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## Inside This Issue

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**THUMBPRINT NEWS  
PET PHOTO  
CHALLENGE**

## A Life Filled with Learning, Love, Friendship & Fraternalism

By **Derek Smith**, *ThumbPrint News* Guest Writer



*Frances D. Partridge*

I write this article as a tribute to all the women involved in the founding and subsequent success of the Woman's Benefit Association, now Woman's Life Insurance Society. However, my primary focus in that group is a woman who was one of the first residential pioneers in Port Huron's Sherman Woods Community, Frances Dusenbury Partridge.

Frances D. Partridge was born in White Plains, New York, on December 1, 1871, to parents John F. Partridge and Catherine Clay Partridge (Dusenbury). Her father and grandfather were both natives of Devonshire, England. John Partridge immigrated to America, where he met Catherine, who was born in White Plains, New York. The two were married in 1886, and together they would have four children, a son and three daughters: Horace Edwin, born July 23, 1868; Maggie Louise, who died early (1869-1878); Frances Dusenbury; and Agnes Winifred born October 5, 1879.

John Partridge was one of the early pioneers of Genesee County, with extensive interests in the Flint area's lumber industry. In 1900, after John retired, the family moved to Port Huron. Once there, Frances became employed as an "efficiency expert" for the Supreme Hive of the Ladies of the Maccabees of the World. The Ladies of the Maccabees was an auxiliary organization of the Knights of the Maccabees.

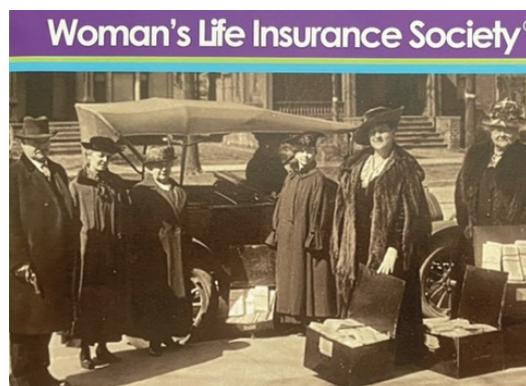
The Knights of the Maccabees was introduced to the United States by Nathaniel Boynton, a three-term mayor of Port Huron and a member of the State Legislature. The Knights of the Maccabees was a fraternal organization for men, originally formed in London, Ontario, Canada. Boynton would find time from his busy schedule to lend his support, encouragement and his considerable experience to the Ladies of the Maccabees, as they began their fraternal journey into the business world. The Ladies of the Maccabees valued Boynton's friendship and counsel. After his death on May 27, 1911, they honored him with a Resolution in his memory for his many priceless contributions.

Frances Partridge was a woman of extraordinary talents. She was a great communicator, who presented herself in a thoughtful, intelligent and orderly fashion. She was an ardent reader; she had a passion for the classics such as Shakespeare.

She was gifted by her father with an exceptional skill for proper words and grammar. She was "an expert and interesting conversationalist, seldom does the notorious lull disturb her chats, but when it does, she defeats it gracefully." (Flo Allen via the *Times Herald* April 1938)

Frances was a woman full of wisdom, having traveled over several decades, socially and professionally, to hundreds of domestic and international, towns, cities and ports. These trips would include 48 states of the

See *A LIFE FILLED* Page 10



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# LEAN ON LOYALTY DURING HARD CHAPTERS

By **Patricia Cosner Kubic**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

At some point, all of us have been dealt an unexpected raw blow. Even though the wind getting knocked out of us feels like it lasts for days, we frantically try to figure out the next steps. Two of my friends are in this hard space. One friend was fired, without warning, causing him to completely lose his career footing. Another friend made the bold decision to cancel her wedding putting her in a dread about ever having the family life she pictured. These two people are trying to figure out how to not only cling to those dreams but also come up with a new plan to make them happen. Yup, it's a hard row to hoe in life and, believe it or not, also on the baseball field.

It's early June as I write this, and I can objectively describe the Detroit Tigers as a horrible baseball team. And, if my crystal ball is working, I'm guessing that as you read this in July that you will use the same word to describe the team. It's been an exasperating season, to put it mildly. And I'm guessing the season is requiring extra patience from people who don't keep up with Tiggs but live with a devoted fan that needs to vent about the team – regularly.

I have been a faithful Tigers fan my entire life, regardless if they were the joke of the league or feared by other teams. Even though the Tigers are currently one of the worst teams in baseball, my dedication will not dim. Just this past weekend, they lost three straight games to the mighty (insert other more colorful words here) New York Yankees. The Tigers did not score any runs in the first two games and committed errors on two consecutive plays effectively giving the Yanks the win for the third game. Silver lining? Not even a silver base.

No job, no wedding, no wins – all of it is still

just one bad run of things – even if it feels like the epoch will never end. No matter how disheartened our hearts are – we have one reliable tool to use: loyalty.

The loyalty my friend has always used to power his career is there, but it feels dormant to him right now. Most everyone I know has gotten canned at least once in their life. When it happens, it can feel like your body is on fire it hurts so much. But, when you realize that you are part of the “I got fired, too” club, you start to feel soothed. And as you feel calmer, the loyalty that boosted your career dreams start to bubble up. And before you know it, you start daydreaming about cool jobs.

My friend who courageously called off her wedding feels like she will never stop spinning. But her absolute non-negotiable mission of finding a partner, creating a family and filling up a scrapbook with pictures will resurface. That's the thing about loyalty – it's almost impossible to destroy.

I'm thinking about loyalty a lot during the Tigers' maddening season. I can't stop myself from listening to sports talk radio shows where one person after another bashes my team, my dream. I get it. The Tigers are failing on so many levels – crappy hitting, defensive plays they should be able to make without thinking, all topped off with some struggling pitchers.

Eventually, the Tiggs will find the right formula putting them on top. My friend will land an intriguing position and I have faith that my other friend will fill up her scrapbook one day. I know this because each of those goals is fueled by loyalty and that is everything. Loyalty from within us, from those we love, from steadfast fans. Loyalty is there – ready to plow us through the hard trenches bringing us to a place that will fill us – thrill us – more than we ever dreamed. 🍀

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## REGAINING INDEPENDENCE THIS 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY

As we approach the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday, more formally known as Independence Day, it's a good time to consider what independence means for us individually. When we're young, we craved it. That desire to be on our own and do things our way is a strong driving force. In our middle-age years, we are in total control of our independent destiny and live life on our own terms. However, as we begin to enter our golden years, sometimes physical ailments and health conditions pose a threat to our independence that cause us to have to become dependent on others for things we've done for ourselves our whole lives.

As we age, we develop conditions, such as hearing loss, which can be extremely debilitating. Research from Johns Hopkins University has shown that adults with hearing loss experience a 30 – 40% faster cognitive decline than those with optimal hearing. If you've ever experienced or can imagine losing your hearing, it's evident how it can hinder our independence. For some people, it's missing phone calls, the doorbell or normal daily conversations. For others, it leads to cognitive decline, increases risk of falling and increases the chances of developing dementia and Alzheimer's. Scientists have shown that when we experience hearing loss, the brain attempts to work harder as hearing becomes more impaired, attempting to focus and comprehend what is going on. Many connections in the brain then begin to reorganize themselves to try to compensate for the increased workload, which results in cognitive decline. When this happens, we often become dependent on family, caregivers, medications, etc.

But what if there were a treatment that would allow us to gain some of our independence back? With the advancements in technology,

health conditions such as hearing loss are treatable. It has been said that approximately 90 – 95% of people with hearing loss can be treated with hearing aids. A hearing aid has three basic parts: a microphone, amplifier and speaker. The hearing aid receives sound through a microphone, which converts the sound waves to electrical signals or codes and sends them to an amplifier. The amplifier increases the power of the signals and then sends them to the ear through a speaker which are passed along to the brain. Hearing aids make it possible for a person with hearing loss to listen, communicate and participate more fully in daily activities, which in turn exercises our auditory system and can help prevent cognitive decline.

This 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and always, please be sure to protect your hearing health from the beautiful fireworks that emit loud noises which are very damaging. Wearing ear plugs or muffs and staying a safe distance away from ignition sites are good forms of protection. Additionally, limiting excessive noise exposure, limiting ototoxic medication intake and staying in overall optimal health are keys to preventing hearing loss. Happy Independence Day! 🇺🇸



*Editorial note: Beltone Skoric Hearing Aid Center has been serving the hearing-impaired community in Michigan for over 30 years. They have made it their mission to educate about the negative effects of untreated hearing loss. For more information, please visit their website [www.beltoneskorichearing.com](http://www.beltoneskorichearing.com) or call to schedule a free hearing exam at one of their 38 locations: (810) 356-0559.*

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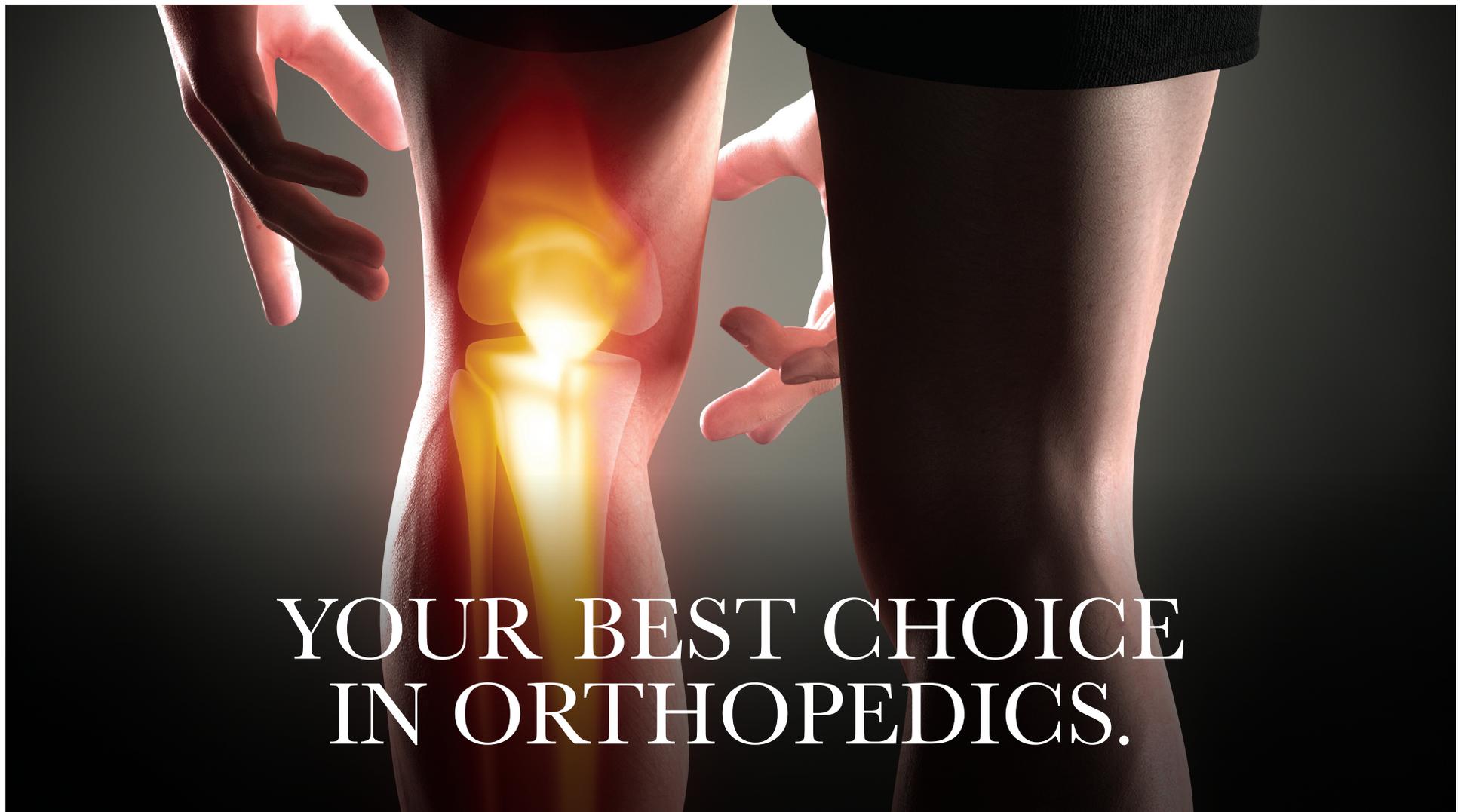
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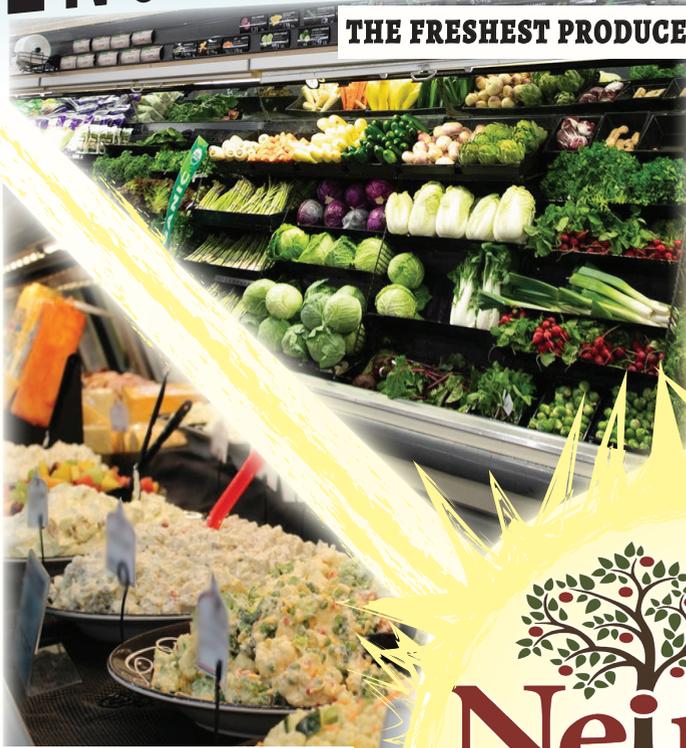


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## THE GREAT BERRY EXPEDITION

By **Bob Jones**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist



Never one to be daunted by a seemingly insurmountable challenge, my wife, daughter and I traveled north, deep into Michigan's Upper Peninsula, in search of an elusive, reddish, button-shaped fruit – the thimbleberry.

The warm, late-July sun beat down on us and the surrounding countryside, reminding us that this was the season where the cultivated fruits and vegetables were beginning to ripen, yet in the wild, nature still held court with scenes of birches, pines and multicolored shrubbery scattered everywhere along the narrowing highway road.

This berry has never been officially cultivated and grows wild wherever land supports its tangled root system and maple-shaped leaves. The berry itself tends to be soft and pliable with a tart flavor. When picked, they are sweetened with sugar and spices. When heated, they are converted into jams and jellies, as well as used in muffins, tarts and breads. The market price for this rare fruit is purported to be very high, thus contributing to its lore that “gold should be precious.”



Failure to find any thimbleberry products in St. Ignace, Marquette or the Houghton/Hancock region of the U.P., we ventured north on Highway 41 to the Keweenaw Peninsula, where scenic roads canopied with greenery abounded.

At an eatery in Calumet, we were told, “Try the Jampot. You may locate the elusive berry there.” The Jampot is located in Eagle Harbor and is part of the Society of St. John's Abbey. Our hearts began to beat rapidly as we turned a corner on a verdant drive and came upon Jacob's Falls. Just a few feet beyond the falls stood a small shanty-like store, the Jampot, which would



*Thimbleberry hedge*



hopefully house the rare thimbleberry.

Upon entering the store, we carefully scoured the shelves. Our eyes feasted on various types of jams, jellies, breads and cookies, but not a single thimbleberry in sight. We decide to ask someone, “Do you have any thimbleberry jam in stock?” His reply took us by surprise.

“No, you're two weeks too early. The berries ripen in early to mid-August.” All the jellies from the previous year's crop had been sold. Though disappointed, we discovered outside growing all around the Jampot store the many gnarled weed-like

plants with their green-buttoned berries perched amid the broad-leaved maple-shaped leaves. Some berries were just beginning to turn a blushing pink. Thus, our search ended some 500 miles from home.

The Jampot – the home of Poorrock Abbey™ preserves – is located at 6500 State Highway M26, three miles east of Eagle River and five miles west of Eagle Harbor, right next to Jacob's Creek Falls.

The website is [www.societystjohn.com/jampot](http://www.societystjohn.com/jampot) which will take you to the Society of St. John, their mission and life, and will introduce you to the many delectable pleasures inside the Jampot. Best of luck to others who want to try this expedition for themselves!





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## VACATION SCAMS

As summer continues on, you and your family may be looking to have some fun in the sun before it's time to head back to school. Planning a vacation can be stressful, and a scammer can make it even more so.

Scammers know that when consumers are booking a vacation, they are looking for the best deals, and can trick consumers with fake websites or ads on social media. Whether you are looking for a travel agent, a rental home or flights, it is so important to do your research and make sure you are using legitimate, trustworthy vendors.

Better Business Bureau® Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula shares these tips to help you plan a scam-free summer vacation:

- **Plan ahead.** Allow plenty of time to research hotels, flights and the area where you will be staying. Typically, the earlier reservations are made, the better the deals and the lower the risk of the destination being booked solid. Making reservations in advance also locks in rates and prevents higher prices later during prime spring break, peak summer or holiday travel seasons.
- **Avoid broad internet searches.** Entering phrases like “best deals” into whichever search engine is used can sometimes bring up websites that look official but are designed solely to rip people off.
- **Be alert for travel scams.** Watch out for phone calls or letters claiming a “free trip” or websites offering prices that appear too good to be true. It's easy to extend questionable offers like these, but the vast majority of them leave hopeful travelers in limbo – and out of money.
- **Do your homework.** Ask family and friends to recommend a travel agent or travel website and visit BBB.org for free Business Profiles. Research the business and read customer reviews about any rentals under consideration.
- **Get trip details in writing.** Before making a final payment, get all the details of the trip in writing. This should include the total cost, restrictions, cancellation penalties and names of the airlines and hotels. Also, review and keep a copy of the airline's and hotel's cancellation and refund policies, as well as the cancellation policies of the travel agency or booking site used.
- **Consider travel insurance.** Travel insurance covers things like trip cancellations or medical emergencies. There are different levels of coverage based on what type of plan is purchased. Ask a lot of questions, and always read the fine print to see what's covered and what's not.
- **Pay with a credit card.** Paying with a credit card provides additional protection if something should go wrong with the travel reservation.
- **Planning to travel internationally?** Check to see if there are any advisories affecting the U.S. Travel Association for any issues that may impact the trip.
- No matter when or where you are traveling, take extra precautions: **Wait to post on social media.** It's fun to post adventures with friends and family but wait until getting back from the trip. Photos and social media posts of the family having a great time also lets thieves know the house is empty.
- **Check your home insurance.** If your home will be unattended while away, make sure you know your responsibilities under your home insurance policy. Some policies do not cover damage if nobody checks on your home for a certain amount of time.
- **Share a copy of the itinerary** with a family member or close friend. Include the contact information of someone joining you on your trip.
- **Take a map.** People rely heavily on smartphones and GPS. Consider having an atlas or hard copy map just in case of technical difficulties.

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- **Avoid traveling alone.** Use the buddy system and stick with the group.
- **Use a hotel safe** to store extra cash and keep any valuables under lock and key.

For more tips on avoiding travel scams, and to find trustworthy travel vendors, visit [bbb.org](http://bbb.org). And to report any travel scams you may come across, go to [bbb.org/scamtracker](http://bbb.org/scamtracker).

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



Melanie Duquesnel



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**A LIFE FILLED** nation, Mexico, Canada and Europe, including England.  
Continued from Page 1 On these travels, she would promote and gather memberships for the Woman's Benefit Association.

Frances had a keen mind for mathematics and was one of the finest actuaries in America during the early 1900s. She was educated in Flint, Michigan, and White Plains, New York. Frances Partridge had also studied under Miles M. Dawson of New York, a well-known actuary in the New York City area.

The Supreme Hive of the Ladies of the Maccabees of the World, later the Woman's Benefit Association, was founded in Port Huron on October 1, 1892. The organization provided women between the ages of 18 and 56, of sound bodily health, with endowment, sick, funeral and disability benefits.

When Frances began her career with the Ladies of the Maccabees, Bina West was the Supreme Record Keeper and Lillian Hollister was the Supreme Commander. Bina was a 24-year-old schoolteacher from the Capac school system. Lillian, born in Milford, Michigan, in 1853, started her teaching career at the age of 15 and was 39 when she became the Supreme Commander. She retired from this position in July of 1911, due to ill health and passed shortly thereafter on August 4.



Lillian Hollister

Upon Lillian's death, Bina West would take over the duties of the Supreme Commander, having been given a unanimous vote to that position by her peers. Frances Partridge was then nominated as Supreme Record Keeper by Bina West. Bina spoke highly of Frances in her nomination speech by saying, in part, "this young woman whom I will name is so thoroughly informed in all matters concerning the rates and the business of this Association that she can deal with the most intellectual and experienced department officials. I am sure she will merit, in every respect, your confidence. I nominate Frances D. Partridge as my successor!" Frances Partridge was elected unanimously! Frances was intense and serious in her role as Supreme Record Keeper for the Woman's Benefit Association and would serve professionally in that role for 39 years.

By 1911, there were 2,834 Hives established in 56 states, territories and provinces, with a membership of 150,000 and assets of five million dollars invested in high-grade county and municipal bonds. The funds of the Ladies of the Maccabees of the World were larger than the capital stock of any bank in Michigan, and only nine banks in New York City had capital stock exceeding this amount. Frances was recognized as one of the best accounting experts in the United States and was elected to the executive committee of the secretarial section of the National Fraternal Congress of America on October 20, 1916. In accepting the honor, Frances said it would be her goal "to spread a greater knowledge of fraternalism among the public through some form of public relations plan, the other, associate with other patriotic civic bodies, both nationally and locally, in forwarding the cause of true Americanism." This was quite an achievement and a wonderful recognition for a woman just in her mid-forties.

In 1938, Frances was elected vice-president of the National Fraternal Congress and served as president in 1939. Additionally, she was a librarian for the Fraternal Actuarial Society for over a decade.

Frances was responsible for the establishment of statistics which Miles Dawson, Consulting Actuary, used to create the first mortality rates for women. Mortality rates predict the life expectancy of a person based on their age, gender and other



Bina West Miller

factors. Frances accomplished this without the aid of a tabulating machine to assist with the calculations. It was certainly an achievement, one that required both patience and determination. It was an accomplishment that only the brightest of mathematical minds dare challenge.

It was very difficult for women in the life insurance business in the early 1900s, as men occupied most of the workforce in that vocation. Women of business were not looked at in an inviting or accepting way. It was Bina West's and Frances Partridge's dedication to hard work, their intellectual talent, their persistence, their organizational and communication skills, and their ability to hire energetic, competent employees, that enabled the Ladies of the Maccabees of the World to grow so successfully, into a national and international conglomerate.

Over these many years, the Women's Life Insurance Society has had several name changes:

- 1892-1904** The Supreme Hive of the Ladies of the Maccabees of the World
- 1904-1915** The Ladies of the Maccabees of the World
- 1915-1926** Woman's Benefit Association of the Maccabees
- 1926-1966** Woman's Benefit Association
- 1966-1996** North American Benefit Association
- 1996-Present** Woman's Life Insurance Society

The organization's world headquarters was on the third floor of the Maccabees Temple in Port Huron, which they quickly outgrew. Walter Wyeth, a well-known and much respected local architect with the architectural firm of Gardner & Schmidt of Chicago, was hired to design a new world headquarters.

On May 27, 1915, it was announced that construction would begin immediately on the new world headquarters. It was also announced that the name of the fraternal organization would change from Ladies of the Maccabees of the World to Woman's Benefit Association of the Maccabees. At that time, total membership was over 186,000, with over eight million in the reserve fund. Interest earnings for the year 1914 totaled over \$325,000.

In 1915, the sod was broken for the organization's new office complex. on the corner of Chestnut Street and Military Avenue, on a lot purchased from Henry Howard. It would turn out to be a \$200,000 investment, a very large sum of money back in 1915. When it was completed in 1917, there would be a dedication ceremony and a parade through the downtown area, that drew thousands of people from Port Huron and beyond.

Just four years later, in 1921, as the organization continued to grow, an addition was added to the building nearly doubling its size. From her meager beginnings in 1892, Bina West would never have dreamed that she would be constructing a business complex as large and magnificent as this! In 1992, the building was named to the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites.

Bina West Miller would retire in May of 1948. She had served in the Fraternal Benefit business for over 56 years, 37 of them as the Supreme Commander of the Woman's Benefit Association. She would spend much of her retirement years in her gardens at her home, "Westhaven", which still stands at 2828 Military Street in Port Huron. She passed away in April of 1954, and is buried in Lakeside Cemetery in Port Huron. In 1993, Bina West was elected to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

Bina's dedication to women's causes and the community lives on with Woman's Life Insurance Society. In 1892, she began her business journey with an idea and a small office on Huron Avenue. In that first year, her See *A LIFE FILLED* Page 19

# VOCABULARY VOYAGE

Compiled By **Laura Irwin**, ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

“The illiterate of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn.” – Alvin Toffler

## cholera cho·ler | \ 'kă-lər

A noun meaning **1a:** archaic : YELLOW BILE, **1b:** obsolete : BILE, **2:** obsolete : the quality or state of being bilious, **3:** anger; wrath; irritability : IRASCIBILITY  
 First known use: 14<sup>th</sup> century as in sense 1a from Middle English *coler*, from Anglo-French *colre*, *colere*, from Medieval Latin *cholera*. *Ex. (sense 3) The boss's reputation for cholera made many employees reluctant to ask questions.*

## empoison em·poi·son | \ im-'pöi-zən

A verb meaning **1:** archaic : POISON, **2:** EMBITTER. First known use: 14<sup>th</sup> century, as in sense 1 from Middle English *empoysonen*, from Anglo-French *empoisener*.  
*Ex. (sense 2) A series of misfortunes had poisoned him against the whole world.*

## pugnacious pug·na·cious | \ ,pæg-'nā-shəs

An adjective meaning : having a quarrelsome or combative nature : TRUCULENT First known use: 1642 from Latin *pugnare* meaning to fight from *pugnus* meaning fist. *Ex. While my twin sister is quite pugnacious, I prefer to avoid confrontations.*



A good vocabulary is a powerful tool, making communication simpler, so we will continue our quest for unusual words and their meanings. Readers can join in our learning journey by submitting underused, misused or uncommon words they've discovered to [thumbprintnews@comcast.net](mailto:thumbprintnews@comcast.net).

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By **Bethany Wolf**  
ThumbPrint News Staff

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE IS FROM  
**THAILAND**  
**PHAT SI-IO**  
-SOY SAUCE STIR FRY-

Thus far with this column, we've visited Trinidad, Japan, Uruguay, South Africa, Romania, Latvia, Wales, Scotland, Norway, Sudan, New Zealand, Canada, India, Switzerland, France, Ireland, Paraguay, Burundi and Comoros Islands. We're looking forward to trying new dishes from even more countries around the globe.

**We somehow still haven't received any recipes from readers! We're still inviting you to submit recipes from any country that hasn't yet been shared – whether you've made the recipe or you think we should try it!**

Recipes can be submitted to [thumbprintnews@comcast.net](mailto:thumbprintnews@comcast.net) in Word Document form. If you have a photo you took of the dish you made, include it as well in high-quality .jpeg format. We'll be sure to share some of these recipes in future editions so that we may all take a journey around the world through the recipes that are shared.

This month, we are traveling to the Thailand or Prathet Thai, which translates to "Land of the Free".



- Thailand is aptly named, as it was never colonized by Europeans, unlike it's Southeast Asian neighbors.
- Thailand was known as Siam until 1939 (and again briefly from 1945-1949), and is the original home of Siamese cats.



Thailand is home to the world's largest solid gold Buddha, Phra Phuttha Maha Suwanna Patimakon (15 feet tall and 5.5 tons). It is located at the Wat Traimit temple in Bangkok, however there are more than 40,000 Buddhist temples throughout Thailand.

- Only foreigners call Thailand's capital city Bangkok. The official name of Bangkok is one of the longest in the world:  
*Krungthepmahanakhon Amonrattanakosin Mahintharayuthaya Mahadilokphop Nopparatrachathaniburirom Udomratchaniwetmahasathan Amonphimanawatansathit Sakkathattiyawitsanukamprasit*

(กรุงเทพมหานคร อมรรัตนโกสินทร์ มหินทรายุธยา มหาดิลกภพ นพรัตนราชธานีบูรีรมย์ อุดมราชนิเวศน์มหาสถาน อมรพิมานอวตารสถิต สักกะทัตติยวิษณุกรรมประสิทธิ์)

which translates to "City of angels, great city of immortals, magnificent city of the nine gems, seat of the king, city of royal palaces, home of gods incarnate, erected by Vishvakarman at Indra's behest." Thais simply call it *Krung Thep* which translates to "City of Angels". It is also in the top ten most-visited city in the world.

- Phat Si-io (ผัดซีอิ๊ว), also known as "pad see-ew" and translates to "fried with soy sauce", is a Chinese-style noodle dish. It can easily be found throughout Thailand at street vendors and at Thai restaurants around the world.

### INGREDIENTS

#### FOR THE MARINADE

- ½ lb chicken, thinly sliced\*
- 1 tsp Thai black soy sauce (or dark soy sauce)
- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 tsp cornstarch

#### FOR THE CHILI VINEGAR (OPTIONAL)

- 1 red chili, chopped
- 4 Tbsp white vinegar

#### FOR THE SAUCE

- ½ Tbsp soy sauce
- ½ Tbsp sugar
- ½ Tbsp fish sauce
- 1 Tbsp oyster sauce
- 1½ Tbsp Thai black soy sauce (or dark soy sauce)

#### FOR THE STIR FRY

- 1 lb wide rice noodles (fresh or dry)\*\*
- 3 Tbsp vegetable oil, divided
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 stalks Chinese broccoli, sliced (or regular broccoli/bok choy)
- 2 eggs, beaten
- ground white pepper, to taste (optional)

\*Any protein will work for this dish, beef, pork, shrimp or tofu were seen in various recipes. If using shrimp or tofu skip the marinating step.

\*\*If using fresh, pull them out of the fridge 20 minutes before you start cooking, loosen the noodles by hand, make sure they are not sticking or clumping together (can use vegetable oil if needed). If using dry, cook according to the package, strain in a colander and run cold running water until the noodles become cool.



Author's note: I was making this to share with co-workers and did both chicken and pork, so I increased the ingredients and amount of bowls used. Once I was finished cooking, but before I had eaten or cleaned up the kitchen, I noted that I would rather order this dish than make it again. After eating it, I feel like I might try making it at least once more, but just one serving next time. Also, despite trying four stores (including the Asian market where I found the Thai black soy sauce), I was not able to find wide noodles, so I used thin rice noodles instead. They worked well in the dish, but made it more reminiscent of pad Thai than the pad see-ew I've gotten from restaurants.

### DIRECTIONS

PREP ALL THE INGREDIENTS - IMPORTANT SINCE ONCE YOU BEGIN COOKING, THIS DISH MOVES QUICK!

1. In a bowl, place your thinly sliced chicken with the marinade ingredients. Mix well and set aside to marinate, about 10-15 minutes.
2. In a separate bowl, mix the chopped red chili and 4 Tbsp white vinegar. Let it sit for at least 15 minutes to release the flavor.
3. Prep your noodles, see \*\* note. Prep your Chinese broccoli by slicing diagonally into bite-sized pieces, stems cut a little thinner than the leaves. In a small bowl lightly beat the two eggs, set aside.
4. In a separate bowl, combine all of the sauce ingredients and stir to mix well.

### COOKING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat 1 Tbsp vegetable oil in a wok (or large skillet) over medium-high heat. Add the chicken and cook it for 1 to 2 minutes. Remove the meat and set aside in a bowl.
2. Add 1 Tbsp vegetable oil to the wok and add the garlic, cooking until just fragrant. Next add the Chinese broccoli, toss to coat it in the oil, then cook for about 1 minute or until the stems soften up.
3. Add the noodles and pour the sauce on top of the noodles. Add the white pepper. Stir to coat the noodles evenly.
4. Once coated, spread the noodles out to cover the entire pan and let them sit without stirring for about 15-30 seconds until some of the noodles have "toasted" (i.e. have some charred marks on them). Flip the noodles and let them sit again to toast the other side. Stir fry them for another minute to make sure they are evenly cooked.
5. Push everything to one side and add 1 Tbsp oil to the empty space, pour in the beaten eggs and scramble them a little bit. When the eggs are 80% cooked, stir fry it all together.
6. Add the chicken back into the pan and stir until evenly mixed in.
7. Plate the noodles and top with chili vinegar.

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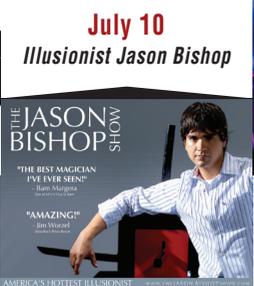
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## MAKING NEW FRIENDS

By Theresa Nielsen, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Someone pinch me, please. Could it be true that I've just found an "old crazy quilt" at my local farmer's market? It's dated 1915, and it's for sale. Do I need it? Well, that is the million-dollar question of the day. I barter with the owner, she doesn't really know much about the quilt, she just wants to sell it.



My knees are shaking as I hurry home with my new treasure. Crazy quilts were popular back in the 1800s when they were being made from old clothes and textiles. They were not necessarily a thing of beauty but more of a necessity to stay warm. As I sit and stare at the details on this one, I can tell that it was used a lot, it is well worn and loved.

My mind wanders back to the time when I first learned how to sew. My dad had sent me to sewing classes when I was twelve. I didn't know then how much I would love sewing when I got older or that it was his plan that I do all the family mending. My dad wasted no time, the day after I finished the class, he set two large bags of mending in front of me. It was a lot. For all the mending that I did, I only needed the machine, thread and my trusty seam ripper. Oh, did I mention patience?

Fast forward to 1980, when I inherited my mother-in-law's Singer sewing machine. I loved that machine. I started to make a small quilt using only the tools I had in the past and a tape measure. I knew nothing about rotary cutters or rulers back then. I sewed at the dining room table after dinner. I felt accomplished after a few hours. The quilt was all square pieces of fabric that I cut one at a time. When it was finished, I was proud to show it off.

A few months after I had moved into my house, I finally met one of my neighbors, a sweet elderly lady who lived next door. She mostly kept to herself, but there she was working in her garden when I went outside. We exchanged greetings and instantly I knew we would become good friends. She invited me to come over when I had the time.

"I happen to be free right now," I told her. When I walked around to her front door, I was reminded of my grandma's house when I was a kid. My neighbor, Miss Frisk, had a pot of chicken soup on the stove. The house smelled so good.

The two of us talked for quite a while. I learned that she was also a quilter, she loved African violets, which are one of my favorites, and she was a Detroit Tigers fan. She showed me her sewing room. Her machine was set up on the table, but she explained that she really liked hand sewing. On the table in a box were very small pieces of fabric, she said they were hexagon-shaped. I know them today as hexies, which I happen to love. Some might say I'm addicted to them. They are available in different sizes and



can be made into a quilt or whatever you choose.

What I did notice about Miss Frisk's sewing room is that there were no fancy gadgets, she didn't like them. She admitted that she was very old-fashioned, and I liked that about her. I'm an old-fashioned girl myself about a lot of things. I did have to leave but promised I would be back soon. She said to me if I ever needed any help with a sewing project to come and see her.

It so happens a few weeks later that I stopped by a garage sale. I walked away with an unfinished Raggedy Ann doll pattern and the fabric to make her. This could be fun, I thought. That evening after dinner, I set up the machine, sewed the arms and legs together and stuffed them. Then I traced the doll's face onto the fabric the way the directions said to do. She was going to be very cute when completed. The next day I assembled her, making sure that her legs were on correctly. I was very proud; I had made my first doll.

But then things got complicated, I couldn't figure out how to put on the hair. I was about to pull out my own hair when I remembered what Miss Frisk had told me. I took the doll over to her and right away she knew what to do. She said to leave her there and come back tomorrow.

When I returned the next day, Raggedy Ann was sitting in the chair, pretty as ever. Miss Frisk just smiled at me. I hugged her and Raggedy Ann too. I knew there would be more dolls for me to make. It was a few



years later that I happened to be in a quilt shop and a lady was doing a demonstration on the proper way to use a rotary cutter and the ruler. It was going to make things so much easier for me when I wanted to make a quilt. When I have time to work on the crazy quilt, it will be done the old-fashioned way, by hand of course.

You know, I did learn how to put the doll's hair on and went on to make many more dolls after her. Sewing and quilting are still what make my heart sing along with my family, my pets and, of course, lots of sewing friends gathered around the table sewing some hexies. 🌸



# PESTERING PROBLEMS Terrifying Ticks



**Informational Tips and Advice on Common Household Pests from Nicole Szymczak, President, ABC Home & Commercial Services**

Have you heard? Lyme disease is on the rise in Michigan, with nearly every county affected! We are now in the peak of tick season, which is generally May through September, when ticks are most active. It's important that you learn a bit more about these disease-spreading pests that are invading yards and houses, before they start attaching themselves to you and your pets alike. With over 650 different species of ticks, it isn't surprising Michigan has four commonly found varieties: the American Dog Tick, Brown Dog Tick, Lone Star Tick and the Blacklegged Tick (also known as a deer tick). Ticks will feed on almost all vertebrates – mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians! Though they cannot fly or jump, they can climb. Ticks will find their host by detecting body heat and carbon monoxide, and will then crawl upwards from close points to the ground until they reach the highest point on the human or animal host.

These pests can be very sneaky, and a bite from one is almost painless and can go unnoticed. When undetected, ticks can stay attached and feed on the host for several days. Once this feeding begins, the spread of diseases from infected ticks to their hosts becomes much more likely. The detection timeline varies with different ticks and diseases. Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) are among the several diseases that can be transmitted by ticks found in Michigan. Lyme disease is caused by a spiral-shaped bacterium, called spirochete. In most cases, to transmit Lyme disease, a deer tick must be attached for 10 to 12 hours. If the tick is found and removed within this timeframe, the risk of infection is greatly reduced. Early symptoms of Lyme disease can include rash, hives, redness of the cheeks and flu-like symptoms. Later symptoms can include headache, stiff neck, arthritis, neurological effects and facial paralysis.

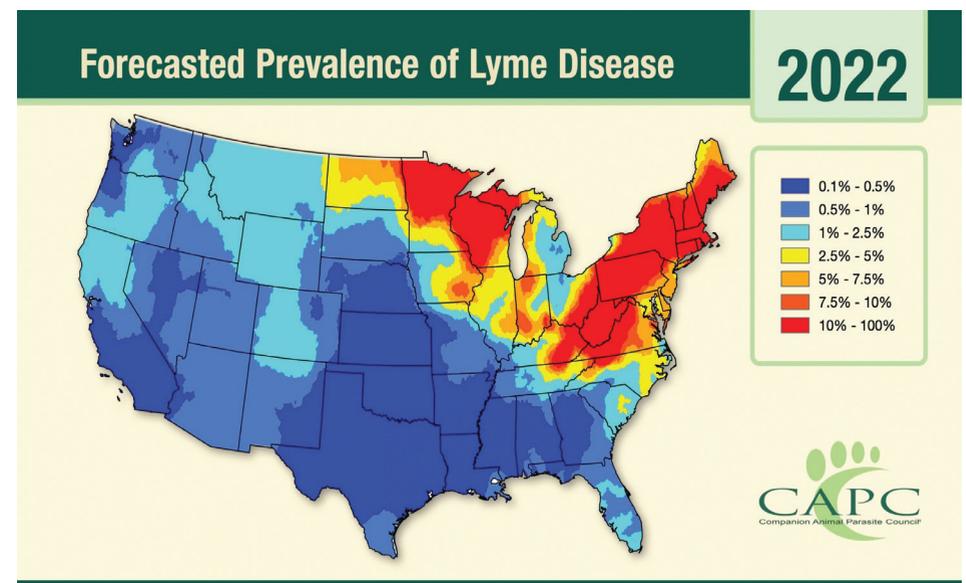
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, though not as common in Michigan as Lyme disease, is a bacterial disease that can be quite dangerous, and sometimes fatal, if untreated. In most cases, an infected tick only has to feed for six to 10 hours to start disease transmission. Again, if the tick is found and removed within this timeframe, the risk of infection is low. Early symptoms of RMSF are fever, headaches, nausea, vomiting, stomach or muscle pain or loss of appetite. Two to four days after the fever begins, a rash can also develop. There are antibiotic treatments for this disease available, though RMSF can leave patients with permanent damage to blood vessels.

So what can you do? Be aware of where ticks live and be vigilant in checking yourself, family members and pets after spending time in their habitat. Ticks are attracted to grassy areas and areas of thick brush where little sunlight can penetrate. Clearing commonly-used areas like these around your home and other structures on your property can deter ticks from arriving to set up shop. It is also important to keep your grass maintained. If you are headed to wooded areas for an extended period of time, consider wearing light-colored clothing with long sleeves, pants with the hems tucked into socks, closed-toed shoes and use some type of repellent. Before returning indoors, always complete a full-body check to make sure no ticks

have hitched a ride with you. Removing a tick from clothing is not hard to do, but it is important to make sure the tick is dead so that it does not find its way back onto you.

If a tick does attach itself to skin, they become firmly planted and tough to remove. It is crucial that the removal is done correctly, so we recommend contacting a medical professional for instruction. If you have pets, contacting your vet early for advice on tick prevention is what we suggest. Ticks can reproduce at an alarming rate and can lay thousands of eggs. If you have seen or found one tick, chances are there are a lot more nearby. Ticks do not have many natural enemies, allowing them to grow significantly in numbers without being noticed, leading to a severe infestation.

Protect your family and pets by contacting ABC Bees, a division of ABC Home & Commercial Services, today! ABC Bees will evaluate your yard and create a custom program for tick prevention. Due to the nature of insects, there is no such thing as a complete elimination and treatment is recommended on a monthly basis. To achieve the best results, we need to work together to eliminate tick harborage and treat regularly. Also remember that ticks do not disappear with the warm weather like other Michigan pests. Ticks will stay active long after summer is gone and treatment must continue. Don't wait a minute longer to rid your yard of these dangerous pests! Call ABC Bees now to setup an appointment at (810) 794-5678. 🇺🇸



**CAPC (Companion Animal Parasite Council) predicts that in 2022, Lyme disease, a potentially fatal disease for pets, is expanding quickly. Transmitted by ticks, Lyme disease is spreading due to the expansion of tick host habitat range, primarily deer and rodents and migratory birds carrying ticks to new areas. Warmer weather and longer seasons for tick reproduction is also a factor. Veterinarians and pet owners should test pets annually and use tick preventatives year-round. A vaccination for Lyme disease should always be considered for pets in high-risk areas.**

**The geographic prevalence of Lyme disease continues to expand southward and westward. CAPC expects increases beyond last year's forecasts in eastern Kentucky, northeastern Tennessee, western Michigan and Ohio.**

**High-risk "hot-spots" are again predicted in northern and western lower Michigan, and southern and northeastern Ohio.**

**High risks of Lyme disease persist in all portions of the Northeast, the upper mid-western states of Wisconsin, Minnesota and the upper peninsula of Michigan. A higher-than-normal risk continues in North Dakota, northeastern South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois and eastern Kentucky.**

**The southward movement of Lyme disease is also evident in the increasing risk in the Carolinas and Tennessee. These emerging threats validate and emphasize CAPC reminders that pets and pet owners do not have to travel to the traditional endemic areas of the Northeast to encounter substantial Lyme disease risks.**

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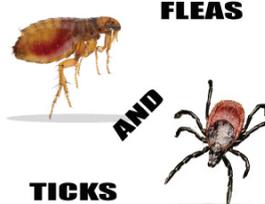
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### A Sampling of this Year's INTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS

Some old, some new...and what's old may be new again. Design trends in 2022, according to *Good Housekeeping* Senior Editor Monique Valeris, include the following:

- **Home Libraries** – regaining interest with homeowners as they search for quiet-time and relaxation spaces.
- **Homework Rooms** – equipped with appropriate technology are also gaining popularity.
- **Textures** – in addition to furniture and rugs, ceilings with tongue and groove boards are gaining popularity. Curtains that filter light and soften the room, and even lighting, can provide and add different textures to the room.
- **Natural Elements** – utilization of natural elements and color schemes including warm beiges, browns, blues and greens provides a comforting, calming look.
- **Blasts from the Past** – 1980s geometric patterns and bold patterns and colors from the '60s and '70s are making a comeback.
- **3D Art** – pieces that pop off the walls rather than flat surfaces.
- **Mindful Spaces** – spaces designed with ties to the personality, interests and hobbies of the homeowner.
- **Multi-functional Spaces** – combining uses of spaces for those who are downsizing or staying in their current homes – such as office-workout rooms or living rooms with office space.
- **Enhance the Outdoors** – living spaces that include stylish outdoor furniture.
- **Return to Traditions** – come back to the lasting style that includes more natural materials, marble, real wood, or homeowners are developing a personal lasting style.

### MARKET MATTERS

We are seeing some signs that the residential real estate market may be starting to slow a bit after two years of record-setting activity. NAR's chief economist, Dr. Lawrence Yun, opines, "It's inevitable home appreciation will slow in the coming months."

Another month of rising interest rates and inflation at 40-year high levels continues to put pressure on home affordability for many potential Buyers.

A Sellers' market continues with average days on market rising slightly and percent of list price received staying relatively steady at or around the 100-101% level.

As of June 12, bankrate.com reported residential mortgage rates in Michigan were 5.79% for a 30-year fixed, 4.95% for a 15-year fixed, and 3.88% for a 5/1 (5/1: fixed for 5 years and adjusting every 1 year thereafter) adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM).

While some are of the opinion that the inflation rate has peaked, it is surely too soon to tell. We'd like to think so too, but do not believe the fundamentals support that theory. 



**Wishing you all a  
Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.  
God Bless America!**

*Editorial note: Don and Barbara Alcorn are Realtors® serving St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland Counties, & the Grosse Pointes, and are part of an international network of Realtors. They are affiliated with Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel, the #1 Coldwell Banker in Michigan. You can reach Don and Barbara at (810) 278-6654 or -6655 or [dalcorn@cbwm.com](mailto:dalcorn@cbwm.com) or [balcorn@cbwm.com](mailto:balcorn@cbwm.com)*



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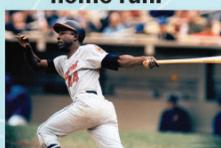
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# JULY

## What Happened On This Day in History?

<p><b>1</b> On this day in 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg begins in Pennsylvania.</p> 	<p><b>2</b> On this day in 1908, Thurgood Marshall, the first Black Supreme Court justice, is born in Baltimore, Maryland.</p>
<p><b>3</b> On this day in 1608, Samuel de Champlain founds the city of Quebec.</p> 	<p><b>4</b> On this day in 1970, Casey Kasem's <i>American Top 40</i> debuts on LA radio.</p> 
<p><b>5</b> On this day in 1643, the first recorded tornado occurs in the U.S., in Essex County, Massachusetts.</p> 	<p><b>6</b> On this day in 1785, the U.S. Congress unanimously resolves the name of U.S. currency to the "dollar" and adopts decimal coinage.</p>
<p><b>7</b> On this day in 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor is nominated for the Supreme Court. She is the first female Supreme Court justice.</p>	<p><b>8</b> On this day in 1949, South Africa's Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act commences under the apartheid government, prohibiting relationships between White people and people of other race groups.</p>
<p><b>10</b> On this day in 1973, the Bahamas declare independence from the U.K. and adopts a constitution.</p> 	<p><b>11</b> On this day in 1969, David Bowie releases the single "Space Oddity", just nine days before <i>Apollo 11</i> lands on the moon.</p>
<p><b>12</b> On this day in 1916, Joseph Dunn, age 14, is attacked by a shark, suffering non-fatal wounds, the final episode in a spate of shark attacks along the Jersey coast where four people died over 12 days.</p> 	<p><b>13</b> On this day in 1930, the first ever FIFA World Cup competition takes place in Uruguay.</p> 
<p><b>14</b> On this day in 1850, Florida physician, John Gorrie, is the first to demonstrate ice made by refrigeration in public.</p>	<p><b>15</b> On this day in 1099, the city of Jerusalem is captured and the population is massacred by Christian forces during the First Crusade.</p>
<p><b>17</b> On this day in 1816, <i>L'Argus</i> accidentally discovers the raft holding the survivors from the wrecked French frigate <i>Méduse</i>. After 13 days at sea, only 15 of 151 remain.</p>	<p><b>18</b> On this day in 1895, American gangster, bootlegger, bank robber and kidnapper, George "Machine Gun" Kelly is born. He dies on this same day in 1954, at age 59 of a heart attack.</p>
<p><b>19</b> On this day in 1692, the Salem Witch Trials continue with five more people hanged for witchcraft (19 in all) in Salem, Massachusetts.</p>	<p><b>20</b> On this day in 1976, Hank Aaron hits his 755<sup>th</sup> and final home run.</p> 
<p><b>24</b> On this day in 1969, <i>Apollo 11</i> returns to Earth. On this day in 1922, Ralph Samuelson rides the world's 1<sup>st</sup> water skies. <b>31</b></p> 	<p><b>25</b> On this day in 1965, Bob Dylan is booed by sections of the crowd at the Newport Folk Festival for performing with an electric guitar.</p>
<p><b>26</b> On this day in 2017, three live king cobras are found inside potato chip cans by custom officials in Los Angeles.</p> 	<p><b>27</b> On this day in 1789, President Washington signs approved legislation into law creating the Department of Foreign Affairs, the first Federal agency to be created under the new Constitution.</p>
<p><b>28</b> On this day in 1945, "Elevator Girl" Betty Lou Oliver survives falling 75 stories after fog causes a U.S. bomber plane to crash into the Empire State Building, breaking the cables supporting the elevator she was operating.</p>	<p><b>22</b> On this day in 1898, the crew of Belgium's <i>RV Belgica</i> sees the first sunrise in 1,600 hours. They are the first expedition to endure an Antarctic winter.</p>
<p><b>23</b> On this day in 1829, William Austin Burt patents America's first "typographer" (typewriter).</p> 	<p><b>16</b> On this day in 1907, Orville Redenbacher, American food scientist and popcorn maker, is born in Indiana.</p> 

Editor's note: This calendar's purpose is to provide entertainment for our readers and to mention lesser-known historical events. We are aware that there also may be well-known events that have happened on these days, and not listing them does not indicate that we are unaware of their importance.

**A LIFE FILLED**

Continued from Page 10

fraternal organization provided life insurance to 319 women. Today, that idea has transformed into one of the largest commercial buildings in Port Huron, employing 40 people. Woman's Life Insurance Society now serves thousands of women and their families across the United States, by providing quality life insurance, annuity products and substantial support for their community outreach.



Janice Whipple, former National President, stated in 1992, that she did not believe that Bina West's "divine dream" died when Bina passed. "Instead, her legacy is perpetuated by the dedication of our members across the continent who commit themselves daily to fraternalism and the spirit of volunteerism and community service at the local, state and national levels."

Ten years after the groundbreaking for the Woman's Benefit Association's new headquarters, Frances Partridge, and her sister Winifred, would begin construction of their new home. In 1925, they had purchased the first two of 63 lots, to be sold in the Sherman Woods subdivision, by Ross Mahon and Fred Dixon, the developers. They would take title to these lots, that stood on the corner of Edison and Conger, for the sum of \$4,000. There they

would build a beautiful family home at 304 Edison Boulevard. The home was designed by Walter Wyeth, the same architect of the Woman's Benefit Association's building, the Bina West home "Westhaven", the St. Clair Inn, J. B. Sperry Building, the W. B. A. camp, the Wingford Estate and many other fine buildings and homes in the Port Huron area.

Frances and Winifred loved their home and its spectacular lakefront location. It is there that they entertained numerous business clients, hundreds of friends and hosted a plethora of parties for various charities. They were members of the Ladies Library Association – one of the oldest consortiums in Port Huron, founded in 1866 – and the sisters held annual fundraisers for the association.

Their home was a frequent gathering spot for the Port Huron Home Garden Club, of which Frances and Winifred were lifelong members. It is there some of their ideas were born for their own beautiful gardens, which featured properly spaced, colorful plantings and the magnificent landscaping that supported them. Frances and Winifred were caring custodians to the flowers, plants and grounds they managed on their corner lot overlooking beautiful Lake Huron.

On April 3, 1950, 72 years to the day as I began writing this narrative, Frances Partridge presented her resignation to the Woman's Benefit Association Board of Trustees. It was completely unexpected, "A bolt from the blue" and a "shock to us all," said Supreme President Koob. Having completed 50 years of service to the association, Frances was comfortable in her decision, knowing that she helped forge a good foundation for the society and that younger more energetic talent, might better serve the fraternal organization. The Supreme President said of Miss Partridge, "Many will feel the loss after all these years of faithful attention to the duties of her office, as well as her kind and cheery visits to the field. It is difficult to express my personal regrets, but I do know that she has a well-earned rest coming to her and it is hoped that she may be spared many years to her beloved home circle and her beautiful garden in Sherman Woods. Miss Partridge was efficient and always considerate and faithful and the interests of our members came first in her life."

She and her sister Winifred would spend the next 10 years, tending to their beautiful gardens in the subdivision they so dearly loved. It



is there they would also invest their time, energy and love with their two adopted children, Ruth Rose and Ann Constance, along with their four grandchildren.

Agnes Winifred Partridge would pass on September 26, 1961. For over eight decades Winifred and Frances had shared their triumphs, their failures, their happiness, their sorrow, the freedom of their youth and the many challenges of growing old. There is no doubt the loss of Winifred would weigh heavily on Frances. They had been sisters and best friends for 82 years.

Shortly after Winifred, following a brief illness, Frances would pass on the first day of spring, April 22, 1962. She passed as the flowers began their bloom in her precious garden, knowing that they would be strong and healthy, having tended to them with such care and dedication.

She passed, knowing the Woman's Benefit Association would be strong and healthy, having tended to it with such care and dedication.

Frances Partridge, your legacy remains strong and healthy, a legacy attained over a 50-year period of hard work, sacrifice and dedication to the causes of women, families and the community.

*"We all die. The goal is not to live forever, but to leave something behind that will."*  
— Chuck Palahniuk, author

*Editorial note: Derek Smith moved to Port Huron in 1987, from Sarnia, Ontario. This article has been edited to fit the length guidelines of our paper. You can read Derek's full bio, the unedited full-length version of this article, as well as many others he has written by visiting [bluewaterhealthyliving.com/author/dereksmith/](http://bluewaterhealthyliving.com/author/dereksmith/).*



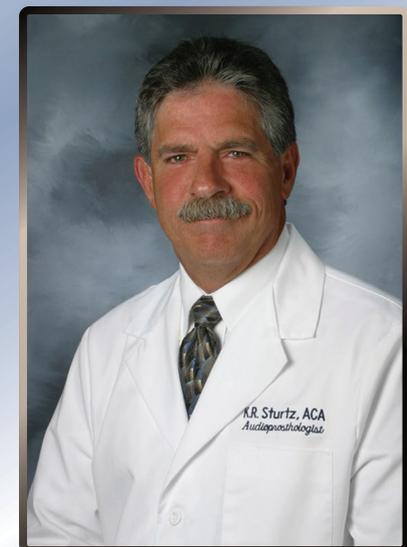
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**National Give Something Away Day** is definitely not a day for “pack rats”. The Holiday Insights website tells us this holiday is always held on July 15. It is a selfless day. It encourages us to help others and brighten up their day through the simple act of giving without expecting anything in return, because, as we all know, it's far better to give than to receive. You can consider this to be the theme for this very kind and giving

day. On National Give Something Away Day, let's all take the time to take a look at the many things we have, with an eye towards giving things away to family, friends or those in need.

It was established on July 15, 2015, by Linda Eaton Hall-Fulcher, a self-proclaimed giver. On the day's Facebook page, Linda advocates giving back to the world. According to her, this day is for everyone who cares. It advocates for giving to friends, family and the less fortunate; for mindful consumerism; and for being more aware of our carbon footprint.

#### Be generous on Give Something Away Day:

Clear out unwanted items in good condition from your home and give them to charity.

Cook a meal for an elderly person or someone who is ill.

Donate gently used furniture or still-working appliances to help people with low incomes.

Give the gift of your time. So many worthy causes can use the extra hands, like soup kitchens, animal shelters or nature clean-ups.

Give a donation to charity. No time to go through the closets at home? Tax-deductible charitable donations are quick and easy, but still mean a lot.

Donate food to a food bank. Even the smallest bag of groceries can make a big difference to someone struggling to feed their family.

Give your friendship and an open ear. Take time to chat with someone, visit a neighbor with no relatives living close by or schedule time at a local nursing home just to chat with residents. Sometimes a friendly face and someone to talk to is the greatest gift of all.

Give someone a surprise gift. Everyone loves an unexpected gift.

#### NATIONAL GIVE SOMETHING AWAY DAY BY THE NUMBERS

- 300,000 – the number of items in the average American home
- 1 out of 10 – Americans rent offsite storage
- 25% – the percentage of people with two-car garages who don't have room to park cars inside them
- 32% – the percentage of people with two-car garages who only have room for one vehicle
- 7.3 square feet – the self-storage space available for every man, woman and child in America
- 238 – the number of toys an average 10-year-old owns
- 12 – the number of toys an average 10-year-old plays with
- 30 – the number of outfits the average American woman owns
- \$1,700 – the amount of money an average American family spends on clothes annually
- 65 pounds – the weight of the clothing the average American throws away in a year
- \$1.2 trillion – the amount of money spent by Americans annually on nonessential goods

## THUMBPRINT NEWS CONTEST

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object, person or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, go to our website [www.thumbprintnews.com](http://www.thumbprintnews.com) and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting the correct answer by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a wonderful surprise gift at the end of the year, and announced in our January 2023 issue!



For our June contest, we asked our readers to identify what is being pictured to the left. Of the readers submitting the correct answer, Dave Loerch of Chesterfield Township, Michigan, was randomly chosen as the winner. Dave correctly identified that this is a spider paw.



Have you ever thought about a spiders feet? Well, it turns out, they don't have feet, they have tiny paws complete with claws. In scientific terms it is called a tarsus and is one of eight parts of a spiders leg. The leg of a spider does double duty as a nose, recognizing smells, and an ear, picking up very subtle vibrations and changes in the air.

About half of the spider families have claw tufts and are usually classified as hunting spiders who pursue their prey. Spiders with claw tufts can use the hair on their feet to climb almost any surface.

There are more than 45,000 known species of arachnids found in habitats world-wide with about 500 of those being native to Michigan, three of which are medically significant: the black widow, the yellow sac spider and the brown recluse.

Most spiders, if left alone, live about two years with females living longer than males who typically die after mating.

The oldest recorded living spider in the world was a captive 43 year old trapdoor spider from Australia. She died in 2016.

For our July contest, we are asking our readers to identify the object pictured to the right. This photo was submitted by this month's winner, Dave Loerch. If you know what this item is, let us know by visiting [www.thumbprintnews.com](http://www.thumbprintnews.com). GOOD LUCK! 🍀



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# Stains and Sins

By **Rita MacDonald**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

I was only at my son and daughter-in-law's home about ten minutes before the idea of playing our "airplane game" was brought up by my grandchildren. Soon, Lyla and Owen were carrying their small chairs down the stairs to line them up in the foyer. Then they pushed the bar stools from the kitchen out there as well. We each chose a different color of construction paper, drew pictures on them and wrote our names. Voilà! Pretend passports!

The kids got in line with their pretend luggage in the kitchen, gave me their identification and passports to scan, and told me their pretend names while I pretended to be the "ticket checker". We then boarded our pretend airplane, brought our pretend pets with us, clicked our pretend seat belts, and excitedly anticipated our pretend take-off.

Oh, by the way, I was also the pretend pilot.

"Where do you guys wanna go?"

I asked.

"Mississippi!" Lyla shouted. "Let's just find some fun things to do when we get there!" Owen agreed. Owen always agrees with his big sister.

We looked out the pretend windows and spotted some pretend chickens and cows "down there". We even saw a pretend ocean in the middle of the United States, and laughed at the figures we saw in the pretend clouds. The pretend snacks and drinks were delicious, and by the way – you probably guessed – I was also the pretend stewardess.

I know we made it to pretend Mississippi because we deplaned our pretend aircraft, but I think the kids had dinner after that, and it was off to bed, so that pretend trip to Mississippi will have to continue the next time I visit.

On my way out the door, my daughter-in-law hugged me and handed me my son's shirt, and asked, "Any chance you can try to get this stain out of the sleeve?"

Listen...I have too many enjoyable

moments in my week to list here, 'cause I'm a glass-pretty-full-most-of-the-time kinda girl. But this moment was my favorite of the week, and THAT, my friends, is not pretend. It was truly a gift.

My boys are men now – all grown up with lives and families of their own, but it sure is nice once in a while to be reminded that I'm still Mum, and I still have a role in their lives. I was tickled pink when Holly asked me to get those stains out, and it took me way back to Rory and Ian having the cleanest football pants on the team.

Well, I went to work on getting that stain out this evening. Thank God for good old-fashioned Fels Naptha soap! But while I scrubbed, I remembered this hymn. These words are also not pretend. Jesus really can wash away our sin and make us white as snow. Thank you, Holly, a second time, for giving me this moment! I literally scrubbed that sleeve all to the glory of God! 🙏

## What Can Wash Away My Sin? (Nothing but the Blood)

What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
Oh, precious is the flow,  
that makes me white as snow  
No other fount I know  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
For my pardon, yes I see  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
For my cleansing there's my plead  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
Oh, precious is the flow,  
that makes me white as snow  
No other fount I know  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
Nothing can for sin atone  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
Not of good that I have done  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
Oh, precious is the flow,  
that makes me white as snow  
No other fount I know  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
This is all my hope and peace  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
This is all my righteous mess  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
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that makes me white as snow  
No other fount I know  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

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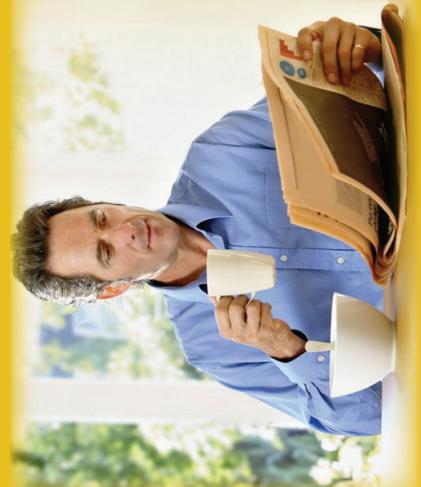
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# JULY

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

If you have an event in August that you would like listed in the August issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) by July 12, 2022. 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 hometown to attend any of these events, please call ahead for any changes in dates or times or for any cancellations.*

## GENESEE

None submitted this month.

## LAPEER

### July 4 – Hadley

**Hadley Mill Museum Open!** Hadley Mill Museum, 3633 S. Hadley Rd., 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stop by to see three floors of Hadley Township history and don't miss the 1923 Jewett automobile on loan from the Stahls Automotive Foundation. Also, the 2021 Community Quilt will be on display. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. More at the Hadley Township Historical Society Facebook Page or at HadleyTownship.org.

### July 15 & 16 – Attica

**Attica Days Festival!** 4350 Peppermill Rd. This is a great festival with indoor and outdoor vendors, entertainment on stage all day, 4:00 p.m. is the Firemen's Spaghetti dinner at the Attica Fire Hall, Seven Ponds astronomy Group with telescopes for your viewing pleasure, 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Burns on Stage on Friday night, with a light show. Saturday will have Eagles Garden beer tent, food trucks, kids central, with The Bubbleman, along with lots of other things to do, petting farm, and for \$10 kids or adults can ride the monster inflatable 27 ft. slide or any other of the four they wish, including a bungee jump and a mechanical bull. Car and Motorcycle Show on Saturday, with prizes, music and a 50/50 raffle. Don't miss the fantastic fireworks right in the park at dusk, followed by live music in the Eagles Garden. For more information visit [atticadays.org](http://atticadays.org).

## MACOMB

### All Month Long

**All of Macomb County Woman's Life Chapter 855 Bottles and Cans Drive**, helping those in need in our community. Make a difference today by donating. For larger donations, we have a pickup service. Call (810) 392-5136 for pickup or drop off places in Memphis and Richmond.

**July 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31  
New Baltimore  
New Baltimore Farmers Market,**

50976 Washington St., between Main and Front Streets, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The market will run every Sunday through October 30. For more information call (586) 215-7484 or email [marketmanager@newbaltimorefarmersmarket.com](mailto:marketmanager@newbaltimorefarmersmarket.com).

### July 6 & 20

**All of Macomb County Confident Communicators Club Toastmasters Meetings**, via Zoom, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. CCC provides a fun, safe and encouraging setting where members can practice speaking and try out new techniques. Register at [confident-communicators-club-meeting.eventbrite.com](https://confident-communicators-club-meeting.eventbrite.com). For more information contact [vpm-1196053@toastmastersclubs.org](mailto:vpm-1196053@toastmastersclubs.org) or visit the CCC website at [bit.ly/cctoastmasters](http://bit.ly/cctoastmasters).

### July 11 – Ray Twp.

**Solve It with Science: Candy Chromatography**, Ray Township Public Library, 64255 Wolcott Rd., 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. What dyes make an M&M candy green? Or a Skittles candy yellow? Do all blue candy coatings contain the same dyes? Join us for another Solve It with Science to learn about chromatography and how to visualize the colors on our favorite candy! This is an EASY, guided science for ages 8-18! Please reserve your free spot in advance by visiting [raylibrary.org](http://raylibrary.org). For more information call (586) 749-7130.

### July 11 & 25 – New Baltimore St. Clair River Club with

**Toastmasters**, MacDonald Public Library, 36480 Main St., 6:30 p.m. This meeting is Hybrid, so it can be attended either in person or through Zoom. Open to all interested parties. Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. For more information call Paul Burger at (734) 837-5807.

### July 12 – Richmond

**Woman's Life Chapter 855 Meeting**, Lois Wagner Memorial Library, 35200 Division Rd., 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. We are a friendly group of women who

enjoy doing charitable acts for those in need in the community. We are looking for new members to help us in our cause. For questions, please call (586) 872-3867.

### July 13 – Roseville

**Tween Breaker Space**, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 2:00 p.m. Take things apart to see what makes them work. With keyboards, phones, and computers, there will be plenty of technology to explore. This event is for tweens going into grades 5 through 8. Registration is required. Registration opened June 22. For more information and a full list of library events, visit [rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events](http://rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events) or call (586) 445-5407.

### July 15 – Roseville

**Family Fun Outdoor Storytime**, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 3:00 p.m. Bring a blanket or chair and get comfy for a camping-themed storytime! We'll hear some fun stories and do a craft. All ages welcome. For more information and a full list of library events, visit [rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events](http://rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events) or call (586) 445-5407.

### July 18 – Roseville

**Regency Aesthetics: Bridgerton's Costumes, Locations and Décor**, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 6:00 p.m. *Bridgerton* is Netflix's latest hit and the most-watched English language show in the streaming service's history. Michelle Fitzgerald, curator of the Johns Hopkins University Museums, will talk about the material world of the hit Netflix series and what it might teach us about the real 19<sup>th</sup> century. Enjoy light refreshments as Michelle joins us via Zoom. You must have a Roseville library card in good standing to register for this program in the first week. For more information and a full list of library events, visit [rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events](http://rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events) or call (586) 445-5407.

### July 22-31 – Romeo

**Simpson Park 157<sup>th</sup> Annual Camp Meeting**, Simpson Park, 70199 Campground Rd., five camp experiences going on this week! There will be Family Camp, Grade 13 Camp, Youth Camp, Tween Camp and the Children's Program. You can come for a day or the whole week! The theme for Annual Camp Meeting this year will be Revive Restore Rejoice "...Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" Psalm 85:6. For more information on who qualifies for each camp, pricing and to register, visit [simpsonparkcamp.org](http://simpsonparkcamp.org) or call (586) 752-3202.

**July 23 & 24 – New Baltimore World War II Reenactment**, The Chesterfield Historical Village Green, 47275 Sugarbush, Saturday: 10:00 a.m.

– 4:00 p.m. and Sunday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. We will host the Michigan Military Technical & Historical Society in public demonstration of authentic World War II combat, encampment life and vehicle display. This event will feature both an Allied & Axis encampment for public display with two public battles on both days (11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.). Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Entrance fee is a donation of \$1 for adults or \$2 for a family. For more information email [micki35@wowway.com](mailto:micki35@wowway.com).

### July 28 – Roseville

**Raising Monarch Butterflies**, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 2:00 p.m. Lori Smith will visit to talk about Monarch butterflies, which she has been raising for nearly a decade. The program will include the life cycle of butterflies, how to raise them and the native Michigan plants that nourish them. Lori will show how you can help save the Monarch butterfly population by growing the plants they eat and lay their eggs on, as well as how to take care of the caterpillars and help them to grow into butterflies. Changing weather patterns have had a profound impact upon the Monarch population. Depending on their health at the time, Lori may be able to bring a few live caterpillars to the library to give you a close-up look! She will also bring photos and videos of her butterflies, as well as seeds for Common Milkweed & Swamp Milkweed plants, which Monarchs love. For more information and a full list of library events, visit [rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events](http://rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events) or call (586) 445-5407.

## OAKLAND

### All Month Long (Wednesdays through Saturdays Only) Bloomfield Hills

**Cranbrook on the Green**, Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., 11:00 a.m. – sunset. The Museum invites visitors to experience a "hole" new experience at their historic campus. They now have an artist-designed miniature golf course on the grounds outside the Museum. The course is open to the public until September 25, every Wednesday through Sunday. Visitors are highly encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance. Each ticket includes admission to the galleries to explore other exhibitions also on view. \$15 for adults, \$10 for ArtMembers and Detroit residents and \$8 for children under 12. For more information or to buy your tickets visit [cranbrookartmuseum.org/mini-golf](http://cranbrookartmuseum.org/mini-golf).

### July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 – Oxford

**Friday Fish Fry**, American Legion Post 108, 130 E. Drahn Rd., noon – 8:00 p.m. Average cost is \$10/person. We have walleye, cod and

shrimp, combo plates and have carry out available. Every Friday! Building is sanitized daily. For more information call (248) 628-9081.

### July 5, 7, 9, 12, 14 & 16 Royal Oak

**Royal Oak Founding Families Homes Exhibit**, Royal Oak Historical Society Museum at the Northwood Firestation, 1411 W. Webster Rd., open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (ending July 16) from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. For more information call (248) 439-1501 or email curator@royaloakhistoricalsociety.org.

## ST. CLAIR

### All Month Long (Mondays through Saturdays Only) – Port Huron

**Blue Water Area Transit's Historic Trolley Service**, starting point is Downtown Blue Water Transit Bus Center, 720 McMorran Blvd., noon – 5:00 p.m. The trolley follows a one-hour route that features over 50 local points of interest. Passengers can get on and off the trolley at 17 points along the route, including hotels and marinas. It costs just 10¢ per person, just 5¢ for senior citizens (60 and up) and persons with valid Medicare cards and handicapped people. For more information call (810) 987-7373 or visit bwbus.com/blue-water-trolley.

### July 1 – Smiths Creek All You Can Eat Fish Fry

American Legion Post 525, 7150 Smiths Creek Rd., 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. First Friday of every month! Cost is \$10 for adults and \$4 for 12 and under. For more information call Sherwood Frazer at (810) 367-3244.

### July 1-5 – Algonac 84<sup>th</sup> Algonac Lions Pickerel

**Tournament**, downtown Algonac, 9:00 a.m. Antique & Classic Boat Parade on Saturday, street parade on Sunday, and even more events throughout the weekend. There will be a fishing tournament, fireworks,

carnival games and rides, food vendors, beer tent and much more! For more information call (810) 512-8020 or email algonaclions@yahoo.com.

### July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Burtchville

**Teen Tidal Trivia**, Burtchville Library, 7093 Second St., 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Teens answer the Tidal Trivia question of the day, turn your answer in at the circulation desk, and receive a prize for participation. New Tidal Trivia questions will be posted at the Burtchville Library every day for the month of July. Ages 13-18. No registration required. For more information or a full list of library events, visit stclaircountylibrary.org/events and select your local library or call (810) 385-8550.

### July 6 – St. Clair

**St. Clair Kennel Club General Meeting**, Drifter's Restaurant and Lounge, 201 N. Riverside (located in the southeast corner of north side of mall, formerly Achatz Restaurant), 7:30 p.m. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at an area restaurant. Come to see what we're all about! Future dates, times and other events can be found on our website stclairkc.org. For more information email stclairkennelclub@gmail.com.

**July 6, 13, 20 & 27 – Marysville  
Knights of Columbus #9526  
Wednesday Bingo**, Knight Club, 1195 Gratiot Blvd., 6:15 p.m. start time. (Doors open 2 hours prior.) For more information call (810) 300-4891.

### July 14 – Port Huron

**Operation Transformation's Family Night**, NE Corner of the 10<sup>th</sup> St. Bridge, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Operation Transformation, along with main sponsors, Blue Water Area Churches, James C. Acheson Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Port Huron, Power 88.3/90.7 Hope FM, and Woman's Life Chapters 800 & 808, are sponsoring FREE Family Activities on Thursday night of the Blue Water

Fest (during the Mackinac Sailboat Race Week). This positive, family-friendly event will have fun activities that include: pony rides, petting zoo, carnival games, crafts, corn hole, balloon animals, giveaways and so much more! All activities are free. To get more information visit optrans.org or call (810) 966-8660.

**July 14 & 19 – Capac  
Creative Canvas Bag**, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Decorate a canvas bag with a wide variety of materials such as jean pockets, burlap, stencils, markers and more! For more information or a full list of library events, visit stclaircountylibrary.org/events and select your local library or call (810) 395-7000.

**July 18 – Port Huron  
Port Huron Elks Lodge #343's  
40<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Blood Drive**, Port Huron Elks Lodge #343, 3292 Beach Rd., noon – 6:00 p.m. We have been supporting the American Red Cross since our first blood drive on January 7, 2013, and have collected over 155 gallons of blood. To make an appointment, please call (800) RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go to RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: porthuronelks343. For more information call (810) 982-8531 or email elks343@comcast.net.

## SANILAC

### July 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 Port Sanilac

**Port Sanilac Lighthouse Tour**, Port Sanilac Lighthouse, 81 S. Lake St., noon – 4 p.m. This event is presented by the Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum and goes through the first Friday of September. Tours are just \$5 for adults, and children 12 and under are free with paid adult admission (kids must be 36" in height). No reservations or tickets necessary. Closed-toe shoes are mandatory. There are additional

packages available too! For more information call (810) 622-9946.

### July 10 – Port Sanilac “Live from the Carriage Barn Stage” Concert

Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum, 228 S. Ridge St., 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Join us for this open air concert featuring Djangophonique, a virtuosic, instrumentally driven, acoustic jazz quartet, with special guest performance by Bill Russell. Tickets available at the door. For more information call (810) 622-9946.

### July 14 & 28 – Sandusky Thumb Dance Club

Knights of Columbus, 145 W. Wedge Rd., (1 ½ miles south of downtown on M19), 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Dances will now be on the second and fourth Thursdays! Please join us for fun, fellowship, live music and good fun for only \$5. Please bring a snack to share or a dish to pass. This is a smoke and alcohol-free environment. The dance is a nice place to celebrate a birthday or anniversary with friends and family. Hope to see you there! For more information call (810) 310-2715.

### July 23 – Port Sanilac Port Sanilac Garden Club: Mindful Meandering & Stone

**Mission Marketplace**, Stone Mission & other sites, 6751 Mann Rd., 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Enjoy a walk through three large grounds with abundant and colorful flowers, take an educational tour in a lakeside neighborhood to explore butterflies, wetlands and hügelkultur, and discover several small but wonderful gardens in a mobile home park. Visit the historic Stone Mission and browse the merchant booths for nature themed products, such as garden art, farmed goods, beach-find art or homemade plant-based products. Information on tickets, time and special tours can be found at our events page on Facebook @PortSanilacGardenClub or by calling (248) 736-4964.



## Michigan-Made Snack Contest

### \$50,000 IN CASH PRIZES

New and emerging small snack food businesses in Michigan will be able to compete for \$50,000 in cash prizes this September in Port Huron, Michigan.

The “MI New Favorite Snack” contest is being billed as the biggest snack food contest in America.

“The growth of new small craft and niche snack food companies in Michigan is exciting,” said Duncan Smith, President & C.O.O. of All Star Services Inc., based in Port Huron. “All Star Services is a growing small business and we want to help bring more focus to the growing segment of snack food companies in Michigan.” In addition to the top cash

prize of \$30,000 the winning company will also receive a distribution contract with All Star Services, which is a state-of-the art food and beverage service provider throughout Michigan.

The contest is open to any Michigan-based snack food company with 10 employees or less.

The cash prizes are being provided by the Community Foundation of St. Clair County and the James C. Acheson donor advised fund.

**The event will be held September 17<sup>th</sup> in downtown Port Huron along the shores of the St. Clair River at Vantage Point from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The registration deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup> and the entry fee is \$100.**

More complete details can be found on the Blue Water Chamber's website at: [web.bluewaterchamber.com/events/MI-New-Favorite-Snack-Contest-6637/details](http://web.bluewaterchamber.com/events/MI-New-Favorite-Snack-Contest-6637/details)

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1800

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Lapeer County HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Senior Program in Lapeer County provides in-home supportive services, such as personal care and homemaking, as well as care management services which are available for seniors who have multiple needs and are at risk of nursing home placement. These services enable some seniors to maintain an independent lifestyle. Other services include respite care, home maintenance, and transportation within Lapeer County for seniors who qualify.

The Lapeer County Health Department wants to remind voters that on August 2, they can vote to renew the expiring senior millage, with an additional 0.1459 mills in order to maintain current levels of service. The total .3916 mills (about .39¢ for each \$1,000 of taxable value) would be for a period of four years, 2023 through 2026.



## What You Can Do for Your Pet with Noise Phobia

By Dr. Elizabeth Gray, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Thunderstorms and fireworks are both abundant during the summer, but all the noise can be frightening and even dangerous for some animals. Noisy fireworks, and other celebrations, can cause your pet to panic. Some animals injure themselves trying to escape from the noise. Other pets even attempt to attack the noises. Make sure your family is prepared for the sounds of summer.

Taking a few precautionary steps will ensure everyone has a fun and safe time.

Here are steps you can take:

- 1) Identification
- 2) Set up an environment for success
- 3) Ask your vet

### 1) Identification

Every pet needs an identification tag with up-to-date information. Consider adding an additional contact phone number as a backup.

The more information you can provide on the tag the better. If your pet does not routinely wear a collar, make sure they are microchipped. Even cats who stay strictly indoors should be protected in case of an accidental escape.

If your pets aren't already microchipped, ask your veterinarian. This simple and relatively inexpensive device has led to the return of many lost furry family members.

Microchips are approximately the size of a grain of rice. They can quickly and easily be inserted under your pet's skin with a specially made syringe. A great time to consider microchipping is while your dog or cat is under anesthesia, such as for spaying or neutering.

If your pets are already microchipped, take the time to ensure your information is up to date.



George in his "safe place"

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has initiated a "check the chip" day. Visit [avma.org](http://avma.org) for more information regarding microchipping, including frequently asked questions.

In addition to a microchip, take a current photo of your cats and dogs – just in case you need to send out lost pet information quickly.

### 2) Set up an environment for success

Many pets will find a "safe place" in your home if they are afraid of noises. Some pets like to hide, while others want to be right next to their family. Common hiding spots include under a bed or other furniture, and even in the bathtub.

Figure out what seems to keep your pet the calmest and make sure they have access to their favorite location.

In addition, make sure your doors, gates, fences, etc. are secure. This ensures an extra layer of safety in the event of a panicked pet attempting to flee.

If your pet has historically been anxious when loud noises occur, or if you have reason to expect potentially harmful reactions, consider behavioral therapy to desensitize your pet and reduce the risk of problems. Snug-fitting shirts sold at most pet stores can be beneficial to decreasing stress. The compression of the shirt has been shown to calm some pets. Distractions such as treat-filled toys or puzzles can keep them busy and lessen the disturbance. Sometimes leaving on the television or music can help decrease reactions to loud booms. There are also commercially available pheromone diffusers and collars for both dogs and cats designed to lessen stress. A multi-modal approach will give you the best chance at successfully navigating loud events.

### 3) Ask your vet

Even with making environmental modifications, some pets may benefit from medication. Several medications can be administered as an oral tablet or gel that quickly act to decrease stress. These can be given when a storm blows in or fireworks are exploding nearby. Other medications are given on a longer-term basis to combat unexpected loud events, as well as generalized anxiety. There are even daily probiotic supplements formulated to combat stress. Sometimes a combination of medications gives the best support. Consult your veterinarian for options that are right for your pet. 🐾

*Editorial note: Dr. Gray serves the St. Clair County area with In The Pink Mobile Veterinary Services. She is based out of Goodells, Michigan. To reach out to Dr. Gray, please call (810) 985-3011 or visit her website at [inthepinkpetcare.com](http://inthepinkpetcare.com).*

**PET PHOTO CHALLENGE**  
THUMBPRINT NEWS

**THIS IS GROOT, AKA GROOTSY BOY.**

He is a 2-year-old Uromastyx/spiny-tailed lizard. Like most lizards, he is very shy but curious. Shortly after I got him, he escaped his enclosure with the assistance of my mischievous house cat, Willow, who probably just wanted to chase him and eat him. Luckily he is faster than she is. We searched everywhere we thought a lizard might hide from a cat. We ripped rooms apart and set lizard traps. Two weeks later, my mom found him chillin' on the floor of her bedroom next to her side of the bed. She screamed very loud. My dad had to come rescue Groot from the screaming woman and relocate him to his home. I was at work at the time this happened and am sorry I missed all the excitement. We have since made the door to his enclosure cat proof.

In this photo, he is getting ready to eat his favorite treat, dandelion flowers, and probably wondering what the heck that paper thing is next to his food bowl.

**Thank you, Alayna, for sharing Groot (and Willow) with us.**

**YOU CAN VIEW OUR ENTIRE MENAGERIE AT**  
[www.bit.ly/tpnpets](http://www.bit.ly/tpnpets) (make sure you type the link in with all lowercase letters)

**JOIN THE FUN! How to submit:** \*Please submit good quality .jpeg photo(s) of your pet or another animal posing with our paper to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net). Include a few sentences about your pet(s). When your photo(s) appear in the paper, we will be sure to send you a complimentary copy, so please include your full name and address with your submission. Submissions can also be mailed to: TPN Travels, 8061 Marsh Rd., Clay, MI 48001.

## Notes from our Readers

Hello TPN staff,

I wanted to let you know I pick up your paper every chance that I find it – which I do find it!

The stories are some of the best I've ever read. Your paper is one of the best things that I have. And I keep it until I finish the whole thing and then pass it along to friends. I just want to congratulate you, all the time, on the such good writing.

Today, I visited a donut shop and I picked up my copy that has the "Catholepistemiad", University of Michigan, article. That was simply just very, very good writing and just wonderful to read.

Thank you for providing this free newspaper. Now, I'm going to eat half this donut and finish reading the paper!

Georgia H.

---

We received a call from *ThumbPrint News* reader Tom Nash, on June 7, in response to the June issue cover article, "Catholepistemiad", to let us know that Father Gabriel Richard, who is featured in the article, has ties to Marine City. Tom wanted to pass on the information to us and our readers that it was Father Richard who secured the land for Holy Cross Church in 1824, when he purchased the peninsula formed by the St. Clair and Belle River. – paying \$82.33 for the land which he placed in trust for the inhabitants of the parish.

Thank you, Tom, for bringing this wonderful historic fact to us.

– Laura Irwin, "Catholepistemiad" author



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My memory often allows me to travel back to a time in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century when life seemed to be much easier and finding something to do was not a problem. Of course, being ten years old in the 1950s was far less complicated than it is now, more than 65 years later.

At this time of year, I especially recall my excitement the week prior to the annual Pickerel Tournament in small-town Algonac. It was a time when the traveling carnival would roll into town and begin the placement of rides. Sure, I liked the carnival, but it was almost more fun watching the carnies construct the thrilling rides and place the numerous booths that would, in just a few days, attract hundreds of people. Each day, early in the morning, I would travel on my bicycle the few blocks to where the show was beginning to take shape. I would only journey back to my home at mid-day for lunch and return until late afternoon. I felt a part of the great show as I watched it come together. Now, if I may add sarcastically, that may not sound as exciting as a day filled with video games and social media exploration, but for me it was.

Then when the carnival opened for the public and I returned with a parent, I was the authority in explaining how the ride was put together and where the numerous game booths were where you could win a stuffed teddy bear or a plaster Kewpie doll. I even knew where the cotton candy and caramel popcorn concessions could be found.

You see, I was well prepared and now a part of the show.

Unfortunately, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to experience that same feeling today. There are no more midway shows featuring the bearded woman or the man with six fingers on each hand. You will not find the extremely tall man, the very short woman, or the dog with five legs. Oh, you may find them, but now it's on the internet.

Carnival-goers today, if you can find a traveling carnival, will find none of those features on the midway. Even the rides are different and would be a disappointment to someone who remembers something much different in the mid-1950s. The glowing neon lights on the Ferris wheel have been replaced with more energy-conservative LED ones. The oddity of the so-called "freak" sideshows, and similar exotic demonstrations, do not exist anymore. They have faded away in this new era that seems to be more sensitive to human

abnormalities. Carnival-goers would probably not pay the price to glare at an extremely obese man or watch a very little person sing and dance.

The day of the traveling carnivals found in small-town America each summer is probably gone or are much smaller than they once were. Certainly, the expense of maintaining the equipment, liability insurance, trucks to haul the equipment, cost of gasoline and low local attendance have all added to the disappearance of the carnivals we once knew.

But, for just one weekend somewhere in a small town in the Thumb area of Michigan, wouldn't it be great to experience the very same carnival that existed in the mid-1950s?

Close your eyes and spend a few minutes remembering the lingering odors of the carnival, especially the smell of treats we may now identify as a fast-food. Can you hear the whirling sounds of the various rides and the recorded music each provided? Do you feel the single coin held tightly in your hand as you stand in line to purchase a ticket for your turn on the merry-go-round? Do you recall how good it felt when your tossed ring landed on the pop bottle and you walked away with your trophy, a meaningless toy produced in a foreign country? Can you relive the time when you were old enough to be the driver of a bumper car and intentionally hit other vehicles?

In many small rural towns across America, the arrival and presentation of the annual summer highlighted event was great entertainment. Well

before television, sporting events and all else that captured our time, the traveling carnival was an inexpensive thrill. Beginning during the Great Depression, the small-town carnival was entertainment for those considered poor and middle class. A nickel would go a long way. And, during those times in the 1930s, 1940s and into the 1950s, the real heydays of the traveling carnival, they were not competing with other entertainment forms, especially major amusement parks, multi-channel television or the now attention-getting video games. Certainly, other forms of entertainment have replaced watching a human sword swallower or fire-eater. Who now would wait in a long line for a five-minute turn on the ever-swirling, breath-taking ride that left you dizzy and with a knot in your stomach?

Thank you TPN readers for taking this journey down memory lane with me. Possibly in your dreams tonight you will hear, "Step right up, step right up. For a mere ten cents, one-tenth of a dollar, you can be a proud winner of a great teddy bear for your girlfriend." Or maybe you will wake up tasting cotton candy. 🍭





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