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LOCAL METROPARK'S FORMER SETTLEMENT PREDATES MICHIGAN KENSINGTON

By David Odziana, ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Field Reporter

With thousands of ghost towns scattered throughout Michigan's rural forests, it is common to find remnants of former settlements in many scarcely populated areas – what is more surprising is finding one of these sites in a state park filled with hundreds of families enjoying modern amenities, such as a public beach and water park.

Prior to the European immigration into Michigan, Native Americans frequented a section of land located on the Grand River Indian Trail, which was a famous footpath used by Indians to cross the state from Detroit to the Muskegon area. When Europeans began arriving in the area, many settlers would visit this section of land to trade with the natives. When one of the first pioneers came to the area by the name of L.D. Lovewell, he explained that *the lake and bluffs on the north and the Huron River running through the center village made it one of the most desirable locations for a village I have seen in this part of the state.*

Soon more explorers came to the area and shortly after a settlement was formed under the name Kensington in 1831 – the town was part

of the early creation of southeastern Livingston County and southwestern Oakland County. Joel Redway was responsible for erecting the town's first buildings when he constructed a log cabin and sawmill on the bank of the Huron River in 1833. Due to the exclusive location right on the river, which was believed to be able to provide plenty of water power along with the vast forests that offered a great deal of money in timber, officials believed Kensington had everything needed to grow as big as Detroit. Just a few years later, plans began to build a flour mill in the town, and because of the predicted potential of the location, the settlement was plotted on a large scale with settlers buying up pricey lots left and right. On September 5, 1834, the Kensington Post Office was created, sitting on what would become Kent Lake Road between Silver Lake and Grand River Avenue – the post office was located in the home of a resident, Abe Wood.

With the years to come, businesses began popping

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THE MAN WHO MADE MICHIGAN A STATE


By David Odziana, ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Field Reporter



Michigan became home to its first European settlement of Sault Ste. Marie in 1668, but the state as a whole took much longer than other Midwest states to become part of the Union – while the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 helped bring settlers to the area, rumors of Michigan being full of swampland and mosquito-borne illnesses made progress slow.

Born in Loudon County, Virginia, on October 27, 1811, Stevens Thomson Mason was part of a powerful family, which included members of the U.S. Senate and part of the constitutional convention. At a young age, Stevens' father, John T. Mason, traveled to Kentucky for work, but things didn't go as planned and he soon moved with his son to Michigan after obtaining a position he was appointed to by President Andrew Jackson. In 1830, John became secretary of the Michigan territory, which only lasted a year before he resigned from the position. Stevens, who was also often referred to as "Tom", was

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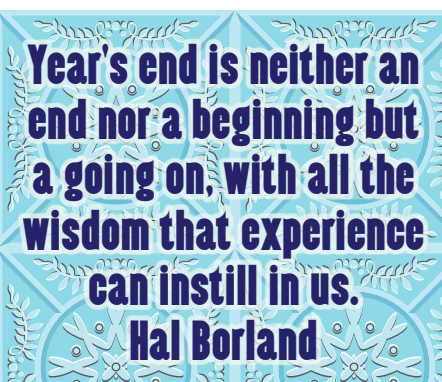
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LETTER from the EDITOR

As I sit here penning this article, it is just barely the beginning of the yearly trimester that I enjoy the least – winter. When I try and evaluate just what it is that makes this season so disdainful to me, the main thing that comes to mind is the cold. I hate to be cold. Going outside to get the mail, taking a trip to the grocery store, going to work at the break of dawn and a myriad of other daily activities become much more of a chore to me when my teeth are chattering, my body is shivering and my feet are trying to lead me back indoors to cuddle up on the couch with a warm blanket and a cup of hot tea.

Part of my being cold is really my own fault. Loving summer as much as I do, I don't want to part with it when this time of year comes around. I therefore refuse to wear boots or a winter jacket; my sandals with socks and a hoodie are my only admissions that it is getting cold outside.

What I don't like about winter as well is that I seem to waste a lot of time wishing my life away. I wish it was warmer. I wish it was summer. I wish I could go swimming in the ocean. I wish.....(fill in anything that is something you can do better in warm weather.)

This really should be a productive time of year for me. There aren't as many outside chores to do. Our restaurant business is in its slow season. The hustle and bustle of the past holiday season is over. It is time to relax and have some me time.

Did you know that January is National Hobby Month? Think about it – what better month to pursue a new hobby or continue with an old one than the month that gives many people more leisure time. Maybe your hobby embraces the colder weather – like skiing, tobogganing, snowmobiling or hunting. Maybe your hobby takes advantage of the warmth found inside the home – like sewing, scrapbooking, model train building and more. Now is the time to give yourself the present of enjoying that hobby to the fullest.

What if you don't have a hobby? Where can you begin? Here are just a few ideas:

1. Ask a friend what his or her hobby is and have him or her share with you one of the things they make or do. See if it might be something you could develop an interest in doing as well, perhaps with your friend's guidance.
2. Go to the library and check out the hobby section.

As you peruse the books, does something pop out and speak to your soul? Not a library person? Then search the internet for different hobby-related sites.

3. Get out of your comfort zone and try a new hobby. If you are a little reluctant, take a friend along.
4. Sign up for an adult-ed class at a nearby college. Many classes are hobby-based.
5. Put a call out on social media to your friends seeking who might be interested in a monthly get-together, based around a hobby of your choice.

What are the benefits of having a hobby? Hobbies enrich our lives and keep us multi-dimensional and well-rounded. We gain new experiences that we wouldn't normally get at work or at home. Hobbies can be addictive and time-consuming if you allow them to be, but they also can be something that you can put on the back-burner when your life has too many obligations to take care of. Your hobby will wait for you until you have some free time once again – like in the middle of January.

Since it is the new year and many people resolve to make changes in the upcoming months, I think I will work on being less negative about winter and take advantage of the time I have to get back to some of the hobbies I have often enjoyed, including quilting and genealogy as two of my favorites. I do have that new pattern I have wanted to try out and I do have a fifth cousin twice removed that I would like to learn more about. I think I will get started.

As for the rest of you, take some time to enjoy the hobbies you have – or pursue a new one. Whatever you do, make the most of January and have a very happy new year! 🍀

–Diane Kodet

JUST FOR FUN, HERE ARE A FEW FAVORITE HOBBIES OF SOME FAMOUS PEOPLE YOU MAY KNOW:

- Actor Tom Hanks collects vintage typewriters.
- Billionaire Richard Branson's favorite sport is kitesurfing.
- Actress Leslie Mann likes to ride a unicycle.
- Actress Susan Sarandon is a ping-pong expert.
- Former "Price is Right" host Bob Barker trained in karate under Chuck Norris.
- Actor Johnny Depp collects Barbie dolls.
- Taylor Swift makes her own snow globes for family and friends.
- Jennifer Garner plays the saxophone.

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2020 CLARITY IN HEALTH

Contributed by **Amber Deegan**, Marketing Director for Beltone Skoric Hearing Aid Center

We begin not only a new year, but a new decade this month, and I have personally deemed 2020 the year of clarity! If one were to get an eye exam and be told that they have 20/20 vision, they are considered to have perfect vision and see with great clarity. These exams are important and conducted routinely on an annual basis by most people, because let's be frank, life would be much different without the ability to see the world around us. But what about hearing with great clarity? Isn't the ability to hear the world around us clearly just as important as seeing it?

Hearing exams aren't prioritized as much as eye exams or overall annual physicals, but they should be, considering that hearing loss is being linked to more and more health conditions that affect the overall well-being of an individual. Most people are unaware that when we hear, sound waves travel from the outer ear, through the middle ear into the inner ear, where the vibrations stimulate thousands of tiny hair cells. These tiny hair cells in our inner ear send electrical signals to the auditory nerve, which is connected to the center of the brain, where the electrical impulses are perceived by the brain as sound. The brain translates the impulses into sounds that we know and understand. What this means is that there is a direct link between the ability or inability to hear and the brain.

By getting a regular hearing exam, you can stay abreast of not only your hearing health, but your overall health. Untreated hearing loss has been directly linked to cognitive decline, dementia, Alzheimer's and an increased risk of falling. One main goal when treating hearing loss is to keep the brain active and engaged and by treating hearing loss in its early stages, you can lessen your chances of developing further health problems down the line. This and every year, let's be clear where we stand in all matters of our health, because if we don't have our health, nothing else we have matters! 🍀

SOME EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF HEARING LOSS INCLUDE:

- 1 You experience ringing in your ears.
- 2 You have been told you speak too loudly.
- 3 Your family complains that you play the radio or TV too loud.
- 4 You often ask people to repeat themselves.
- 5 You have trouble understanding all the words in a conversation.
- 6 You have difficulty understanding a conversation in a large group or crowd.
- 7 You find yourself reading people's lips in order to understand the conversation.
- 8 You find yourself saying "huh" or "what" a lot in conversations.
- 9 You find that communicating over the phone is difficult.
- 10 You complain that people mumble or talk too fast.

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 35 locations: (810) 356-0559.

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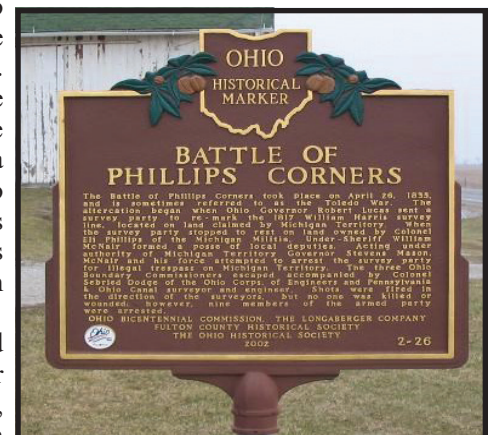
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given the same job by the president at just 19 years old. When the territorial governor George Porter wasn't present in the state, it was Stevens' job to act as governor in his absence, but that soon changed when Porter passed away in 1834 from cholera – at just 22 years old, Stevens T. Mason became full-time, acting governor of Michigan.

One of the biggest obstacles of his political career came soon after he filled the position, which lasted years before it was resolved. Stevens' main focus was to make Michigan a state, but issues arose when a section of land, known as the Toledo Strip, was claimed by both Michigan and Ohio. This became a problem because each state hired their own surveyors, both of which put the section of property inside the territorial lines of the state that paid them to do the work. However, Ohio had already begun work on digging canals connecting to Lake Erie to ship goods throughout the state and there was no way they were going to turn the land over after their hefty investment. Mason still believed the strip rightfully belonged to Michigan and continued to push for ownership, but eventually President Jackson became tired of the issues it was causing and relieved Mason from his position.

Stevens was far from giving up on his fight, and by 1835, Michigan petitioned to become part of the Union and adopted a constitution for the territory. With all this in place, elections were held for officials of Michigan and Mason was officially elected as governor. The two states continued to fight over the land, so Mason passed a Pains and Penalties Act in February 1835, charging anyone from another state acting as a Michigan official, but this didn't have much effect on the situation – in April of that year Governor Lucas of Ohio sent a surveyor to the area to mark the line once and for all. In an attempt to enforce his recently passed law, Mason sent a militia to arrest the group of surveyors near Adrian, Michigan, and they were chased back to Ohio. While it is not known if shots were actually fired during the engagement, this became known as the Battle of Phillips Corners, one of the only altercations of the Toledo War. On September 7, 1835, it was announced that Ohio courts would meet in Toledo to prove to Congress it was their governed land. Mason formed a militia to stop the meeting, but it was all a ruse because they actually met the night before a short distance away before riding to Toledo at midnight to sit for 10 minutes in a school with blacked out windows signing papers – when Masons' men arrived, they were already long gone.

Still fighting over the unresolved land, Michigan continued to push for statehood, and in the middle of 1836, congress agreed to grant Michigan into the Union if they would come to an agreement about the Toledo Strip. While the majority of people living in Michigan were not in favor of turning over the land just to become a state, Mason apparently became aware that this fight may never end in his favor. It also became known that prior to President Jackson leaving office, he planned on dispersing the surplus of federal funds to each state and if Michigan remained a territory it wouldn't receive any money. Stevens organized a convention in Ann Arbor on December 14, 1836, which was attended by delegates that supported statehood. As a result of the meeting, Michigan was set to become a state and was accepted into the Union by congress on January 26, 1837 – while they were forced to give up the Toledo Strip, as part of the compromise Michigan



This plaque reads as: The Battle of Phillips Corners took place on April 16, 1834 and is sometimes referred to as the Toledo War. The altercation began when Ohio Governor Robert Lucas sent a survey party to re-mark the 1817 William Harris survey line, located on land claimed by Michigan Territory. When the survey party stopped to rest on land owned by Colonel Eli Phillips of the Michigan Militia, Under-Sherrif William McNair formed a posse of local deputies. Acting under authority of Michigan Territory Governor, Stevens Mason, McNair and his force attempted to arrest the survey party for illegal trespass on Michigan Territory. The three Ohio Boundary Commissioners escaped, accompanied by Colonel Sebried Dodge of the Ohio Corps. of Engineers and Pennsylvania & Ohio Canal surveyor and designer. Shots were fired in the direction of the surveyors but no one was killed or wounded, however, nine members of the armed party were arrested.

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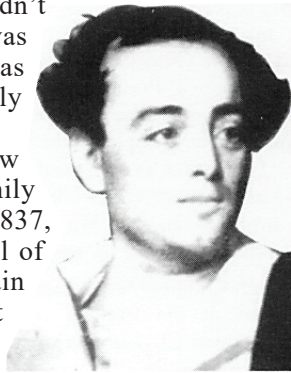
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was set to receive the Upper Peninsula. Wisconsin didn't object to the deal because it was believed the land was only suitable for polar bears, but in reality the land was filled with numerous valuable minerals, which largely supported Michigan's economy well into the 1900s.

By this time, Stevens was now married to his new bride, Julia Phelps, who was from a well-to-do family in New York City. During Michigan's primaries in 1837, Mason was re-elected to his position as governor, full of ambitious plans for the next few years. One of his main focuses was improving forms of travel throughout the state, which included roads, railroads, as well as installing a canal at Sault Ste. Marie and the Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal. He also placed a huge emphasis on education throughout the state, implementing a free school system and was also involved in the effort to move the University of Michigan from Detroit to Ann Arbor. Unfortunately, a short time into Mason's re-election, the economy crashed, which led to the Panic of 1837, leaving the state with no money for improvements. Mason traveled to New York to obtain a loan, but after some of the funds went missing, many people withdrew their support for the governor – despite the money eventually being returned, Stevens was largely blamed for the struggling economy.

Mason decided not to run for re-election in 1839; instead he and his wife left the state and settled in New York City in 1840. His plan was to practice law, but that didn't work out very well for him – just three years later in 1843, Mason caught pneumonia and passed away at just 31 years old. Stevens was originally laid to rest in New York's Marble Cemetery, where he remained for more than



Election scene - first State of Michigan election

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half a century before a push began to bring the body of Michigan's first governor back to the Mitten State. In 1905, Mason's body was exhumed and loaded onto a train destined for Detroit accompanied by his daughter, Dorothy Mason Wright, as well as his sister, Emily Virginia Mason, who was 92 years old at the time. Mason was laid to rest in Detroit's Capitol Park, almost exactly where the original capitol building stood – three years later Albert Weinert sculpted a bronze statue of his likeness, formed from melted down Fort Michilimackinac cannons, which was placed over the burial site.

Mason's body remained undisturbed for half a century before the city of Detroit made plans to construct a bus terminal, which forced workers to move his body. Fast forward to 2010, officials had plans to redo some landscaping throughout the Capitol Park, which required his body to be moved yet again. This time they actually hit a snag for a short time because they weren't able to locate his remains. It was assumed that his casket was right under the statue, but in reality it was actually a few feet to the side – when they finally found it, they discovered a beat-up, zinc-lined casket with his body and some pieces of cloth inside. Today Stevens Mason's body is resting in an above-ground memorial in Detroit's Capitol Park.

Interestingly, the fight over the infamous Toledo Strip didn't end with Mason; the dispute continued off and on until 1973, when the Supreme Court ruled in Ohio's favor.

While he is often overlooked as part of Michigan history, the Boy Governor, as he was often called, did a great deal to propel Michigan into statehood. Don Faber, author of *The Toledo War: The First Michigan-Ohio Rivalry*, explained how vital he was to the state at the time saying, "Nobody else would have had the audacity to simply declare statehood. It took a leader like Mason to take the status quo and turn it on its head, and it took a visionary to shape and mold the way he did." To this day, Stevens Thomson Mason remains the youngest person in American history to hold the position of governor. 🐾



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WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY?

JANUARY

<p>1 On this day in 45 B.C., the Julian calendar takes effect for the first time on New Year's Day.</p>	<p>2 On this day in 1953, Guccio Gucci, Italian founder of Gucci fashion house, dies at 71.</p> 	<p>3 On this day in 1925, Benito Mussolini declares himself dictator of Italy.</p>	<p>4 On this day in 2007, Nancy Pelosi becomes the first female Speaker of the House.</p>
<p>5 On this day in 1980, the Sugarhill Gang's "Rapper's Delight" becomes hip-hop's first Top 40 hit.</p> 	<p>6 On this day in 1838, Samuel Morse demonstrates the telegraph.</p>	<p>7 On this day in 1789, the first U.S. Presidential Election took place.</p> 	<p>8 On this day in 1867, African-American men gain the right to vote in Washington D.C.</p>
<p>9 On this day in 2001, Apple launches iTunes, revolutionizing how people consume music.</p>	<p>10 On this day in 1967, President Johnson asks for more funding for the Vietnam War.</p>	<p>11 On this day in 1908, Teddy Roosevelt makes the Grand Canyon a National Monument.</p> 	
<p>12 On this day in 1926, the original Amos 'n' Andy debuts on Chicago radio.</p>	<p>13 On this day in 1968, Johnny Cash performs at Folsom Prison.</p> 	<p>14 On this day in 1943, Franklin D. Roosevelt becomes the first president to travel by airplane on U.S. official business.</p>	<p>15 On this day in 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. is born.</p> 
<p>16 On this day in 1919, Prohibition is ratified by Congress.</p>	<p>17 On this day in 1893, Americans overthrow the Hawaiian monarchy.</p>	<p>18 On this day in 1919, the post-World War I peace conference begins in Paris.</p>	
<p>19 On this day in 1966, Indira Gandhi becomes the Indian prime minister.</p> 	<p>20 On this day in 1981, the Iran hostage crisis ends.</p>	<p>21 On this day in 1921, British crime writer, Agatha Christie, publishes her first novel <i>The Mysterious Affair at Styles</i>.</p>	<p>22 On this day in 2003, Hispanics are declared the largest minority group in the United States.</p> 
<p>23 On this day in 1957, the toy company Wham-O produces the first Frisbees.</p>	<p>24 On this day in 1935, the first canned beer goes on sale.</p> 	<p>25 On this day in 1942, Thailand declares war on the United States and England.</p>	
<p>26 On this day in 1979, the <i>Dukes of Hazzard</i> first appears.</p> 	<p>27 On this day in 1970, John Lennon writes and records "Instant Karma" in a single day.</p>	<p>28 On this day in 1982, actor Danny Devito and actress Rhea Perlman are married.</p> 	<p>29 On this day in 1843, William McKinley, the first U.S. president to ride in a car, is born.</p>
<p>30 On this day in 1948, Gandhi is assassinated.</p>	<p>31 On this day in 1936, <i>The Green Hornet</i> radio show is first heard on WXYZ Radio in Detroit.</p> 	<p>WISHING YOU A NEW YEAR THAT IS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS!</p>	

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

By Pamela Lynn Hayes, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

COTTAGE LIVING

It's the time of year after the holidays have concluded that we can relax a bit and exhale after the craziness of the long holiday season. We are into our new year and now we all get ready to settle into our winter slumber routines for a couple of months. Not too much goes on up north when I visit the cottage this time of the winter.

I do always reflect back to the past summer and visualize sitting outside with friends and family in the warm summer air, with nature all around us. My mind goes back to the summer days when I take a chair and read at the little private beach we have, or I remember the feeling of the warm sun on my face while on the boat for a summer afternoon ride.

Do I relish and thoroughly enjoy those hot summer days in our warm weather seasons enough? I'm not sure I do. I know I certainly make an effort to soak up the sun as much as possible, boating, fishing or swimming in the summer, but when I reflect back to the summer it seems as if I took the weather and summer beauty for granted. I will be mindful to enjoy the spring and summer much more this year.

I have to say I've never reflected back on January or February during July and asked myself if I truly cherished those long, gray winter months. Winter months in Michigan can actually be treated like time for us all to get ready and right for the Michigan summers that can be perfect and heavenly, whether it's to get into better shape, shed some holiday pounds or to think about boating accessories, what to plant in the spring or making a decision about painting a room.

I use this time to venture north a weekend or two in the winter to check on things in and around the cottage while everything is in hibernation for a few more months at least. Normally everything is just fine upon arrival. I have something I do when I arrive at the cottage as I unlock the door after not being there for a few weeks in the winter. I called it the "entrance clap" as soon as I put my key in the door and open the door, I clap several times fast to scare off anything that may be hiding inside! Odd, yes, but it works! I have been very lucky in the seven years I have owned the place; I have not experienced any critter issues, save for a few calling cards under the kitchen sink from a tiny mouse or two. I do keep my place pretty clean through the year with the help of a peppermint essential oil and spring water spray mixture and dryer sheets placed in certain areas.

I am looking forward to the break of Michigan spring already. And I will use this time in the cold Michigan winter to "get ready and right" to welcome in the smell of a thawing earth in a few months. Until then, I will enjoy as much as possible relaxing in my little cottage in the winter under a blanket with the heat on watching it snow, reminding myself how beautiful Michigan summers really are.

HAPPY NEW YEAR THUMBPRINT NEWS READERS! THINK SPRING!

MADGE & WALDO
WITH MRS. WEDBETTER

By LARRY RANN

MADGE & WALDO
WITH MRS. WEDBETTER

Recently retired couple (early 60's). Mrs. Wedbetter, single lady about 15 years older than Madge and Waldo. She is constantly competing with Waldo and almost always gets the best of him.

By Larry Rann,
Cartoonist from
St. Clair, Michigan



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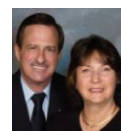
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PROPERTY POTPOURRI

Don Alcorn, GRI and Barbara Alcorn, GRI

MARKET MATTERS

As we welcome in the new year, consumer sentiment is high, and we're hoping it stays that way in what may be a tumultuous election year.

The National Associations of Realtors® (NAR) is forecasting more than a ten percent increase in new house sales in 2020. Sales of existing houses are forecast to increase by more than three and a half percent

Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist, expects housing inventory of existing homes to increase somewhat, but not result in any oversupply. He expects price appreciation in the next 12 months to be "more in the three to five percent range" and doesn't see any risk of a price decline.

Home mortgage rates were relatively stable all year at historic low levels and Mr. Yun forecasts an average 30-year fixed mortgage rate of 3.7% through the second quarter of 2020. He expects a modest increase in rates with sub-4% rates to continue throughout the year.

The FHA Loan Limit for 2020 for single family homes has been increased to \$331,760 for most counties in Michigan. This can assist first time home buyers and others, who want to purchase with a lower (3.5%) down payment.

Fannie Mae has also released guidance regarding the increase of conforming loan* limits. Effective January 1, 2020, conforming loans will cap out at \$510,400 in Michigan.

**A conforming loan is a mortgage that is equal to or less than the dollar amount established by the conforming-loan limit set by the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) and meets the funding criteria of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. For borrowers with excellent credit, conforming loans are advantageous due to the low interest rates affixed to them.*

WHAT'S APLENTY IN 2020?

Some of this year's design trends are inspired by nature and strive to give the house a comfortable and cozy look, according to newdecortrends.com.

COLORS – Earth tones. Gray is also still a trending, neutral color along with pink, purple and pastels, including roses and shades of green.

MATERIALS – Woods, woods and more woods in ceilings, columns and floors, furniture, decorations and finishes. All types, including oak, mahogany, pine or faux wood, with darker tones trending.

Also, differing textures are showcased, including rattan and wicker, leather, and metals in furniture and accessories.

TRANQUIL SPACES – While open plan spaces are popular and welcoming, it is also desirable to have a place to relax with a bit more privacy. A calming sitting room with soft furnishings, textures and a fireplace is a popular décor.

INDOOR GARDENS – Reinforcing and adding to the natural concept, an indoor garden with real plants can add personality and peacefulness to your home. Plants also improve air quality and may also reduce stress and anxiety and improve productivity, concentration and mood.

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



2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR



The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written.
 We can help write that story by setting goals. - Melody Beattie

KENSINGTON up everywhere and it wasn't long before
Continued from Page 1 Kensington was home to two boot shops, two brick makers, three general stores, two doctors, five blacksmiths, a dentist, a Baptist church and three hotels. One of the most prominent citizens that settled in the town during its formative years was Kinsley Scott Bingham – later in life Bingham went on to serve as a U.S. Representative, a U.S. Senator and eventually became Michigan's 11th governor in 1854. He served two terms as governor, making him the first Republican to be Governor of Michigan and one of the first Republican governors of any state in the country. With the Huron River being the town's lifeline, early on officials suggested damming it upstream to power everything sufficiently, but because citizens believed it would cause their properties to flood, the idea was quickly shot down.

Kensington continued to flourish because it was situated on the Grand River Trail as a stagecoach stop, which was now being converted into a government-run toll road for people traveling across the state – since railroads were yet to cover the state, being pulled by a team of oxen down this road was the easiest way of travel. During Michigan's early years, this stretch of road was constantly bustling with horse-drawn carriages filled with produce destined for the market or pioneers bringing their families to settle the area. With rumors swirling around the state that Kensington was doing just as much business each year as Milford and it was now bigger than New Hudson, many prominent men began investing in the new town.

Since so much money was being spent in the area, a need for a bank became evident, which was established on December 12, 1837, as the Kensington Bank Company. The business was formed by a group of residents including Alfred Dwight and Sherman D. Dix – Dix was both the cashier and director. Since the entire state of Michigan was experiencing a need for financial institutions seemingly overnight, the Freeholders' Law was created to alleviate the need to pass special laws throughout the state. This allowed almost anyone to establish a "wildcat bank", which is what the Kensington Bank was – with \$50,000 in capital, the Kensington Bank was certified by the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Detroit in 1838. The creation of the bank in the small town was said to create more anticipation than anything else happening in the area at the time. With all the business ventures popping up throughout the town, Kensington was now home to more than 300 people living throughout the settlements' 50 homes.

Unfortunately for the town of Kensington, the timing of the bank couldn't have been worse. The same year the bank was created, a banking crisis struck the country, which didn't hit the state of Michigan until two years later in 1839. Since the bank notes distributed by the Kensington Bank didn't sell as well as predicted, many people found it difficult to redeem the notes for money – as was typical of wildcat banks during this time, Kensington printed more money in notes than it had in its holdings. When the fall season was upon the area, the bank had received an influx of money from area farmers who had recently sold all their crops from the growing season. With the hard-earned money from local citizens, Dix and Dwight picked the bank clean of all their holdings and took off to Milwaukee. Reports vary as to exactly what their true intentions were, but they used the money in exchange for items, such as jewelry, land and livestock – some believe they were skipping town and planning on keeping the money, while others state they were trying to save the bank by adding valuable assets to the institution.

This resulted in the remaining shareholders offering a reward to the person who returned Dix and Dwight to Michigan – shortly after which they were arrested and brought back. While the results of these legal issues seem to be lost to time, the Bank of Kensington soon closed its doors despite most of the



Farm implements left behind

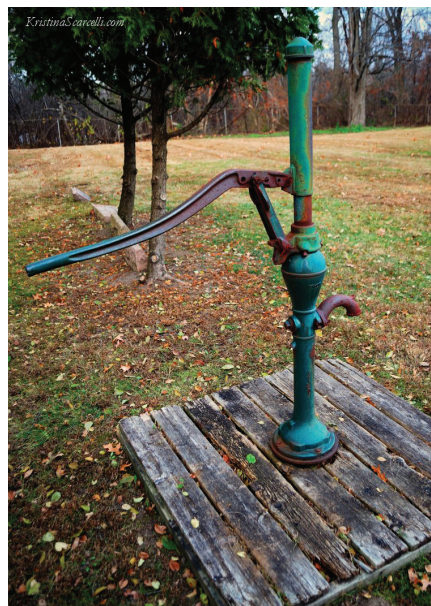


Kensington remains

money eventually being recovered. Since residents of the town were betrayed by their bank and most of their money disappeared overnight, many of them decided to stop paying their bills and leave town. After some time of not receiving payments, the investors became irritated and decided to go to Kensington themselves to collect their debt, but to their surprise they were welcomed by numerous empty stores and homes – legend states that this is where the rise of the saying "gone to Kent" came from.

Following the shady behavior of the Kensington Bank, the town was never the same – by the time the Civil War began, much of the town was being scrapped for other purposes. While the settlement was able to hold on for a while following the scandal, when companies began to build railroads across the state, towns began competing to have the rail lines pass through their settlement. When work began in 1871, Milford and South Lyon were chosen over Kensington for the Detroit, Lansing and Lake Michigan Railroad passage. Following this disappointing decision, many people began picking up and leaving the area to settle in more flourishing towns. Another blow came to Kensington in 1882, when the Michigan Air Line Railroad was laid out, traversing through New Hudson instead of Kensington, making many residents realize that hope for a railway may never materialize. Many historians argue that Kensington was doomed the day locals blocked the damming of the Huron River, but with the bank scandal and inability to secure a railway for the town, Kensington as the residents knew it was gone forever.

With the area now seemingly a ghost town and many homes and businesses remaining standing but abandoned, a majority of the land was sold off. The buildings that remained in town were used over the years for travelers and fishermen in the area as material to make a fire – little by little these dwellings started to disappear piece by piece. On July 31, 1902, the Kensington Post Office was closed and within two years there were only four families left See *KENSINGTON* Page 23



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VOCABULARY VOYAGE

Happy New Year FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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

“The world is now too small for anything but brotherhood.” –Arthur Powell Davies

Arabic - **Sunat Jadidat Saeida** [sana jadeedah saa'eedah] عدي عس ةدي دج ةنس

Chinese, Traditional - **Xīnnián Kuàilè** [shing-ying kwy-lə] 新年快樂

Filipino - **Maligayong Bagong Taon** [mäli-guy-ung ba-gung tä-on]

French - **Bonne Année** [bun a knee]

Hawaiian - **Ha'uoli Makahiki Hou** [how-oollee ma-ka-hee-key ho]

Japanese - **Akemashite Omedetō Gozaimasu** 明けましておめでとうございます

Norwegian - **Godt Nytt år** [goht nit oar]

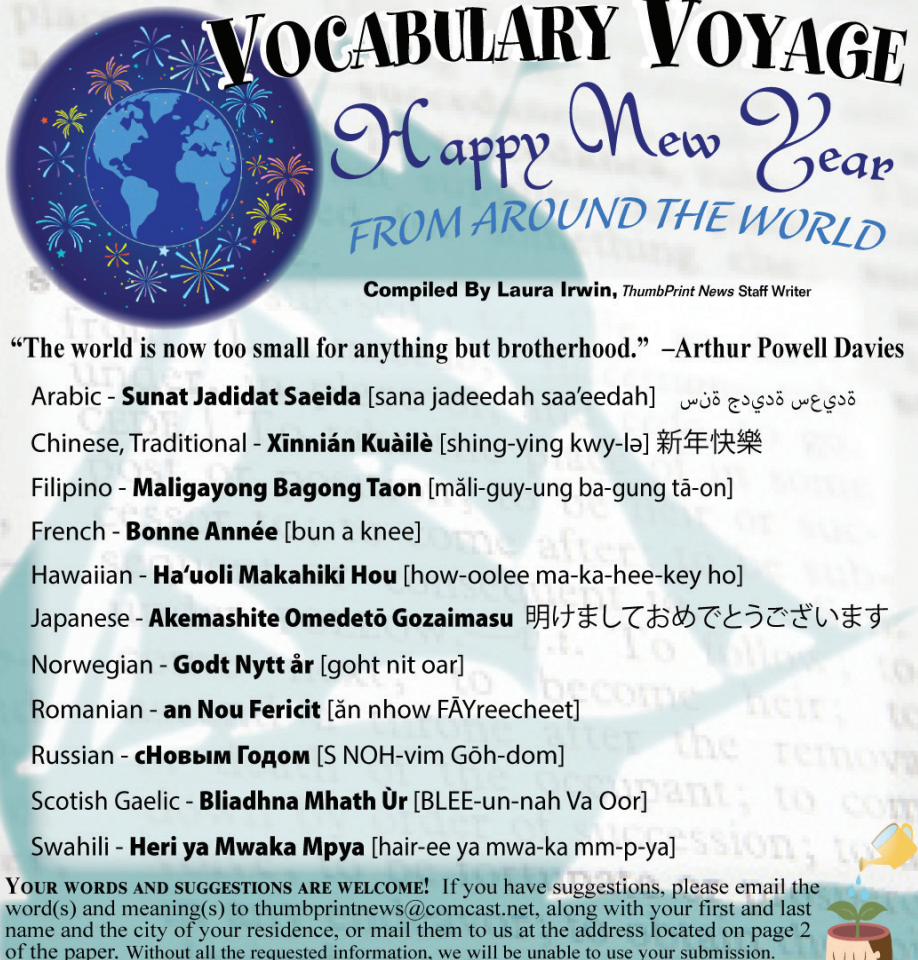
Romanian - **an Nou Fericit** [än nhow FÄYreecheet]

Russian - **с Новым Годом** [S NOH-vim Göh-dom]

Scottish Gaelic - **Bliadhna Mhath Ùr** [BLEE-un-nah Va Oor]

Swahili - **Heri ya Mwaka Mpya** [hair-ee ya mwa-ka mm-p-ya]

YOUR WORDS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME! If you have suggestions, please email the word(s) and meaning(s) to thumbprintnews@comcast.net, along with your first and last name and the city of your residence, or mail them to us at the address located on page 2 of the paper. Without all the requested information, we will be unable to use your submission.



THUMBPRINT NEWS shares memories of summer



ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world ever since its beginning nine years ago. In just that short time, our faithful readers have taken our paper with them to all fifty United States and to all seven continents, photographing themselves in front of points of interest in those places. It has been and continues to be an armchair tour of the world!

This month we are featuring photos of *ThumbPrint News* traveling with three young people to Kentucky and Tennessee. Here is the information we received about their trip:



Alayna Irwin and Jessica Wright of Marine City, Michigan, along with Isaac Jozefiak of Marysville, Michigan, went on a 10-day trip to Kentucky and Tennessee. The first stop was to visit relatives who live on their houseboat at Lees Ford Marina in Nancy, Kentucky. After a couple of days with Aunt Micki and Uncle David relaxing and boating, the three took off for Bledsoe Creek State Park where they tent camped for six days before heading over to the Nashville KOA to an air-conditioned cabin with Wi-Fi and a TV for the last night of their trip. A few of the highlights were cliff-diving on Lake Cumberland, the Nashville Zoo and strolling the colorful, busy streets of Nashville. Lots of nature walks, hiking and swimming in the lake balanced out the trip. They all agree that with temps in the 90s and the high humidity, the air-conditioned cabin was the way to go!

From the photos that were sent to us, it looks like Jessica, Alayna and Isaac had an awesome trip!

A few months ago, we also started a new challenge: send a photo of a favorite animal posing with *ThumbPrint News*. It can be a pet or, if you can make it happen, a wild animal. Let's see what kind of a menagerie we can come up with. We have featured dogs and a bearded dragon so far, and have fish, cats and more dogs ready to be featured. What other kinds of animals will we receive? See the fine print below for details on how and where to send your photo(s).

If you plan a trip for business or pleasure, please consider taking a copy of *ThumbPrint News* with you and photographing it with yourself in front of a point of interest for that location. Please submit a good quality .jpeg photo(s) to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net and include a paragraph about your trip. When your photo or photos appear in the paper, we will be sure to send you a complimentary copy, so please include your name and address with your submission. If you need to submit via USPS, please mail to the address on page 2 of this paper. Enclose a SASE if you want your photo returned. Thank you.





Melanie Duquesnel

FINANCIAL STABILITY \$\$ PLAN FOR 2020 \$\$

The new year is here and with that come new resolutions. While some wish for health and prosperity in the new year, others are just hoping to recover from the exhaustion the holidays usually bring. That includes the work your holiday shopping did on your bank account.

During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it is not uncommon to lose track of what you're spending. Whether you budgeted for the losses or you're now overwhelmed at just the sight of your credit card statements, the best thing you can do is move forward with a plan that can help you recover and save in the new year.

With the holidays over and the impending bank and credit card statements beginning to roll in, Better Business Bureau Eastern Michigan offers tips to recover financially from seasonal overspending.

DEVELOP A PLAN – Before you begin paying off any bill, it is important to develop a plan for paying down debt as quickly as possible, without dipping into emergency savings or borrowing money. There are plenty of great online resources, such as BudgetPulse or Personal Capital, that help monitor money and get your budget in line.

PUT YOUR CREDIT CARDS AWAY – In an effort to avoid creating more debt, put credit cards away and out of your wallet to avoid the temptation of using them. Some credit card companies allow their customers to freeze their card temporarily, which helps dissuade them from using the cards as well.

PAY EXTRA WHENEVER YOU CAN – When repaying debt and trying to regain financial stability, it is always best if you can pay more than what the monthly minimum of what you owe is. This will help get the debt down and help you pay it off quicker.

STAY OUT OF THE STORES (Online and In-Person) – When facing a post-holiday debt situation, avoid going to the mall or shopping online. One of the easiest ways to help curb online shopping is to unsubscribe from email lists, which often advertise tempting sales and deals after the holiday season.

RETURN ANYTHING YOU DIDN'T USE/UNWANTED GIFTS – Take an inventory of the items you bought for the holidays that you didn't end up using (paper plates, tree decorations, etc.), or if you received a gift that you can return without hurting someone's feelings, then go ahead and return the item. When you return an item you bought with your credit card, it'll push down your balance some. When you return an unwanted gift, you are gaining some much-needed cash you didn't have on hand before, which you may need for paying your bills.

Lastly, take a deep breath. Try not to let the spending of the holidays put a damper on all the exciting possibilities of the new year.

For more consumer tips and tricks, visit bbb.org or call (866) 788-5706.

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



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PROBLEMS

**THERE'S A
MOUSE IN
THE HOUSE**

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

Happy New Year, *ThumbPrint* readers! Now that the holidays have passed, the beauty and wonder of the winter fades to something a little more frigid. Staying cozy indoors becomes a top priority for most people. But people aren't the only ones looking to keep warm this season! Critters of all types are in need of food, comfort and shelter, and unfortunately for us, our homes are the most appealing option. Out of the many critters we'd most like to see stay out in the cold, mice usually top the list. They are sneaky little guys and have the ability to get inside through the smallest of openings – I'm talking ¼ of an inch in diameter. Making sure your house is completely sealed up of all voids and cracks that small is nearly impossible. This means the mice will be getting in, but there are other ways to deal with them.

Now, you may be thinking, "So what? What's the big deal if I spot one little mouse?" Well, chances are it isn't just one. Mice breed year-round and reproduce very quickly! These creatures can be very destructive. They will target and chew on books, clothes, items stored in boxes, pictures that are irreplaceable and more. Electrical fires have also been known to start due to mice chewing on electrical wires.

While being worried of a potential infestation, it is also important to be concerned about your health. Mice can carry and spread diseases to people and pets. Some of the diseases they are capable of transmitting are salmonella food poisoning, rickettsial pox, meningitis and leptospirosis. Diseases can be transmitted through bites, contaminated food and mouse droppings. Irreplaceable possessions are not the only thing they're after; mice will eat and contaminate any food they can find – whether it's out or stored away. It is vital to throw away any food that you suspect has been contaminated.

Mice will go after food left on counters, on dirty dishes in the sink and even food in our beloved pets' bowls! Once you are aware that you have a mouse infestation, there are several precautions you can take to help eliminate the problem. Make sure dirty dishes are washed and not left out overnight, take out your garbage every night and put it in a sealed garbage can and pick up and put away or empty pet food bowls before dark. Mice have poor vision and are color blind. They rely heavily on their other senses, including the sense of smell to find food; leaving food out overnight is an open invitation! Keep all the food in your cupboards in tightly sealed containers and vacuum regularly. Mice are nocturnal, meaning night time is when they are most likely actively foraging for food, and seeing mice during the day can be an indication of a severe infestation. Nesting locations vary, with a few of their favorites being in attics and crawl spaces.

Mice eat up to 20 times a day and produce about 70 droppings a day per mouse. With a severe mouse infestation, you will have hundreds of new droppings in your home on a daily basis. Sanitation is very critical! Keeping your home free of food sources and clutter will increase the effectiveness of baiting and trapping. Cleaning up droppings on a daily basis also allow you to see if your infestation is getting better or worse with your treatment program. Proper sanitation and daily cleaning decreases the chances of disease transmittal.

Call ABC Home & Commercial Services now to evict these unwanted visitors! Our wildlife technicians will inspect your home and design a specialized treatment plan for you. From the attic to the crawl space and outside too, our technicians will do the dirty work for you. The sooner you begin the treatment process the better. Remember, there's never just one. Call now to schedule your appointment at (810)794-5678. 🐭

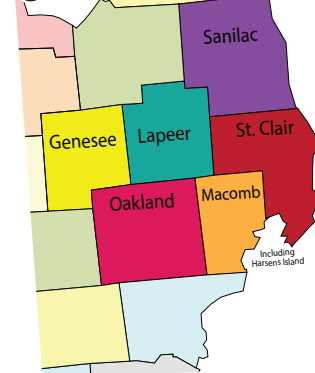
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THUMBPRINT NEWS CONTEST

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object, person or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, go to our website www.thumbprintnews.com and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting the correct answer by the 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!

Congratulations to our 2019 winner, Diane Hinkley!

On December 13, 2019, Diane, of Sterling Heights, Michigan, was randomly selected out of the the 12 monthly winners! She has won a gift certificate to Foxfire Fixin's restaurant in Marine City, Michigan!

For the new year, we will draw one lucky winner on December 16, 2020, out of all our monthly winners.

For our December contest, we asked our readers to identify what the items to the right are and for what they are used. Of all of those submitting the correct answer, Jane Volmering of Harbor Beach, Michigan, was randomly chosen and was entered into the 2019 year-end drawing. Jane identified the object as a vintage string with special clips for holding and displaying Christmas cards.

Here are a couple of interesting facts about Christmas cards:

- In 1843, Sir Henry Cole commissioned the first Christmas card in London, featuring artwork by John Callcott Horsley. The hand-colored card was lithographed on stiff, dark cardboard with the message: "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You."
- In 2001, Horsley's card became the world's most expensive Christmas card when it was sold for \$35,800 at auction.
- Louis Prang, American printer, lithographer and publisher, brought Christmas card production to the United States at his workshop in Boston, Massachusetts. By 1881, he was printing more than 5 million Christmas cards per year.
- The first official White House Christmas card was issued in 1953 by President Eisenhower.
- In 1962, the first Christmas postage stamp was issued in the United States.
- Werner Erhard of San Francisco set a world record for sending 62,824 Christmas cards in December of 1975.

For our January contest, we are asking our readers to identify what the item pictured to the left is and for what it is used. Go to our website www.thumbprintnews.com if you know the answer. 🍀



GOOD LUCK!

BRING BRUNCH HOME

FAMILY FEATURES

There's no denying that brunch is a popular favorite, but you don't have to leave the comfort of your own home to enjoy a delicious spread with family and friends.

Enjoy this weekend luxury every day and bring brunch home with premium ingredients like Smithfield's Hometown Original Bacon, Anytime Favorites Diced Ham and Fresh Breakfast Sausage.

Delight friends and family with a full spread of mouthwatering recipes like Sausage and Egg Tarts dressed with Asparagus and Tomatoes, Cheesy Bacon Jalapeño Corn Muffins, Cinnamon French Toast Sausage Roll-Ups and Scrambled Eggs and Ham in a Waffle Cup. Then enhance your menu with options for customization like jams, butters and toppings to make brunch at home unique and unforgettable.

For more brunch and entertaining recipe inspiration, visit Smithfield.com.



Sausage and Egg Tarts with Asparagus and Tomatoes

- Flour, for dusting
- 1 package (about 1 pound) frozen prepared puff pastry, thawed
- 9 eggs, brought to room temperature for 30 minutes, divided
- 1 teaspoon water
- 1 Smithfield Hometown Original Fresh Sausage Roll, sliced into 8 patties, cooked and halved
- 1 pound fresh asparagus spears, cut into pieces
- 1 pint grape tomatoes, halved lengthwise
- salt, to taste
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese (optional)

Heat oven to 400°F.

On lightly floured surface, roll out pastry and cut into eight 4-5-inch squares and transfer to greased or parchment-lined baking sheets spaced about 1 inch apart. Using small knife, lightly score line 1/2-inch inside edges of squares to create framed border. With fork, prick several holes in center of pastry squares.

Bake squares 7-8 minutes, or until pastry has puffed substantially yet not begun to brown. Remove from oven and immediately tamp down centers inside of scored line carefully with back of fork.

Lightly beat 1 egg with water and brush outside frames of pastry with egg wash. Slightly overlapping framed pastry borders, equally divide and arrange sausage, asparagus and tomatoes in pastry squares, leaving centers open for eggs. Top each with cracked egg, seasoning with salt and pepper and sprinkling with cheese, if desired.

Return to oven and bake 8-10 minutes, or until puff pastry is golden brown and eggs have just set. Let cool slightly and transfer tarts with spatula to serving plate and serve warm.

Cheesy Bacon Jalapeño Corn Muffins

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1 package (16 ounces) Smithfield Hometown Original Bacon
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 2 eggs
- 6 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/3 cup honey
- 3/4 cup milk or buttermilk
- 1 can corn kernels, drained
- 2 medium jalapeño peppers, seeded and diced
- 1 medium jalapeño pepper, thinly sliced

Heat oven to 375°F.

Line rimmed baking pan with foil and set lightly sprayed baking rack in pan. Cut bacon crosswise into thirds and lay out bacon strips on rack, being careful not to overlap slices. Bake 10-12 minutes, or until bacon has just begun to crisp. Remove from oven and drain on paper towels. Increase oven temperature to 400°F.

In large bowl, stir together flour, cornmeal, baking powder, salt and cheese until well mixed.

In small bowl, whisk eggs until frothy and stir in melted butter, honey and milk. Add milk mixture to dry ingredients and stir until combined. Fold in corn and diced jalapeño and reserve.

Lightly spray or butter 12-cup muffin tin and line each cup with two slices of bacon. Evenly divide muffin batter into cups, filling about three-fourths full and top with remaining bacon and sliced jalapeño. Bake muffins 20 minutes, or until golden brown, using toothpick to test doneness. Let cool briefly, remove muffins from tin and serve while still warm.



Scrambled Eggs and Ham in a Waffle Cup

- 6 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups Smithfield Honey Cured Boneless Ham Steak, diced
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 8 waffle cups (4 ounces each)
- 4 teaspoons maple syrup, warm, divided
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme, chopped

In bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, cheese, salt and pepper; stir in ham.

In 10-inch, nonstick skillet, melt butter over medium-high heat. Add egg mixture; reduce heat to medium-low.

Using wooden spoon, scrape eggs from edges of pan to center. Continue stirring eggs 3-5 minutes, or until fluffy.

Scoop 1/2 cup warm scrambled eggs into waffle cup and drizzle with 1/2 teaspoon maple syrup. Garnish with fresh thyme leaves. Repeat for each waffle cup.

Boost Brunch with a Bloody Mary Bar

Premium ingredients and worthwhile recipes are a great way to make brunch at home, and adding a Bloody Mary bar to the mix is one way to give your spread extra flair. Provide your guests multiple options for toppings so they can perfectly customize their adult beverages with garnishes like these:

- Salt (plain or flavored)
- Pepper
- Horseradish
- Smithfield Hometown Original Bacon
- Celery stalk
- Worcestershire sauce
- Lemons
- Limes
- Hot sauces
- Stuffed olives
- Pickled green beans
- Pickle spears
- Onions
- Cheese cubes
- Cherry tomatoes

Cinnamon French Toast Sausage Roll-Ups

- 12 Smithfield Fresh Sausage Links
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cup milk
- 3 tablespoons almond liquor (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 6 slices whole-wheat bread, crust removed and cut in half
- 3 tablespoons butter

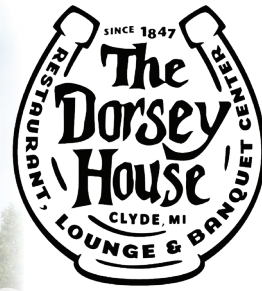
Cook sausage according to package directions; keep warm.

Beat together eggs, milk, almond liquor and cinnamon. Dip one bread slice half in egg mixture and wrap around one sausage link. Press bread edges together where they overlap to keep from unrolling. Repeat with remaining bread and sausage links.

Heat large skillet over medium heat; add butter and let melt. Place French toast-wrapped sausages in skillet, seam-side down. Cook until browned on all sides, about 10 minutes total.



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Lessons I Have Learned: From My 20-Year Struggle With Fear and Anxiety

By Stan Popovich, *ThumbPrint News* Guest Writer

Do you currently struggle with fear and anxiety and wish you could talk to someone who can relate to your situation?

If so, I dealt with fear and anxiety for over 20 years, and here are some lessons I learned during my mental health struggles.

- 1. Listen to the Professionals and Not Your Friends:** Your friends may mean well, but when it comes down to it, the professionals know your situation more than anyone. They know what you are going through and are trained to deal with your situation. Consult with a counselor when you have questions about your mental health issues.
- 2. Distance Yourself from People Who Give You a Hard Time:** Distance yourself from those people who won't make an effort to help understand what you are going through. You need to surround yourself with positive and supportive people. I felt better when I avoided those people who would constantly argue with me regarding my anxieties and stresses.
- 3. Focus on the Facts of Your Situation and Not Your Thoughts:** When people are depressed they rely on their fearful and negative thoughts. Your fearful thoughts are exaggerated and are not based on reality. When you are depressed, focus on the facts of your current situation and not on what you think.
- 4. Learn From Your Experiences:** In every anxiety-related situation I experienced, I learned what worked, what did not work, and what I needed to improve on as I managed my fears and anxieties. For example, you have a lot of anxiety and you decide to take a walk to help you feel better. The next time you feel anxious, you can remind yourself that you got through it the last time by taking a walk.
- 5. You Can't Predict the Future Regardless of What Your Thoughts May Tell You:** No one can predict the future with one hundred percent certainty. Even if the thing that you are afraid of does happen, there are circumstances and factors that you can't predict which can be used to your advantage. For instance, you miss the deadline for a project at work. Suddenly, your boss comes to your office and tells you that the deadline is extended and that he forgot to tell you the day before. This unknown factor changes everything.
- 6. Things Change Over Time:** Regardless of your current situation, things do not stay the same. You may feel very bad today, but it won't last forever. Everything changes over time and this includes your current mental health issues.

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

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ACROSS

1. First notation on musical staff
5. Took a load off
8. Wharton degree
11. *Skylab _____ to Earth in 1979
12. Delhi wrap
13. Same as vial
15. FBI assignment
16. Campus hangout
17. More than one iamb
18. *Location of longest cave system in the world
20. *First Nation nation
21. What a spooked horse does, with away
22. * _____ domain
23. Post-graduate "Journey"
26. *Military College of South Carolina, with The
30. *Beehive State native
31. Expect to be true
34. *RBG's garb
35. Tax of one tenth
37. *Rockefeller's industry
38. Type of digital storage
39. Pelvic bones
40. Caribbean rattle
42. *Anna Jarvis' honoree
43. Reusable pattern painting device
45. *State with longest coastline
47. Popular white fish
48. Winchester 30-30, e.g.
50. Country alliance
52. *World's largest office building
55. The Commodores' " _____ House"
56. Indian music
57. Enthusiasm
59. " _____ Business," movie
60. In Tiger's bag
61. Aquarium organism
62. Electric guitar hookup
63. Greenwich time
64. Tandoori bread

DOWN

1. Olden-day aerosol can propellant
2. Julian Assange's announcement?
3. Other than what's implied
4. Strip fat like a whaler
5. Impertinence
6. Middle Eastern vodka, pl.
7. Not a slob, adj.
8. Play charades
9. *George Herman Ruth's nickname
10. *Boxer and conscientious objector
12. Knight in training
13. Lace loop
14. *First university in the U.S.
19. "And Then _____ Were None"
22. What Tom Collins and Gibson have in common
23. Skin, anatomically speaking
24. Like Tower of Pisa
25. Change shoelace knot, e.g.
26. Soda jerk's offering
27. Boarding school dwellings
28. Book on a NOOK
29. Helping theorem
32. *U.S. has the world's largest reserves of this
33. _____ Royale
36. *First to sign Declaration of Independence
38. Type of lily
40. Prefix for central
41. Type of tunic
44. Overly self-confident
46. Thessaloniki sea
48. Give new guns
49. Gold bar
50. Panama part
51. Pronounce s sound like th
52. Arrogant snob
53. Paella pot
54. Half human, half cobra in Hinduism
55. Lingerie staple
58. A Bobbsey twin

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi, Diane!

It's Bridget, your "Pet Challenge/doggy's" mom and I wanted to thank you for featuring his picture in the November issue! My family really got a kick out of that! We do have many other animals that will volunteer their faces! Sad to say Seamus James let the fame go to his head, as he is now on appointments only. Ha Ha Ha!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Bridget Harrington
Columbus, Michigan

2020 HISTORICAL CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

The Friends of the Ray Township Library and Historical Society has released its 2020 calendar titled, "Greetings from Ray, Romeo, Washington: 1920s - 1930s". The calendar is a collaborative effort with the Romeo Historical Society and the Greater Washington Area Historical Society and features images from the early 1900s.

Calendars are available for \$10.00 at the Ray Township Offices and Public Library, as well as throughout the community including Heritage Oaks, Jarvis Accounting and Tax Service, Jarzyna Farms Fine Meats and Deli, KO Music Studio, the Octagon House, the Romeo Arts and Archives Center, Vince and Joe's Party Store on Romeo Plank and the Washington Museum.

Proceeds from calendar sales within Ray Township support the Ray Township Public Library's programs and archival preservation. Calendars sold by the Romeo Historical and Greater Washington Area Historical Societies support each organization's projects and programs.

For more information visit the FRTLHS website, rayhistory.org, Facebook, or call (586) 749-7130.



Dirt Roads, Dinky the Duck and Bologna & Pickle Sandwiches

By Rita MacDonald
ThumbPrint News Columnist

My friend and I recently took a road trip just a little north of where we live to look at some property, and I gotta tell ya...there's just something really cool about driving down dirt roads. When the dust kicks up and folks can hear someone coming from a ways away, people lift up their heads to wave, even if they don't know you – it just has a way of taking me back in time.

Back in time – to my good old days...

I grew up in Redford Township, and one of my and my siblings' favorite things to do was to "go out to the farm." When we'd get up on a Saturday morning and find out we would be making the long trip out to St. Clair, we'd get so excited!

Aunt Iris and Uncle Ed lived on what to me seemed like a farm straight out of a storybook, complete with horses, including one named Penny, as well as cows, chickens, stray cats in the barn, a big willow tree whose branches I'd swing from for hours, and a pet duck named Dinky. But that's not all. She also had a good old-fashioned clothes line!

It was a long drive from Redford to St. Clair, and the anticipation was almost overwhelming. When we'd pull in and hear that crunching sound our big blue Oldsmobile tires would make when they hit those white driveway stones, Larry, Nancy and I couldn't get out of the car fast enough. We knew that a whole day full of adventures one can only experience out in the country awaited us. My cousins Gary, Steve and Tom would light off rockets and we'd chase them out into the field. Following Tom and taking a short cut through the barn to be one of the first to find it one year was not as slick of an idea as we'd thought. My shirt got caught on a nail as I was trying to climb the barn door and I fell, breaking my arm. I sure gave my guardian angel a run for her money that day. She couldn't stop me – but I'm not sure I'd trade that memory for anything.

We'd ride Penny the pony with cousin Jackie, go to watch cousin Ann play softball, and put pennies on the track across the street and wait all too impatiently for the train to come by and flatten them. The boys would go get them after the train had gone by.

The refrigerator at Aunt Iris' and Uncle Ed's home always had orange pop in it, and for lunch she'd pull out the meat grinder, hook it onto the side of the table, grind up some bologna, and then whip up our favorite bologna and pickle sandwiches – a family favorite recipe she passed down to my mother, and a yearly family reunion favorite to this day! We'd sit at the small, round table in her kitchen and listen to the police radio she always had on, while we enjoyed those sandwiches on some white bread, and a dish of cut up cucumbers and tomatoes. Then she'd bring out the Nestle's Tollhouse cookies and whatever other snacks she had. My favorite treat was when she'd go down to the basement and bring up a jar of her own canned dill pickles. I'd wrap a paper towel around the biggest one I could find and savor every bite! Uncle Ed was a quiet man, and he would just look at me and laugh. He knew how much I loved pickles.

A chest of drawers in the corner of the living room was always full of treasures – coloring books, Tiddly Winks and Tinker Toys were everyone's favorites. Aunt Iris left us a couple of years ago, but I'll be willing to bet that those Tinker Toys are still down in the bottom drawer. She was prepared for whoever would visit. I loved that about Aunt Iris.

Venus fly traps – little plants whose leaves would close when you touched them, and every kind of plant you can imagine – Aunt Iris had them all. She nurtured them and kept them alive and pretty. Before she died, she gave me a piece of a pink and green plant that neither of us could identify. She'd gotten it from a recent plant clipping at the doctor's office she said. She was always good at nurturing plants and animals back to life.

Before leaving for home, we all had to make one more trip to the bathroom, while my dad stood and shook his keys, reminding Mum that we'd better hit the road soon. I'd always peek out from the little bathroom window, past the clothesline, and into the farm behind Aunt Iris' and Uncle Ed's house, and think to myself, "I just love this place. I just love it so much."

We'd load the car up with all of the fruits and vegetables Aunt Iris would give Mum – Michigan tomatoes for BLTs and cucumbers for canning pickles were my favorite, of course! Then we'd pull out of the driveway and hear that crunching sound of our big blue Oldsmobile's tires on the white stones again, and wave to our cousins all the way down Range Road, and around the corner until the next time we'd go to the farm.

Nowadays I can't stop for a train, drive down a dirt road, or even eat a dill pickle without remembering those visits.

As I've grown older, I've had the opportunity to visit many different places, and even several countries. I've traveled near and far, but those childhood memories that cost my parents nothing more than perhaps a half tank of gas have by far remained the most memorable. There's much to see in so many different places, but there's just nothing better than time with the people we love, and of course – especially when they involve a dirt road, a bologna and pickle sandwich, and Dinky the Duck.

Livorno's Bologna & Pickle Sandwich Recipe: Grind up some bologna in a meat grinder hooked to the side of your table. You have to use one of these because it's just fun, okay? Hey – a recipe is a recipe. If you don't use one, I can't promise it will taste the way that it's supposed to. Anyways – then use Miracle Whip to make it like a spread and add sweet pickle relish. Add all ingredients to your taste and then spread it on some white bread and dig in. Goes well with some orange pop and a dill pickle wrapped in a paper towel. They are delicious, I promise! 🇺🇸



Work on your strengths, not your weaknesses.
How many of your New Year's resolutions have been about fixing a flaw?

- Jonathan Haidt



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KENSINGTON

Continued from Page 11

in the town. A decade later, Joe and Sophie Labadie, who were gifted 40 acres just north of Kensington, attempted to transform the area into a retreat for the average working citizen. The couple spent their summers living off the land and offered the property to anyone free of charge, only asking that they took care of it. The Labadie's spent a great deal of time improving the landscape, erecting buildings, such as a den, barn, henhouse, cabin and a printing press, because Joe was a printer by trade – they called the retreat Bubbling Waters. Joe soon went on to become a prominent member of the labor movement throughout Detroit, but his resort never materialized.



Kensington Aspen Trail



All photos contributed by Kristina Scarcelli

By 1930, any indication that the area was once home to a thriving town had nearly disappeared and the following year the Kensington Bank was demolished. The state of Michigan proposed a plan to increase recreational activities in the area in 1940, suggesting to finally dam the Huron River. The undertaking became part of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority dam project, which was open to the public in 1948 – the damming resulted in the section of Kensington that was situated in the valley as part of Milford Township to be completely flooded, which resulted in the creation of Kent Lake. While few reminders of the thriving settlement remained above water after the flooding, the construction of I-96 in the 1950s resulted in all of the remaining clues to its existence leveled, with the one exception being a home that was said to be relocated to Brighton.

Today, there are just a few things reminding those who pay close enough attention that Kensington was once a flourishing town, one of which is the name of the recreation area known as Kensington Metropark. If one ventures out into the woods around the area, ruins of two buildings can be found, as well as various fences and farm equipment. Perhaps the best remaining relic from the forgotten town are the two Kensington Cemeteries that belonged to the settlement, one of which was active until 2010. While Michigan still acknowledges Kensington as an unincorporated neighborhood sitting at Grand River Avenue near Kent Lake, most of what made up the ghost town sits below the lake's surface. 🍷



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A TIMELY DECISION

By Patricia Cosner Kubic, ThumbPrint News Columnist

One thing we can count on is that every January 1st we will feel a little taller (even if we worked hard at bringing in the new year). Have you ever noticed that when you are on the verge of a new start, a new chapter, we stand straighter, firmly excited about the new things to come?

Maybe that's because when we talk about our New Year's resolutions, we do so with pride, intent even, with improved posture. Those resolutions, silly or serious, have one thing in common on January 1st, other than making us feel taller, and that is commitment. On that date, everybody who makes a resolution believes that it will take their life in a new direction, that it will lead them to new-found confidence.

In addition to better posture and commitment, there is one other thing the resolution-makers have in common: they are trying to make a shift in how they are spending their finite time. And that is one of the most serious decisions we make and we make it every day.

So, when we think about spending time implementing our New Year's resolution, I think we should take a tip from Al Kodet. Many of you know who Al is; but for those who don't, his force lingers. Al left this planet last September; but before he did, he packed in at least two full lifetimes in his singular life. He owned and operated ABC Home and Commercial Services, a pest control and home services company, he was the publisher of this paper and, as one does in their mid-70s, he opened a new restaurant, Foxfire Fixin's, with plans to franchise it, all-the-while tackling a new vegan diet. Most people I know in their 70s are hanging out in the right lane, taking life at a much more relaxed pace.

I only met Al five or six times, but that's all I needed to understand that he was unlike most people. I'm guessing that Al was about 70 when I met him and if you overheard our conversation, you, like me, would guess he was 70 going on 40. I was so inspired by listening to all of his plans about this newspaper and opening a new restaurant. Further, he told me that he would be one of only three cardiology patients who would, indeed, manage things with a diet. I'm guessing Al was the kind of person who rarely took breaks.

There was nothing relaxed about the way Al explained his life to me. It was all full-force ahead, with no regard for the energy needed to realize his plans or that his vessel was north of middle age. The gas that fueled his plans, and, I'm guessing the plans of those around him, was excitement and an attitude of "why not?" Why wouldn't you be steering down the next steps of the big idea? To Al, it seemed completely normal to pack two days into one, getting ever closer to opening the restaurant, restoring his garden or maybe even becoming America's next great baker. Wasting time, wasting a day seemed to be an absolute sin to Al.

And that is what I will always remember about Al. We are here once, and if we are lucky, we get to decide how to dole out our time. So, regardless of what our resolutions are, important or minor, we decide how much time those goals get. How we answer that question will determine if those resolutions are permanent or fade by Valentine's Day. So, when you start to second guess your resolution, or it starts to become too hard, remember Al. He would have told you to face it, make a plan, work the plan, and to fully use every minute to bring it to life. Like I said, I only met him five or six times, but that's all I needed to understand that this guy, his message, his legacy is to respect time, treasure it, make it work to make your life work. And keeping that in the forefront of our minds this new year might be the one thing to make this year a year to remember. Thanks, Al. 🍷

You can reach Patricia at pckubic@gmail.com.

JANUARY

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020

If you have an event in February that you would like listed in the February issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by January 12, 2020. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

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

GENESEE

Flint – January 11
Family Day with the Flint Symphony Orchestra, The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., 1:00 p.m. pre-concert talk, 2:00 p.m. concert. Meet FSO musicians, play real orchestra instruments and go backstage during intermission. Family-friendly program notes and education guide available. To buy tickets or for more information visit geneseefun.com/event/family-day-with-the-flint-symphony-orchestra/.

LAPEER

Lapeer – January 11
New Year – New You! Psychic/Holistic Festival, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Join us for a day of fun, relaxation, readings, healing, workshops and shopping! For more information call (810) 768-3267.

MACOMB

Richmond
Entire Month of January
Woman's Life Chapter 855's Bottle and Can Drive to Support Wings of Harbor. Wings of Harbor is a transitional living program that provides shelter for homeless, or potentially homeless youth, between the ages of 16 and 20. Make a difference today by donating. Call (810) 392-5136 for a drop off point or pick up service for a large donation.

Richmond – January 7
Women's Life Chapter 855 Meeting, Lois Wagner Memorial Library, 35200 Division Rd., 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information call (586) 872-3867.

Ray Twp. – January 14, February 11 & March 10
"History Unlocked", Ray Township Public Library, 64255 Wolcott, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Friends of the Ray Township Library and Historical

Society Members will host "History Unlocked". Our archives, secured in a new cabinet in the Ray Township Public Library, will be opened for the public. Additional dates depend on public interest and member support. For more information call (586) 749-7130.

OAKLAND

Rochester Hills – January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Real Talk on Islam, Masjid Mahmood (Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Center), 1730 W. Auburn Rd., 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Real Talk on Islam will be an ongoing, weekly event (on Thursdays) for an informal and candid conversation about Islam. It is intended for neighbors, academia, students, media and anyone else interested in learning about the faith from its followers. All questions are welcome and will be addressed in an informal environment over a free cup of coffee and cake. For more information call (248) 677-1316 or email tabligh.det@ahmadiyya.us.

ST. CLAIR

Port Huron
Entire Month of January
Happy Tails, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorran Blvd. A friend in need is a friend indeed! Local animal shelters help create happy tails for rescued animals. Support our local animal shelters by donating pet supplies – food, cat litter, treats, toys and cleaning supplies are always in need and greatly appreciated.

Kimball – January 3
Fish Fry, Smiths Creek American Legion Post #525, 7150 Smiths Creek Rd., 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Fish fry is the first Friday of every month, including holidays. \$8 for adults, \$3 for children under 10. Includes deep-fried fish (dry batter or beer batter or baked), baked potato, coleslaw, tossed salad, dinner roll, water, coffee

and a piece of cake for dessert. Pop is also available for \$1 a can. For more information contact John at hayman11@comcast.net.

Memphis – January 3, 17 & 31

Mah Jong, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 10:00 a.m. Learn the challenging and exciting game of American Mah Jong. Beginners welcome – lots of fun! For more information call (810) 392-2980.

St. Clair – January 4
Euchre Tournament & FUN, St. Clair Masonic Temple, 1800 St. Clair Hwy., doors open at 1:00 p.m., playing begins at 1:30 p.m. This event is hosted by Cornell Marysville Chapter #93, public is welcome! Admission \$10 per person, door prizes and 50/50 drawing. Refreshments are provided. For more details call Diane at (586) 337-2729.

Smith Creek – January 5
Breakfast, Smiths Creek Masonic Lodge #491, 335 Henry St., 8:00 a.m. – noon. Breakfast served the 2nd Sunday of every month. \$7 for adults. Includes pancakes, French toast, eggs, bacon, toast, potatoes, orange juice, coffee and white or chocolate milk. For more information contact John at hayman11@comcast.net.

Yale – January 7 & 28
RPG Tween to Nineteen, Yale Library, 2 Jones St., 3:00 p.m. Patrons ages tween to 19, join us for an afternoon role-playing game. Registration is requested, but not required. For more information call (810) 387-2940.

Lakeport – January 8
OrCam Reader Live Demo, Burtchville Township Library, 7097 Second St., 3:00 p.m. Join Mary Howard of our Library for Assistive Media and Talking Books (LAMTB) department as she demonstrates our new OrCam reader that helps visually impaired persons or those who have

reading difficulties. All ages of adults welcome. Registration is requested by calling (810) 385-8550.

Port Huron – January 8

DivorceCare, Colonial Woods Missionary Church, 3240 Pine Grove Ave., 6:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. This is the first meeting and the program will run for 10 weeks on each Wednesday. It can be joined at any time. DivorceCare is a support group geared to helping individuals work through the emotions that go along with divorce, whether the separation be recent or from the past. Child care is provided. To register or for more information call (810) 984-5575.

Fair Haven – January 9
Adult Art at Ira, Ira Township Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd., 6:00 p.m. All supplies will be provided. We use hot glue guns. 18 and older. Registration requested by calling (586) 725-9081.

Kimball Twp. – January 10
New Life Christian Academy Spaghetti Dinner, 5517 Griswold Rd., serving times at both 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the school office or at the door. Adults \$10, students \$7 and children 4 and under free. Cost for a family is \$35. For more information call (810) 367-3770 ext. 100.

Marysville – January 14
Women's Self-Defense Seminar, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 6:00 p.m. Women-only class that focuses on a variety of self-defense techniques against different types of attacks. This is a safe environment for women to practice evasion techniques and gain improved awareness of their surroundings. Students should wear loose-fitting clothing, with hair tied back. Jewelry should be removed. Women will receive written handouts during the seminar for further practice. For more information call (810) 364-9493.

Kimball – January 15
Soap Clouds, Kimball Township Library, 1955 N. Allen Rd., 3:30 p.m. It's always fun to watch stuff blow up – and that's just how we'll turn Ivory soap into big, fluffy clouds! Then, break it down, mix it up and press into cookie cutters for individual mini-soaps to take home. Ages 3 – 12. Registration is requested by calling (810) 982-9171.

St. Clair – January 16
Community Sing, St. Clair Library, 310 S. Second St., 6:00 p.m. Enjoy an evening of music and song. Bring your kids and neighbors for a community singalong. In partnership with St. Clair Community Theater and Rotary. For more information call (810) 329-3951.

St. Clair – January 17
All-You-Can-Eat Fish Buffet, American Legion Post 382, 1322 Clinton, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Adults \$11, kids 5 – 11 \$6, kids under 5 free. Includes fish, shrimp, red-skinned potatoes, fries, baked beans, coleslaw, salad, rolls, desserts and ice cream. For more information contact cummingsvl@comcast.net.

St. Clair – January 19
All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast Buffet, American Legion Post 382, 1322 Clinton, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Adults \$7, kids 5 – 11 \$3, kids under 5 free. Includes two kinds of scrambled eggs, sausage, potatoes, pancakes, Belgian waffles with strawberries and whipped cream, sausage gravy and biscuits, coffee and orange juice. For more information contact cummingsvl@comcast.net.

Marine City – January 21
Anime Club, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, 3:00 p.m. Be among friends as we watch anime, discuss cultural topics, learn some basic Japanese and enjoy origami crafts. Light refreshments available. Ages 12 – 18. A permission slip signed by a parent is required in order to attend. For more information call (810) 765-5233.

Marysville – January 23
St. Clair County Family History and Genealogy Society, Collective Expressions, 1114 Gratiot Ave., 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be a webinar on DNA. Meetings are open to the

public. For more information contact v1armstrong60@gmail.net.

St. Clair – January 24
Summer-Style Barbequed Chicken Dinner, American Legion Post 382, 1322 Clinton, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Adults \$11, Kids 5 – 11 \$6, kids under 5 free. Enjoy the taste of summer in the winter with barbequed chicken and summer sides. For more information contact cummingsvl@comcast.net.

Capac – January 25
Ice Cream Cone Bird Feeders, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 1:00 p.m. Help us feed our feathery friends. We will be making bird feeders with ice cream cones, peanut butter and bird food. Take them home that day for the birds to enjoy. For more information call (810) 395-7000.

Port Huron Twp. – January 25
Blue Water Area Humane Society's Jewels, Gems & Purse Sale, 4100 Griswold Rd., 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Giant jewelry and purse sale with costume and vintage jewelry and some name brand purses. There will also be a huge furniture sale at the same time. For more information call (810) 987-4357.

Algonac – January 28
"Everyone Has a Story" Addiction, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. Join us as we welcome our special guest, Kathy, as she shares with us her story of addiction and the pain that results from it for her family and friends. For more information call (810) 794-4471.

SANILAC

Peck – January 26
16th Annual Taste of the Thumb, Carman Funeral Home, 5441 Sandusky Rd., 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Benefits the Sanilac County Child Abuse Prevention Council. Please Join us to enjoy samples from the Thumb area's finest restaurants and caterers. Tickets are \$25 per person. Advance ticket purchase is preferred, but there will be tickets available at the door. There will be an onsite drawing. To purchase tickets visit sanilacchild.org/events-1/taste-of-the-thumb-2/.

HEARTWORM DISEASE in PETS



Photo courtesy of isosphere @FreeDigitalPhoto.com

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

Heartworm disease is a serious and sometimes fatal disease in pets. It has been diagnosed in all 50 states in the United States, as well as in many other countries. Heartworm disease is only transmitted by mosquitos and not by direct pet-to-pet or pet-to-human contact. Even in the northern parts of our country where we get significant cold and snow in the winter months, there is still potential for your pets to contract heartworm disease. This is due to many factors like climate changes and the formation of “heat islands” (urban areas with higher average temperatures due to the greater absorption, retention and generation of heat by buildings, pavements and human activities) caused by urban expansion which creates microenvironments that support the survival of mosquitos, even in colder weather.

While mosquitos play an essential role in the transmission of heartworms, dogs and wild canids are the natural, definitive hosts for heartworms, making dogs highly susceptible to heartworm infection, with most of the infective larvae developing into adult worms that will mature and reproduce heartworm “babies”, called microfilaria. Cats are considered an atypical host, meaning most of the worms in cats do not survive to develop into adult worms and many times only one to three worms develop into adults, but will likely not reproduce. However, since cats have smaller blood vessels and hearts, the severity of the damage can be greater. The lung inflammation associated with the heartworm infection leads to more severe lung/breathing issues in cats.

The severity of a heartworm infection and the signs depend on the number of worm's present, the immune response of the infected dog, the duration of infection, and the activity level of the dog. Many dogs are completely asymptomatic when diagnosed with heartworms, but some dogs can show signs of coughing, exercise intolerance, labored breathing, fainting and in advanced cases, fluid accumulation in the abdominal cavity due to right-sided heart failure. Cats can also be asymptomatic, exhibit only mild symptoms or present with more severe symptoms, like trouble breathing. The more severe symptoms in cats can be very similar to signs that a cat with feline asthma would present with, making heartworm disease much harder to diagnose in cats.

All dogs, including those on heartworm prevention, should be tested annually. Annual testing is an integral part of ensuring that prophylaxis through prevention is achieved and maintained. Currently available heartworm antigen tests detect a protein secreted by adult female heartworms. The earliest that the heartworm antigen can be detected by the test is about five to six months post infection. Antigen may never be detected or only sporadically detected in dogs with very low worm burdens. Very low worm burden is also the reason there is a high incidence of false negative antigen test in cats.

At this current time there is no approved treatment for cats that will eliminate the adult worms. In dogs, the only FDA approved treatment is an arsenical compound called Immiticide. The American Heartworm society has two approved protocols for treating heartworm disease in dogs. The treatment protocol takes four months to complete and during this time your pet must be on strict confinement at home, with very minimal exercise so as not to stress the heart or lungs while the worms are dying, and the body is working hard to eliminate the infection. Once the infection is gone, it is of utmost importance that they be maintained on the monthly heartworm prevention for life.

There are many preventions available for both dogs and cats. They can be oral chews or topicals. Many of these products also help with intestinal parasite control and prevention. These should be administered every 30 days year round for optimal protection.

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

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Juvenile on the Front Line.

By David Odziana, *ThumbPrint News* Staff Writer and Field Reporter



The millions of young men that were called on to fight in the Civil War were unknowingly heading into what would eventually be referred to as the bloodiest event in American history – one individual who climbed the military ranks throughout his career got a much earlier start than his fellow comrades.

Historians estimate the death toll throughout the war ranged anywhere from 600,000 up to more than 1,000,000, losing at least two percent of the country's total population. Adding to the already dreadful situation awaiting the soldiers was the severe risk of diseases and infections, which resulted in more deaths than every other war involving the United States combined. While today's guidelines don't allow anyone under 18 years old to serve in a war, rules were not as strict in the 1860s.

Johnny Lincoln Clem was born on August 13, 1851, in Newark, Ohio.

Unlike nearly every other 10-year-old who is usually more worried about completing their chores so they could play, Johnny was focused on doing his part in the war effort. Soon the boy conjured up a plan to run away from home and join the Third Ohio Regiment of Volunteers, but as many would suspect, Clem was turned away because of his young age. Determined, John continued to try and find a way to fight in the war – while accounts differ as to which regiment he joined first, it is known that he eventually was allowed to become part of the 22nd Michigan Infantry Regiment. He wasn't given the position after his first attempt, but as he continued to tag along, he was eventually allowed to stay. Although not officially in a combat position, Johnny was now a drummer for the regiment and given a uniform. As a result of his position, he wasn't eligible for the standard pay of \$13 a month, but the officers pulled together and collected money to get him the same pay.

Legend states that Clem and his regiment were present at the Battle of Shiloh beginning April 6, 1862, where he nearly lost his life when a piece of shrapnel ripped through the drum he was carrying – the young boy, who was said to be quite small for his age, began receiving attention for his ability to remain calm under fire. This is believed to be the source of the famous story of Johnny Shiloh, as well as *The Drummer Boy of Shiloh* written by William S. Hays, but some people still doubt Clem was present at this battle. On May 1, 1863, Johnny Clem was finally allowed to officially enlist as a musician for Company C, 22nd Michigan before he was even a teenager.

While his previous acts of bravery made Clem well-known in the Union Army, his true claim to fame came at Chickamauga on September 20, 1863. Instead of being equipped with his musical instrument, he was fitted with a rifle that was cut down to a usable size for the young boy. During the battle, Clem was cornered by a colonel for the Confederate Army who ordered him to surrender. The colonel likely saw Clem as harmless, which backfired when Johnny pulled his rifle, aimed and shot the officer – some sources claim that Clem killed the colonel, while others state he just wounded him. Regardless of what happened to the colonel after being shot by Johnny, General George H. Thomas honored Clem with the rank of lance sergeant and he quickly became known as “The Drummer Boy of Chickamauga”. Adding to his impressive résumé following his promotion, Clem earned the title of being the youngest ever noncommissioned officer in the United States Army at just 12 years old.

The following month, the 22nd Michigan was assigned to guard a train in Georgia, and while stationed there, Johnny was captured by the Confederate Army. His imprisonment was used to try and embarrass the Union Army by stating “they had to send their babies to fight us” and when he was taken into custody, his uniform was confiscated, including his hat that reportedly had three bullet holes in it. Clem eventually escaped or was part of a prisoner exchange, and after regaining his freedom, he joined the Army of Cumberland, where he was wounded twice in battle. At the age of 13 years old, Clem was discharged from the Army in September of 1864, after which he returned home to finish school. After high school, Johnny attempted to fulfill one of his biggest goals, which was to attend the Military Academy – unfortunately due to his

lack of formal education, Clem wasn't able to pass the entrance exam.

President Ulysses S. Grant recognized his dedication and promoted John to second lieutenant in December of 1871, putting him in charge of an African American unit, the 24th Infantry. Clem remained in the military for nearly 45 years during his second stint of service, receiving countless promotions throughout the rest of his career while working mostly in the Quartermaster Department. After reaching the mandatory retirement age of 64 years old in 1915, Clem was soon promoted to major general. At the time he left the military, John earned the distinction of being the last Civil War veteran still serving. Clem then settled down for his golden years in San Antonio, Texas, where he spent the remainder of his life. John Lincoln Clem passed away on May 13, 1937, at 85 years old and was laid to rest in the Arlington National Cemetery.

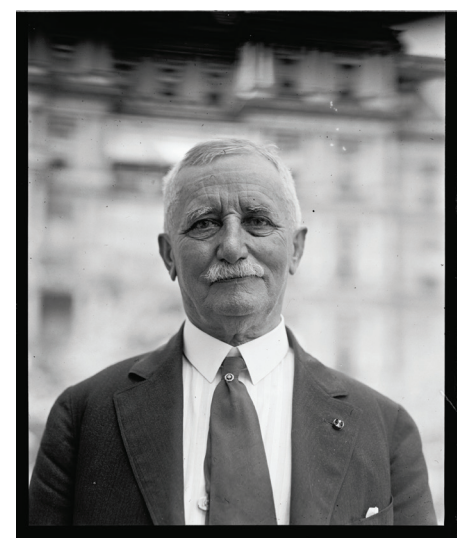
While his initial voluntary job of musician may seem insignificant on the surface, Robert E. Lee once said that “without music, there would be no army, and it was the equivalent of a thousand men on one's side” – adding to its importance was the fact that certain musical pieces were often used as commands because of the extreme noise, which made it impossible to get messages to the troops. Today Clem's namesake can be seen on a school and six-foot bronze statue of his likeness in his hometown of Newark, Ohio. His story also graced the big screen over the years – the first appearance was a Walt Disney production called *Johnny Shiloh* starring Kevin Corcoran and the more recent movie was produced in 2007, titled *Johnny: The True Story of a Civil War Legend*.



John Clem in 1867



Johnny Clem painting by Nancy Zurenda



John Lincoln Clem in 1922

Native American Words of Wisdom

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Each of us is put here in this time and
this place to decide the future of humankind.
Did you think you were put here for something less?

~ Chief Arvol Looking Horse

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