, hot summer! It's been a while since I have been to my cottage for a visit; each time I thought about it, I asked myself, why? Deep snow makes it almost impossible to get to the front door and the cold temperatures just remind me of what a long, tough winter it has been and makes me wonder if we still have more cold and snow yet to come. It can seem a little desolate up there as well. But when we are lucky enough to have a slightly warmer day thoughts of the spring and summer arrive as well.

I have been thinking about why I am so crazy about my little cottage up north and why do I long for it so much? Owning a seasonal home in northern Michigan has been something I have always dreamed of, and I am grateful that dream has come true! I put aside the frustrating thoughts of the pipes I need to replace before I can get running water, and my concerns for what else may appear that needs fixing due to the terrible winter we have had.

I love the thought that I can take a two hour drive north and be at a place that may be small, but is cozy, comfortable and welcoming to all my family and friends. I don't have to purchase airline tickets to get there, the upkeep can be minimal and the landscaping doesn't have to be perfect. My guests can make

themselves at home and sleep wherever there is free space after a day of sun and fun at the beach and relaxing by the bonfire in the evening (not to mention the funny stories shared around the fire!) Every year brings new memories, laughter and funny pictures for my kids, friends and family. I love the thought that at a moment's notice on a Friday, we can pack a bag, grab the dog, jump in the car and head north for two days to simply get away. The normal crazy schedule of working, planning, cooking, cleaning and keeping up a busy household seem to go away, at least for a couple of days anyway. For me, I enjoy doing yard work and checking off items on my to-do list up north, where at home, I just want to get it done and move on. Even on those rainy weekends up north while huddled on the front deck, it still is a fresh little getaway for me. Taking a short walk down to the lake gives me a peaceful sense and a chance to reflect on how lucky I really am that I can enjoy Michigan in this way.

So with the heavy winter that we have all endured, I look forward to that "spring smell" and watching as everyone seems to come out of hibernation. This summer I plan to simply enjoy the quiet times up north, not be so anxious about things that need to be done, enjoy my guests more and cherish the memories that we make at the cottage! If we have a hot summer, so be it! There's nothing like the chill of Lake Huron to cool down a hot body temperature! I will embrace spring like never before. See you up north fellow resorters!

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THUMB AREA

Activites & Events Calendar

April 2014

If you have an event in May that you would like listed in the May issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by April 12, 2014. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

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

Genesee

Flint - April 10

Drawing Fun, Flint Public Library, 1026 E. Kearsley, general reading room, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Ages 2 – 5. Come draw with other kids interested in drawing and developing skills at freehand drawing. Dennis Lackey, local cartoonist, will offer basic drawing lessons. Registration required by calling (810) 249-2170.

Huron

Bad Axe - April 6

Daughters of Isabell Euchre Card Party, Knights of Columbus Hall, 1038 S. Van Dyke, 1:00 p.m. \$5 includes lunch and cards. There is also a 50/50 with proceeds towards Our Lady of the Lakes School, OLLH. For more information contact Ruth at (810) 347-0624.

Lapeer

Lapeer - April 12

Easter Egg Hunt, Courthouse Lawn, 255 Clay St., 11:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Lapeer Community Church. For more information visit downtownlapeer.com.

Macomb

Richmond - April 1

Woman's Life Chapter 855, Lois Wagner Memorial Library, 35200 Division Rd., 6:30 p.m. Join us, everyone is welcome. For more information email lynnsuniverse@yahoo.com.

Richmond - April 3

Annual Antique Appraisal Night,

Richmond Community Center, 36164 Festival, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bring a treasure or two and professional appraisers Denny Bolen, Nancy Cooney and Oscar "Oz" Zamora will help determine your treasure's value and origin. Appraisals are \$5 per item. Please do not bring coins, guns or knives. For more information call (810) 329-5797.

Richmond - April 7

Taco Dinner, Trinity Lutheran Church, 35110 Division Rd., 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Proceeds go toward funding upcoming mission trips to Haiti. For a donation, diners can build their own tacos. Rice, beans, enchiladas, beverages and ice cream are also included. Photos from the recent medical trip to Haiti will be shown. For more information call Judie at (586) 435-1735.

Romeo - April 7, 9, 17 and 26

RWB Parks and Recreation April Events, 361 Morton St. All programs require registration by calling (586) 752-6543, where details on each event can also be found or go to www.rwparksrec.org. April 7 will be Spring Break Laser Tag; April 9 will be Hollywood Casino Trip to Toledo, Ohio; April 17 will be Fire Safety for Older Adults; April 26 will be Boater's Safety. Other programs offered include swim lessons, karate, tennis, archery, roller skating, co-ed softball, art classes, aerobics, fitness centers, golf and special needs.

Sterling Heights - April 11

5th Annual "Raise the Roof

and Lift Some Spirits" Bowling Fundraiser, Sterling Lanes, 33200 Schoenherr, check-in 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., bowling starts at 7:30 p.m. \$20 per person includes 3 games, shoes, unlimited pizza and pop. 9 pin/no tap, maximum 5 per lane. Proceeds benefit Macomb County Habitat for Humanity. For registration call Terri at (586) 263-1540 ext. 114.

Memphis - April 12

Spaghetti Dinner and Euchre Tournament, Memphis Lions Club, 34758 Pratt Rd., dinner 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., euchre 7:00 p.m. Dinner \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 6 and under. Soft drinks \$1 each. Euchre cost: \$10 per player. All proceeds will go toward reroofing the pavilion. For more information call (810) 392-3848.

Richmond - April 16

Woman's Life Chapter 855 Breakfast Meeting, Ken's Country Kitchen, Main St. 9:00 p.m. Join us, meet new people. For more information call (810) 392-5136.

Richmond - April 25, 26 and 27

"The Importance of Being Earnest", by Oscar Wilde, Richmond Community Theatre, 69619 Parker St., Friday and Saturday shows at 8:00 p.m., Sunday show at 2:00 p.m. \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and \$5 for children. For more information contact richmondtheatermarketing@gmail.com or call (586) 727-9518.

Oakland

Bloomfield Hills - April 26

Mom 2 Mom Sale, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 1100 Pine Rd., 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Admission is \$1 and strollers are welcome. Registration is available for sellers and a limited number of vendors at www.bloomfieldcross.org/mom2mom. For more information contact Katy at (248) 592-1579 or mom2mom@bloomfieldcross.org.

St. Clair

Port Huron - April 2

SC4 Concert Choir, Salvation Army

Citadel, 2000 Court St., 1:00 p.m. Open to public; a free will contribution is gratefully accepted. Presented by The Port Huron Musicale. If you would like to join us for refreshments at 12:30 p.m., please call (810) 765-9500 or (810) 329-5866 for reservations. Cost of refreshments is \$4.

Port Huron - April 3

Trinity Lutheran School Kindergarten Roundup, 1517 10th St., 9:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. By appointment only. Children will spend 40 minutes in our kindergarten class; parents will learn all about our program. Call (810) 984-2501 for more information or for an appointment.

St. Clair - April 3

FOL First Thursday Presentation: American Funerals and the Customs of Mourning, St. Clair Library, 310 S. Second St., 6:30 p.m. Speaker is Macomb County Historical Society and Crocker House Museum Director, Kim Parr. For more information call (810) 329-3951.

Capac - April 4

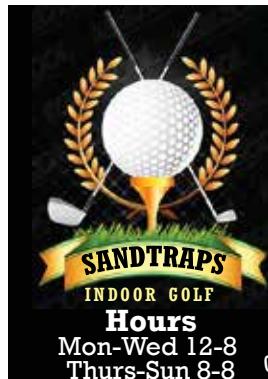
Fish Fry, St. Nicholas Church, 4331 Capac Rd., 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 pm. or until sold out. All you can eat baked or fried fish, French fries or baked potato, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, roll, dessert and beverage. Carry-out available. \$9 for adults, children 6 – 12 \$4, under 5 free. For more information call (810) 395-7572

Port Huron - April 4-30

2014 Candace Miller Congressional Art Competition: An Artistic Discovery, Studio 1219, 1219 Military St., Tuesday – Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Friday 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Free and open to the public with on-site parking. Come and see the best art from the St. Clair and the surrounding counties. The best will earn a spot on the U.S. Capitol walls. For more information call (810) 984-2787.

Algonac - April 5

Character Building and Self-Awareness Seminar, Algonac – Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 12:00 p.m. for 4 – 6 year olds, 1:00 p.m. for 7



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Kimball – April 8 and 27

Kid Kreations, Kimball Twp. Library, 1955 N. Allen, 3:30 p.m. Make various craft projects. A different project each week. Ages 3 - 12. For more information call (810) 982-9171.

Port Huron - April 9

Wild West Party, Port Huron Library, 210 McMoran Blvd., 10:00 a.m. Calling all buckaroos and cowgirls, we're rangling up some western fun at the library with horse stories, corral a craft and rustling up a snack. Grab your jeans and boots and mosey on over to horse around with us. YeeHaw! Ages 10 and under. Registration requested by calling (810) 987-7323 ext. 132 or 130.

Port Huron - April 9

Fisheries Workshop, Charles A. Hammond American Legion Hall, 1026 6th St., 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Michigan Sea Grant Extension, in partnership with fisheries agencies and stakeholder organizations, host this public workshop which focuses on current research and information related to the regional status of Great Lakes fisheries. Open to the public. Provides valuable information for anglers, charter captains, resource professionals and other interested stakeholders. For more information contact Brenda at (810) 667-0355.

Marysville - April 12

Marysville Coin Club Annual Coin Show, American Legion, 299 E. Huron Blvd., 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Over 40 tables of dealers for all of your coin and supply needs. Gift bags available for the first 30 children. Free admission. For more information call Jane at (586) 801-1044 or Logan at (810) 516-2386.

Lakeport - April 15 and 29

Senior Art, Burtchville Twp. Library, 7097 Second St., 1:00 p.m. Explore your creative side. Meet with other people in your community interested in drawing, watercolor, and pen and pencil, and learn from one another. All ages of adults welcome. Call (810) 385-8550 for more information.

Yale - April 16 - 19

Easter Egg Hunt, Yale Library, 2 Jones St. Children ages 10 and younger will be able to find one egg hidden in the library and turn it in for one of the wonderful prizes provided by the Friends of the Yale Library. Every egg is a

winner. Limit one egg per child. For more information call (810) 387-2940.

Marine City – April 19 Annual Family Easter

"Egg"stravaganza, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, 10:15 a.m. Hop on over and join us for our annual Easter egg hunt and bring your camera to pose with our furry friend. Pictures with the Easter Bunny from 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. and egg hunt at 11:00 a.m. Ages 0 - 8. Must pre-register by calling (810) 765-5233.

Marysville - April 19 Easter Egg-Stravaganza with the Easter Bunny

Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 10:30 a.m. Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt, finding thousands of eggs filled with candy and special prizes – then get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny. For more information call (810) 364-9493.

Capac - April 23

Beyond Email: Skype and Chat, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 10:00 a.m. Talk to friends and family over the internet for free. Skype allows you to connect with voice and video with people around the world. Registration requested by calling (810) 395-7000.

Memphis - April 24

The Big Foot Mystery, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 6:00 p.m. History, evidence and Michigan reports: Does Bigfoot live in Michigan? Come and find out with speaker Bob Daigle. For more information call (810) 392-2980.

Fair Haven - April 25

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 \$1 donation. Cash prizes. For more information call (810) 765-8161.

Marine City - April 25

Spring Social Dance, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary, 5:00 p.m. \$5 per person, paid at the door. Pansy and Paula, the Boot Scootin' Divas, will DJ. Light refreshments provided. Call (810) 765-3523 for more information.

Port Huron - April 25, 26 and 27

"Shrek, The Musical", Port Huron High School Performing Arts Center, 2215 Court St., Friday 7:00 p.m., Saturday 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Sunday 2:00 p.m. \$15 for adults, \$10 for children, students, seniors. Free for 2 and under. Tickets may be purchased at the Performing Arts Center box office an hour prior to the show. Presented by Port Huron High School Drama. For more

information email valarmstrong@comcast.net.

Emmett - April 26

Emmett Lions Club Craft Show, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish hall, 10828 Brandon Rd., 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Also bake sale and 50/50 raffle. For more information email John at ljcog@aol.com.

Fair Haven - April 26

Kid Kreations, Ira Twp. Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd. Drop in between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and make a recycling wheel for Earth Day. Ages 5 - 12. For more information call (586) 725-9081.

Port Huron - April 27

32nd Annual Huron Modeler Railroad Show and Swap Shop, McMoran Place, 701 McMoran Blvd., 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Admission \$5, kids 5 and under free. Open to all exhibitors with an interest in model railroading of all scales and gauges. Also railroad memorabilia, antiques, time tables, dining car silverware and china or any railroad items may be displayed. Please call Fred Cesefiske for more information at (810) 385-8815 between 4:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Sanilac

Sandusky - April 4 and 11

Fish Fry, Sandusky V.F.W., 850 S. Sandusky. Everyone is invited. For more information call (98) 284-6799.

Sandusky - April 12 and 26

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 April 12 entertainment provided by The Natural Tones; on April 26 it will be Lighthouse Three. For more information call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

Sanilac - April 13

Kitty Donohoe Performs, Sanilac County Historical Museum Church, 228 N. Ridge Rd., 3:00 p.m. Based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Emmy recipient Kitty Donohoe draws from her Irish heritage as well as her American roots in her music, which is rich, earthy and compelling, making good use of her gifts of storytelling, her love of language, and her ear for melody. Tickets \$10, students \$5, under 12 free. For more information call (810) 622-9946.

Lexington - April 16

Open Mic Night, Lexington Brewing Company and Wine House, 5475 N. Main St., 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Co-hosted by the Blue Water Folk Society.

Bring your instrument and/or voice. Audience members needed too. Food is also available for purchase. For more information email Dawn at dawnmalek@comcast.net.

Argyle - April 19

21st Annual Consignment Auction, Argyle Twp. Park, 1 mile west of Argyle. The auction begins at 9:00 a.m.. Shuttle service provided throughout the day. Lunch provided by the Ladies Auxiliary. Sponsored by the Argyle Twp. Fire Dept. For more information email Chris at wcmars62@hotmail.com.

Tuscola

Millington - April 4

Season Opening of the Millington-Arbela Historical Museum, 8534 State St. The museum will be open from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays until December. New and updated displays. Free admission. Email millingtonarbelahistoricalsociety@hotmail.com for additional hours or special tours.

Mayville - April 9

Special Luncheon and Program, Mayville United Methodist Church, sponsored by the Mayville Loose Threads. The speaker this year is Sheila DeRose who designs quilts using Japanese fabric and design principles. Shelia will hold a Sashiko embroidery class after the luncheon. Class fee is \$25, the class kit is \$10. We will also hold a one day raffle for a beautiful group made quilt. Tickets are \$15 each and are available by sending SASE and check made out to Kathy Jansen, PO Box 506, Mayville, MI 48744. For more information contact Karen at withers6147@sbcglobal.net.

Wayne

Southgate - April 13

Easter Egg Hunt and Petting Zoo, 12601 McCann St., 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., hunt is at 2:30 p.m. Easter egg hunts for children and for toddlers. Tents or other provisions are provided for bad weather. Free admission. Farm animals are present and a petting zoo. Restrooms available. For more information email office@drumc.org.

Editor's Note: We need more postings for Genesee, Huron, Oakland, Tuscola and Wayne Counties. Want to see more events listed for your counties – spread the word! Remember, our deadline is always the 12th of the month prior to the month of the event. Right now we are looking for May events to be submitted by April 12!

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General

EXPERIENCE ELEGANCE IN ALGONAC, The Algonac Banquet Center is available for rental for all occasions. Located at 1905 Mill Street in Algonac. For questions or to book, call Sue (810) 278-4395.

Help Wanted

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By April 10, email a short description of item (15 words or less), price willing to pay and your phone number to thumbprintnews@comcast.net.

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ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, email us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Contest" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, phone number and full address. Of all persons submitting correct answers by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a wonderful surprise gift at the end of this year! On December 31, 2014, one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified.

In the March 2014 edition, we asked our readers to identify what the object on the right was.

No one correctly identified that the object was an antique spoon used for feeding liquids to a patient.

This spoon was an antique medical device made by the Gibson Company of the United Kingdom approximately 1830 – 1840. It allowed the amount of fluid being administered to a patient to be controlled by partially occluding the lumen at the end of the spoon.

For our April contest we are asking the question, "What is it?" Identify what the object is that is pictured below and for what it is used. Email your answer to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. Again, be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are correct and are entered in the random drawing at the end of the year for a wonderful surprise gift.



Good luck!



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What Happened on This Day in History?

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer



April



opened (Hartford, Connecticut).

16. On this day in 1900, the U.S. Post Office issued the first books of postage stamps.



17. On this day in 1892, the first Sunday NL baseball game was played; Reds beat the Cardinals 5-1.



18. On this day in 1909, Joan of Arc was declared a saint.



19. On this day in 1936, anti-Jewish riots broke out in Palestine.

20. On this day in 1861, Robert E. Lee resigned from the Union Army.



21. On this day in 1878, New York installed the first firehouse pole.

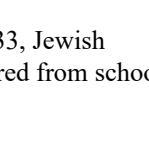
22. On this day in 1914, Mexico ended diplomatic relations with the U.S.



23. On this day in 1978, the United Methodist Church formed.

24. On this day in 1888, Eastman Kodak formed.

25. On this day in 1901, Erve Beck hit the American League's first home run.



26. On this day in 1933, Jewish students were barred from school in Germany.



27. On this day in 1961, NASA launched *Explorer 11* into Earth orbit to study gamma rays.

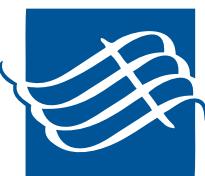


28. On this day in 1992, Italian President Francesco Cossiga formally resigned.

29. On this day in 1961, ABC's *Wide World of Sports* debuted.

30. On this day in 1900, the U.S. annexed Hawaii.

15. On this day in 1817, the first American school for the deaf



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