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ThumbPrint News

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

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE

Middle of the Mitten

By Laura Irwin, ThumbPrint News Staff Writer



Marker in Lebanon, Kansas, photo courtesy of Ericka Nelson on the Kansas Sampler Foundation website



Belle Fourche Memorial Plaque
Wikipedia - CC BY-SA 3.9

Determining the exact measurement of the center of any land mass is imprecise at best due to many geographical factors. Still, the need to know is a driving force in many unusual discoveries.

In 1918, The National Ocean Survey determined that the geographic center of the 48 contiguous states is located in Lebanon, Kansas, near the Nebraska state line. (Population 179 as of 2022.)

In June of 1941 a small stone pyramid was placed with great ceremony on a hilltop a quarter mile distant from the actual geographic center that at the time was in the middle of farmer Johnny L. Grieb's hog pen.

Tourists still come from all over the United States to visit the monument that sits in a small park. You can picnic in the pavilion or visit the small white chapel to 'recenter' yourself. Once Alaska and Hawaii united with the States in 1959, the geographical center changed by 550 miles northwest to a spot where the South Dakota,

Wyoming and Montana borders meet on private pastureland. There is a commemorative marker in Belle Fourche, South Dakota for tourists. (Population 5,848 as of 2022.)

If you'd rather not travel to Kansas or South Dakota, you can visit a much closer 'center' in St. Louis, Michigan, dubbed the

"Middle of the Mitten".

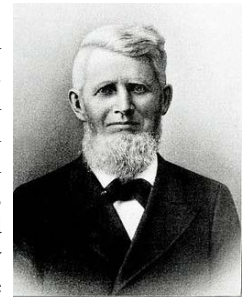
In 1853, sixteen years after Michigan became the 26th state in 1837, Mr. Joseph Clapp, was traveling a Native American trail that led to the Bethany Lutheran Indian Mission (est. 1848) when he decided the lush forested area near the banks of the Pine River was where he would set himself up in the lumbering industry. He, along with other intrepid settlers, began clearing the land, plating a village, constructing a dam and building a sawmill in what they dubbed the Pine River Settlement near Wilden's Trading Post in neighboring Bethany Township.

Trading posts were established throughout the American frontier as early as the 17th century as a place where trappers, traders, settlers and Native Americans could exchange news, stories and local goods for necessities. They were often tumbledown, one-room shacks or cabins, barely large enough to provide more than the most basic necessities like flour, beans and tobacco.

By 1855, Joseph had established a post office in Pine River which he ran out of his cabin. In July of that year, the newly formed Gratiot County, with new settlements, villages and towns, was in need of land surveys. Mr. Sidney Smith Hastings was chosen for the job. Upon arriving at the Pine River Settlement, he must have sensed this area would be something special as he quickly decided it would be the place where he would settle with his young family.



Image of gravesites at Bethany Lutheran Indian Cemetery
photo courtesy of Lisa English via findagrave



Sidney S. Hastings

See MIDDLE OF THE MITTEN Page 8

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DECEMBER 1 OPEN	DECEMBER 2 CLOSED	DECEMBER 3 CLOSED	DECEMBER 4 CLOSED	DECEMBER 5 OPEN	DECEMBER 6 OPEN	DECEMBER 7 OPEN
DECEMBER 8 OPEN	DECEMBER 9 CLOSED	DECEMBER 10 CLOSED	DECEMBER 11 CLOSED	DECEMBER 12 OPEN	DECEMBER 13 OPEN	DECEMBER 14 OPEN
DECEMBER 15 OPEN	DECEMBER 16 CLOSED	DECEMBER 17 CLOSED	DECEMBER 18 CLOSED	DECEMBER 19 OPEN	DECEMBER 20 OPEN	DECEMBER 21 OPEN
DECEMBER 22 OPEN	DECEMBER 23 CLOSED	DECEMBER 24 CLOSED	DECEMBER 25 CLOSED	DECEMBER 26 CLOSED	DECEMBER 27 CLOSED	DECEMBER 28 CLOSED
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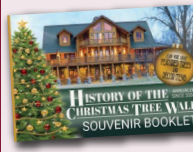
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Election Day IS A HARD-FOUGHT DAY



By Patricia Cosner Kubic, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

This month the nation's eyes are on Michigan and other swing states. And, on November 5th, the spotlight on us will be intense. It's really quite something to vote in a swing state. Will the impact of your decision feel more profound when casting your vote at home on an absentee ballot or as you lean into the voting booth? Will it cross your mind that some votes don't mean squat in countries where dictators describe a sham election as fair? Those are reflective questions, for sure, but appropriate for the crucial action of voting.

During our elections, I make it a point to think about how we even got to have an Election Day. With a quick click on Wikipedia, you will find a plethora of information about the American Revolution which, of course, resulted in our independence. Some stats report that over those eight years, 178,000-223,000 lives were lost so that we could have a nation of our own design based on democracy. And, when that fight was finished, the Constitution automatically gave white men the right to vote. Shockingly, for women, it would take over five decades to get that right.

To get a better understanding of that extraordinary struggle, I read a biography of Carrie Chapman Catt, a suffragist leader, written by Mary Gray Peck. In part, the forward reads:

"To get that word, male, out of the Constitution, cost the women of this country 52 years of pauseless campaign; 56 state referendum campaigns; 480 legislative campaigns to get state suffrage amendments submitted; 47 state constitutional convention campaigns; 277 state party convention campaigns; 30 national party convention campaigns to get suffrage planks in the party platforms; 19 campaigns with 19 successive Congresses to get the federal amendment submitted, and the final ratification campaign... ..Thousands gave years of their lives to this effort: Young suffragist who helped forge the last links of that chain were not born when it began. Old suffragists who helped forge the first links were dead when it ended."

Can you imagine setting up the dozens of the required meetings, mailings, protests, etc., for just one of those initiatives without texting, emailing or Zooming? One effort still resonates with me. Ms. Catt arranged a community meeting to implore citizens to contact their legislative representatives about making the women's right to vote a top priority. She spent 12 hours in a horse-drawn carriage traveling rugged roads, only to find that 15 people showed up. But Ms. Catt didn't care because it meant that 15 more people might join the cause – her fortitude is one for the ages.

So, on behalf of those soldiers, in honor of those suffragists, I will cast my vote with more gratitude than I can ever imagine. And as a tribute to those heroes, I hope you will, too! 🇺🇸



Author's note: For information, call the Voter Assistance Hotline at (833) MI-VOTES (1-833-648-6837). To check voter registration status, find polling locations and view sample ballots go to www.michigan.gov/vote. You can reach me at pckubic@gmail.com.

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Meet the esteemed
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from Grand Rapids



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Pierre La Croissant was sent in by his granddad, Mark. He is Mark's daughter, Michelle's support dog.

Thank you, Mark P., for sharing your grandpup with us!

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Native American Words of Wisdom

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"In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations."

Iroquois Proverb



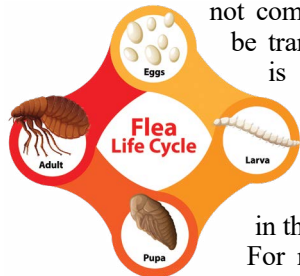
Don't Become A Victim of the Fall Flea Surge

By **Dr. Elizabeth Gray**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

The dog days of summer are over, and fall is here. As we enjoy autumn with our pets, so do some very pesky invaders. Fleas thrive in the cooler wetter weather that comes with fall. When conditions are optimal, the flea life cycle can be shortened from many months to just a few short weeks, allowing flea populations to boom.

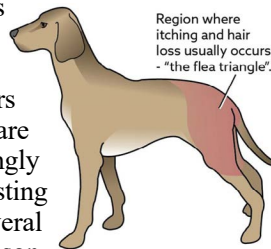


In addition to causing itchy bites, fleas can transmit several diseases.



While some diseases such as the plague and flea-borne typhus are not common in our region, others are. Cat scratch disease can be transmitted anywhere fleas and cats are found. Tapeworm is a common parasitic infection occurring when a flea is accidentally swallowed by a pet or a person. Cats are especially prone to tapeworm infection because they are such fastidious groomers. Once a cat feels a flea bite, they use their barbed tongue to find and eat the unwanted guest in their fur.

For most dogs and cats, fleas are an annoyance. However, some pets are allergic to flea bites. For them, just one flea bite can trigger a severe reaction. This is known as Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD). FAD is characterized by intense itching and skin infections. In some cases, antibiotics for secondary bacterial infections and anti-inflammatory doses of steroids for itch relief are required.



It is much easier to prevent a flea infestation than to eliminate one. Don't be fooled! Even when pets go outdoors for only brief periods or live completely indoors, they are susceptible to becoming infested. Pet owners can unknowingly act as carriers, bringing fleas into the home and infesting unprotected pets. Once a flea finds a way indoors it takes several months of treatment to eliminate an infestation. One reason elimination is so difficult is the flea pupae. The pupae stage has a hard shell-like covering, making it impossible for most flea treatments to kill this stage. Pupae can persist in an environment for months or even years waiting for optimal conditions or the absence of flea prevention. They wait to be activated by vibrations, increasing temperatures, and even increased carbon dioxide in the air which indicates a fresh host has arrived. This can make getting rid of fleas a tricky prospect. Flea prevention is an easier and better way to protect our pets and families. Flea prevention comes in many forms depending on what is most convenient for you and your pet. From a tasty oral chew to topical treatments and collars, there are options for every dog and cat. Ask your veterinarian what option is best for your family. In addition to treating your pets, there are several things we can do to decrease the flea population outside. Fleas prefer habitats with shade, they cannot tolerate the sun for long periods.

To prevent flea infestations, make your yard as unattractive to fleas as possible by following these guidelines found on CDC.gov

- Mow frequently. Mowing exposes the soil to the sun, which fleas try to avoid.
- Avoid over-watering. Fleas thrive in humid environments so keeping the yard dry makes it less inviting.
- Treat dog runs with insecticides to make them less prone to fleas.
- Rake thoroughly to remove any debris. This increases flea exposure to potential insecticides and removes any shaded and humid breeding places.
- Keep rodents and animals away from your home.

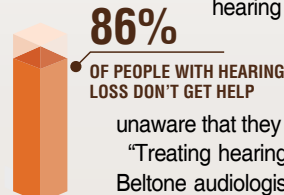


Editorial note: Dr. Gray can be found at Cobblestone Veterinary Hospital at 8504 Lapeer Road in Kenosha. They are still providing house calls with In The Pink Mobile Pet Care. To reach out to Dr. Gray, please call (810) 985-3011 or visit her website at inthepinkpetcare.com.

HEARING LOSS IS ON THE RISE WHY ARE PEOPLE STILL DELAYING TREATMENT?

If you had a medical condition that could lead to severe physical, cognitive and emotional problems, like social isolation, depression, balance issues and even dementia, you'd seek treatment ASAP, right? Maybe not, actually.

The facts are staggering: 48 million Americans have hearing loss and 90% could benefit from hearing aids. Even though a loss is almost always treatable with hearing aids, about 85% of those affected wait on average for more than 7 years before taking action. Similar to the beginning of failing vision, often people are unaware that they have a measurable hearing loss. "Treating hearing loss at its onset can slow, or even stop, its progression," says a Beltone audiologist with over 18 years experience. "I urge anyone over 50 to make screenings a routine part of their proactive medical care."



THREE MYTHS THAT KEEP YOU FROM SEEKING TREATMENT

Don't let these common misbeliefs delay you from screening your hearing annually.

Myth: Hearing loss happens to "old" people.

Fact: Of the estimated 48 million people living with hearing loss in the U.S., about two-thirds are under 65 years old.

Myth: Hearing Aids are too expensive.

Fact: Some health insurance plans, and many state and federal employees, have hearing care benefits. Plus, many hearing care centers have reasonable financing plans as well.

Myth: It's ok not to treat minor hearing loss.

Fact: Even a mild hearing loss can adversely affect your cognitive capabilities, work, home and social life. Luckily, the brain's neuroplasticity means that you can relearn how to hear once the loss is treated.

Myth: Everyone will know I'm wearing them.

Fact: Today's hearing aid technology is smaller than ever before. Even celebrities are wearing them proudly.

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

1-MINUTE DIY HEARING TEST

Grab a pen or pencil and answer "YES" if the statement accurately describes you and "NO" if it doesn't.

- | YES | NO | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you have ringing in your ears? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does it seem like people mumble? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you had difficulty understanding words in conversation? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have others remarked you have the TV volume too loud? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you find it difficult to have phone conversations? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you have trouble hearing in noisy places like restaurants? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you find yourself asking people to repeat themselves? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do many people you talk to seem to mumble or not speak clearly? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you misunderstand what others say, feeling embarrassed by your response? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you have trouble understanding the speech of women and children? |

If you answered "YES" to one or more of these questions, then you should get your hearing tested.





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HOW I LOVE ROCKING CHAIRS

By Theresa Nielsen
ThumbPrint News Columnist



When I think back to many years ago, I can still see my mom in the wooden rocking chair with a baby in her arms. My mom had a knack for soothing babies, and not just her own. Friends of the family brought their crying babies to my mom all the time. Before the mother had turned to walk out the door, Mom would have that baby settled and asleep.

I loved that rocking chair too. There's just something about the movement of the rocking and a sleeping baby. I especially liked the creaking noise on the floor when the chair rocked back and

forth. An odd thing though, if my dad was home and asleep, we weren't allowed to sit in the chair and rock. It would keep him from falling asleep or wake him up, which was the last thing any of us wanted to do. I always said when I got older, I would have a rocking chair. I never even considered that I could have more than one.

Soon after I got married, I found my first wooden rocking chair at a garage sale. The seller informed me that it was a sewing rocker. I had never heard of such a chair. It made me curious as to all of the different types of chairs, and of course, I needed to know about the first rocking chair. I soon discovered it had come along about 1725. It was an armless version of the English Yorkshire chair with ice skates attached to the bottom so it could rock back and forth. Now that must have been some chair. And I'm sure it's no surprise that the original use was for mothers to soothe their

babies. Soon enough, rocking chairs were seen everywhere because of their comfort. By the early 1800s, most homes in the U.S. had at least one rocking chair.

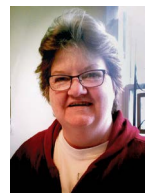
My first rocking chair had no padding in the seat so I couldn't sit for very long; still, it remains one of my favorites. I use it today to display my quilts and a few antique dolls. When my son was almost two, my parents bought him a small child-size rocking chair. He loved to sit in that chair and rock alongside Mom or Grandma, rocking his teddy bear and listening to a story. His children came along many years later and they too enjoyed that sweet little rocking chair. Now, it sits in my living room with a few dolls. I'll treasure it always.

Knowing of my love of rocking chairs, I was honored to inherit both my mother-in-law's and her sister's chairs! Aunt Margaret's chair is more formal, it has upholstery fabric on the seat and back of the chair, which is very comfortable. I find myself sitting in that one the most often.

Just recently, I stopped by a yard sale and wouldn't you know, they had a gorgeous rocking chair for a steal. That makes five in just this story – but who's counting?

I can't help myself when I see a lovely rocking chair; not getting it would be like leaving scraps of fabric behind or a box of newborn kittens, I just can't do it. I enjoy and treasure each one of these chairs, someday when I pass them on I hope others will love and enjoy them too! 🌱

Editorial note: To read more of Theresa's writing, you can find her books about growing up sewing in a small town on Amazon and Barnes & Nobel's website. To reach Theresa, you can email her at catbirdinn@sbcglobal.net.



October is National Pizza Month!

Thirty-one glorious days to explore all the types and flavors of pizza we can imagine!

This holiday was created by Gerry Durnell, pizzeria owner and publisher of *Pizza Today* magazine in October

of 1984. He chose October because it's the month his magazine debuted. He lived in a small town called Santa Claus, Indiana, and realized there was nothing to support his growing pizza business, or the pizza industry in general. Congress officially designated October as National Pizza Month in 1987.

The word pizza was first documented in the year 997 in Gaeta, Italy, but its predecessors date back to Persia in the 6th century BCE where soldiers serving under Darius the Great baked flatbreads with cheese and dates on their battle shields. The ancient Greeks made plakous, a flatbread with savory toppings like garlic, onion, herbs and cheese.

Pizza arrived in the U.S. in the late 1800s to early 1900s when a surge of Italian immigrants arrived in the U.S. The first licensed pizzeria was Lombardi's Pizza in New York City in 1905, at just 5¢ per pie. It is still operating today. Non-Italian interest in this culinary delight dramatically increased after WWII.

Whether you like thick crust or thin, plain or fully loaded, pizza is a pleasure to put in your mouth and is perfect at any time of day – breakfast, lunch or dinner. There are options that work for everyone, including gluten-free, vegan or keto.

The best way to observe National Pizza Month is by eating pizza! There are over 34 million ways to order pizza, including size, crust, sauce, cheese and toppings, you are limited only by your imagination and tastebuds. As of May, 2024, the U.S. had over 80,000 pizza establishments included in the almost 274,000 worldwide. The number one pizza chain is currently Domino's, which started right here in Michigan by owner Tom Monaghan.

Go Enjoy Some Pizza!

WARNING SIGNS of Flea Infestation



Small black dots that look like dirt trapped in fur
 Hair loss on pets - Fatigue in both humans and pets
 Rashes and itching - Weight loss on pets - Blisters
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OCTOBER

1	On this day in 1935, English actress, singer and author, Julie Andrews is born in Walton-on-Thames, United Kingdom.	2	On this day in 1902, Beatrix Potter's <i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i> is published by Frederick Warne & Co. in London.	3	On this day in 2333 BCE, the State of Gojoseon (modern-day Korea) is founded by Dangun Wanggeom during the reign of the Chinese Emperor Yao.	4	On this day in 1997, the second-largest cash robbery in U.S. history occurs at the Charlotte, North Carolina office of Loomis, Fargo and Company with \$17.3 million in cash taken.	5	On this day in 1813, Tecumseh, the Shawnee chief and warrior who promoted resistance to the expansion of the U.S. onto Native American lands, was killed during the Battle of the Thames.
6	On this day in 2023, American Simone Biles becomes the most decorated gymnast ever (34 medals) when she wins all-round gold at the World Championships in Antwerp, Belgium.	7	On this day in 1919, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, recognized as the oldest continuously-operating airline in the world, is founded in Amsterdam.	8	On this day in 2004, Kenyan Wangari Maathai is the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace."	9	On this day in 1831, Ioannis Kapodistrias, the first Head of State of modern Greece, is assassinated in Nafplion.	10	On this day in 1865, John Wesley Hyatt patents the billiard ball made from cellulose nitrate (celluloid) known as an "ivory imitation".
11	On this day in 1922, the first woman FBI "special investigator", Alaska Davidson, is appointed.	12	On this day in 1987, the single "Faith" is released by George Michael – it goes on to win <i>Billboard</i> Song of the Year in 1988.	13	On this day in 1903, the first World Series in modern major-league baseball ends with the Boston Americans beating the Pittsburgh Pirates with a 5-3 series victory.	14	On this day in 1926, A.A. Milne's book <i>Winnie the Pooh</i> is released.	15	On this day in 1969, The Moratorium to End the War in Vietnam takes place with millions nationwide protesting the war.
16	On this day in 2017, findings are published of a neutron star collision that occurred two months prior on August 17; it is the first cosmic event seen in gravitational waves and light.	17	On this day in 1907, Guglielmo Marconi's company begins the first commercial trans-atlantic wireless service between Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada and Clifden, Ireland.	18	On this day in 2019, the first all-female spacewalk by NASA astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir outside the International Space Station takes place.	19	On this day in 1998, Cher releases the single "Believe"; it goes on to be <i>Billboard</i> Song of the Year in 1999 and the Grammy for Best Dance Recording in 2000.	20	On this day in 1973, Queen Elizabeth II opens the Sydney Opera House, at Bennelong Point in Sydney, Australia, after 14 years of construction.
21	On this day in 1942, attorney Judith Sheindlin, better known as family court's Judge Judy, is born in Brooklyn, New York.	22	On this day in 1721, Tsar Peter the Great titles himself "Emperor of Russia".	23	On this day in 1977, paleontologist Elso Barghoorn announces the discovery of one of the earliest life forms on Earth – a 3.4-billion-year-old fossilized microscopic one-celled creatures.	24	On this day in 1648, Switzerland's independence is recognized when the Treaty of Westphalia ends The Thirty Years' War in the Holy Roman Empire.	25	On this day in 2020, Chile overwhelmingly votes to scrap their constitution that was drafted during the dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet.
26	On this day in 1863, the Geneva International Conference, aimed at improving medical conditions on battlefields, begins. This leads to the founding of Red Cross.	27	On this day in 1904, the St. Louis police try using fingerprints as a new method of investigation.	28	On this day in 1815, <i>Demologos</i> , the first steam-powered warship, is launched in New York for the U.S. Navy.	29	On this day in 2021, the Grand Ole Opry broadcasts its 5,000 th Saturday night radio program from Nashville.	30	On this day in 2020, Sir Sean Connery, the Scottish actor who portrayed the first British secret agent James Bond, dies at age 90.
<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">What Happened On This Day in History?</h2>									

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

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BBB ALERT: BEWARE OF SPORT SCAMS

By October, professional, college and high school football have all kicked off. Fans across the country are eager to support their favorite teams, often turning to online streaming to catch the action. While this offers the convenience of watching games from home or viewing games outside of your area, it also opens the door to scammers looking to exploit unsuspecting sports enthusiasts.

Scammers are known to post fake streaming links, often tagging the involved teams or including their names in internet search result titles and descriptions to make the links appear legitimate. Once fans click on these links, they are prompted to sign up and provide personal information, which can then be used for fraudulent purposes. The result? No game to watch and a potential risk to your personal data.

"With so many different streaming services now available and some games only airing outside of a viewer's current area, it can get tempting to try lesser-known streaming options found on the internet," said Nakia Mills, Marketing Director at BBB Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. "As sports fans, it's easy to get caught up in the excitement, but it's crucial to remain cautious and ensure that the streaming services we use are legitimate."

BBB Scam Tracker has received reports of fake sports streaming links. One consumer shared, "The link was posted under a high school football post claiming we could watch the high school football games for free. Then it asked for credit card information in order to charge \$1. After putting in credit card information, I was not able to watch any football games...my trial was for 24 hours and if I didn't cancel, it would charge my credit card \$60 per month."

TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FRAUDULENT STREAMING OFFERS, BBB RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

- **Pay by credit card whenever possible** if you need to challenge the payment.
- **Be wary of ads and sponsored links.** Sometimes scammers use ads to get their lookalike website to appear first in the search results. Remember, just because a website is at the top of the list doesn't mean it's the official website.
- **Check a site's security settings.** If the site is secure, its URL (web address) should start with "HTTPS://." You may also see a picture of a small, closed lock in the screen's lower right-hand corner.
- **Confirm the site you're visiting is legitimate.** Scammers can create fake, realistic websites to trick consumers into thinking they're on the right webpage. Read BBB's tips on identifying a fake website by visiting [BBB.org/all/spot-a-scam/how-to-identify-a-fake-website](https://www.bbb.org/all/spot-a-scam/how-to-identify-a-fake-website).
- **Be cautious before clicking links included in social media posts,** unsolicited text messages or emails. Clicking on unfamiliar links can place you at risk for malware or identity theft.

If you suspect you've been targeted by a scammer, report it on [BBB.org/ScamTracker](https://www.bbb.org/ScamTracker) or call (866) 788-5706. Your experience can help others to recognize suspicious behavior and stop scammers in their tracks. For more useful tips to avoid common scams, visit [BBB.org/AvoidScams](https://www.bbb.org/AvoidScams).



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Author's note: Portions of this article have been generated by an AI model, but the ideas and underlying gist were generated by a human author. The organization, grammar and presentation may have been enhanced by the use of AI.



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Finding Gratitude



By David Gillis, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

As we move into the month of October, I recall a message recently sent to a friend in which I mentioned the speed with which time passes, especially in the senior years of life. Certainly, as I glance at the calendar, three-fourths of this year is behind us and, in just a few months, one quarter of this century will be history.

When we think about our lives in terms of all the yesterdays we have experienced, we may begin to realize just how fast time passes and how little time has been allotted to us. I imagine that is what life may be all about; a realization of time in relationship to how many things we might be able to stuff into the bag marked “personal”. It may create a desire to identify just a few more experiences to place in the proverbial bag.

So many of us become preoccupied with our race to the finish line, unfortunately, so much so that we don’t take the time to watch a sunrise and later to turn and watch it set. Seemingly, we are constantly on the move, attempting to work more, play more and earn more, calling our efforts happiness. However, if the truth be known, happiness is not at the end of the road, it is all around us as we journey. Yet so many of us fail to notice the small and simple pleasures we encounter each day.

This will be the third time I have sought the poetry of Edgar Guest as an inspiration to express my thoughts for an article. As I’ve shared with *ThumbPrint News* readers before, Guest is remembered as long-time columnist for the *Detroit Free Press*, as well as being an accomplished poet with more than 1,000 published poems. He was recognized as the People’s Poet having been

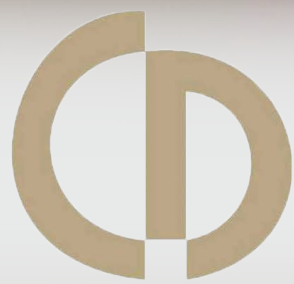
named Michigan’s Poet Laurette. Allow me here to share with you his poem “Gratitude”, which addresses what I am writing about.

*Be grateful for the kindly friends that walk along your way; Be grateful for the skies of blue that smile from day to day.
Be grateful for the health you own, the work you find to do; For round about you there are those less fortunate than you.
Be grateful for the growing trees, the roses soon to bloom; The tenderness of kindly hearts that shared your days of gloom.
Be grateful for the morning dew, the grass beneath your feet; The soft caresses of your babes and all their laughter sweet.
Acquire the grateful habit, learn to see how blessed you are; How much there is to gladden life, how little life to mar.
And what if rain shall fall today and you with grief are sad; Be grateful that you can recall the joys that you have had.*

If we give it proper thought, we are able to realize that the simple and small pleasures in life are those that we take for granted most of the time. When we take the time to consider all the things we may normally consider insignificant, we may be surprised to discover just how much there really is to appreciate in our lives. When we are able to feel gratitude and appreciation in our lives each day, we may be surprised by how emotionally better off we have become. It is with this understanding that objectives not reached, or mistakes made along the way are no longer a major concern because we have found much more pleasure in the life ahead of us.

So, let me today encourage you to slow down, look around and identify the real pleasures in your life. And if you are finding that difficult, read Mr. Guest’s poem again. You’ll find more of what he wrote is really about your life. 🌱

Author’s note: For those wanting to express their thoughts regarding this article, you may send an email message to me at chaplaindgillis@gmail.com. I promise I will reply.



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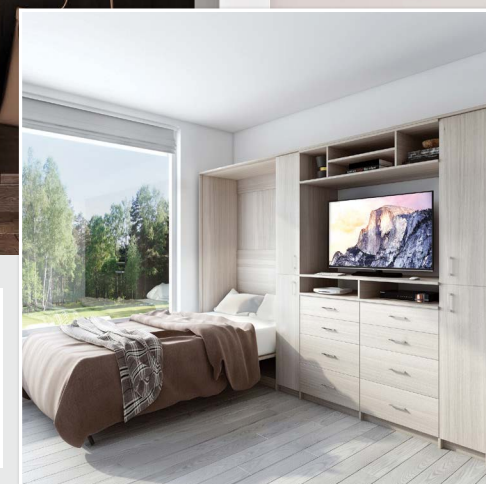
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IMPROVED HEART FUNCTION

Submitted by Christopher J. Zimmer, D.C. Owner of Zimmer Chiropractic

A study published by the *European Heart Journal* showed that cardiac shockwave therapy leads to the regeneration of heart tissue after coronary bypass surgery with a significant improvement in left ventricular ejection fraction (the volume of fluid ejected from the heart chamber with each contraction, i.e. improved blood flow through the heart).

Dr. Wolfgang Schaden, one of the original founders of the shockwave industry and the medical director of SoftWave® TRT told BBC News in an interview about the study, "I would not have expected that I could get old enough to really see this happen because there were so many obstacles over the years... Johannes (Holfeld), in my eyes, he's a hero."

The study, led by Dr. Johannes Holfeld from the Medical University of Innsbruck in Austria, performed an interim analysis after enrolling 63 patients suffering from ischemic heart failure. All of the patients required surgical intervention and were given shockwave treatment during surgery after the bypass was established. Half of the patients in the study were put in a control group and given a sham treatment while the other half were given cardiac shockwave therapy. The patients given the shockwave treatment showed significant improvement in left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) as early as six months after the procedure. After a year, the LVEF improvement measured 11.3% in the shockwave patients, compared to an LVEF improvement of 6.3% for the sham group. Such changes in LVEF are known to cause significant improvements in survival and reductions in heart failure hospitalizations. In addition, the shockwave patients could also walk significantly farther and reported a higher quality of life. Some patients who required assistance with everyday activities could again care for themselves.

Due to the results of the research, the study was terminated in agreement with the ethics committee as it was determined to be unethical to withhold the cardiac shockwave treatment from the sham group of patients.

"To be able to improve a patient's ejection fraction 36% with a single shockwave treatment not only revolutionizes the treatment for ischemic heart disease but lays the foundation for the repair or regeneration of other organs as well," said SoftWave® TRT founder John Warlick. "We applaud Heart Regeneration Technologies, Dr. Holfeld, and his team of authors and researchers for completing this herculean task and finishing the work we started over a decade ago to prove our patented technology can reanimate hibernating myocardium. We were excited to see the results of this extensive study and look forward to continuing our support for these pioneering researchers."

Over a decade ago, SoftWave® TRT's cardiology subsidiary CRT performed large and small animal trials and treated 10 cardiac patients with shockwave therapy using its patented cardio applicator and device interface. These early results provided the foundation for the clinical trial published in the *European Heart Journal* was based on SoftWave® TRT's patented technology.

"This publication by Dr. Holfeld and his team is the culmination of over a decade of painstaking scientific research that has been subjected to the rigorous rules of medical research," stated reconstructive surgeon and former Chief of Surgery at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital, Dr. John David Mullins. "As the effects of shockwaves on soft tissue are scientifically explained, the possibilities are far-reaching." Dr. Mullins, also stated, "Clinical observations have been made since the mid-1980s, but this well-designed and executed study is now in publication for critical analysis."

"Heart disease is the number one cause of death worldwide and this trial offers hope to these long-suffering patients limited in their day-to-day lives. Up until now, no technology has been proven to improve a patient's ejection fraction enough to make a difference in their daily lives," stated Warlick.

"It's the most earth-shaking science I've ever seen in cardiac reanimation. The results are incredible and Dr. Holfeld is a remarkable scientist," said Dr. David Dean, former Director of the Samsky Advanced Heart Failure Center at Piedmont Heart Institute, in Atlanta, Georgia. **"This is one of the greatest results of the 21st century for people living with heart disease."**

Editorial note: Dr. Christopher Zimmer, owner of Zimmer Chiropractic, has been freeing people from pain since 1984. Dr. Zimmer and his staff are committed to promoting the health and well-being of all patients. For more information, please visit zimmerchiro.com or call the Port Huron location at (810) 987-7500.

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By Bethany Wolf & Laura Irwin, *ThumbPrint News Staff*

Join us on a journey to Greece for moussaka, an aubergine-based dish mixed with a ground meat sauce. While this dish did not originate in Greece, it is considered one of the country's national dishes. The modern Greek recipe was created by the French-trained Greek chef Nikolaos Tselementes in the 1920s. The traditional Greek version of this dish uses lamb; however, ground beef can also be used. The aubergines (aka eggplants) and meat sauce are layered and then topped with a Béchamel sauce (inspired by French cuisine).

Wikipedia tells us the English name for moussaka was borrowed from Greek mousakás (μουσακάς) and other Balkan languages, all borrowed from Ottoman Turkish, which in turn borrowed it from Arabic muṣaqqā'a (مuscاققا, lit. 'pounded' or 'cold'). The word was first attested in English in 1862, written mūzakkā.

Officially the Hellenic Republic, Greece is considered the birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy, Western literature, historiography, political science, major scientific and mathematical principles, theatre and the Olympic Games.

Here are some fun and interesting facts about Greece.

- The formal name of the country in Greek is 'Hellàs' and is preferred by the people of that country. The name Greece (Latin: *Graecia*) was given to the country by the Romans.
- The origin of the name is attributed to the mythical Hellen, son of King Deucalion of Thessaly (son of Prometheus) and his wife Pyrrha (daughter of Pandora and Epimetheus). Hellen's father survived a great flood caused by Zeus' anger to wipe out all humanity in the Bronze Age. Hellen went on to become the founding father of all Greek tribes.
- Athens, the name of the capital of Greece, was taken from the Goddess Athéna after she and Poseidon contested to name the city. She won when she offered the people the gift of the olive tree. If Poseidon had won, the name would be Poseidonia.
- Greece has over 120 million olive trees producing more variety of olives than any other country. Trees that were planted in the 13th century are still bearing fruit today.
- Athens is the oldest inhabited city in Europe with recorded history dating back 3,000 years.
- Greece has 6,000 islands and islets. Only 250 are inhabited. The largest is Crete.
- Over 80% of the land is covered in mountains.
- Sunday is a day of worship. Most stores including gas stations and supermarkets are closed.
- From any point, you are never more than 85 miles from the coast.
- The blue-colored roofs favored by Greeks are believed to ward off evil and the evil eye.
- Ancient Greek women who had a unibrow were considered intelligent and beautiful. Women without a natural one would draw it in with charcoal.



Photo by Adoni Dimakos via Earth Island Journal Adoni is dedicated to protecting the endangered ancient olive trees. To learn more visit OliveTree123.com



Photo by Matt Artz via unsplash.com



INGREDIENTS

Aubergine Prep

- 2 lb aubergines (eggplant)
- 1 tsp salt
- 2-3 Tbsp olive oil

Meat Sauce

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 1/2 lb minced lamb or ground beef
- 1/2 c red wine (optional)
- 14 oz crushed tomatoes
- 3 Tbsp tomato paste
- 1 c beef broth
- 1 beef bouillon cube, crumbled
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 1/2 tsp sugar
- 2 tsp dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 3/4 tsp salt

Béchamel Sauce

- 4 Tbsp butter
- 5 Tbsp flour
- 2 1/2 c milk
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg, freshly grated (optional)
- 1/2 c Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk

Topping

- 1/3 c breadcrumbs, panko or Gluten free (for a better crunch)

DIRECTIONS

Aubergine Prep

1. Slice the eggplant into long strips, about 1/2 inch thick.
1. Place eggplant slightly overlapping in a large colander. Sprinkle with some salt. Repeat with remaining eggplant.
2. Leave to sweat for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, make Meat Sauce and Béchamel Sauce.
3. Preheat oven to 450°F.
4. Pat eggplant dry – make sure to do this well, otherwise it's too salty. Lay flat on parchment paper lined trays (you might need 3 trays, work in batches), brush with oil.
5. Bake 15-20 minutes or until lightly browned and softened. Remove and set aside to cool slightly.

Meat Sauce

1. Heat olive oil in a large skillet or pot over high heat, then cook the garlic and onion for 2 minutes.
2. Add the beef or lamb to brown, breaking it into small pieces.
3. Add wine, cook for 1 1/2 minutes or until alcohol smell is gone.
4. Add remaining ingredients and stir to combine. Bring to a simmer, then lower heat to medium-low and cook for 15 minutes, or until reduced to a thick sauce.

Béchamel Sauce

1. Melt butter in a pan over medium heat. Add flour and cook for 1 minute, stirring constantly.
2. Stirring constantly, slowly add the milk. Then stir regularly for 3-5 minutes or until it thickens so that it thickly coats the back of a wooden spoon.
3. Remove from the stove and whisk in cheese, nutmeg, salt and pepper (to taste).
4. Allow to cool for 5 minutes, then whisk the eggs in. Cover with lid until required.

Assemble

1. Lower oven to 350°F.
2. Place half the eggplant in the bottom of a baking dish, then top with all the Meat Sauce.
3. Top with remaining eggplant, then pour over the Béchamel Sauce, sprinkle with breadcrumbs.
4. Bake for 30-40 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to stand for 10 minutes before serving.



Traditional Moussaka photo from cookidoo.thermomix.com



My version of Moussaka that didn't set as nicely

Author's note: This tasty meal wasn't overly difficult, just a little time-consuming. The steps were easy to follow, other than trying to make sure the timing on everything was correct. The only thing that went wrong was that my meat sauce never really thickened, so it was soup-y. Mine was not nearly as pretty as the photos I've seen online. Despite that, the flavor was amazing. I think it will be added to my revolving monthly menu for sure!



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ACROSS

1. Furry bamboo consumer
6. Cuban dance syllable
9. 100-meter race, e.g.
13. S-shaped moldings
14. Excessively theatrical actor
15. Chap
16. Will alternative
17. Sailor's affirmative
18. At full speed
19. *Cause for fall celebration
21. *Apple-related game
23. European Union, acr.
24. Hawaiian tuber
25. Pen on a farm
28. Color of a bruise
30. *Pumpkins and squash, e.g.
35. "Give me your tired, your ..."
37. "_____ Free," movie about lions
39. Disdain
40. Caribbean color
41. Shiny suit
43. Spaghetti aglio & _____
44. Peevish
46. Half a round, in golf
47. _____do-well
48. Battles royale
50. Change for a twenty
52. Banned insecticide, acr.
53. *Back-to-School event
55. Hermy the Dentist
57. *Apple sauce
61. *_____ weather
65. Cell phone bill item
66. Bar association
68. Wombs
69. Begin, began, _____
70. Cut grass
71. Romanov rulers
72. Command with "at"
73. Stiff grass bristle
74. "Hobby" animal

DOWN

1. Beckham of "Spice Girls"
2. Turkish honorific
3. Not far
4. Look into
5. In the Land of Nod
6. Online conversation
7. *Cushion for certain seasonal ride
8. Naked protozoa
9. Obtuse, as in person
10. _____ bowl, frozen dish
11. Largest human organ
12. Precedes Kong
15. Hindi courtesy title, pl.
20. Modern-day aqua-lung, acr.
22. Domain
24. Wood-eating house hazard
25. Involuntary contraction
26. Chef's headgear
27. Phil Collins' "_____ Be in My Heart"
29. *Maze plant
31. Upward and onto
32. Wide-_____ notebook
33. *Like leaves in fall
34. Stall call
36. *Much-used fall garden tool
38. Not any
42. Extend subscription
45. Unquestioning ones
49. Fraternity house
51. Miss Marple, e.g.
54. "Is Your Mama a _____?"
56. Dom DeLuise in 1980 role
57. Rubik's puzzle
58. Away from port
59. The state before riches?
60. Malaria symptom
61. Saw, sawed, _____
62. Drop of sorrow
63. Makes a mistake
64. Precedes shine
67. Gift topper

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NOTES FROM OUR TEAM

On September 18, I had the pleasure of meeting local author, Brenda L. Williams and her cousin, Lisa Dalrymple Stone. Brenda has written several cover articles for *ThumbPrint News*, including the September 2024 cover entitled "Beloved Gram" about Lisa's great-grandmother. We met at the St. Clair County Library's Port Huron Branch, where Brenda was giving a presentation on her new book, *Pioneers of St. Clair County, Michigan*.

It was my pleasure to attend this insightful presentation and most especially to meet these delightful women. Thank you, Brenda, for signing my copy of your book!!

– Laura Irwin, *ThumbPrint News* Staff Writer

Seen with a copy of the September 2024 issue, from left to right, are Lisa Dalrymple Stone, Brenda L. Williams and Laura Irwin



NOTES FROM OUR READERS

To *ThumbPrint News*,

I read the article about the trampoline park and how much fun it was. I was a senior in high school in the fall of 1962. My girlfriend's father owned a 1961 Bonneville convertible, and we would spend at least one night a weekend riding around Mt. Clemens in that car – with the top down and feeling really "cool" (although "cool" wasn't a phrase at the time).

One of our favorite things to do that fall was visit a trampoline park on Gratiot just a few blocks south of town. I think it was something like 50¢ for a half an hour. By the time ended, most of us had an upset stomach, and we wondered why we paid money to make ourselves nauseous. But it was a blast. Six teenage girls driving through each of the three drive-ins, south of town, over and over again, looking for friends. But I have to say, it was a safe time in history, it was a rite of passage, and it created memories that can never be erased. Thank you. Judy A., Mt. Clemens, MI

Judy, Thank you for reaching out and sharing your memories and letting us know how meaningful the story was to you! Thanks, TPN Staff

Hi *ThumbPrint News*,

I absolutely love your publication. When the September issue arrived in my mailbox, I saw you were using 2¢ stamps for subscription mailing. Since I have no use for the ones I have, I am sending them along to you to use. Thank you for all your hard work and creative articles. Sincerely, Claudia J., Holly, MI

Claudia, Thank you for subscribing to our paper and for sharing your admiration with us. We will definitely put the stamps to good use! Much appreciated, TPN Staff

Dear Theresa,

Thank you for the "Porch Sitting" article in the August edition. I read and enjoy your column each month. I share it with all my friends, and they agree it is good reading. Thank you very much,

Sincerely, Mark P., Troy, MI

Mark, thanks for your kind words to our wonderful writer, Theresa! Thank you as well for sharing photos of all your pets posing with our paper. We value readers like you, TPN Staff



Vocabulary Voyage

Compiled By Laura Irwin, *ThumbPrint News* Staff

"In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way." – Franklin D. Roosevelt.

cabal ca·bal | kə-'bäl

A noun meaning 1 : a small group of secret plotters, as against a government or person in authority, 2 : the plots and schemes of a group; intrigue, 3 : a club or group. First known use: 1614, in the meaning defined at sense 1. *Ex: Some conspiracy theories are based on the idea that governments worldwide are in the hands of a powerful cabal.*

cadre cad·re | 'ka-,drä

A noun meaning 1 : a core group of highly trained personnel able to assume control and to train others, 2 : a cell of indoctrinated leaders active in promoting specified interests or beliefs, 3: frame, framework. First known use: 1763 (sense 3) from Italian *quadro*, from Latin *quadrum* meaning square. *Ex: "The church countryside was controlled by a cadre of charter members, who used their money and power of intimidation to thwart the elected leadership." Christianity Today (2000)*

chicanery chi·ca·nery | shi-'kän-rē

A noun meaning trickery or deception, deceptive language. First known use: 1589 borrowed from French *chicanerie* from *chicaner* "to dispute by means of quibbles". *Ex: He wasn't above using chicanery to win votes.*



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

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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! Of those monthly winners, just one will be notified via email that they are the grand prize winner.

For our September 2024 contest, we asked our readers to identify what is pictured to the left. Many guessed a fingerprint, which is close, but we were looking for a more specific answer. Of all the correct answers we received, Thomas Paruszkiewicz of Warren, Michigan, correctly identified it as the thumbprint on a closeup of a thumb.



We chose this contest item in honor of the 15 years of publication we are celebrating this October. We thank all our contestants over the years and hope to be able to continue providing you with this small entertainment.

ThumbPrint News' first publication was in October of 2009, published by Al Kodet and edited by his wife, Diane, and compiled by Diane and their support staff. We began with 36 pages at a time when many advertisers were beginning to

jump on the internet marketing bandwagon causing a subsequent drop in subscriberships. Due to these changing times and rising costs, we have had to make some changes, sacrifices and cutbacks to continue operations as we try to increase our advertising sales. Fingers crossed we can make it happen. In the words of Diane Kodet, "Great opportunities often come disguised as huge problems."

Over the years, we have strived to continue bringing our readers historical and engaging content and positive, unique columns. We welcome feedback, story and photo submissions and article ideas from all, as well as even more advertisements from new and returning advertisers we sincerely thank! Without those ads, our freely-distributed newspaper would not be possible.

All 15 years of papers are available as PDFs to read for free online at www.thumbprintnews.com.

For our October 2024 contest, we are wondering if our readers can tell us what we have pictured to the right. If you think you know, visit our website, www.thumbprintnews.com, to answer.

For our October 2024 contest, we are wondering if our readers can tell us what we have pictured to the right. If you think you know, visit our website, www.thumbprintnews.com, to answer.



Fall's in the Air

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P	A	N	D	A	C	H	A	D	A	S	H			
O	G	E	E	S	H	A	M	B	U	C	K	O		
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COTTAGE Living

By Pamela Lynn Hayes
ThumbPrint News Columnist
pammypoo123@icloud.com

It's officially here, the birds and leaves are telling the story—fall is making an entrance with winter trailing behind it. It's hard to believe we actually turn our clocks back early next month. The sweaters are pulled out, jackets are at the ready and the frosty mornings are coming on quickly.

The countdown begins as to when I will winterize the cottage... It will most likely be early to mid-November. I have made a list of what needs to be done in the spring of 2025. A new deck is in order, I look forward to getting that done!

Winterizing the cottage brings me a sense of melancholy. It's not just about prepping the pipes and sealing the areas to avoid the mice. It's about putting away the long summer days, no longer hearing the lake in the early mornings or feeling the warmth of the summer sun. It certainly is bittersweet, but I have had a great summer with new friends and made awesome memories.

My little cottage is more than just a summer retreat; it's part of a cycle that I cannot deny. It is also a place that evolves with the seasons, just as I do. And evolve I will, as I have been doing for quite some time now and it has proved to be a wondrous thing.

Happy Halloween *ThumbPrint News* Readers!

"WXYZ" A HOUSEHOLD STAPLE

By Rita MacDonald, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist



My home's basement is not finished, and its walls are Pepto Bismol® pink – I kid you not. The cement floor is mostly covered by random pieces of carpet or old rugs I've collected, and nothing is the same color. It's simply meant to keep my feet warm when I'm down there. There are shelves that store all of my random small kitchen appliances, books, shoes and all sorts of other stuff. It's not a place anyone would ever go to just hang out; and color palate-wise, it looks a little bit like a box of 36 different colored crayons may have exploded, but it's the very first place my grandchildren want to head to as soon as they come in my front door. They can't wait to get down there.

Owen finds all of the old games and building blocks, Lyla goes through all of the drawers in my desk looking for treasures of old magic markers, scissors, construction paper and trinkets. Maci rides around on a small tricycle I picked up at a garage sale.

The other day, Lyla realized that if she stands on my small stool, she can reach to turn on every single light in the basement. We've drawn all over those pink walls to mark their growth every few months, and all three of them are well acquainted with where the snacky snacks are hidden, and help themselves at Gummy's house.

This past Sunday, Lyla found an old treasure – the small notebook where I kept track of the sweet things my sons said growing up. I didn't want to forget them. Lyla and Owen love to hear about when their Daddy and Uncle Ian were young like them, so we read through them and laughed together, and I've been laughing frequently since then, while also marveling at the wisdom from toddlers!

Probably like you – we used to spell things in front of the kids so they didn't know what we were saying. My mother used to keep chocolate kisses up in the cupboard in a little dish and would often reward the boys with a piece. One day, Rory said to his Papa, "Hey Papa, let's have some WXYZ," to which my dad responded, "Rory... what is WXYZ?" And Rory then cupped his hand, and whispered in my dad's ear, "Papa! WXYZ is chocolate!"

Yesterday, I went to the grocery store for my mom with her list which included "mouse cheese", what I knew to be Swiss cheese – yet another story in that little notebook. We used it to make "boy cheese sandwiches" because Ian once said there was no way he was going to eat a "girl cheese sandwich".

And to this day in the MacDonald house – the boys eat a boy cheese sandwich, and the girls eat a girl cheese sandwich, always made with "mouse cheese", and there is always a dish of WXYZ in a MacDonald cupboard because everybody knows that WXYZ should be a staple in every household.





If you have an event in November that you would like listed in the November issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by October 17, 2024. *There is a small charge for the listing.* 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

DAVISON

12 Fall Craft Show Davison High School, 1250 N. Oak Rd., 10AM – 4PM. This is the 33rd year for our show with over 100 booths! This event is hosted by the Davison wrestling boosters. \$3/person for ages 14 & over. For more info call Joe at (810) 658-0440 or email smetankacraftshows@gmail.com.

MACOMB

NEW BALTIMORE

17-19 Fall Rummage Sale Saint Mary Queen of Creation, Gym and Parish Center, 50931 Maria St., 10AM – 4PM on THUR and FRI, 9AM – 3PM on SAT. Visit us and see what treasures

you might find! For more info please call (586) 725-2441.

ROMEO

5 Fall Craft Show Frontier Town, 67300 Van Dyke, 10AM – 5PM. This is the 33rd year for our show with over 100 booths! FREE admission. For more info call Joe at (810) 658-0440 or email smetankacraftshows@gmail.com.

SHELBY TWP.

10 Shelby Garden Club Presentation Shadbrush Nature Center, 4101 River Bends Dr., 1PM. Join us for “Making Your Garden A Haven for Beneficial Insects” by David Löwenstein, PhD, in affiliation with MSU Extension Service. He will explain how to nurture and sustain to keep them returning. A \$5 donation is appreciated to help support the ongoing SGC community talks.

For more info, contact Ivy at (586) 873-3782.

WARREN

26 Fall Spectacular Craft Show Macomb College Sports & Expo Center, South Campus, P Building, 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd., 10AM – 4PM. This is the 33rd year for our show with over 100 booths! \$3/person for ages 14 & over. For more info call Joe at (810) 658-0440 or email smetankacraftshows@gmail.com.

ST. CLAIR

ALGONAC

9-11 The Friends of the Algonac-Clay Library Book Sale Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 9AM – 8PM WED and THUR and 9AM – 5PM FRI. Besides gently used hardcover and paperback books, there will be collectible books, teen and children selections, DVDs, puzzles and more. For more info call (810) 794-4471.

22 Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser St. Catherine Activity Center, 1103 Washington St., 4:30PM – 7PM. Join the Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society for the best spaghetti in town, desserts, Cash Raffle drawing and more. \$10/adults, \$4/child under 12. For more info visit achistory.com.

CAPAC

17-19 St. Clair County Quilters in Training 15th Annual Quilt Show St. John Lutheran Church, 109 E. Kempf Court, 10AM – 4PM daily. Quilt entry drop-off at the church Oct. 9-11, 10AM – 2PM. You do not have to be a member to enter! We'll have vendors, quilt raffle, silent auction and lunch available. For more info call (810) 310-2114.

CASCO

All Month Long Advance Ticket Sales for the Women's Life Chapter 883 Fashion Show event on Nov 9 at Little Camille's by the Green, 4575 County Line Rd., 11AM doors and 12PM lunch. \$35/person. For more info and tickets email paulaburgess@comcast.net or call (810) 794-9641.

20 St. James U.C.C. Annual Chili Cook-Off Perch Point Conservation Club, 7930 Meisner Rd., 4PM. Fun and delicious for everyone! Anyone may enter their chili for judging, submitted by 2:45PM. \$12/adult, free will offering/child (12 and under). With the chili dinner, we'll have a lucky draw auction, lottery/gift card plant raffle, 50/50 and a bake sale. Reserved seating suggested, limited capacity. For more info and tickets call (586) 915-7662.

MARINE CITY

All Month Long Christmas Greens Sale Fundraiser by the Marine City Garden Club. Christmas wreaths, roping and more available! Proceeds go to Marine City's public flowers. Deadline to order is Nov 10. For more info and order form call (810) 765-3665.

23 Hysterical Halloween Party! Water Street Winery & Brewing Co., 218 S. Water St., 6PM – 9PM. Benefits Historical Society of Marine City. Costume contest, Horror d'Oeuvers, one Frightful Flight, Kreepy Karaoke, and more. \$40/person. Limited tickets! For more info call (810) 278-3228.

PORT HURON

5 Hebner Family Memorial Genealogy Seminar Donald E. Dodge Auditorium, 200 Grand River Ave., 9:15PM – 3:30PM. Programs offered will help you uncover, research, and preserve your family history. Event presented by the St. Clair County Genealogy & History Society, St. Clair County Library – Michigan Room and the Ottawa Chapter NSDAR. Free, registration requested, lunch available for purchase. For more info visit stclaircountylibrary.org.

ST. CLAIR

5 Euchre Tournament Hosted by Cornell Marysville Chapter #93 OES St. Clair Masonic Temple, 1800 St. Clair Hwy., doors open at 12:30PM, play starts at 1PM. Public welcome \$10/person. Refreshments, door prizes and 50/50. For more info call Diane at (586) 337-2729.

24 St. Clair County Genealogy & History Society Meeting St. Clair Community Center, 308 S. 4th St., 7PM. Join the SCCGHS for the program “Discovering Local History Through Antique Bottles” presented by members of the Metropolitan Detroit Anique Bottle Club. For more info visit scgghs.org or find us on Facebook.

SMITHS CREEK

13 Monthly Breakfast Smiths Creek Masonic Lodge #491, 335 Henry St. (across the street from the Pink Elephant), 8AM – 12PM. Join us for delicious eggs, bacon, potatoes, French toast, pancakes (plain & blueberry), along with coffee, orange juice, white and chocolate milk. AYCE for only \$10/adult and \$5/child under 12. For more info email clintonsharrard@comcast.net.

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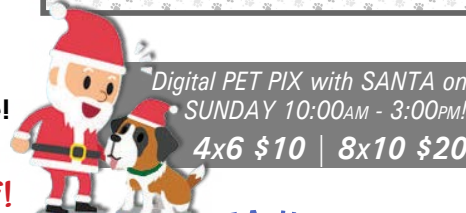
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Friday, Dec. 6
Saturday, Dec. 7
Sunday, Dec. 8
EACH DAY
9:00AM — 3:00PM



Spring-Breaking News! Now Is the Time To Book Your Next Trip

You can't wait until the cold winds blow to start planning your next escape to the sun and sea on a beach or a cruise ship.

Travel Time Vacation & Cruises has you covered. "This is a good time for people to book their travel for the end of the year and also for next year," said Jeffrey Leonardi, a travel sales professional and the owner of Travel Time Vacations & Cruises.

Leonardi has been booking winter and spring break getaways, annual trips and vacations of a lifetime for his clients for 28+ years. He knows how to do it, and when to do it.

"For people who wait until the last minute, they think they're getting a really good deal on a cruise. When you take a look at the whole picture, the air travel at the last minute could be more than the cruise," Leonardi said. "It's good to book these in advance. I will always find the very best deal



Jeffrey Leonardi

for everyone."

Those who wait to book not only risk losing the best price. They risk losing the chance to go at all. "For example, for Alaska, now is the time to book for next year, because it was all sold out last year," Leonardi said.

He said he's putting together a group deal with Royal Caribbean for an Alaskan Cruise in 2025.

"And the Caribbean tends to sell out as well for spring break season. It's the best time, the best weather. It's incredible in the winter and in the spring, as it's past hurricane season," Leonardi said.

When you book with Travel Time, Leonardi is your booking contact and your only contact. He personally takes care of everything, so all you have to do is relax on vacation.

To inquire about booking your next trip through Travel Time Vacations & Cruises, call (586) 323-6100. For more information, visit 586travel.com.

Customer Reviews:

"Our consultant Jeffrey Leonardi was simply spectacular.....most personable but the ultimate knowledgeable professional. Our decision to take a cruise was a totally last minute idea (leaving in 2 days) which greatly complicated the locating/booking/implementing process. Due to the short time this complicated the Silver Seas processes including transportation. Sadly, Silver Seas uses a foreign call center for all contact and although generally knowledgeable, the process was much more complicated. Jeffrey stayed with us through each of the 'hurdles' and was most creative in finding solutions. He is an outstanding professional." –Richard H.

"Jeffery was outstanding helping with room we had, planning Port trips. He called us before we left to see if we had any questions, then called back after we got home asking how our trip was and asked if we would send him pictures." – Dennis B.

"Jeffrey Leonardi was an absolute pleasure to work with. He is professional, patient, and kind. And he took the time and made the extra effort to make our reservation (which included 4 cruise cabins) exactly as we wanted it." – Mark J.

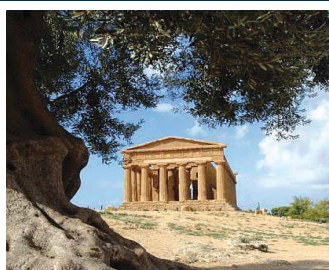
"Jeffrey gave us prompt and professional service. He was very thorough and answered all our questions." – Santo M.

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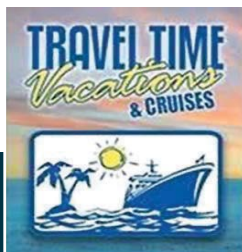
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