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Managing Your Every Day Stresses & Anxieties

PORT CRESCENT

More Than Just A State Park

By E.J. Tipper, *ThumbPrint News* Staff Writer

There are so many small towns in Michigan with rich and fascinating histories that have unfortunately been swept under the rug with people never knowing of their existence. These small, historic towns have slowly faded away, their history often forgotten, moved further from our memories and teachings with each passing generation. Even if one were to venture to these towns' locations, there's little to no physical evidence indicating the richness of their extraordinary existence and contribution to our modern-day lives. The local libraries' historical sections, museums and the towns' historical societies hold the important information on these forgotten places, one just has to do some digging. Sharing these stories will hopefully remind future generations to appreciate the tales and trials of our historical past.

Just a few miles southwest of Port Austin in the Thumb of Michigan, one such town sits quietly abandoned. I am talking about Port Crescent which is now known simply as Port Crescent State Park, but many moons ago, it was something completely different. At one point in history, Port Crescent was a prosperous and thriving lumber and salt town, full of businesses, residents and a promising future. Most people aren't even aware it was once a town at all, adding this historical city to the long, growing list of Michigan's ghost towns.

In 1844, a man by the name of Walter Hume founded a hotel and trading post along the Pinnebog River. He began a town in a location where there was nothing

except for trees, unsure of what the future held. The town originally became known as Pinnebog (pronounced pin-a-bog – meaning merely, pine bog), obviously due to its location. Although it may have had a slow start, once the town gained traction, there seemed to be no stopping it. However, as the town began to grow, confusion with the name also began to grow because there was another small town named Pinnebog that already existed a mere five miles to the south. Many of the residents wanted to fight to keep the name Pinnebog, but it was eventually changed to Port Crescent by the postmaster due to the fact that its beach looked like a crescent shape.

The first sawmill in the town was opened by Woods and Company in 1851, and with practically an endless supply of lumber, they began felling the trees and sending them to the mill to be finished. They shipped finished lumber all along the Great Lakes. In 1868, Port Crescent opened the first steam-powered gristmill in Huron County. For those of you who don't know (myself included), a gristmill is where grains are ground into flour or meal. Most mills today are electric-powered mills, but some water-powered mills are still being used.

Around the same time the gristmill was established, the town's post office came into existence, followed by a telegraph service in 1871. With a post office and telegraph service, this small town now had a way to send and receive messages to and from all around the country, and they continued to thrive. There was even a stagecoach

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Pinnebog River that runs through the Port Crescent State Park



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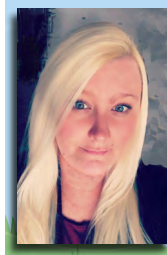
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Spring & Spiders

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

PESTERING PROBLEMS

With spring officially here, we have much to look forward to. Who doesn't love the smell of blooming flowers and the sound of chirping birds in the morning? The sun shines a little brighter over the lengthening days, the grass begins to turn to that lush shade of green, and cute critters start to appear, looking for a nice leafy snack. Along with all of these wonderful elements, I'm sure you're aware that spring also brings quite a few not so enjoyable things with it – specifically those eight-legged, creepy crawlers. Not to mention those giant invisible webs I know we've all walked through first thing in the morning.

As the weather warms, spiders seem to come out of the woodwork, invading our homes, inside and out! Several of these spiders we encounter are species native to Michigan; however, some non-native ones can be crafty hitchhikers that make their way into our fine state. Knowing more about the species found all over North America can help you and your loved ones. Some just cause a nuisance in our lives, while others can cause severe allergic reactions and medical conditions to people, as well as physical damage to our homes. It's important for you to know the difference as you begin to see them emerge. Right now, I want to teach you a little more about two extremely feared and frequently discussed types of spiders – black widow and brown recluse.

First of all, you should know how to identify these spiders.



*Brown
Recluse*

The brown recluse is unique because of the violin-like shape found on the cephalothorax. The black widow can be recognized by the red hourglass-like shape on the underside of their abdomen.

Secondly, you should know that these spiders are ones to be cautious of. A bite from either of them can cause serious medical conditions, which may require professional medical attention. Although the black widow is not likely to bite for no reason, they will bite when picked up or pinched between our skin and another object. The venom of the black widow is very toxic, making their bite one of the most dangerous in the United States.

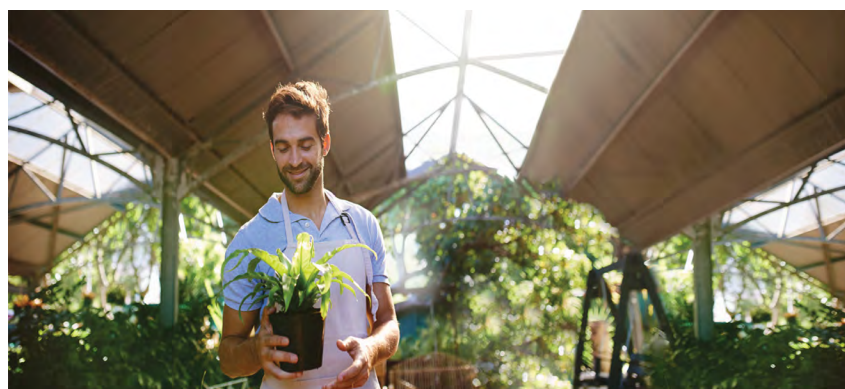


*Black Widow
(topside view
above, underside
view below)*

Despite extensive effort from many homeowners, spiders are commonly found inside homes. Like I mentioned earlier, they can be crafty! They can enter through holes in screens, cracks under doors and around improperly sealed wires or pipes. They can also come in on grocery bags, pets or even on our children's backpacks. Once inside, they start to multiply quickly, making their presence known inside our nice and comfy homes. They love to take up residence in the areas we don't frequent, such as attics, basements and even behind drywall. Pesticide applications on the interior of your home will help to reduce the number of invaders, but because of their hitchhiking abilities, interior treatments are recommended on a monthly basis.

Now, I know there are some out there who actually like spiders, since they can be beneficial by eating other pesky insects, as well as inspiring some pretty awesome superheroes. However, it is important to know they can also cause extensive damage to the exterior of our homes. Spider droppings are highly acidic, and when not cleaned up for extended periods of time, the marks can become impossible to remove. These droppings will stain vinyl siding and can even cause pitting in the material. The best way to stop this damage is a preventative pesticide application. Even if a spider isn't hitching a ride on your dog, they can just as easily web in from surrounding trees, shrubs or nearby structures, making complete elimination impossible. However, regular pesticide treatments will greatly reduce the spider population in and around your home.

ABC Bees, a division of ABC Home & Commercial Services, is an all around home service company that can help you combat interior and exterior spiders! As the weather gets warm and sunny, the presence of spiders will increase – it is best to get an early preventative treatment, instead of waiting until you have a heavy infestation. The products we use have no negative effects on people or animals and there is no need to leave your home during treatment. Call ABC Bees today to speak with one of our friendly customer service representatives and schedule your appointment at (810) 794-5678. 🐝



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Native American Words of Wisdom

"Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing, and always come back again to where they were. The life of a person is a circle from childhood to childhood, and so it is in everything where power moves." - Black Elk (Heháká Sápa)

Nicholas Black Elk, (Dec. 1863 - Aug. 1950) was a *wichásha wakhán* (medicine man) of the Oglala Lakota people. He was born along a tributary of the Yellowstone River in the Lakota time of "the Winter When the Four Crows Were Killed on Tongue River". In his later years, he converted to Catholicism and was known to be comfortable praying with his pipe and his rosary. He participated in Mass and Lakota ceremonies on a regular basis.

Nicholas Black Elk, daughter, Lucy Black Elk, wife, Anna Brings White
photographed in their home in Manderson, South Dakota, ca 1910. Black Elk wears a suit, his wife wears a long dress decorated with elk's teeth and a hair pipe necklace.
Photo credit Wikipedia

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THUMBPRINT NEWS CONTEST

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object, person or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, go to www.thumbprintnews.com and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting the correct answer by the 12th 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 2024 issue! On December 13, 2023, one winner will be drawn out of all the monthly winners and that lucky person will be notified via email.



For our March 2023 contest, we asked our readers to identify what is being pictured to the left. Of all of those submitting the correct answer, Elma Pearn of Troy, Michigan, was randomly chosen as March's winner. Elma identified the picture is the family that sits in the right hand of *The Spirit of Detroit* monument.



This large bronze statue, created by Marshall Fredericks, is located at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center on Woodward Avenue. The entire statue is 26 feet and 9 tons, and it sits on a 60-ton marble base.

The figure himself is meant to symbolize the spirit of man. In his left hand is a gilt bronze sphere emanating rays to symbolize God, and the family in his right hand is meant to symbolize all human relationships.

The monument was dedicated on September 23, 1958, without a name. However, the informal name that came from the people of Detroit, *The Spirit of Detroit*, was likely inspired by the biblical verse inscribed on the marble wall behind the figure: II Corinthians 3:17

"Now the Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."



For our APRIL 2023 contest, we are asking our readers to identify what is pictured to the left and where it can be found. If you think you know, visit www.thumbprintnews.com to answer. GOOD LUCK!

By Pamela Lynn Hayes, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

COTTAGE LIVING

We made it to our Michigan Spring Renewal of 2023! It won't be long now until the official opening of the cottage takes place! The water gets turned back on in a few weeks and the early fresh blooms begin to reach up from the grass.

This month holds for us Earth Day, which is April 22nd, and of course Easter on April 9th, one of my favorite holidays second only to the Fourth of July. We will be seeing the Pink Moon on April 5th. I am looking forward to the starry warmer nights at the cottage, it may be a month or so for some warmer temperatures, but I can't wait!

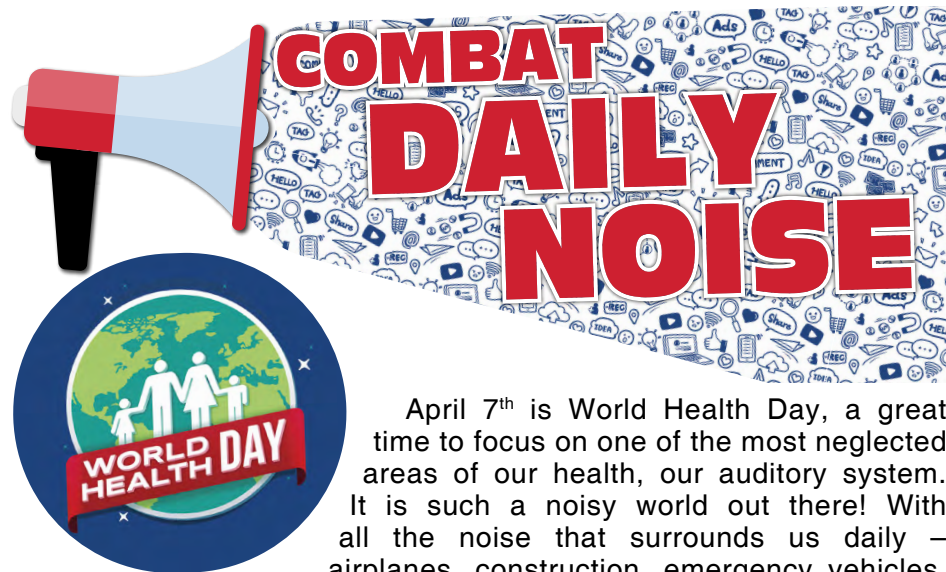
The evenings are still a bit chilly right now, but the cold won't last too much longer, hopefully. I am looking forward to a bonfire at night and busy weekend day cleaning and prepping for the summer landscaping.

Not long now and the windows can be open for a bit to air out the stuffy old winter air. It may be a bit early to set out the lawn furniture at this point, but the outside clean-up can begin. Spring cleaning is so much more fun than closing up the place for winter. Now the weekend plans will be more focused on heading up and enjoying the cottage for the spring and summer seasons. I have to say I do like taking down the winter window decorations and putting up Easter and springtime items better around this time of year as well.

I also look forward to seeing my up north neighbors as they are also opening up their little places. This year, I plan on inviting more guests and enjoying some social time, as last year really didn't allow me to do much socializing.

It's been a long dreary winter but it's over (kind of) and we now welcome spring to Michigan! I, for one, am ecstatic about that! We have been cooped up indoors way too long, time to wake up and come out of hibernation. Get outdoors and enjoy this beautiful spring weather! 🌱

Happy Easter, *ThumbPrint News* Readers!



April 7th is World Health Day, a great time to focus on one of the most neglected areas of our health, our auditory system. It is such a noisy world out there! With all the noise that surrounds us daily – airplanes, construction, emergency vehicles, motorcycles, fireworks, loud music – we are all at risk for some level of hearing loss in the future. According to the Hearing Loss Association of America, approximately 48 million Americans (20 percent) report some degree of hearing loss. That's why it's so important to have our hearing checked regularly, especially as we get older. Hearing loss is dangerous if left untreated, so it is imperative to address the condition as early as possible. Hearing loss has been linked to other health conditions such as: dementia, Alzheimer's, emotional strain, fatigue, depression, social isolation and increases in one's risk of falling.

It's always important to be proactive about your health and take advantage of your local hearing care providers that offer free hearing screenings. Screenings help detect the start of hearing loss and prevent further hearing issues. Do you feel like you should schedule a hearing test, but feel curious what the visit entails? It's normal to hesitate on taking the first step, but rest assured, there's nothing to worry about and you'll be thankful you did!

THE OFFICE VISIT – STEP BY STEP

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Are you outdoorsy? Do you frequent restaurants and public places? Do you enjoy television, music, movies and lectures? All of these kinds of things and more play into the development of hearing loss and the type of hearing aids right for you, if should you need them.

Second Step: Review of your general health and hearing history. Many people are surprised by how much our overall health and the medications we take can impact our hearing. Several common conditions can adversely affect our ability to hear.

Third Step: Hearing evaluation. A hearing evaluation includes several tests that measure how well you hear a variety of sounds, such as tones and speech. It will consist of a visual examination of your ear using an otoscope, an air and bone conduction test and word discrimination test.

Fourth Step: Hearing test results. After your hearing evaluation, your specialist will review your results on an audiogram, which is a visual representation of how well you are hearing. Based on the findings, either your hearing is in tip top shape and you should repeat testing once a year, or you will proceed to the fifth step.

Fifth Step: Diagnosis and treatment plan. If a hearing loss is found and hearing aids are able to treat your loss, the specialist will give a comprehensive diagnosis and suggest a wide range of hearing products to fit your hearing care needs, lifestyle and budget.

Editor's 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 or call to schedule a free hearing exam at one of their 38 locations: (810) 356-0559.

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On-Staff Advanced Nurse Practitioner	Full-Time	X	X
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*Source: www.Medicare.gov/NursingHomeCompare



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Never Too OLD to Play with Dolls

By **Theresa Nielsen**
ThumbPrint News Columnist

Playing with dolls as a little girl seems like a lifetime ago. My sisters and I, along with the neighbor girls, would push our doll strollers down the street and around the block, not once but several times a day. I remember dressing and undressing my dolls, always making sure they were lovely as could be.

My favorite kind of dolls were the baby dolls, they reminded me of watching my mom as she cared for my younger siblings. My mom had lots of babies. I have to wonder now, was I in training for the real thing? Our house had a large front porch, and on rainy days, that's where we played with our dolls. At the end of the day, I would always see my mom lining our dolls up, rearranging their clothes and making them look neat, until the next

time.

When I was a few years older, my dad remodeled our basement so us kids would have more room to play and Mom would have the laundry room in the basement too. Our family was growing once again. But still, there was my mom, after doing a load of laundry, lining up all the dolls on the ledge and fixing their clothes. Though I do remember one time I was upset to see she threw away one of my favorite dolls, but it was only after my little Molly had a run-in with my brother.

At Christmastime, the Sears catalog would arrive showing all the new dolls. They had Betsy Wetsy and Chatty Cathy and of course the Gerber baby. Oh, and lots and lots of Barbie dolls. I really only liked baby dolls, after my mother, I guess. I never gave much thought to Barbie, well other than for a minute when a girl from the neighborhood showed up with a whole suitcase full of them. I might have played that afternoon, but Barbie just didn't have the same appeal. Of course, at that time my younger sisters wanted me to try my hand at making doll clothes for

them. I tried, but it was too hard and the dolls were so small.

Eventually, as I grew up, I found myself helping my mom, putting to use everything I had practiced with my baby dolls. I was changing real diapers and feeding babies and cooking, oh my. It didn't leave much time for playing with dolls, but I kept them on my bed just the same. I let my younger sisters play with my dolls until one day they left them out in the rain.

Many years later when I got married and moved away, I would see dolls like the ones I played with at garage sales. If they were in good shape, I would buy them and bring them home. I would fix their hair, and even tried my hand at making clothes for them again, and this time I was able to! I made so many sets of clothes and even made little doll quilts for their beds too.

Then one day I discovered Raggedy Ann and Andy at an estate sale. They became some of my favorites, every time I went to a sale or a doll

show I would look for them.

For a short while, I made porcelain dolls. They were a lot of work and soon supplies to make them were harder to find. So now they just sit in my collection, along with a few antique dolls, a flapper doll and some doll furniture.

Dolls don't seem to be loved and treasured today like they were when I was young. It seems our children and grandchildren aren't interested in anything old, which includes dolls. For now, my dolls are still very much loved and a joy to have in my home. Of course, I'm all grown up now, but the little girl in me is here to stay. 🌱





BATAAN: Let's Remember Not to Forget

By David Gillis, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

I am a firm believer that if we forget the horrific atrocities of war, we are doomed to experience similarities again. I think we have already witnessed that during the brief history of our nation.

What comes to mind, especially in this month of April, is a specific event of World War II that many attempted to forget after it occurred. In fact, it

was not included in many of the textbooks used in our schools for more than 60 years. As a young Air Force airman in the early 1960s, I knew an aging non-commissioned officer who would talk about it with an emotional tremor in his voice. This high-ranking sergeant, when he was a young Army enlistee, was an unfortunate participant who survived the *Bataan Death March*.

Before we look at this abominable event of the last century's greatest war, let us examine why it was left out of the teaching curriculum for so many years. In many ways, it was as important and possibly even more significant than Pearl Harbor. However, because of the stigma of military defeat, it was not commemorated in this country nor was it taught in our schools. The "Fall of Bataan" on April 9, 1942, is often only remembered today as the largest single surrender in U.S. military history. What is not remembered is its much greater significance. But let us take a look at what I am referring to.

The day following the Japanese bombing of the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Japan's invasion of the Philippines began. In less than a month, the Japanese had captured Manila, the capital of the Philippines, forcing the American and Filipino defenders to retreat the Bataan Peninsula. For the next three

months, despite the lack of naval and air support, the combined U.S.-Filipino army stood their ground. On April 9, with his forces crippled by starvation and disease, U.S. General Edward King Jr. sadly surrendered the approximately 76,000 troops he commanded at Bataan.

It was on the following day, the 10th of April 1942, in this remembered WWII event in the Pacific theater that the *Bataan Death March* began as American and Filipino prisoners were forced to march to a camp near San Fernando. Of the approximate 76,000 Allied POWs, 12,000 were Americans. All were forced to walk 65 miles under a blazing sun without food or water to the POW camp, resulting in more than 5,000 American deaths.

For the forced march, men were divided into groups of about 100 for the six-day journey. Thousands of troops died because of the brutality of their captors, who starved and beat them, bayoneting those too weak. Survivors were taken by rail from San Fernando to prisoner-of-war camps, where thousands more died from disease, mistreatment and starvation.

As mentioned, what is often not remembered is this event's far greater significance in the entire war. The U.S. Army Forces of the Far East consisting of 12,000 Philippine Scouts, 19,000 Americans, and 118,000 Philippine Commonwealth troops were able to disrupt the Imperial Japanese Army's timetable and prevent them from reaching Australia as was planned. The delay allowed the Allied Forces to bring together the necessary resources to, in reality, turn the tide of the war and assure ultimate victory.

American military forces avenged its defeat in the Philippines with the invasion of the island of Leyte in October 1944. Two years earlier General Douglas MacArthur famously promised to return to the Philippines and in February 1945 made good on his word. The combined forces of the Americans and Filipinos recaptured the Bataan Peninsula,



liberating Manila in early March. Clearly, without the Bataan experience, the war would have continued for a much longer period and, possibly, much worse. Think what our national society and even government might look like today should this not have happened.

After the war, an American military tribunal tried the Japanese commander of the Philippines invasion, Lieutenant General Homma Masaharu. He was held responsible for the death march, a war crime, and was executed by firing squad on April 3, 1946.

Over the years, I have told this story to others and remain concerned as to why so few are even aware that it happened. I have found that younger people who may now receive a glimpse of the event in school sociology courses have parents

who are not aware. I have even told the story to some young veterans of military service who only knew the title, *Bataan Death March*, without understanding the significance.

Philosopher George Santayana once said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." American author Mark Twain somewhat challenged the quote when he said, "History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes." Either way, the message is clear, and the *Bataan Death March* may be an example. 🇺🇸

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MARKET MATTERS

We are entering our spring residential real estate market with buyer demand down so far this year and buyer choices still limited by low inventory. The rate of home price increases is lower and flattening.

As buyers contemplate home affordability due to inflation, the slowing economy, and higher mortgage costs, we are seeing more sellers reducing their asking prices and/or offering buyer incentives in order to make deals. Percent of List Price Received has dropped this year from 99.2% to 97.4% and Average Days on Market has increased from 36 days to 44 days.

The average 30-year fixed rate in Michigan in mid-March was just over 7% and the 15-year fixed rate was 6.38%. The Federal Reserve has signaled its intention to continue raising the benchmark Federal Funds Rate. Fed Chairman Jay Powell cautioned in his March congressional testimony on monetary policy that if inflation data remains strong, he expects rates to go “higher than previously anticipated” and possibly at a faster pace.

HOME BUYER TIPS

You’ve made the decision to buy, now what?

Buying a new home is a thrilling event, whether it’s your first home or your third. But it can also be a stressful one if you haven’t done your homework.

It’s always hard to predict the future, especially with the housing market. But one thing is sure – real estate remains a sound investment. If you’re looking for your dream home, here are some tips to help set you up for success and guide you through this buying season.

Use a Real Estate Professional – this just makes sense. While you will likely do preliminary looking at houses online on your own and driving through areas and neighborhoods of interest to you, most buyers find great value in working with a Realtor® who will provide them timely and valuable information and efficient access to view properties of interest. Particularly during these challenging and changing market conditions, Buyers appreciate the support provided by having an experienced Realtor® in their corner

to assist and guide them through the buying and closing processes of this most important life transaction.

Assess Your Financial Situation and See What You Qualify For – Evaluate your income, savings, debts and monthly spending, so you have a clear and realistic picture of your finances. You need to know how much you can afford to put toward a down payment and monthly payments including taxes and insurance. Check your credit score, speak to lenders (more than one) and get a mortgage pre-approval early in the process to be sure your plan is realistic. You will need a mortgage pre-approval to ensure that sellers take you seriously and enable you to make a strong offer. Your Realtor® will need to know the type of financing you are using to best assist you with your offers when you find properties of interest.

When You’ve Found the One – A house that meets all or most of your wish list, is within your price range and you’re sure the location is a fit can be tough to find; once you do, it’s time to make an offer setting forth all the terms and conditions. Your offer should be based on what you can afford, and what you believe the property is really worth to you today and longer term. Your Realtor® does not provide legal advice but will prepare the paperwork based on your decisions and will negotiate for you on your behalf.

Be Flexible – Whether it’s time or money, consider giving a little more. For example, if you are competing for a house and you have the flexibility to give the Seller the extra time they desire to close and move out – or – you have the skill and ability to perform inspection repairs on your own after closing instead of asking the Seller to do so, that can make a big difference and put you ahead of the competition. Showing the Seller that you’re willing to go the extra mile to purchase their home could make the Seller choose your offer, especially if it helps make their life easier.

Editorial note: Don and Barbara Alcorn are Realtors® serving St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland Counties, as well as the Grosse Pointes. Part of an international network of Realtors®, they are affiliated with Coldwell Banker Realty in Michigan, one of the nation’s largest and most successful real estate brokerages. You can reach them at (810) 278-6655, balcorn@cbwm.com or dalcorn@cbwm.com.

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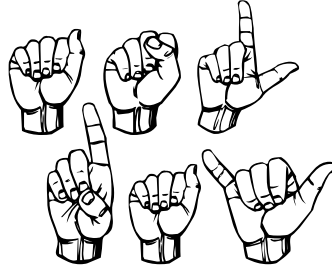
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National

ASL DAY

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

April 15, 2023





The first school for the deaf in the United States opened on April 15, 1817, with just seven students. The school was housed in several rented rooms of Bennett's City Hotel in Hartford, Connecticut. It was called the Connecticut Asylum at Hartford for the Education and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Persons (now the American School for the Deaf). The founders were Rev. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, the first principal, Louis Laurent Marie Cler, the head teacher, and Dr. Mason Cogswell, whose daughter was the first student.

American Sign Language is a mix of Native American Signs, French Sign Language and Martha's Vineyard Sign Language (the last of which was founded in 1640 but is now extinct). ASL is the third most commonly used language in the United State after English and Spanish.

Facts about deafness from *Language Magazine*:


- 98% of deaf people do not receive education in sign language.
- 72% of families do not sign with their deaf children.
- 70% of deaf people do not work or are underemployed.
- 1 in 4 deaf women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetimes, compared to 1-10 hearing women.
- 1 in 4 deaf people has left a job due to discrimination.
- More than 90% of deaf children are born to hearing parents.

Ways to Support & Celebrate

1. Learn some ASL words and phrases with friends or coworkers
2. Create ASL Day cards for employees and clients
3. Find a song you love on YouTube being signed and share it with your co-workers
4. Volunteer on local community projects for the deaf
5. Share the story of how you learned ASL with your children or friends
6. Photograph your favorite ASL handshape and post it online
7. Learn a new language – enroll in an ASL class

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WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY?

April

1 On this day in 1853, Cincinnati becomes the first U.S. city to employ full time professional firefighters.

2 On this day in 1513, explorer Juan Ponce de León claims Florida for Spain as the first known European to reach Florida.

3 On this day in 1953, American magazine *TV Guide* publishes the first issue. The cover features a photo of Lucille Ball's new born baby boy, Desiderio Alberto Arnaz IV.

4 On this day in 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is signed in Washington, D.C.

5 On this day in 1856, Booker T. Washington, educator, author, orator and presidential adviser, is born into slavery in Hale's Ford, Virginia.

6 On this day in 2016, the first baby is born with DNA from three parents through mitochondrial transfer in Mexico.

7 On this day in 1853, Queen Victoria asks her doctor to administer chloroform during the delivery of her 8th child, leading to wider acceptance of obstetrical anesthesia.

8 On this day in 1862, John D. Lynde patents the aerosol dispenser.

9 On this day in 193, Septimius Severus is proclaimed the Roman Emperor by the army in Illyricum.

10 On this day in 1858, "Big Ben", the 13.5 ton bell, is recast after the original cracked during testing.

11 On this day in 1888, industrialist Henry Ford weds Clara Jane Bryant in Greenfield Township, Michigan.

12 On this day in 1961, Yuri Gagarin, Russian cosmonaut, becomes the first person to orbit Earth in *Vostok 1*.

13 On this day in 1796, the first elephant, Old Bet, arrives in the U.S. from India.

14 On this day in 2003, The Human Genome Project is completed with 99% of the human genome sequenced to an accuracy of 99.9%.

15 On this day in 1931, Plennie Lawrence Wingo begins his record-making backwards walk from Santa Monica, California to Istanbul, Turkey.

16 On this day in 1787, the first American comedy play, *The Contrast*, makes its debut in New York City.

17 On this day in 1790, Benjamin Franklin dies at age 84.

18 On this day in 1966, Bill Russell becomes the first African American coach in NBA history for the Boston Celtics.

19 On this day in 1934, Shirley Temple appears in her first feature length film, *Stand Up and Cheer!*

20 On this day in 1912, Tiger Stadium, previously known as Navin Field and Briggs Stadium, in the neighborhood of Corktown, Detroit, opens.

21 On this day in 1878, President Rutherford B. Hayes and First Lady Lucy hosts the first annual official White House Easter Egg Roll.

22 On this day in 1993, the Holocaust Memorial Museum is dedicated in Washington, D.C.

23 On this day in 1977, John Cena, professional wrestler & actor, is born. **30** On this day in 2009, Chrysler files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

24 On this day in 2018, streaming music services overtake worldwide sales of CDs and vinyl for the first time according to IFPI.

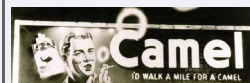
25 On this day in 1950, Chuck Cooper becomes the first African American to be drafted into the NBA for the Boston Celtics.

26 On this day in 1859, Congressman Sickles is acquitted of murder on the grounds of temporary insanity, the first time this defense is used successfully in the U.S.

27 On this day in 1956, undefeated world heavyweight boxing champion Rocky Marciano retires from the ring.


28 On this day in 1937, the first electric animated sign is placed on Broadway in New York City.

29 On this day in 1553, a Flemish woman introduces the practice of starching linen into England.



DESIGN BY SPRILCARONI VIA FREEPIC.COM

Editorial 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.



Quinn Minute

Baby Boomer Television

By Rix Quinn, ThumbPrint News Columnist

I don't sleep as much as I used to. Why? I watch television well past 10:00 p.m. And after my mid-evening nap (about one hour), I can cruise show choices into the wee hours.

I told my younger neighbor that when I had a child, I couldn't watch late TV because - at midnight - the stations "signed off". He looked at me like I'd jumped out of a history book.

"What do you mean signed off?" he asked.

I explained, "An announcer's voice would come on. He would say, 'We now conclude today's broadcasting.' After that, we'd see a film of a flag waving while the national anthem played. Then the screen displayed a test pattern."

My neighbor stared at me vacantly. In a kindly-older-person way, I told him that a test pattern was a series of lines and concentric circles that helped viewers adjust the horizontal, vertical, and fine-tuning knobs on the front of a television set.

"You had knobs on a TV?" he asked. I explained that in the late 20th century, a viewer adjusted knobs to enhance the picture. There was the on-off switch, plus additional knobs that controlled brightness and color intensity, station choices were from channels 2 through 13.

"Wow," he said, "you didn't have many selections. And what if you wanted to stream a movie, or record something to watch later, or show a DVD?"

I explained that those options weren't available. Back in the really old days BBC (Before Basic Cable), viewers received real-time broadcasts from giant towers that sent signals to an antenna on top of their roofs.

"But some people didn't have the antenna, so they relied on rabbit ears on top of the television."

My neighbor had one more question. "How do you convince a rabbit to sit on a TV?"

For more little stories with interesting ideas, subscribe to my short blog. Here's the link: www.quinnminute.com

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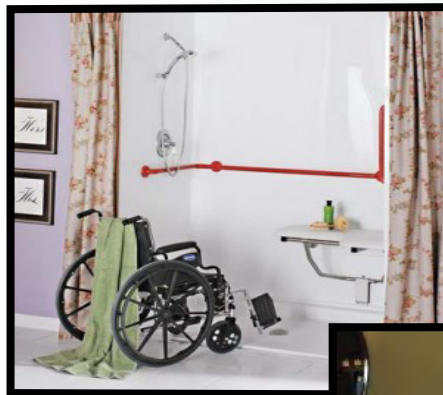
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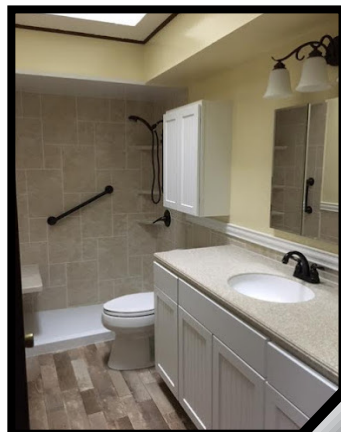
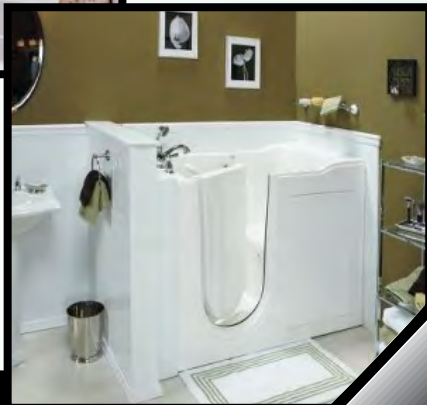
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PORT CRESCENT
Continued from Page 1

that ran once a week from Port Austin to Bay City. In 1870, a 1,300-foot well struck a salt brine leading the residents to decide to open a salt plant. This salt brine allowed the town to produce up to 65,000 barrels of salt every year, making them a prominent player in the salt production industry. With over 500 residents now living in 17 city blocks, Port Crescent opened its first school in 1871. The school was so big it could hold up to 100 students and was one of the largest schools in Huron County.

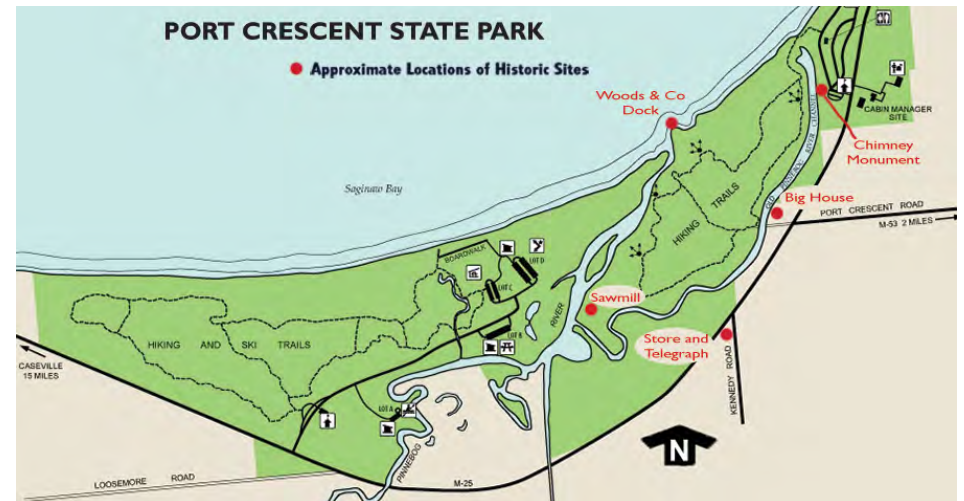
Aside from the lumber, salt and flour that the town already produced, they also became noteworthy in the fishing business. Unfortunately, in 1871, a disastrous fire started and swept through the Thumb of Michigan destroying homes, businesses, forests, farms and anything else in its path. However, instead of halting Port Crescent's booming economy, it gave them even more business. The sawmill was so busy with all of the trees that were downed during the fire they had to add a brick chimney that was 120 feet tall to give the factory more power to keep up. Unfortunately, another fire swept through the area in 1881. This fire destroyed most of the trees and left the town with a drastically depleted timber supply. Without the lumber industry to keep Port Crescent afloat, the town began to dissolve. The sawmills, salt plants, breweries, hotels, church, roller rink, blacksmith and corner stores began to close. With not as much work available in town many of the residents were forced to move to neighboring towns.

Just five years after the Great Fire of 1881, a third fire started in one of Port Crescent's few remaining sawmills. Along with the mill, the fire burned down the mill owner's home, known as "the big house". The big house had been built in 1872 and was the nicest house in the entire town. After the sawmill caught fire and the house burned down, the town continued its downward spiral. This was the end of the road, the point of no return for Port Crescent and the remaining residents. What was once a thriving, successful and on-the-rise town was finishing its descent into becoming a ghost town. Homes, docks and businesses were taken down and moved to surrounding towns. Huron Grindstone Company acquired the sawmill, salt company and dock in 1890, disassembled them and moved them to Grindstone City. Of the few people that remained, there was a family who was third-generation mill owners. They started to export white sand to be used in glass manufacturing. This exporting of sand continued until 1936 when it also ended. Port Crescent was now truly a ghost town.

From 1860 to 1880, the town of Port Crescent seemed unstoppable and appeared to be a town that was without a doubt going to last. Despite all of its visible staying power, the series of ill-fated fires and resulting lack of work, eventually there was almost nothing left where the town used to stand, and it remained that way for many years. As the country recovered from WWII, the public demand for recreation areas along the shore was in rising demand. In answer to the public's insistence, the State of Michigan acquired 100+ acres of land along the shores of Lake Huron, with beautiful sandy beaches and The Port Crescent State Park was founded. If you go to The Port Crescent State Park today, you will find that there are a few remnants of the town that once was. A portion of the 120-foot chimney from the old sawmill is still standing at the entrance to the park, along with a couple of foundations of the old



homes or businesses that were taken down and moved, as well as an old cemetery. Tales of the cemetery being haunted have circulated for years. People describe getting an eerie or supernatural feeling when entering the cemetery and claim to hear murmurs and whispers inside. The cemetery is full of headstones from the original Port Crescent residents.



The Port Crescent State Park has one of the largest beaches in southern Michigan and is now 640 acres (in 1977 an additional 477 acres was added). The beach is three miles long and sits on the Saginaw Bay of Lake Huron. This beautiful beach attracts tourists from all around to swim, boat, fish, kayak, hike, birdwatch, hunt and cross-country ski. The state park is far from any populated, loud, overwhelming cities and allows people to get away from the commotion and busyness of everyday life. It has a campground along with a few other overnight lodging options. The Port Crescent State Park is a very popular tourist destination in the summer due to its marvelous stargazing and has actually become a dark sky preserve. So, if you're looking to take a trip this year to get away from the hustle and bustle and reconnect with nature, but you aren't sure where you should go, Port Crescent State Park seems to offer it all. Whether you're a history buff, an avid stargazer, are into haunted cemeteries or just want to sit back and relax on a beautiful sandy beach you will enjoy the Port Crescent State Park! And, you will be one of the few who can reflect on what a rich and fascinating history this ghost town has.

HEARING CLINICS

PORT HURON

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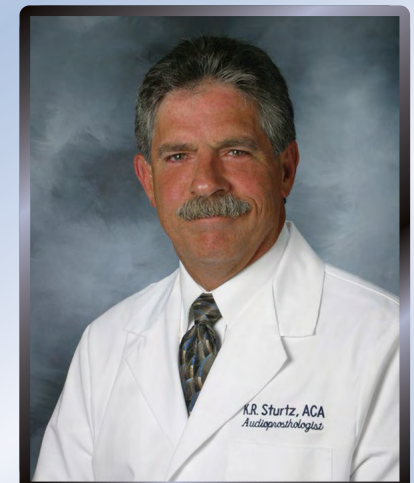
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FIRST IN THE HEARTS OF MEN

By Bob Jones, ThumbPrint News Columnist

The eighteen-pound Black Beauty was lofted onto the slippery, oily runway – twisting madly toward hard plastic totems standing defiantly in the face of the anxious player.

Tonight, in this smoke-filled, beer-anointed establishment, the final night of league play, the last frame, first of these rolls to be determined.

The third of five bowlers (this spot is typically reserved for the worst bowler on the team) watched his globe hook slightly knocking down eight pins – the result: a six-ten leave.

Thoughts were racing around this athlete's dome: focus, focus. Everyone on this team must mark. The lights were blinding. Smells and fumes fueled his already lightheadedness, he was weak-kneed, afraid he was going to black out.

No more second or third-place finishes for this lifelong weekend warrior; however, did he remember the senior swim meet at the local community college? A good try they remarked, third best.

That golf get-together, closest to the pin resulting in a second-place finish garnered a pat on the back while the first-place winner – a Nordic dude – curled his lips in a sarcastic snarl demeaning this hapless warrior while the gold medal was draped around his Olympic weightlifter-like neck.

Then that 10K run through the rustic cornfields of a friendly rural community – only for this summer to finish second in his age class. A senior – a senior! – passing him with only twenty yards to go – stepping on his heel in the process of passing him – muttering something about “I gotcha, go to the devil” (real term redacted) and “eat my dirt” (real term redacted).

But wasn't this Friday night beer league just for fun? After twenty years of fruitless attempts to better themselves – work, work, work, to climb the ladder of success. First place for the team just beyond the horizon.

Who were they fooling, a team of aging weekend warriors? They can blame their losses on the equipment getting better for those who can adapt – from the Rhino ball to the Crimson Crusher, his Black Beauty was a sign of old times.

Oh yes, the proprietors were using too much oil on the lanes, how can they adapt to such careless, unprofessional behavior?

And our weekend warrior thinks those arrows are not drawn with any consistency, and the dots at the starting point are crooked.

He knew his five-step approach should be shortened to three, but there was just too much to comprehend! Head spinning.

The Black Beauty was returned. Maybe his bowling hand could be rendered helpless somehow, perhaps the ball crushing his fingers, get a stand-in to toss or better yet, roll smoothly this round object which has been his family friend these past twenty years, housed in a zippered bag, stored in his homes' basement closet, safely tucked away when not in use.

One, two, three, four, five steps – the ball rolling erratically to the pins left standing, somehow nipping the 6 pin and falling into the 10. A spare!

The house fell silent. An eerie calm. All eyes are on the Black Beauty. No “Better luck next time” and no sneering rebuttal from the onlookers. His teammates applauded!

He felt vindicated from all those past wrongs and demeaning taunts from his fellow weekend warriors; competitors who over the years chided his shortcomings from all those second and third-place finishes.

His team won the league title that evening. After forty weeks of sweat and strain, his award – a patch titled ABC League Champions '88-'89.

Oh yes, that patch was placed at the top of his trophy case along with other assorted trophies. Okay, he admitted, he kept those second and third-place awards.

His fellow weekend warriors were proud just to be participating and still able to stand up to get in the race while competing, except for swimming, of course, which requires a horizontal plane.

For one brief moment he came through for the team; he, the weakest link, joined his teammates as league champions! This achievement happened many eons ago but is still etched in his mind's eye. Phrases play through his head, “Keep going”, “Keep striving”, “Stay in the game”, and like a great marriage, “Til death do us part”.

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VOCABULARY VOYAGE

Compiled By Laura Irwin, ThumbPrint News Staff

Deutsches
Sprichwort

Alles hat ein Ende, nur die Wurst hat zwei.
(Everything has an end, only the sausage has two.)

German
Proverb

backpfeifengesicht back·pfeif·en·ge·sicht | bak-'pfai-fən-gə, zɪçt

A combination of two nouns *Backpfeife* (a slap across the cheek) and *Gesicht* (face); meaning, a face crying out for a slap or someone deserving of a slap across the face. Translates to "cheek whistle face". First known use: 19th century in northern Germany from *backpfeife* + -n- + *gesicht*. Ex: *Perhaps backpfeifengesicht will join the many other German words that have found a place in English.*

fremdschämen fremd·scha·men | fremd-/'ʃɛ(schä):mən/

A verb meaning 1 : to feel embarrassed for somebody else who is behaving in an embarrassing way, usually unknowingly, 2 : feeling uncomfortable or awkward because another person has created an embarrassing situation, 3 : vicarious embarrassment. First known use: this word first appeared in the German spelling dictionary in 2009, from the words *fremd* (foreign or external) and *schämen* (to be embarrassed) Ex: *Your friend has just committed a terrible social faux pas, and you can feel yourself blushing on their behalf. This describes the uniquely German word fremdschämen.*



schadenfreude scha·den·freu·de | shä-dʰn- ,fröi-də

A noun meaning enjoyment obtained from the troubles of others. First known use 1868 - from German *schaden* damage + *freude* joy. Ex: *With a hint of schadenfreude, Democrats warned Tuesday's chaos could be a sign of things to come this session.* - Dallas News, Jan. 3, 2023

A good vocabulary is a powerful tool, making communication simpler. Readers can contribute to our learning journey by submitting underused, misused or uncommon words they've discovered to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. Your name will be credited as the contributor.

Sweet Tooth

ACROSS

- 1) Face fringe
- 2) Like a wallflower
- 9) Something that happened too fast?
- 13) One hipbone
- 14) Romanian money
- 15) Sheep's clothing, e.g.
- 16) Bassos, alternative spelling
- 17) Middle-earth creature
- 18) Balance sheet item
- 19) *Peanut _____
- 21) *Popular pastry center
- 23) Exclamation of surprise
- 24) Duds
- 25) Tapped at parties
- 28) Two-masted vessel
- 30) Orient's bigwig
- 34) Misfortunes
- 36) Not that
- 38) Australian cockatoo
- 40) Done after shuffling
- 41) Popular garden perennial
- 43) Triathlon ride
- 44) Part of surgeon's prep
- 46) Rudolph, e.g.
- 47) Affirm
- 48) Austrian province
- 50) Ogler
- 52) Former name of Tokyo
- 53) Give notice
- 55) Clinton _____ Rodham
- 57) *Dessert in honor of a dancer
- 61) Text treatment
- 65) French farewell
- 66) Labour group
- 68) Kind of salami
- 69) House coat
- 70) Little squirt
- 71) In the company of
- 72) Bone-dry
- 73) _____ Khan
- 74) "Dressed to the _____"

DOWN

- 1) Kind of lettuce
- 2) Having wings
- 3) Not final or absolute
- 4) Vigorous enjoyment
- 5) Blacksmith shop
- 6) * _____ gin
- 7) Part of H.M.S.
- 8) New Mexico's state flower
- 9) Portrait sculpture
- 10) Mona _____
- 11) One who uses something
- 12) Short for "retired"
- 15) Pompous windbag
- 20) Strongly opposed
- 22) Funerary vase
- 24) Shiny from moisture
- 25) *Sour Patch _____
- 26) Choose by vote
- 27) Dazzling
- 29) " _____ Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"
- 31) *Rum _____
- 32) Martini garnish
- 33) *Alaska's state
- 35) Hurtful remark
- 37) Dog command
- 39) Parade honoree
- 42) _____ provocateur
- 45) Back down
- 49) Head or john
- 51) 40th President
- 54) *Indian yogurt staple that can be sweet or salty
- 56) Fragrant resin
- 57) Hemmingway nickname
- 58) Jewish month
- 59) Henry _____
- 60) " _____ your hand"
- 61) Tiny bit
- 62) Involved in a secret
- 63) *Sugar, waffle or cake _____
- 64) Droops
- 67) *Yule _____

Answer Key on page 26

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Spring Cleaning? Don't forget your medicine cabinet!

By Dr. Elizabeth Gray
ThumbPrint News Columnist

Spring is here! This can be a great time to clean out expired medications and ensure you have commonly needed medications on hand for both you and your pets. This is also the time to make sure medications are securely stored where a curious cat or dog can't get themselves into trouble!

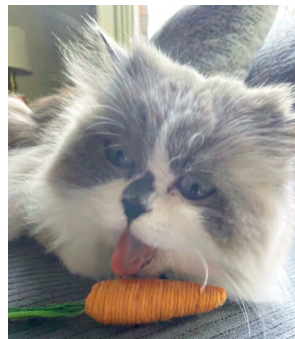
Although there are many medications used in both animals and people, the effects aren't always the same. A medication that does one thing for people does not necessarily do the same for our pets. Some medications routinely used by humans can be harmful to cats and dogs.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), about one-quarter of all phone calls to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) are about human medications.

The top five human medications in 2022 for calls to the Pet Poison Helpline were:

- 1) Ibuprofen
- 2) Antidepressant medications
- 3) Antianxiety medications
- 4) Vitamin D3 (prescription strength capsules can include up to 50,000 IU)
- 5) Acetaminophen

Sometimes a dog or cat will quickly lap up a dropped pill. Other times a curious puppy will chew through medication bottles. Occasionally a feline will innocently (or not so innocently) knock medication off a countertop to a canine housemate below. Owners can even unknowingly give their pets toxic medications, thinking they are helping.



Here are some of the most common over-the-counter human medication toxicities:

- **Ibuprofen** (Advil®, Motrin®) is the most common human medication ingested by pets. Many brands have a sweet coating that can make them appealing to pets. This coating also makes it easy for your pet to swallow, meaning a large amount can be ingested quickly. Ibuprofen can cause stomach ulcers and kidney failure. Sometimes owners intentionally give their dog or cat

Ibuprofen hoping to relieve pain, not understanding the danger. Always contact your veterinarian prior to giving your pet anything they were not prescribed.

- **Acetaminophen** (Tylenol®) is a very common pain killer found in most households. Cats are extremely sensitive to acetaminophen, but dogs can be affected too. Acetaminophen can cause liver damage. It can also cause damage to your pet's red blood cells so that the cells are unable to carry oxygen.
- **Naproxen** (Aleve®, Naprosyn®) is an over-the-counter pain reliever. Dogs and cats are very sensitive to naproxen and even small amounts can cause stomach ulcers and kidney failure.

You can keep your pets safe by following simple guidelines:

- keep all medications away from pets unless you are specifically instructed by a veterinarian to administer
- do not leave pills sitting on the counter or any place a pet can get to them
- do not leave pill bottles within reach of pets (You'll be surprised how fast your dog can chew through a pill bottle.)
- if you're taking medications out of the bottle and you drop anything, pick it up immediately so you know your pet won't be able to eat it.
- always contact your veterinarian if your pet has ingested any medication not prescribed for them.
- never give your medication to your pet without first consulting a veterinarian.

What to do if your dog or cat may have been poisoned:

- 1) Remove your pet from the area and check that breathing is normal.
- 2) Do NOT give any home antidotes or induce vomiting without consulting a vet



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THUMBPRINT NEWS PET PHOTO CHALLENGE

This month we are featuring
Bruno (of Marysville, MI)
sent in by August B.



This is Bruno! He has to investigate everything I do, and your paper is no different. He is perpetually curious, but here it seems he has to recharge his batteries.

**Thank you, August,
for sharing Bruno
with us!**

YOU CAN VIEW OUR ENTIRE MENAGERIE AT
www.bit.ly/TPNPETS (make sure you type the link
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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. 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.

or poison helpline.

- 3) Call Pet Poison Helpline at (855) 764-7661 or ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435 (there is a fee).
- 4) If veterinary attention is necessary, contact your veterinarian or emergency veterinary clinic immediately.

Calling a poison helpline can save valuable time. Minutes can make the difference for some toxicities. In some cases, this call can save you a trip to the emergency room, which is much more costly. If induction of vomiting is advised, it should be done as soon as possible. Salt or dish soap is never a good idea for cats or dogs to induce vomiting.

Induction of vomiting can be done at home for dogs (not cats) with hydrogen peroxide. If you have a canine in the home make sure to keep a fresh bottle in your first aid kit; it does expire and become ineffective! For all pets, keeping a bottle of eye wash for emergency eye flushing is a good idea too.

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.

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Entertaining Angels

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

Airport terminals with rows and rows of connected seats are filled with people wearing headphones (or earbuds) or chatting on their phones each time I'm at an airport for travel. Few people make eye contact. Excited children are playing on Mom or Dad's phones or playing video games on iPads.

Usually, I'm the only one with a book. I'm also often the one who talks to total strangers – a lesson I never learned as a child NOT to do – but I've surely met some interesting people in airports, and I remember them, even decades later!

For example...

There was Linda, the RN, who volunteered to sit by me in the last row next to the lady who admittedly had COVID-19 and coughed all the way to Denver. (The gentleman who was assigned to that seat was too tall for added row.) And there was the young lady who just happened to be the niece of the author of the book I was reading on the way home from that very same trip. I met a rapper from Detroit in San Francisco waiting to come back from my 55th birthday trip to visit my friend Shelly, and while the two of us sat there chatting, we shared a "wow!" moment when the entire TV celebrity Roloff family walked right past us. There was the nice young man who spoke English on the plane when I traveled from Sao Paulo to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and asked me if I was okay when he saw me crying. I wasn't okay. I was incredibly brokenhearted leaving Brazil. He was so kind. When I flew home from Atlanta, I met a truck driver from Montana, who told me all about how much he loved his wife and missed her when he traveled. On my trip home from Korea, I sat next to a young kid who was trying to make it home for his mother's funeral, but we got stuck in Japan for a full day, and then again in Alaska for another 12 hours, and I've always wondered if he made it home in time for his mother's service.



But the person I most remember from my travels was an older gentleman who was on the airplane returning from Berlin to New York with me in 1993. I was eight months pregnant with Ian, and Rory was not quite two years old. I had a backpack I'd strap Rory in on my back, and then of course, there was my big ol' pregnant belly, a diaper bag, a purse, and two suitcases. When I got on the plane and started settling into our front-row "bulkhead" seats, the television fell out of the ceiling and slammed right into my head. This kind gentleman came immediately to my rescue, getting an ice pack for my noggin and even got a snack for Rory.

During that nine-hour flight, I'd gotten up a few times to take Rory to the bathroom. Now, just imagine pregnant me with a 2-year-old in a tiny little airplane bathroom, and that pretty much sums up the entire travel experience.

But during one of those bathroom trips, I ran into that gentleman again. He was a Colonel in the U.S. Army, retired, and he could tell that I was also military, so he shared a memory with me. Apparently years prior, several months after one of his moves, his wife traveled to Germany to join him after he had been stationed there. She too was traveling with their small children, and during her travels, there had been a serviceman who had gone out of his way to assist his wife and their kids on and off the airplane, getting their luggage, and getting to their next flight on time. He always wished he could have met and thanked the kind man who had helped his family, but since he couldn't, he said he could pay it forward, and chose to do that by helping Rory and me.

When we arrived in New York, the Colonel arranged to have someone pick me and my son up, along with all of the luggage, and take us to our next gate to connect to Detroit. But there was a terrible snowstorm brewing, which kept us there for an extra night, so he went and got us some warm meals, and returned to the terminal where we were camped out until our next flight. The kind man and I said our goodbyes, and he wished me luck.

I was reminded of this recently when my friend sent her young son to Japan for an extended stay and was relieved when she heard from him that he arrived safely. He told his

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mom about his trip, and how someone had assisted in getting him through Customs, finding baggage claim and his luggage, and then navigating his way on two separate busses to get to the next terminal in Tokyo. Right away she recognized that God was using others to care for her son the entire time.

The Bible says "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware," in Hebrews 13:2.

I'm not sure whether or not the angels in airports are the ones wearing headphones (or earbuds), but I'm pretty certain I've run into a few of them myself. I've probably sat next to a few, too.

And heck, even if those who seem like angels, are just really, really, really helpful people – isn't it pretty neat that they'd be so kind?

It's almost midnight right now as I write this, but next time you're at the airport (or just in life tomorrow), wouldn't it be a good idea if we all just lost our earbuds, made some eye contact, and paid something forward? Maybe, just maybe, we'd run into an angel. Or maybe we could just be someone that somebody else remembers someday. Goodnight! 🌙

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Calendar of Activities and Events

If you have an event in May that you would like listed in the May issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by April 12, 2023. 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.

Editorial 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

April 4 – Burton

Flint Genealogical Society Meeting, Burton Senior Center, 3410 S. Grand Traverse, 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly meeting! Our speakers this month will be Della Gamalski and Lorene Wilson, and the topic is “Places You Might Not Have Thought to Look”, such as small museums and historical places in and around Genesee County. There is no charge and all who are interested in genealogy are welcome! For more information visit flintgenealogy.org.

LAPEER

April 8 – Metamora

Lions Bear Lake Camp’s Buffalo & Boar Wild Game Dinner, Metamora Lions Club House, 3790 N. Oak St., 5:00 p.m. doors open, 6:00 p.m. dinner. Join us for this Gourmet Wild Game Dinner catered by Metamora Country Club! Tickets are \$60 per person or \$400 for a table for 8. You’ll receive three drink tickets, and we’ll also have a cash bar for mixed cocktails. There will be door prizes, including a Ruger 10/22, with hourly drawings. We also have sponsorship opportunities available! For more information or to order your tickets, visit bearlakecamp.org.

April 14-15 – Lapeer

30th Annual Celebrity Autograph Auction and 37th Annual 4-H Spring Auction, Lapeer Center Building, 425 County Center Rd. Celebrity Autograph Auction will be on Friday, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., and on Saturday will be the Silent Auction, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (graduated bid closings start at 9:05 a.m.) and the Live Auction, starting at 11:00 a.m. We’ll have hundreds of items from new merchandise to collectibles and gift cards, so you won’t want to miss out! Lapeer County 4-H greatly appreciates your support! For any questions or more information call (810) 667-0341 or email msue.lapeer@county.msu.edu.

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.

April 4 – Richmond

Woman’s Life Chapter 855 Meeting, Lois Wagner 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.

April 5 – Roseville

Zoo 2 You – The Reptarium, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Join The Reptarium Crew for a hands-on interactive experience as they bring snakes, lizards, frogs and more to the library! No registration required. For more information and a full list of library events, visit rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events or call (586) 445-5407.

April 5 & 19

All of Macomb County Confident Communicators Club (CCC) 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. For more information contact vpm-1196053@toastmastersclubs.org or visit the CCC website at bit.ly/ccctoastmasters.

March 5, 12, 19 & 26 Memphis

Wednesday Night Bingo, Memphis American Legion Post 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., 5:30 p.m. – 9:15 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m. Concession stand available, light dinner served at 7:30 p.m. for a small charge. For more information call and leave a message for Mary Beth at (810) 392-3237.

April 7 & 21 – Memphis

Fried Chicken Dinner & Fried Cod/Chicken Tender Dinner, Memphis American Legion Post 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., 3:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.,

for both eat in or pick up (if picking up, you’ll need to call ahead and set up a pick-up time). Join us every 1st Friday of the month for our Fried Chicken Dinner and every 3rd Friday of the month for our Fried Cod/Chicken Tender Dinner. Adult dinners are \$15 each and includes 9 oz. of fried chicken, fried cod or chicken tenders, five sides and a dessert! Children (ages 5-12) dinners are \$8 and include 6 oz. of fried chicken, fried cod or chicken tenders and smaller side portions. We guarantee you will not go hungry! We will be taking calls beginning at noon on dinner days. Call early for the best choices on desserts (which are limited!). For more information call and leave a message for Mary Beth at (810) 392-3237.

April 7, 14, 21 & 28 Memphis

Friday Night Euchre, Memphis American Legion Post 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., doors open at 6:30 p.m., start time is 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$10. For more information call and leave a message for Mary Beth at (810) 392-3237.

April 8 – Clinton Twp.

Easter Pop-Up Shop presented by Estes Essentials, The Legacy Loft, 34770 Groesbeck Hwy., noon – 5:00 p.m. Join us for shopping, raffles, kids’ goodie bags and a visit from the Easter Bunny! We’ll have tons of vendors, as well as music from DJ Ynot? For more information or to become a vendor, find EstesEssentials on Facebook and Instagram or contact Tia at (586) 745-0752.

April 10 & 24 – 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.

April 13 – Shelby Twp.

Shelby Garden Club Presentation, Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center, 4101 River Bends Dr., 1:00 p.m. Join us as we host Allen Chartier, a hummingbird specialist. He will teach us all about hummingbirds. His blog can be found at mihummingbirdguy.blogspot.com. This is a free event, though donations for our club’s ongoing community programs are appreciated. For more information, contact Ivy at (586) 873-3782.

April 13-15 – Richmond

St. Augustine’s Rummage Sale, St. Augustine Parish Hall, 68035 Main St., 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 8:00 a.m. – noon on

Saturday. Lunch available for purchase on Thursday and Friday. Join us for this rummage sale, you never know what you might find! This event is sponsored by the St. Augustine Altar Sodality. For more information call Darlene at (586) 206-0822.

April 19 – Roseville

Sister Pie, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Join us in welcoming Lisa Ludwinski, owner and head baker of Sister Pie in Detroit’s West Village. We’ll be talking about her bakery and cookbook. No registration required. For more information and a full list of library events, visit rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events or call (586) 445-5407.

April 20 – Ray

Lost Boy Scout Camp Discovered Presentation, Ray Township Senior Center, 64255 Wolcott Rd., 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Join the Friends of the Ray Township Library and Historical Society as they host Ron Novak, a former member of Boy Scout Troop 118 at Detroit’s Stellwagen Elementary School. He will be sharing his memories of the troop’s private Ray Township campsite, Camp Anderson. Registration requested by April 15. For more information on this, or other library events, visit raylibrary.org.

April 21 – Roseville

Teen & Tween After Hours: Nerf War, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Get ready for a Nerf War at the Library! Prepare to be active as you dodge and fire while trying to help your team win in this fun after hours event. This event is free for students in grades 6-12. Registration begins March 31. For more information and a full list of library events, visit rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events or call (586) 445-5407.

April 22 – Clinton Twp.

Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Macomb Intermediate School District, 44001 Garfield Rd., 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Join us for this contest event sponsored by the Mount Clemens Optimist Club for students in grades 6-12, residing and attending school in Macomb County, who are certified to have an uncorrected hearing loss of 40 decibels or more which must be supported by an audiogram or cochlear implant programming report. The Communication Contest encourages students to express themselves, using speech, sign language or both to give a 4-5 minute presentation on the topic “Discovering the Optimism Within Me”. For more information or to request an application, please contact (586) 463-1730 or joycesheehy@comcast.net.

April 27-29 – New Baltimore Spring Rummage Sale, Saint Mary Queen of Creation, Gym and Parish

Center, 50931 Maria St., 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Visit us and see what treasures you might find! For more information please call (586) 725-2441.

OAKLAND

April 7, 14, 21 & 28
Oxford

Friday Fish Fry, American Legion Post 108, 130 E. Drahner Rd., noon – 8:00 p.m. Average cost is \$12/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.

April 9 – Bloomfield Hills
2023 Graduate Degree Exhibition of Cranbrook Academy of Art Display Opening, Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., during Museum opening hours.

The innovative work from the next generation of architects, artists and designers will be on display. The display will be up until May 14 in the Upper Galleries. For more information on this display or other Museum events, visit cranbrookartmuseum.org or call (248) 645-3320.

ST. CLAIR

All Month Long – Port Huron Diaper Drive by the St. Clair County Health Department's Maternal and Infant Health Program (MIHP), drop off point St. Clair County Health Department, 3415 28th St., during their regular business hours: Monday 10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. or Tuesday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Donations of new packages of baby diapers (all sizes), including baby wipes, rash creams or baby hygiene items are being requested. 100% of donations will be given to eligible MIHP participants. Monetary donations can also be made via St. Clair County Treasurer's PayPal at paypal.com/paypalme/sccmitreasurer. For more information or to schedule a donation pick-up, call (810) 987-4903.

April 1 – St. Clair
Euchre Tournament Hosted by Cornell Marysville Chapter #93 OES, St. Clair Masonic Temple, 1800 St. Clair Hwy., doors open at 12:30 p.m., play starts at 1:00 p.m. This event is open to the public and admission is \$10/person. There will be door prizes and a 50/50 drawing in addition to the euchre tournament. Don't miss out on this fun event! For more information call Diane at (586) 337-2729.

April 1 – Port Huron
2023 Library Egg Hunt, Lincoln Park, 2720 South Blvd., 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Join the Port Huron Library at the park for this FREE event! Hunt for

eggs, score candy and party with the Easter Bunny! Be ready for fun outdoor activities, rain or shine (or snow!), so dress for the weather. Hidden eggs are empty and need to be turned in for full candy bags. Registration is required.

For more information or a full list of library events, visit stclaircountylibrary.org/events and select your local library or call (810) 987-7323.

April 4 – Algonac
Woman's Life Chapter 883 Meeting, Maritime Museum, 1117 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome, and we're always looking for new members. Don't miss out on our first 2023 event, a murder mystery "I Love the '80s to Death" on April 22 in Casco. See info later in this calendar! For more information contact Paula at paulaburgess@comcast.net, (810) 278-4466 or (810) 794-9641.

April 5 – Smiths Creek
St. Clair Kennel Club General Meeting, Pioneer Bar & Restaurant, 5600 Lapeer Rd., 6:00 p.m. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at an area restaurant. Come to see what we're all about! More information can be found on our website stclairk.org. For more information email stclairkennelclub@gmail.com.

April 5, 12, 19 & 26 Marysville
Knights of Columbus #9526 Wednesday Bingo, Knight Club, 1195 Gratiot Blvd., 6:20 p.m. start time. (Doors open 2 hours prior.) For more information call (810) 364-6800.

April 6, 13, 20 & 27
Marysville
Weekly Bingo that Benefits Blankets with Care, Knight Club, 1195 Gratiot Blvd., 6:20 p.m. start time. (Doors open 2 hours prior.) Join us every Thursday for Bingo, as well as helping us make Blessing Bags for the Homeless and do Acts of Caring for veterans and seniors in Macomb and St. Clair County. or more information on Blankets with Care visit blanketswithcare.com or call (586) 219-5015.

April 7 – Port Huron
Community Good Friday Service, Colonial Woods Missionary Church, 3240 Pine Grove Ave., 1:00 p.m. Join The Blue Water Area Churches for an afternoon of worship and reflection, in appreciation for the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross. Everyone is welcome to attend this free service. The service will also be broadcast live on 90.7 HopeFM, WPHM 1380AM radio, and on Operation Transformation's Facebook page @BlueWaterOT. For more information call (810) 966-8660.

April 7 – 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 (810) 367-6351.

April 12 – Port Huron
Blue Water Doll Club Meeting, Council on Aging/Senior Center, 600 Grand River Ave., 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Join us as our members meet the second Wednesday of each month to discuss doll history, maintenance and to display dolls based on that month's theme. April will focus on cloth dolls. Visitors and new members are welcome! For more information contact Linda at (810) 765-4663.

April 13 – Kimball
Kindergarten Round-Up, New Life Christian Academy, 5517 Griswold Rd., noon – 4:00 p.m., by appointment only. Students must be 5 by September 1st. Come see what makes us different! For more information call (810) 367-3770, ext. 100.

April 13 – Port Huron
River Bash, Port Huron Yacht Club, 212 Quay St., doors open at 5:00 p.m., program begins at 6:00 p.m. Join the Friends of the St. Clair River for River Bash: A Benefit on the Banks of the Black River. This is a celebration to protect and restore the rivers, parks and trails we love! We'll have a strolling dinner, live music, a cash bar, activities and a silent auction, as well as a wonderful keynote speaker. Attire is casual. Tickets are \$40 and on sale now! For more information or ticket purchasing, visit scriver.org.

April 17 – Marine City
Friends of the Marine City Library Book Sale Drop Off Begins, 300 S. Parker, during library hours. Book sale will be May 4 – 6, with \$2 bag days on May 8 and 9. For more information call (810) 765-8487.

April 17 – Port Huron
Port Huron Elks Lodge #343's 49th 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 200 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.

April 19-21 – Algonac
Friends of the Algonac-Clay Library Book Sale, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Besides gently-used hardcover and paperback books,

there will be DVDs and more! For more information call (810) 794-4471.

April 22 – Casco
Murder Mystery Fundraiser, Little Camille's by the Green, 4575 County Line Rd., doors open at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. Join us, Woman's Life Chapter 883, for the murder mystery "I Love the '80s to Death"! Tickets are \$50 per person and includes participation in the murder mystery game and dinner. Only 100 tickets are being sold! Proceeds to benefit the Algonac-Clay Historical Society with expenses of community museums. Woman's Life Insurance Society will match the first \$500 raised. Be sure to wear an '80s outfit to receive a special gift! For tickets and more information, contact Paula at (810) 278-4466 or (810) 794-9641 or paulaburgess@comcast.net.

April 22 – Yale
Euchre Night, Fr. Dunn Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 310 N. Main St., doors open 6:30 p.m. Join us for this Sacred Heart Ladies Auxiliary fundraiser Euchre Night! There's a \$10 buy-in, coffee and water provided, BYO beer and soda and we'll have snacks available for purchase. For more information call (810) 543-2920.

April 25 – Algonac
Algonac/Clay Township Historical Meeting, Maritime Museum, 1117 St. Clair River Dr., 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly meeting where we'll be discussing all things historical! The Ship to Shore Gift Shop will also be open. For more information call (810) 794-9214.

April 27 – St. Clair
Research Night at St. Clair Museum & Research Center, 308 S. Fourth St., 6:00 p.m. Join the St. Clair County Genealogy & History Society, along with Museum members, as you're invited to browse through historic photos, documents and artifacts. Research topics include family histories, local homes, shipbuilding, ship captains, local military veterans and more. \$5 donation suggested for non-members. For more information visit sccghs.org or find us on Facebook.

April 30 – Kimball
Pre-school through 12th Grade Open House, New Life Christian Academy, 5517 Griswold Rd., 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Families are encouraged to visit the school, meet the teachers, view the curriculum and textbooks and ask about extra-curricular opportunities. Come see what makes us different! Info and enrollment packets will be available. For more information call (810) 367-3770, ext. 100.

Calendar of Activities and Events
continued on following page.

SANILAC

April 8 & 22 – Peck

Thumb Dance Club & Euchre, St. John Catholic Church's Carmen Banquet Hall, 5335 Sandusky Rd., 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 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. We will also be playing euchre! For more information call (810) 310-2715.

April 8 – Port Sanilac

Easter Egg Hunt, Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum, 228 South Ridge St. (M25), 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., the hunt itself will begin promptly at noon, with three separate areas for different age groups from toddlers to 12-year-olds. We're partnering with the Port Sanilac Parks & Rec. to bring this event back! RSVP with the ages of your children to schsheather@gmail.com For more information or questions visit sanilaccountymuseum.org or call (810) 622-9946.

April 23 – Lexington

Quarter Auction, Lakeview Hills Country Club & Resort, 6560 Peck Rd., 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., doors open at 2:15 p.m. for item viewing. Admission is \$5 per person and includes one bidding paddle and light refreshments. Additional bidding paddles for \$5 and we'll also have a cash bar. Bidding will range between 25 cents and \$1, depending on the value of the item, these items will be shown one at a time. If you choose to bid on that item, you'll place the required number of quarters

(1-4) in the jar and hold up your bid paddle. Numbers will be drawn until they match one of the raised bid paddles. The more paddles you have, the more bids you can place, and the better your chances to win! It's just that easy and so much fun! All money raised will support the Sanilac County Historical Society, including \$500 in matching funds offered by Lexington Woman's Life Chapter 927! If you have an item you'd like to donate for the quarter auction, please contact us at schs dawn@gmail.com.



**Building Bridges & Understanding
Between Customers & Businesses**

TOP 2 RISKIEST SCAMS

Employment scams and online shopping scams started to increase over the pandemic. Three years later and those scams are still on the rise. Online purchase (shopping) scams remained the #1 riskiest scam type in 2022 and employment scams came in as the second riskiest scam in 2022.

So, what does this mean? It means more people reported employment scams and online shopping scams to Better Business Bureau® Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula than any other scam in 2022. Those scams first began to increase at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and have continued to rise.

Online shopping continues to be popular with consumers due to convenience. Some employment scams are popular for the same reason; you can do the “job” from the comfort of your own home. Unfortunately, when a trend such as online shopping or working from home starts to increase, so do the scams.

Every day, scammers prey on online consumers, taking advantage of the hard-to-find items by creating fake websites and substandard products, offering them at “too good to be true” prices. Sometimes consumers find what they ordered is not what they get. Many ads pop up with enticing gadgets, cute merchandise, or deals you just can't pass up. Unfortunately, some of these companies aren't quite what they seem. Some consumers find that once the order is placed, the company doesn't send the product, or it is not of good quality.

So, how do you protect yourself while shopping online?

- **Know the advertiser.** Some of the best deals are only available online, but be careful. It's easy for a fake site to mimic a famous retailer's website, so make sure you shop with a legitimate site. If the site is missing contact information, that is a red flag. Check out retailers at BBB.org before you shop.
- **Check a site's security settings.** If the site is secure, its URL (web address) should start with “HTTPS://” and include a lock icon on the purchase or shopping cart page.
- **Protect personal information.** Read a site's privacy policy and understand what personal data is requested and how it will be used. If a site doesn't have a privacy policy, that's a big red flag that it may be a scam.
- **Think before you click.** Be especially cautious about email solicitations and online ads on social media sites. Many sketchy retailers advertise great deals or trendy clothing that doesn't match the promotional hype.
- **Beware of too-good-to-be-true deals.** Offers on websites and in unsolicited emails may offer free or very low prices on hard-to-find items. There may be hidden costs, or your purchase may sign you up for a monthly charge. Look for and read the fine print.
- **Beware of phishing.** Phishing emails can look like a message from a well-known brand, but clicking on unfamiliar links can place you at risk for malware and/or identity theft. One popular scam claims to be from a package-delivery company with links to “tracking information” on an order you don't remember

making. Don't click!

- **Shop with a credit card.** In case of a fraudulent transaction, a credit card provides additional protection; it's easier to dispute charges you didn't approve or get your money back if there is a problem. Debit cards, prepaid cards or gift cards don't have the same protections as a credit card.

Following right behind online shopping scams, is its cousin, employment scams. The median dollar loss of \$1,500 for employment scams is significantly higher than the overall median dollar loss of \$171 for all scam types. Last year, around 150 Michiganders reported job scams to BBB® Scam Tracker. Of those reports, consumers lost almost \$65,000 with another \$128,594 attempted by scammers.

What does an employment scam look like?

You spot a Help Wanted ad online or receive an email or a text message from an “employer” asking you to apply for a position. The ad likely uses the name of a real business or government agency. Companies small and large – even BBB – have been impersonated. You apply and get a quick response from the “hiring manager”. In recent versions of this scam, many victims report doing a phony interview through Google Hangouts or another video chat service.

After you are “hired”, the company may charge you upfront for “training”. You may need to provide your personal and banking information to run a credit check or set up direct deposit. You may be “accidentally” overpaid with a fake check and asked to deposit the check and wire back the difference. You may also be told that you need to buy expensive equipment and supplies to work at home.

Listen to your gut instincts, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

- Research the job offer. Call or go directly to the company's website for contact information to verify the job posting. Do an internet search with the employer's name and the word “scam” to see if there are reports involving job scams.
- Examine the email address of those offering jobs to see if it matches the protocols used by an actual company. Be alert to Gmail business email addresses.
- If you're paying for the promise of a job, it's most likely a scam.
- Be very wary of mystery shopping or secret shopper positions.
- Work-from-home jobs that involve receiving and reshipping packages are likely scams.
- Beware of jobs that involve receiving and forwarding money.
- Don't fall for a fake check scam. BBB is unaware of any legitimate job offers that send checks to applicants and ask them to send money to a third party.
- Be cautious in providing personal information such as your full address, birth date and financial information in your resume or to unverified recruiters and online applications.
- Be wary of vague job descriptions

Should you come across a scam, report it at bbb.org/scamtracker. To learn more about the 2022 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report, please visit bbb.org.

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



Melanie Duquesnel

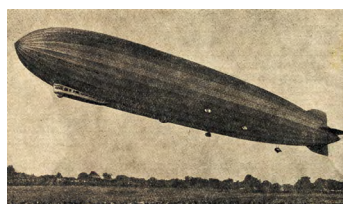


By **Bethany Wolf**
ThumbPrint News Staff

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE IS FROM **LITHUANIA** **CEPELINAI** **POTATO DUMPLING**

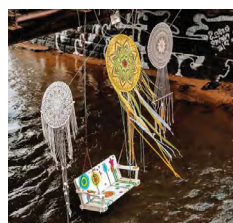


We are headed to Lithuania to try their national dish, the *cepelinai* (translated to “zeppelins”). These potato dumplings, typically filled with meat, dry cheese curd or vegetables, were previously called *didžkukuliai* (translated to “big dumplings”), but in the 1900s, were renamed to *cepelinai* due to their resemblance to Zeppelin airships.



Lithuanian Interesting Facts

- Of the three Baltic States, Lithuania is the largest in terms of both area (25,200 sq. miles) and population (2.8 million). However, it used to be the largest kingdom in Europe in the 15th century when it was known as the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.
- Lithuanian, the national language, is one of the oldest surviving Indo-European languages in the world today. The earliest traces of the language is over 5,000 years back. It's also one of the least-spoken languages in Europe.
- Basketball is so popular among the population that it is now the national sport. Many Lithuanian players have gone to play in the NBA.
- Lithuania is the only country with an official scent. In 2012, “the Scent of Lithuania” perfume was developed by Dainius Rutkauskas and two other Lithuanian entrepreneurs who worked with the French perfumery Galimard. The scent consists of sandalwood, ginger, raspberry, musk, wildflowers, “tree moss and tree smoke” and more.



- Lithuania was also the last European country to convert to Christianity in 1387.
- Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, has an anonymous swing foundation. There is no website or social media about the anonymous swing foundation, but members of the group will randomly install swings throughout the city.

Since it's April, we wanted to be sure to include this Easter tradition!

“In Lithuania, there are eggs during Easter (*Velykos*), but there is no cutesy bunny. Instead, your colorful eggs are brought to you by *Velykų Bobute* (Easter Granny) who spurs her pony on with a sunbeam whip.

Children prepare for *Velykų Bobute's* arrival by handcrafting nests for the eggs to be placed in. She usually carries out her deliveries in the morning before the kids wake up, similar to Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy. The kids then search for the especially beautiful hand painted eggs (that were decorated by bunnies) called *margučiai*.

Margučiai are painted with natural dyes (boiled red onion skins) and then scratched with a white design that's carved into the shell. This process can even take up to a week or more.”

Velykos information from onceinalifetimejourney.com.



We're still hoping to receive some international recipes from our readers! Recipes can be submitted to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. We'll be sure to share these recipes in future editions so that we may all take a journey around the world through the recipes that are shared.

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE DUMPLING DOUGH

- 3 lb Russet potatoes, divided
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 1 tbsp lemon juice

FOR THE FILLING

- 1 lb ground pork, beef, chicken or turkey
- ½ large onion, very finely diced
- 1 egg, beaten
- salt and pepper, to taste
- chopped fresh parsley and dill, to taste

FOR THE SAUCE

- ¼ lb bacon, fried crisp then crumbled
- ½ large onion, very finely diced
- 2 tbsp butter
- reserved bacon grease or oil
- 1 c sour cream
- chopped fresh parley and dill, to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. Begin by frying your bacon, be sure to reserve the grease. Set aside to drain and cool.
2. Add 2 tablespoons butter to the reserved bacon grease or oil in a frying pan. Add onion, season with salt and pepper, if desired. Saute about 3-5 minutes, then pull half the onions out (for the filling), let the remaining onions cook for a few more minutes until fully golden and translucent. Set aside to fully cool.
3. Wash and peel all of your potatoes. Take ¾ of them and very finely grate them using the finest side of a box grater or an electric potato grater (or food processor) into a bowl lined with a cheesecloth or a clean cotton towel. Add the lemon juice to prevent the potatoes from turning brown. Use the cloth to squeeze out all the moisture out of the potatoes, reserving the liquid, set it aside for 15-20 minutes until it separates with the heavier potato starch dropping to the bottom, which you will need later.
4. Dice the remaining ¼ of the potatoes and place them in a pot, cover with cold water, add a pinch of salt, and bring to boil. Boil for 15 minutes or until tender. Drain then cool slightly until able to handle. Put the potatoes through a potato ricer or mash them until very smooth.
5. Meanwhile as potatoes cook and cool, and the starch separates, prepare the filling by mixing the meat with the partially cooked onions and beaten egg. Season with salt and black pepper, add finely chopped parsley and dill to taste. Mix together well. Set aside in refrigerator until ready to use.
6. In a mixing bowl add the pre-cooked and riced potatoes, the squeezed raw potatoes, salt and the 1 tablespoon cornstarch (or dry potato starch if you have it). Now pour off the top watery potato juice slowly from the bowl you squeezed the raw potatoes over; you should see a wet potato starch in the bottom of the dish; add this starch to the potato mix, too. (The dry and wet potato starches bind the mixture together.) Mix together well.
7. Bring a large pot of water to boil. Add salt and cornstarch to the water to prevent the dumplings from breaking up (1 tablespoon of salt and 1 teaspoon of cornstarch per gallon of water).
8. Divide potato mix into baseball-sized shapes. Taking one, shape it into a flat patty in the palm of your hand, then add a tablespoon of the filling to the middle, bring up the edges of the potato patty to completely enclose the filling, pinch and gently shape into an oval or round dumpling, using water to smooth the outside if needed. Repeat with the rest of the potato mixture.
9. Put in half or all of the *cepelinai*, depending on the diameter of the pot; boil for 15 to 20 minutes (until filling is thoroughly cooked), stirring gently and occasionally.
10. While the *cepelinai* boils, add 1 cup of sour cream to the cooled onion, crumble the crisped bacon into the bowl, add the parsley and dill, to taste, and mix together.
11. Remove the dumplings with slotted spoon to serving plate, top with the sauce and enjoy.

Author's note: This recipe seemed easy, yet very daunting. Many of the blog posts I found said this meal wasn't difficult to make, but could be frustrating the first time you make them. I decided to enlist the help of my sister since there were so many steps that seemed to need to be accomplished at the same time. It took the two of us a little over two hours to complete the process, and we weren't overly impressed with the visual results. The dumplings weren't smooth as I was expecting, and just seemed too soggy to be any good (in the top photo). Upon tasting them, we weren't too disappointed, though the texture wasn't something I enjoyed. I reheated it the following day to for my coworker who said it was delicious. I tried it again and found the texture was a little bit better after drying out some. The coworker said she would perhaps give them a try in the future to see what she thought of them fresh. If any readers come from Lithuania and have advice or confirmation of the texture, please let us know!



NOTES FROM OUR READERS

Hello Laura!

Really enjoyed your story "Hello, Sugar" in the February 2023 paper. I have a cottage in Caseville and have been dodging sugar beet trucks for the last 20 years. One question I have is what happens to any byproduct from the manufacturing process? Is it recycled? Plowed back into the land?

Thanks,
Richard H.

Thank you, Richard!

I am pleased you enjoyed the article on sugar and that you reached out with such a great question. It seems the shreds have many uses. Here's a brief synopsis of what I found:

- The leftover beet pulp is most commonly used in livestock feed because it is highly digestible and very low in sugar.
- For human consumption, it is made into a form of a gel that is mixed with meat to make lunch meat more 'sliceable'. It is gluten-free and high in soluble and non-soluble fiber and has almost double the dietary fiber of wheat bran.
- It is extruded with corn grits to create something called SBPEs (sugar beet pulp extrudates) and is used to increase fiber and hardness in cookies and other consumables.
- A mixture of sugar beet extract and salt is being used to make a de-icing material for streets. The beet extract allows the salt to stay on the road longer and is fully biodegradable.
- It is being extruded into bioplastics to make disposable food containers and other waterproof plastics.

All interesting stuff! There is probably a bunch more I didn't discover. So, thank you again for reading and asking.

Sincerely, Laura Irwin

To All the *ThumbPrint News* Staff:

The extensive area you cover is fortunate to have a quality publication such as yours. I was born in Detroit and recently relocated from many years in the West to be closer to family.

Wish you the very best in your journey and look forward to future issues.
Howard U.

Thank you, Howard!

We appreciated receiving your hand-written note and are very happy you've been enjoying our paper.

We thank you again for reading!

ThumbPrint News Staff

Tips On Managing Your Every Day Stresses & Anxieties

By Stan Popovich, *ThumbPrint News* Contributor

Everybody deals with stress and anxiety; however, the key is to know what to do when you're stressed out. It is not always easy to keep your feelings from getting the best of you.

With this in mind, here are seven tips that a person can use to help manage their daily stresses and anxieties before they get out of control.

- 1. Get all of the facts of the situation:** Gathering the facts of a certain event can prevent us from relying on exaggerated and fearful assumptions. By focusing on the facts, a person can rely on what is reality and what is not. Most importantly, do not focus on your fearful thoughts when you're stressed out.
- 2. Take a break:** Sometimes, we get stressed out when everything happens all at once. When this happens, a person should take a deep breath and try to find something to do for a few minutes to get their mind off of the problem. A person could take a walk, listen to some music, read the newspaper, or do an activity that will give them a fresh perspective on things.
- 3. Carry a small notebook of positive statements with you:** Another technique that is very helpful in managing fear is to have a small notebook of positive statements that makes you feel good. Whenever you come across an affirmation that relaxes you or touches your heart, write it down in your small notebook that fits in your pocket. Whenever you feel anxious, stressed or depressed, open up your small notebook and read those statements.
- 4. You can't predict the future:** While the consequences of a particular fear may seem real, there are usually other factors that cannot be anticipated and can affect the results of any situation. We may be ninety-nine percent correct in predicting the future, but all it takes is for that one percent to make a world of difference.
- 5. Challenge your negative thinking with positive statements and realistic thinking:** When encountering thoughts that make you fearful, anxious or depressed, challenge those thoughts by asking yourself questions that will maintain objectivity and common sense, such as: *What emotions am I feeling? Why am I feeling this way? or Can I change the situation?* Focus on the reality of your situation and not on your thoughts. Your fearful thoughts can make things worse so try to focus on something positive when you get anxious.
- 6. Divide your activities into separate steps:** When facing a current or upcoming task that overwhelms you with a lot of anxiety, divide the task into a series of smaller steps and then complete each of the smaller tasks one step at a time. Completing these smaller activities will make the stress more manageable and increases your chances of success.
- 7. Take advantage of the help that is available around you:** There are many individuals who have been expertly trained in the field of psychology to help you find ways to manage fear and anxiety. Seek out someone whom you trust to provide sound advice and guidance. This same professional can also help you create an action plan for dealing with your fears and anxieties in the future.

Stan Popovich is the author of the popular managing fear book, A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear. For more information about Stan's book and to get some free mental health advice, please visit Stan's website at www.managingfear.com.

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